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**Labour Member of Parliament for Hendon**



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**Please quote reference on all correspondence**

**North Road estate report back**

I promised to write to you after my planned official visit to your estate, with Council officers and the police Safer Neighbourhood Team.

In addition to my normal work calling on people on the estate, I have found that these formal inspections provide a real focus for taking up the issues which concern you – that's why I have done these every year – rain or shine – for the last 10 years, ever since I was first elected as your MP.

Can I first thank all those who took part in my pre-visit consultation. Letting me know of particular problems or questions in advance really helped me to put the Council 'on the spot', as we went round.

Residents who raised specific individual problems will get a specific reply on these points – this letter is designed to give everyone a report on the general issues I've taken up.

**My Estate Survey**

As well as asking for specific points, I also raised more general questions. It didn't surprise me to learn that 82% of North Road's residents thought the Council had neglected the estate. 78% of tenants and 66% of the leaseholders thought the Council did not treat them fairly.

**Decent Homes Initiative**

I was pleased to see that the decent homes initiative, the Government scheme to repair and maintain Council properties, has been at work on the estate, backed by a massive Government grant to Barnet Council, to pay for the cost of the work.

However, there is clearly much that needs to be done, so I have raised the following issues with the Council. I will report back to you, when I have their official response.

**Policing Issues**

I was accompanied on my inspection by Safer Neighbourhood Team officers, to brief me on policing issues. This also gave me the chance to feed back your questions, too.

In the light of discussions with residents, I have asked if the police Safer Neighbourhood Team patrols can be varied in route and timing, to provide a better deterrent to anti-social behaviour.

The police and Council are aware of the drugs problem and have action in hand to resolve it.

I have also suggested that consideration could be given to blocking off some of the archway passages that are not needed for access, to improve security. What do you think of the idea?

Residents also raised concerns about the security of the building on the former hospital land, to the north of the estate; and the site's environmental impact. I have asked both the police and the Council to respond to this.

### **Car parking**

This is a general complaint from residents. They are concerned that patients from the doctors' surgery are using the residents car park as that is free, whereas the doctor's surgery is not. They are also concerned about hospital patients using their car park, too, as well as Sangam Centre users. I have asked for something be done to try and deal with this. There was also a general problem raised of untaxed cars in the car park.

Residents are also concerned about the problems of anti-social behaviour, and the misuse of drugs on the estate. What is being done to try and deal with this?

### **Pavements**

There were a number of pavements which were broken and in need of repair, as raised with me by residents.

### **Street Cleaning**

Residents are also concerned about the quality of street cleaning.

### **Grounds maintenance**

There was also the significant problem of very poor grass cutting and weeds, which seems to be the same, every year. The contracts must be better supervised.

### **Pedestrian/wheelchair access to the estate**

There were complaints that this is now difficult, due to the condition of the footways and steepness of the paths.

### **North Road**

The footpath was very bad in places and needs repair. There was also a significant weeds problem.

### **Copinger Walk**

There is a significant litter problem, here.

There is a longstanding water pressure problem which I have already raised with Three Valleys Water. It appears to be on the Council's side of the pipework. I cannot understand why this has not been repaired, as the problem goes back to before Christmas last year. I believe this is at long last going to be looked at.

The grass cutting in the Copinger Walk area was not done well.

There was also a lamppost with a large hole at the bottom of it. That has been there for some considerable time to my knowledge and is dangerous and a health and safety risk. It is not secured, there appears to be no reason for the hole and it needs either repairing or properly fencing before somebody falls in it.

The paving around Copinger Walk was also uneven.

### **Newton Walk**

The car park area where the rubbish bins are, is presently used as a fly-tip by the Council itself, as this is where the bulk rubbish is collected. Whilst I was told that this may be there for "no more than two days", it is a continual process, as of course the caretakers will continue to put rubbish there. This is most unsightly for residents, and is unacceptable. I have suggested another location, where it would not be such a nuisance, away from residential areas these might provide a useful alternative.

The Newton car park also needs sweeping.

### **Burnt Oak Fields**

The pathway and fence against the Silkstream is now badly overgrown and needs attending to. The water leak also needs attending to. The standpipe box in the car park area needs repairing, and also the grass was not cut around here. There is also graffiti on the garage doors which needs removing.

The path to the rear of Burnt Oak Fields and along the side of Merrivale is also extremely overgrown and full of rubbish.

### **Cooms Walk**

The grass here has not been cut very well. There is a significant problem of overgrown trees and some are apparently now attracting vermin. Bins are also blocking the path and are not being put back properly, making it difficult for residents to get past.

The car park surface is very poor and drainage very bad, meaning that water and dirt are trodden in to their homes by residents, as they have no alternative route.

### **East End Road**

The pavements here are in need of attention. There is an accumulation of weeds and rubbish, and the path through to Burnt Oak Broadway is a mess and needs cleaning out.

### **Child guidance centre building**

This disused building is not secure and access is being gained through a broken tree branch. This tree needs pruning and access secured. I have also asked what is going to happen about this building, which has now been out of use for some considerable time.

### **Apple Tree Court**

The fence at the rear of the care home and the path needs repair and attention.

### **Roscoff**

The trees need pruning back.

## **South Road**

There are problems with the street lighting here, which needs attending to.

Also, the car park has a gully and drain blocked and is therefore flooding.

There are also two large containers, one red and one green, which are apparently in the car park for no obvious purpose. Presumably they need removing.

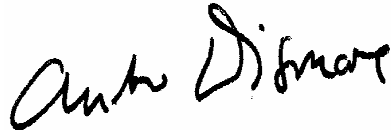
## **Wood Court**

The rear of Wood Court is badly overgrown, and there is occasional fly-tipping at the rear of Wood Court and the Sangam Centre.

I hope you find this report of interest. I will write again, when I have the Council's response to these various issues.

No doubt I have missed some points – that's inevitable no matter how detailed my inspection. So, if there is anything else you want to raise with me, either about the estate or more generally, please let me know – either complete the enclosed questionnaire, or email me at: [updates@hendonlabourparty.com](mailto:updates@hendonlabourparty.com),

Yours sincerely,



**Andrew Dismore**  
**Member of Parliament for Hendon**

PS. I also have to tell you the House of Commons authorities have dramatically cut the postage and stationary budget available to MPs to write to constituents and to keep you up to date with developments. In future, I may not be able to write to you by post.

If you have an email address, I would like to write to you in this way, as it will help keep costs down and will also be quicker. So if you do have email, could you please let me have your email address, by emailing me at [updates@hendonlabourparty.com](mailto:updates@hendonlabourparty.com) together with your name and postal address and the reference number at the top of this letter, so I can continue to correspond with you about your concerns.