



Council unveils proposals based on Boris' £3m investment in Eltham

Things are looking up for Eltham High Street after years of pressure from local Councillors and other residents, with Mayor of London Boris Johnson investing millions of pounds; a government-built new Community Hospital; the Coalition sponsored refurbishment of Eltham Church of England School and Greenwich Council investing in a new cinema.

This summer the consultants employed by Greenwich Council unveiled their plans for improvements to the High Street using the £3m provided by the Mayor of London. **Residents have been invited to comment on the proposals by the 11th September.** Key elements to the proposals include:

- Adding a diagonal crossing at the Well Hall Road junction outside McDonalds.

- Expansion of the pedestrianisation of Passey Place up to the Community Hospital, including new trees and a digital sign to allow displays of Council propaganda at regular intervals.

- Changing the Footscray Road junction
- Widening the pavements to give more space to pedestrians

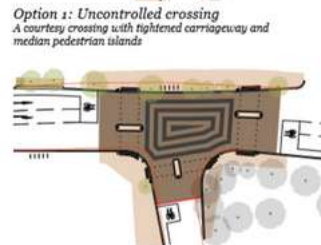
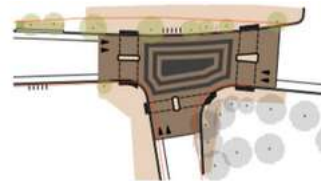
- Reducing the number of parking spaces (see below)

The multi-million pound cinema development is expected to make a profit for Greenwich Council. [According to the adverts](#) aiming to attract shops, the largest unit will cost over £100,000 to rent and the cinema will open in 2017.

Eltham North Councillor Spencer Drury said "The plans for a cinema on

within a 3 minute walk to the High Street."

This means that while residents living near the High Street are having Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs) introduced on the basis it will make it easier to park outside their homes, the Council is stating in a



Proposed layouts for the Footscray Road junction.

Eltham High Street are extremely positive and will add other proposed improvements which have already happened. The Council's proposals for the High Street generally are a more mixed bag with positives like the extended pedestrianisation of Passey Place but real concerns over the loss of parking."

different consultation that people will be able to park more easily in neighbouring roads because of the CPZ arrangements.

Councillor Spencer Drury said "I really feel that the loss of parking spaces on the High Street could damage our shops, making

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COUNCIL LEADER IN PRIVATE EYE

Labour Council Leader Denise Hyland made her debut in Private Eye in August as it was revealed that the Council had allowed the developer on the Greenwich Peninsula to reduce the amount of affordable housing in the development as it claimed house prices were 'flatlining' there.

Council double talk over parking around Eltham

Greenwich Council's plans for Eltham High Street include a 75% reduction in the number of parking spaces from 59 to 21. The Council's consultants explain that this reduction is acceptable as "New CPZ plans will free some 200 spaces, 160 of which are

it less convenient for people to stop off in Eltham. At the same time, it is deceitful for the Council to claim that CPZs will make it easier for residents to park outside their own homes while forcing users of the High Street on to nearby roads."

Putting Eltham's MP Clive Efford under the spotlight

By Adam Thomas

"Labour MPs who nominated Jeremy Corbyn are morons..." (John McTernan, BBC Newsnight)

...unfortunately that seems to include our own Labour MP Clive Efford who has nominated hard left winger Corbyn for the Labour leadership.

Corbyn has aligned himself with the policies of the Syriza government in Greece, policies which have pushed the Greek economy into a deep and possibly terminal recession, with unsustainable debts, mass unemployment and poverty.

And it seems Mr Efford has taken a leaf out of Comrade Corbyn's book, using his time in parliament to promote the fantasy economics of higher spending and more debt which did so much damage to the UK economy, caused job losses and

damaged our public services in the first place.

Other highlights include Mr Efford:

- Voting **against** the Government's proposals for a national Living Wage
- Voting **against** tax cuts for the poorest
- Voting **against** giving housing association tenants the right to own their home
- Voting **against** measures to help businesses invest including Corporation Tax reductions
- Voting **against** a debate on English laws being decided by English MPs
- Voting **against** raising the threshold of inheritance tax

(source: PublicWhip.org.uk)

Is it any wonder that with a MP that

puts outdated socialist ideology before the needs and aspirations of residents, that within weeks of the election Grabadoc has closed its doors, while Greenwich Time continues to be published. That weeds grow uncontrollably on Eltham's streets



Clive Efford lecturing the Chancellor on how Labour did not run up too much debt when in power.

while we still wait on his decade old promise to deliver the DLR. – Eltham can do better than this.

Council stops time for Eltham church clock

Eltham Councillor Spencer Drury has put pressure on Greenwich Council over its failure to ensure that a prominent church clock in Eltham is working.

At July's Council meeting, Spencer secured a commitment from Council Leader that 'the door is always open' if the church requires support in making sure St John the Baptist Church clock at the top of Eltham High Street is not to be permanently stuck at midday.

Councillor Drury's question followed an article in July's SE9 magazine (*Our Town Clock Stopped*), which reported that the Council had refused to fund maintenance of the clock as it has done in the past.

Greenwich's Labour Council refused to fund maintenance of the clock – one of the first visible landmarks for anyone entering Eltham high street - as it has done in the past having previously undertaken regular servicing of the clock. Spencer established that the Council's last expenditure was in 2012, when £1,243 was spent on a service and some

"The Mayor of London is investing millions of pounds in Eltham High Street and the Council is prioritising a cinema, but basic housekeeping like ensuring the town centre clock works seems beyond them."

repairs.

At the same time as refusing to fund the repairs of Eltham's landmark clock, the Council is continuing to ensure that four other clocks are maintained, including the one at the Clockhouse Community Centre in Woolwich which is well off the beaten track for most residents.

Spencer commented "The Council's decision to stop using an average of £400 each year supporting a major landmark in Eltham is simply wrong. The Mayor of London is investing millions of pounds in Eltham

High Street and the Council is prioritising a cinema, but basic housekeeping like ensuring the town centre clock works seems beyond them. It is a real shame and shows a lack of joined up thinking about supporting Eltham and its High Street."

Eltham resident, 22-year-old James Shipp said "I have worshipped at St John's since I was a child but even people who don't attend church see this historic clock as an iconic symbol of Eltham. I can't understand why the Council isn't continuing to fund its upkeep."



Eltham Church Clock is now fixed at midday due to lack of maintenance by the Council.

Upset Labour Councillor removes Officer over weeds

Greenwich Council's Labour Cabinet Member responsible for the state of our streets confessed to being 'upset' over the weeds across our streets this summer and offered the apologies of her Department for the failure when questioned by Eltham North Councillor Spencer Drury.

In answer to previous questions from Conservative Councillors, Council Officers wrote that "*It is not possible to prevent weed growth*" leading to the creation of the mocking #weedsinbloom hashtag on twitter.

At July's Council meeting, Spencer pointed out that in 2012 and 2014, the Council had used weather conditions

as a reason for the excessive weed growth but this year the Council had not even got round to appointing someone to deal with the problem until late June. The Cabinet Member acknowledged this point and stated that the person responsible no longer worked for the Council.

Spencer said "Whilst it is good that the Cabinet Member concerned has acknowledged the Council's failings on this matter, it seems to be a perennial problem and they need to be much more proactive in ensuring it is planned for

and dealt with. This year I remain concerned that the spraying is taking place so late that the Council will simply turn green weeds brown and leave them decaying on our pavements."

According to the Council's published schedule, Eltham North's weeds should have been dealt with by 31st July while Middle Park & Sutcliffe was to be completed by the 5th August. Residents will have to be the judge as to whether this treatment has been effective.



Middle Park Chairman Adam Thomas surrounded by weeds by Queenscroft Park.

News from around the south of the borough

Council admits to no policy over [Leigate redevelopment](#)

Greenwich Council admitted at the July Council meeting to having no contact with it Lewisham counterpart over the redevelopment of the Leigate Shopping Centre. With an admirable level of disinterest, the Cabinet Member responsible stated that he understood Greenwich residents had been consulted by Lewisham Council and he was "sure they will take any comments into consideration when they come to determine the application later this year". Not exactly a policy of standing up for all Greenwich residents!

[Friends of Queenscroft Park](#) created

Excellent news that following Conservative complaints about the [state of Queenscroft Park last year](#), not

only has the park been cleaned, but a 'Friends' group has been created. Despite the last event of this year's Parksfest being cancelled, Middle Park & Sutcliffe Chairman Adam Thomas found time to speak with members of the Friends of Queenscroft and Horn Park in the light drizzle of a British summer. If anyone would like to get involved with any Friends group, please do contact Adam and he will put you in touch with the relevant person.

Conservative Mayoral Candidates visit Eltham

This summer Eltham Conservatives have been pleased to welcome various Mayoral candidates to our area. In August local Cllr Matt Clare organized a reception for [MEP Syed Kamall](#) and Deputy Mayor of London [Stephen Greenhalgh](#) is expected to attend the Eltham North Tea and Cake on the 29th August (please contact Spencer for more details). [Zac Goldsmith MP](#) has written a notice for this newsletter (see back page) and we are hoping to see London Assembly Member [Andrew Boff](#) before the selection is completed. At a time when the Labour Party is struggling to find a decent candidate for Leader, it is pleasing to have such a strong field of Conservative candidates for the

election of a Mayor of London next May.

Eltham Park Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) proposals finally published

After two years of wrangling, residents of Eltham Park are going to receive the Council's final proposals for the introduction of CPZs south of the railway line. Essentially, this means that every road will have a CPZ introduced with residents having to pay between £60 and £100 to park outside their own homes whether they voted for it or not. Given the Council's plans include getting rid of free parking behind Eltham Station, it is hard not to imagine that the net effect of these plans will be to create a massive increase in parking around the northern half of Eltham Park, meaning the Council can push more CPZs there within the year.

Cladding for Well Hall Tower block

Excellent news for the Well Hall tower block where a government scheme is going to be used to put cladding around the whole block reducing the damp problems that many residents face due to poor Council maintenance.

News Shopper

Call to restore 'neglected' Eltham park which has graffiti and dried up boating lake

Conservative lobbying helped lead to improvements at Queenscroft Park

In Touch produced for Eltham North and Middle Park & Sutcliffe Conservatives

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Standing up for the south of the borough

<https://registration.conservatives.com/ps/event/LondonMayorConservativeElection2015>

Why not help select the Conservative candidate for Mayor of London?

The Conservative Party is holding an online primary to select its candidate for the 2016 London Mayoral Election.

Anyone in London who is on the electoral roll can register to vote to help the party choose who will stand for the Conservatives in the election next year.

Four candidates have been shortlisted to stand in the primary. Andrew Boff, Zac Goldsmith, Stephen Greenhalgh and Syed Kamall will campaign across the capital.



A message from Zac Goldsmith, one of four Conservative Candidates for Mayor of London.



Boris Johnson has shown what a strong, campaigning Mayor can achieve for Greenwich. The Jubilee Line is now safer, faster and more reliable. He has helped to revitalise New Eltham high street as part of his High Street Fund and invested £400,000 in Avery Hill Park.

More generally our neighbourhoods are safer, our commutes better – London is once again the best city in the world. We can't put this progress at risk.

As Mayor, I would continue to build on Boris's successes so London works for all Londoners. That means housing that is genuinely affordable, a transport system that keeps London moving and provides value-for-money and a cleaner, greener living environment.

Over the last five years as MP for Richmond Park and North Kingston I have fought for my constituents, stopping plans to introduce parking charges at Richmond Park; campaigning for 30 minutes free parking to help local small shops, securing funds for Kew Gardens and securing a new school for local children.

I will take the same campaigning energy to the Mayoralty. But first I need to be selected as the Conservative candidate. If you would like to get in touch, visit BackZac2016.com and sign up.

A message from Stephen Greenhalgh

The Mayoralty sits at the apex of government in our capital city. The role was created to shape and improve public services in London. We need our public services to be well run and to be improved in order to secure London's place as a global city and safeguard the future prosperity of all Londoners. I have a Plan for London to do just that and it is a plan which gives all Londoners hope.

The Greenhalgh Plan4London will:

1. Cut tube and rail fares by 3% annually.
2. Build 100,000 new low



Stephen Greenhalgh is one of four candidates standing to be the Conservative candidate for Mayor of London

cost homes for Londoners to own over 4 years.

3. Maintain a safe capital city on reduced budgets.

4. Tackle the air pollution which blights our city.

5. Improve the quality of London's bus service.

Find out more about what I will deliver for Londoners on my website - greenhalgh.london

Stephen Greenhalgh is currently Boris's Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and one of four candidates in the Conservative Mayoral selection.