

FROM JULIE IRELAND, RHIAN KANAT, SAM WEBBER AND YOUR LOCAL LIB DEM TEAM

BROMLEY SCHOOL SHORTAGE

OFFICIAL WARNING - 2,631 SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACE SHORTFALL BY 2022

Bromley Council must be more proactive in assisting new schools to find suitable sites and obtain planning permission



Two new schools finally have planning permission but two more needed with a desperate shortage of suitable sites

Bromley Council knew there was a shortage of secondary school places as long ago as 2008, but they didn't act quickly enough. Nine years later the shortage has now become critical; the Greater London Authority has warned of a projected shortfall of places for 2,631 school children in Bromley by 2022. That equates to a need for 3 to 4 new schools plus the expansion of some existing secondaries.

Eden Park High School and Bullers Wood School for Boys have finally received planning permission. Bromley Council did nothing to help the new schools get through the planning process, and the delays and uncertainty have added to the stress of worried parents. Boys who had been offered a place at Bullers Wood in September 2017 had to find a different school at the last minute when the Council refused the school's first application. But we still need two more secondary schools and so far it's not clear where these are going to be located. The Council's recently published draft local plan shows only the Kentwood

site in Penge and the old DHSS building at 1 Westmoreland Road as possible options for new secondary schools. The Education and Skills Funding Agency own the Westmoreland Road site and are trying to obtain planning permission to build a 10-storey school with no playing fields. We join local residents and TFL in their concerns about the effect of the extra traffic and pedestrians on this already crowded junction and on overloaded public transport. However, given the predicted desperate shortage of secondary school places, a more suitable site must be found for this school urgently.

Bromley Lib Dems are campaigning for the Civic Centre site as an alternative; a site which the Council have since 2015 earmarked for development as low density family housing. We also want the Harris Girls' Academy in Penge to become co-educational to ease the shortage of boys' school places in that area. Bromley Lib Dems will continue to lobby the Council and push for urgent solutions to this lack of school places.

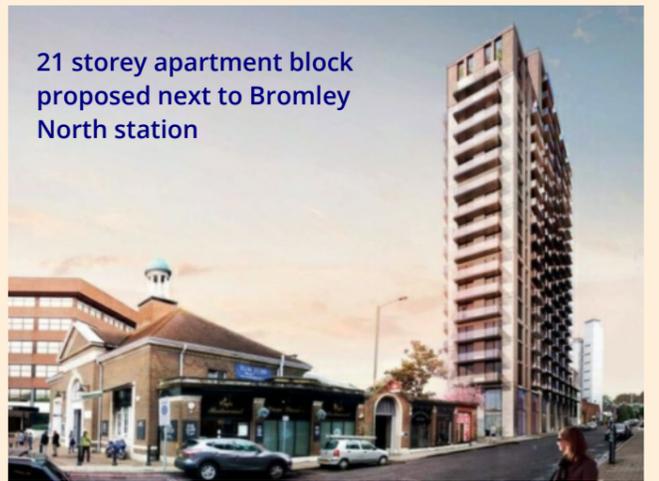
BROMLEY NORTH DEVELOPMENT

Developers are proposing a 21 storey residential tower block on Sherman Road. It will dwarf nearby Bromley North station, and residents tell us they're worried that the building will be an eyesore and out of keeping with the nearby conservation area.

The building is the first building of a masterplan for the area known as "Site A" in the council's Area Action Plan. When finished the whole area will provide 525 new homes, 200 of them in this tower block. The developer is proposing a high end rental only development aimed at young professionals with some ground floor commercial space.

We certainly welcome the new housing which is desperately needed, but we are disappointed that no affordable housing is included. We also share the concerns of local residents that the building is just too tall for the neighbourhood and has no onsite parking provision.

This development site is being designed and constructed piecemeal by different developers, with no overall coordination to ensure that the scheme works as a whole and that sufficient local amenities have been provided for the new tenants, such as GP surgeries. We are calling upon Bromley Council to take a more proactive role to ensure such coordination.



21 storey apartment block proposed next to Bromley North station

Working hard all year round

CUTS TO BABY CLINICS

Vital and much used health visitor services have been cut across the Borough from 11 to just 7 clinics a week with the loss of popular clinics at the Beckenham Beacon and The Willows, Orpington altogether.

The cuts occurred as the service was moved by Bromley Council from Bromley Healthcare to Oxleas trust on 1 October. Bromley Lib Dems are appalled by the poor handling of this transition and the cutting



Health Visitor Baby clinics cut by a third as service moved to new provider

of much needed services without proper warning or public consultation. We challenged the Council over these cuts at a meeting on 17 October and the answers revealed a shocking lack of oversight and understanding of the changes; Cllr Fortune (in charge of Education, Children and Families) told us that "there has been no reduction in service" which is patently untrue and that the Council had "consulted users of the service through Healthwatch Bromley", something which Healthwatch Bromley denies. Bromley's young families deserve better! We will continue to campaign for Oxleas to properly consult with service users on these changes and increase the number and spread of locations of the drop in clinics. **Help us by signing the petition below!**

News & Action

OPPOSITION TO BRITAIN FIRST RALLY



We were proud to set aside political differences on 4 November to join a cross party group to oppose the Britain First rally in Bromley Town.

COUNCIL TO MOVE MARKET

The Council is proposing to move Bromley market to Market Square, including 8 new permanent food kiosks but reducing the number of pop up stalls from 38 to 21. This will be a radical change to our town centre, affecting both shoppers and stall holders, all of whom deserve to be properly consulted. We call on the Council to reach out to all those affected and listen to their views.

BROMLEY SOUTH STATION EXIT



Bromley South station's narrow platforms and single exit and entry point to platforms causes dangerous congestion at peak times. We'll be calling upon network rail to consider an additional exit onto Kentish Way or Elmfield Road. See our website for details.

EMPTY WORDS FOR EU CITIZENS



The thousands of people from the EU who live and work in Bromley are still waiting for reassurance that their rights will be protected. After an agonising wait for news of their rights for over 16 months, the Prime Minister's letter to EU nationals in October merely promised that they will be allowed to stay. There was no mention of voting rights, onward movement, right to return, recognition of professional qualifications, or bringing family members; as a result many are already leaving and most feel let down and insecure. EU nationals living in Bromley are an integral part of our community with many performing vital roles in our public services or running businesses that add to our local

economy. They are our friends, family and work colleagues and we demand that their rights are fully protected, and that the Government announces this without delay putting an end to months of agonising uncertainty that so many have suffered.

Contact the team

The local Lib Dem team want to hear from you on any issue, big or small, that you'd like help with.



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PETITION AGAINST HEALTH VISITOR CUTS

We the undersigned are dismayed by the removal of vital health visitor baby drop-in clinics across the Borough with no notice and without any public consultation and call on Bromley Council and the new service provider, Oxleas, to immediately consult with service users about the changes and reinstate such clinics.

Name.....

Email.....

Telephone.....

Postcode.....

- I can give about 1 hour a month to deliver leaflets in my area
- I would like a poster at the next election to show my support for the Liberal Democrat team.
- I would like to join the Liberal Democrats.

If you return this form the Liberal Democrats and their elected representatives may use the information you've given to contact you. By providing your data to us, you are consenting to us making contact with you in the future by mail, email, telephone, text, website and apps, even though you may be registered with the Telephone Preference Service. You can always opt out of communications at any time by contacting us or visiting www.libdems.org.uk/optout for more information go to www.libdems.org.uk/privacy.

Sign online at: www.bromleylibdems.org.uk or return this slip to: Bromley Liberal Democrats, **FREEPOST RTXZ-ECTZ-CUJU**, 7 Station Road, Orpington BR6 0RZ