

Councillor's report: Mik Sabiers

South Acton Labour councillor's update – October 2017

Welcome to the latest update touching on what's happening in the ward and in the town hall (Ealing that is, not the old Acton Town Hall), this month I cover the NHS campaign, a proposed new school in the centre of the ward, full council, scrutiny, and selections.

#SaveOurNHS march and rally

Our NHS is under threat and at the end of September hundreds of us marched from Acton (joining many more from Southall) to Ealing Common to call for a halt to planned service changes and demand that Ealing (and Hammersmith & Fulham) have hospitals fit to treat our ever growing population. It was a privilege to lead the march from Acton along with our local MP Rupa Huq as well as other councillors, trade unionists, healthcare workers and many residents. Our campaign continues and the focus is on getting signatures on the petition which we plan to present in the new year, so if you haven't signed the petition then add your name now: <https://www.ealing.gov.uk/SOH>.



Consultation: Another new school planned in the ward

From health to schools and Josh, Yvonne and I also attended a meeting regarding the new high school that is planned for the ward. After the refurbishment of Berrymede Infants, the new Ark Priory, a new secondary is also needed in Acton. The plan is for this to be located on the site of the old Acton College by Woodlands park and the Methodist Church on the high street and is needed to deal with the rise in demand for school places that is now moving from our infant and primary schools to secondary level.



Public Consultation
Proposals for the Acton College site

Ark Local ED

The proposals will be on display at two public exhibition events next month with the developers on hand to talk people through the proposals. These are on Thursday 2 November (16:00-20:00) and Saturday 4 November (10:00-14:00), both held on the College site (entry via the Gunnersbury Lane entrance). If all goes to plan the school will open in September 2019, it is worth noting that the plan is also to add separate housing on the site. You can find out more about the proposals and leave your comments via www.actoncollegeconsultation.co.uk.

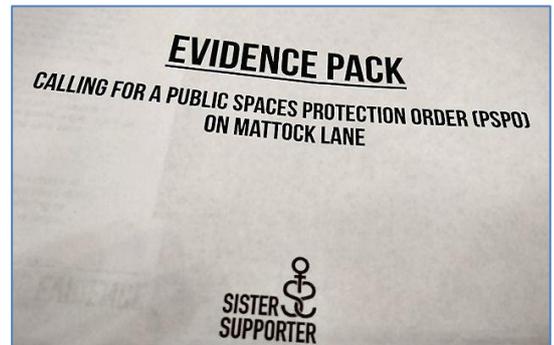
Looking at libraries and redeveloping Ealing

Scrutiny continues to look into the details of council policy and earlier this month I chaired Overview & Scrutiny where we looked at a call-in by the Tory opposition of a cabinet report on the new library for Ealing. This was the second time the Tories called in the decision, and to be honest while they raised a number of issues, the substance of the call-in was rejected as the council should benefit from an enhanced, refurbished, modern and more digital friendly and ready library, and with the costs met by the owners of the Ealing Broadway Centre. This helps to build the Ealing regeneration plan which should see the heart of Ealing redeveloped including improved shops, the new council offices and the return of Ealing Cinema after too many years. If you want more details on the report and the minutes, simply go: <http://tinyurl.com/yb8v775a>.

Full council, Sister Supporter and a public spaces protection order

The last full council meeting also saw a significant level of public interest after a public petition for debate concerning community safety issues around the Marie Stopes Clinic in Mattock Lane was presented by Anna from Sister Supporter – a group that has been campaigning peacefully to end the regular and persistent intimidation often faced by potential users of the clinic. Ealing Labour proposed a motion to look into how we can stop the intimidation, which was drawn up after over 3,000 people signed the Sister Supporter petition. The motion was expressly about dealing with intimidation and a detailed outline of what women have had to face on a daily basis when visiting the clinic was presented to all councillors. This was not a debate about abortion, but about ending harassment and was unanimously supported in the chamber (with two abstentions).

I think it is best summed up by cllr Julian Bell, leader of Ealing council, who said: ***“It was clear that there is overwhelming support to tackle this issue and that is what we will do. The next steps are for council officers to continue to carry out an in depth investigation to gather evidence to allow for all options to be considered. As I stated at the meeting, I find the continuing protests on Mattock Lane deeply disturbing and we are resolved to find a permanent resolution. Ealing Council will always stand up for the rights of local residents and for all to access their healthcare options free from intimidation and bullying behaviour.”***



While we have much more to do, I have to say this was an example of the council looking into a subject fairly and trying to come up with a solution. Ealing is a listening council and I have to pay tribute to Anna from Sister Supporter who put a lot of effort into compiling the details of what women have had to face and the evidence that shows the protests stepped over the mark. In the chamber there were strong speeches from the guidance to those with Sister Supporter highlighted by cllr Penny Jones to the Tory cllr Tony Young who simply said of the harassment: ***“This has to stop.”*** I agree, and am sure scrutiny will be key to making sure we can investigate how we implement this decision going forward.

You can read more about the decision here: [Ealing Council makes landmark move in fight to stop pro-life campaigners harassing women outside west London abortion clinic](#) and as ever any questions drop us a line.

Council selections

And finally, this month also saw the South Acton shortlisting and selection meeting for next year's council elections and I am pleased to say that Josh, Yvonne and I have been reselected to fight for another term. We work very well together as a team covering all the aspects of the ward and on the council and I would like to say thanks for giving us the opportunity to stand again. If you want to help us get re-elected then why not join us for some canvassing sessions where we'll be talking to local voters and asking them to sign the #SaveOurNHS petition, details below. And that's all for now, but as ever any questions just ask.



Warm regards

Mik

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MS 2017/10/26

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Meetings attended

27 September, South Acton ward forum, Armenian Centre, Mill Hill Road, Acton

28 September, Labour party general meeting, Ruskin Hall, Acton

30 September, Ealing #SaveOurNHS services march, from Acton Park

5 October, chaired Overview & Scrutiny, Ealing Town Hall

9 October, Labour group, Ealing Town Hall

10 October, Acton College redevelopment plan meeting

10 October, Full council meeting, Ealing Town Hall

14 October, Ruskin surgery, Church Road, Acton

16 October, Labour group, Ealing Town Hall

18 October, Berrymede junior school governor meeting, Berrymede School, Acton

19 October, South Acton Labour branch selection meeting

24 October, OSC pre-meeting, Perceval House, Ealing

26 October, Labour party general meeting, Ruskin Hall, Acton