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Please quote reference on all correspondence

Broadfields 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 96% of Broadfield's residents thought the Council had neglected the estate. 91% of the tenants and 100% 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.

General estate issues

Residents have raised with me, their concerns over poor street lighting.

They also complain about the extent of litter around the estate and that litter bins are not emptied.

Weeds are a perennial problem throughout the estate, both on Barnet Homes and highways areas. This is an issue that comes up every year like the weeds themselves. I have demanded the contract be better supervised.

Residents are also concerned about the problems of graffiti throughout the estate.

Bushfield Crescent

At the "low odds" end, grass cutting does not appear to have been done.

There is a general problem with parking. As the "roundabout" green is being parked on, and as the footpath green opposite is being parked on, anyway, I have suggested thought be given to cutting some of the green out, to enable people to park properly.

The lamppost bottom outside number 55 needs repair.

There are complaints about the ball games rules, which are not being enforced.

Hamonde Close

The pavements here need repair. I was pleased to see the fence at the end has been fixed, but there is still a problem of street cleaning, with a fly-tip developing at the end, and clearly the area not being swept.

Hamonde Close to Tayside pathway

This has become overgrown and the trees and shrubs need pruning back. At present they are a safety hazard. It also needs sweeping and the sign replacing.

Pathway, Hamonde Close to Bushfield Crescent

The tops of the bushes and trees need pruning back.

Meadfield

There is a problem with the footpath being badly broken up where it is concrete. This is presumably as a result of people parking on the footpath on the green side. I have again asked if consideration can be given to slightly widening the footpath to allow legal parking, which would preserve the green and provide a better appearance.

The footpath in any event needs repair where it is broken up.

It was clear the grass in Meadfield had not been cut and there was a litter problem.

Residents are complaining that the rubbish bins are not being emptied on Meadfield.

Meadfield Flats

I was amazed to see the defective guttering, which I raised last year as a serious concern, has still not been dealt with.

The rear light over the porchway area has also been apparently broken now for five years.

Last year I was given assurance that the pram shed would be repaired and this has not been attended to.

I was also told that the front door would be repaired and this has not happened, either. I have read the 'Riot Act' about these problems, I hope this time they will be resolved.

Warrens Shawe Lane

There is a serious concern about lack of parking and speeding traffic.

The hedges are also very badly overgrown, some of the pavements appear to be serious trip hazards, the weeds are very high, there are complaints about litter and the alleyways to the rear badly need clearing out.

The field at the end of Warrens Shawe Lane is again being used by motorcycles. The fence needs repairing more effectively.

The gate to the bridleway giving access to this land from Bushfield Crescent is not adequate to prevent motorcycles gaining access. There are gaps either side of the gate which need to be repaired. There are lockable bollards which were down and for no apparent reason as they appear to be in working order. I have asked why they are not locked, when legitimate access is not required.

Warrens Shawe Lane play area

The former play area is a terrible mess now, and very badly overgrown. If it cannot be brought back into use then it should be properly maintained. I have asked for arrangements be made with the owners of the land to at least bring it into a decent condition, pending any works. I have asked what the timetable is for building work on this land.

Burrell Close

It is also clear that a number of the pavements are bad here, with overgrown weeds and bushes badly needing cutting back.

Springwood Crescent

I have asked about what is happening in relation to the now disused day centre building.

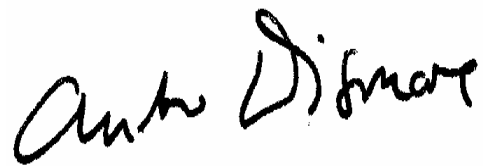
Knightswood Close

At the rear of the garages there is a very bad fly-tip in the pathway, that needs removing.

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,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Dismore". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Andrew Dismore
Member of Parliament for Hendon