

BRENT GREEN NEWS

Spring 2010



VOTE FOR JUST POLICIES FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE

The Green Party believes that we can only deal with the problems facing us by becoming a more equal and cooperative society.

We stand for:

- **INVESTMENT** to provide 1 million **TRAINING** places and **JOBS** in green industries, **REDUCING ENERGY COSTS** in our homes and **IMPROVING PUBLIC TRANSPORT**.
- **PROTECTION** of public services, especially **HEALTH** and **EDUCATION** from reckless cuts that will harm our quality of life and our children's future.
- **SAVING MONEY** by not renewing **TRIDENT**, withdrawing from **AFGHANISTAN**, ditching **ID CARDS** and stopping major road building.
- A **HIGHER** National **MINIMUM WAGE** and **HIGHER TAXES** on those earning over £100,000.
- Moving towards a **35 HOUR** week to **SHARE WORK** around and **REDUCE** the **STRESS** caused by long working hours
- Working for local, national and international **ACTION** on **CLIMATE CHANGE**

FAIR IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

See inside how we have been fighting for fairness in Brent and elsewhere throughout the last year

We are not just active at election time....



Not many people take on **ASDA** (part of the infamous Walmart chain) and win—but we did. After more than a year’s campaigning about dangerously parked lorries and a meeting with the manager of the Wembley store, **ASDA** finally agreed to **redesign** the entrance road and goods bay. Lorries no longer block pedestrians attempting to cross the road and lorries do not protrude into the main road.

We campaigned against the **ARK Academy** on two grounds: 1) We are against academies in principle and 2) The site would be unsuitable for any school building. Along with local residents and the **Wembley Park Action Group** we took it to the Council, GLA and Government Office for London. We lost and the Academy is now under construction. The next stage of our fight will be to get academies **reintegrated** into local authority schools.



We joined the Brent Coalition for a **Sustainable Brent Cross Development** to oppose the new development at **Brent Cross** which will increase the amount of traffic and hence noise and pollution, and is based on pre-recession over-consumption models. It also includes a potentially **dangerous incinerator**. The Campaign has shifted to calling for the Communities Minister to ‘call in’ the plans for a **Public Inquiry** following **Barnet’s** approval of the plans.

Alongside other groups in **Unite Against Fascism** we campaigned for people to use their votes in the European Elections so as the **keep out** the British National Party. Although their vote in Brent and Harrow was very low they did gain representation in the European Parliament. **Shahrar Ali** polled well in Brent and Harrow for the Greens.



FOR PLANET AND PEOPLE



The greed of some is burning up our planet while many are left fighting for a decent life.
Climate change will mean tough decisions in our own lives, in the local area and internationally.
We can't go on as before so Greens want to make sure that people are treated fairly.

There must be an end to huge profits for banks and energy companies while people are forced out of their homes or are unable to heat them.
We must leave our children with a planet that will support them in leading a decent life: not with problems that will destroy their lives.

VOTE GREEN—VOTE FRANCIS

Martin Francis contested the **Wembley Central** council by-election energetically and many people expressed **support** for the policies he was pushing. However the main contest was between the Liberal Democrats who previously held the seat and the Labour Party and this, along with a good showing by the independent candidate, meant that our vote was squeezed.

Shahrar Ali has taken the lead in pursuing the Council over poor minute taking at the Kingsbury Area Forum as part of a wider campaign about the lack of **consultation** over the proposal for a new **Civic Centre** and its financial viability. We fear the cost of the venture will mean cuts in local services and council staff. The plans have now been approved by the Council but we will continue to campaign for proper consultation and the **safeguarding** of **Brent Town Hall**.

Council proposals could hit jobs

UNFORTUNATELY, chief executive Gareth Daniell's assertions about the viability of a new civic centre only raises serious questions about funding, transparency and political accountability (*Council Jobs in six fears, Times, October 16*).

A feasibility study commissioned by Brent Council in 2003 predicted that even with efficiency savings a new civic centre would cost more than the present dispersed portfolio of council buildings.

Far from such a proposal helping to safeguard council jobs, it is not rather the case that the additional cost would require more jobs to be cut?

Unfortunately, this study has never been put in the public domain and the Green Party has only been able to obtain it by exercising Freedom of Information Law. Is it not doubly imperative that this study be updated and publicly interrogated in the light of the economic crisis and the threat to council jobs?

Moreover, there has been no public consultation on the desirability of a new civic centre and its stated implications for the future of the town hall, a landmark listed building. In the new infamous words



Shahrar Ali

As one of only three buildings in the borough to feature in the annual London Open House season, we have started a petition to save the town hall for its purpose-built or public use.

Brent Green Party will continue to fight for accountability in government into the local and general elections and beyond.

Shahrar Ali
Spokesman for planning and environment and Parliamentary candidate for Brent Central
Brent Green Party



We were among the groups supporting **opposition** to the **Stop the Islamisation of Europe** group's attacks on the Harrow Mosque in September and December. There was a massive turn-out of anti-fascists in September and the SloE and English Defence League retreated. Only 15 SloE/EDL turned up in December with a smaller anti-fascist counter-demonstration. The SloE said they would **not** return to Harrow.

We worked with residents' associations and **environmental** groups to oppose the building of houses on sites close to the **Welsh Harp Open Space** which would have impacted on wild-life and the area's peaceful and unspoilt amenity. Both Brent and Barnet Councils turned down the dual planning applications. We are now looking for permanent **safeguarding** for Brent's open spaces,



We raised the issue of the **failure** to rebuild **Wembley Central station** as part of the redevelopment of Central Square, Wembley—despite it being included as part of the Wembley Stadium regeneration. We also called attention to the anomaly of the north-bound Southern trains from Wembley Central to Milton Keynes and intermediate stations being unadvertised due to **restrictions** imposed by Virgin Trains. We called for a fully integrated publicly **accountable** railway system.

We publicised events in Gaza during the attack by Israeli forces and posted a video on You Tube that attracted a number of viewings. In his role as Chair of **Brent Palestine Solidarity Campaign**, Martin helped organise a **demonstration** outside a Hendon Hotel when former Israeli Defence Minister, Livni, was due to speak. Livni was one of the main supporters of the attack on Gaza.



Peter Murry and other members of the Green Party joined **trades unionists** and **climate change** activists to protest against the closure of the Vestas wind turbine factory on the Isle of Wight. We called for government action to save the factory and the workers' **jobs** and to put **investment** into renewable energy as part of the Green New Deal.

Green Party members protested outside the **Chilcot Inquiry** when Tony Blair went to give evidence. We continue to press for Tony Blair and his government to be made accountable for taking us into an **illegal war**. We want to see an end to **wasteful** expenditure on overseas wars and interventions. We are opposed to the renewing of the expensive Trident **nuclear** missile system.



YOUR GREEN PARTY CANDIDATES FOR PARLIAMENT



Shahrar Ali
Brent Central

Shahrar Ali has lived in Brent for 10 years. He chairs the local residents' association and has successfully campaigned to:

- Save the Green spaces and wildlife of Welsh Harp.
- Put a stop to ASDA Wembley lorries from endangering pedestrians.
- Expose Council plans on an expensive civic centre which would cost jobs.

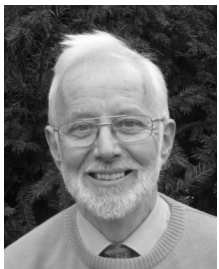
Shahrar has a PhD from UCL on the topic of lying and deception and teaches philosophy for lifelong learners. He joined the Green Party in 2002 after working in the European Parliament and is author of Why Vote Green. In 2008, 9.2% of people in Brent Central voted for him in the GLA election.



Bea Campbell
Hampstead
and
Kilburn

I try to live by my ethics and values; I am proud of my working class origins – without being sentimental – and I feel I have used this background creatively throughout my personal and political life; it enables me to move up and down the British class scale with ease. In my work as a journalist I have always sought to explore power and powerless in British society.

My engagement over many years in radical social movements - from the women's movement to progressive politics more generally - including peace, crime and community, monarchy and republicanism, the conflict in Northern Ireland - have, I believe, give me a perspective on security and sustainability, equality, human rights, and constitutional reform. These are decisive elements of Green thinking on social justice.



Martin Francis
Brent North

My decision to get involved in politics after retirement was based on similar grounds to my decision to become a teacher: I want to make a difference and help improve people's lives. I chose the Green Party because it is committed to social justice as well as the environment.

The creation of New Labour meant that no major party was really putting forward the radical policies needed to tackle inequality - the Green Party now fills that gap. I believe we have the policies and the principles to bring about real change: a life worth living and a planet worth living on.

Our children and succeeding generations are dependent on us making the right decisions

LET'S MAKE BRENT COUNCIL GREENER

Brent Green Party will be fielding at least one candidate in every ward on May 6th. This means that EVERYONE in Brent has a chance to vote Green and send a message to the Council that we want change:

- Real consultation and accountability
- No cuts in local services
- Practical efforts to combat climate change including insulation programmes
- Support for local shops and small businesses
- Affordable and sustainable housing fit for the 21st century
- A good local school and safe play facilities for every child

LOOK OUT FOR OUR COUNCIL ELECTION LEAFLET—COMING SOON!

**REGISTER BY APRIL
20TH TO VOTE ON
THE 6TH MAY**
Go to
www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/
**Or ring Brent Council
on
020 8937 1372 or call
into One Stop Shop**

Promoted by Brent Green Party and Brian Orr on behalf of Brent Green Party, Shahrar Ali and Martin Francis all at PO Box 54785, NW9 1FL and Edward Milford on behalf of Camden Green Party and Beatrix Campbell all at 56 Walker House, NW1 1EP

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