

Broadfields Estate Update

Andrew Dismore MP

July 2006

I promised to keep you up to date on developments in your area, the Broadfields estate. I have just had my annual formal 'walkabout' inspection visit on the estate, with the Council, Barnet Homes and the Police, so I thought I should report back to you on my findings and issues I have taken up.

Litter

I was very concerned about the amount of litter about, especially on the greens in Bushfield Crescent. This is an issue I have asked the Council to deal with.

Pathways

Many of these were overgrown, strewn with litter, graffiti and had poor and uneven paving. I have also asked the Council to clean them up and repair the paths.

Hamonde Close

The footpath through to Tayside was overgrown and the sign was missing. I have asked the Council to deal with this, and also the "unofficial" path where the fence is down at the end, to see if this can be properly opened.

Bushmead Club

The abandoned clubhouse is now surrounded by overgrown shrubs. I have asked the Council to see if any use can be found for the building, and to see if the undergrowth can be cut back.

Meadfield

The flats needed significant attention, with roof and gutter repairs, and window cleaning outstanding, as well as a wasps nest. The Council will deal with these issues.

Meadfield Green

The Council will address the problem of abandoned vehicles and the broken bollards.

Warrens Shawe Lane

There is a continual problem of fly tipping by the garages, which themselves attract problems. The fence to the field at the end needs repair, and litter was also an issue. I particularly raised the eyesore and hazard of the empty property at No 29, and have asked the Council to see if anything can be done to bring it into use.

Knightswood Close/ Burrell Close

The pathways were particularly bad here, and I have asked the Council to bring them up to scratch.

Youth Facilities (or lack of them!)

Whilst on the estate, I met up with a number of young people who were forceful in their views, that there was nothing for them to do, or anywhere to go, where they would not be seen as a nuisance by other residents. The police have some funding available for a youth shelter, but it is proving very difficult to find a suitable location. I am concerned about this, especially as the Council cut its youth services budget by a third, making the problem worse. As I am sure you know, the Council took what I regard as the disgraceful decision to sell off the Warrens Shawe Lane play area, which is now fenced off and derelict, with no signs of any building work. I have asked them to see if there is any way they can lease it back, short-term at least, until the work starts, to give the youngsters a space that they could use. The police are supportive of this idea.

Bus Stops

I have asked the Council to see if the bus stop marking can be improved. If you would like to hear more about public transport in general, I also send out a Traffic & Transport update from time to time. Just write to me, or email updates@hendonlabourparty.com, with your

name and address, to let me know that you would like to receive it in the future.

Mini Motorbikes

The Police tell me this is a growing problem throughout the area, and with the encouragement of the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team in Edgware, I am starting a campaign about this. These “minimotos” are illegal, in that although marketed as toys, they are anything but! They must comply with the same road safety rules as full sized motorcycles if used anywhere except on privately owned land. They do not usually comply with the Construction and Use Regulations and they are dangerous. If they do comply, then they should be taxed, insured and riders should hold a licence and wear crash helmets. The police have the power to seize minimotos and prosecute those that do not comply with these rules, especially if they are making a noise nuisance or are causing a danger to pedestrians and other road users. I have started a petition about this, and I enclose a copy – please sign it, encourage friends and neighbours to do so as well, and return it to me FREEPOST, if you agree with my stand!