20mph on all residential roads across Bowes Ward, across Enfield

Enfield Council are set on making the lives of pedestrians, cyclists and drivers across Bowes more difficult than it should be, implementing a hotchpotch of traffic calming measures.

In 2005 Transport for London granted Enfield Council almost £4million for traffic calming measures. After a long round of ‘consultations’ Enfield are now bringing in a mix of one-way systems, 20mph and 30mph limits. Peter Krakowiak, local Green activist said, “the one-way systems will deter some drivers from rat-running off the A406 but with no on-coming traffic it will encourage drivers to speed up along our residential roads which in turn leads to serious accidents.”

The Green Party is campaigning for a blanket 20mph speed limit across the residential roads of Bowes Ward. Laura Davenport, Green Party activist said, “the proposed scheme is ridiculous, drivers will be limited to 20mph on Warwick Road then up to 30mph on Shrewsbury Road then back down to 20mph for Stanley Road. It’s an accident waiting to happen! The cost of all the signs informing drivers of the speed change will be phenomenal and while they are looking out for speed limits they are not looking out for cyclists and pedestrians. A blanket 20mph limit on our local roads would be safer and cheaper.”

Around the country local authorities such as Portsmouth are bringing in a 20mph limit across the whole of the area, not just a few streets. It’s time Enfield took a day trip to Portsmouth to see how things are done.

Ritz Parade saved from TFL

In a true David and Goliath struggle, local residents in the Bowes Telford Community Action Group (BTCAG) have saved the Ritz Parade on Bowes Road from demolition as part of TfL’s A406 Widening Scheme.

Laura Davenport, one of the four-strong BTCAG team who negotiated with TfL, said: “In the end, it came down to the determination of the community. We believe that the Bowes Road shops are important to local people. This shows the power of the community where the council planning committee failed. It’s not just about saying ‘No’, but about proposing improvements too.”

As well as the Ritz Parade, BTCAG secured concessions on footbridges, and changes to the junctions affecting local residential streets.

Looking forward, Laura added: “This is only the start. We must keep up the pressure on TfL and Enfield Council. Now that the A406 is settled, TfL and Enfield Council have no excuse for continued neglect of Bowes Road. A lot of issues have been raised, and a lot of promises made by the council. We will be holding them to account.”

Greens have voiced residents’ concerns on:

- Enfield’s traffic calming proposals
- Getting empty and derelict houses back into use
- Working with local businesses and shops
- Keeping the streets clean and tidy
- Monitoring the construction work
Greens re-elected to the London Assembly

“The message is that voting green gets Greens elected, and people can trust elected Greens to get things done,” said Jenny Jones, when her re-election to the London Assembly was confirmed. Despite strong campaigning from Labour and Tories that saw both take more seats in the 25-seat London Assembly, the Green percentage held up across London, while the Lib Dems lost two of their five seats. Just under 10% of Enfield voted Green.

“Darren Johnson and I have worked hard to push green ideas and get real ‘bricks-and-mortar’ improvements, such as a minimum wage of £7.20 an hour throughout the GLA, significant increases in the cycling and walking budgets, and free home energy advice for all Londoners.”

The 25 seats are now distributed as follows:

Con 11, Lab 8, Lib Dem 3, Green 2, BNP 1

Green industry has power to create new green jobs

Jean Lambert, the Green Party MEP for London, launched her new report Green Work: Employment and skills – the climate change challenge in October. The publication finds that the UK is failing to expand its green industries and in doing so is trailing many other European countries when it comes to creating new green jobs.

Around 40% of Europe’s total wind capacity is located in the UK, but we produce little more than 4% of its wind energy. This lack of investment in green industries means that the UK has, at very best, 26,000 jobs in renewable energy, while Germany has 250,000.

Jean Lambert, who is a Member of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee in the European Parliament, said:

“There is high unemployment in London and an urgent need for skills training and investment in green industries. The government must enable the UK to prosper as a green industry leader to reap the associated environmental, economic and social benefits.”

For more information see Jean Lambert’s new report, Green Work: Employment and skills – the climate change challenge, at www.jeanelambertmep.org.uk