

IN FOCUS **GREEN STREET**

September 2011



STANDING UP TO THUGS

The disturbances last month shocked us all. London has not seen such premeditated violence and destruction for many years. While Newham was affected, we were spared the worst.

On the day following the disturbances, Mayor Sir Robin Wales visited residents and businesses to hear first-hand how they had been affected.

He heard inspiring stories of how local people had united to protect their community in the face of these hooligans.

In Green Street, Sir Robin met Omar Ihsan and his father Haq Imtiaz, who run Upton Park Builders Merchants. They told the Mayor how, on hearing rumours of potential problems on Green Street, the family shut up shop and then stood guard in front of the business for the duration of the



Omar Ihsan (l) and Haq Imtiaz (r) speak to Sir Robin

disturbance. They were determined to protect their property and support those around them.

Omar told In Focus that when they first heard that looters were working their way along Green Street, police advised traders to close their shops and bring down their shutters. Together with his father, other staff members and a few friends, Omar decided that they must defend their store: "This is our life, and you are ready to protect that. It's the same as if someone came into your home, you would protect it," he said.

Along Green Street many shopkeepers felt the same and small groups of families and friends gathered to protect properties and businesses. "We did feel intimidated, but we needed to defend ourselves," added Omar.

Although there were disturbances elsewhere in Newham, the borough escaped relatively unscathed in comparison with neighbouring boroughs such as Hackney and Lewisham. Sir Robin said this was due to "the strength of togetherness in our community".



CONTACT US

If your group has an activity to promote please contact us on: 020 3373 2684 or email infocus@newham.gov.uk



Community praise



Mayor Sir Robin Wales has praised Newham's community for the way residents have responded to appeals for information following the recent unrest.

A special edition of the Newham Mag, containing CCTV images of those involved in disturbances in Newham, has generated a number of arrests and numerous warrants. Around a third of the images have been identified thanks to information from residents.

Sir Robin said: "What we saw taking place in Newham and elsewhere across the country is completely and utterly unacceptable.

"Thankfully our borough was not as badly affected as others in London and elsewhere, because of the strength of togetherness and cohesion in our community."

If you can identify anyone involved in the disturbances call Newham Police on 020 8217 5481 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. More images can be seen on page 10 of the Mag and online at www.newham.gov.uk/cctv

Local councillors and guests enjoy Queens Market's summer event



HAVING A WIZARD OF A TIME AT QUEENS MARKET

It's fair to say that almost everyone attended the recent summer event at Queens Market. Even Harry Potter, or someone who looked very like him, was there! Residents, shoppers, stilt walkers, face painters and local councillors joined in the spirit of the occasion.

Everyone had lots of fun and at the same time raised £70 for the Mayor's Trust Fund through a balloon race. We're still waiting to find out where all the balloons went!

Queens Market is open every Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. On Sunday from 12noon-6pm, it also hosts an indoor car boot sale and general market. Pitches costs £10. If you would like to find out more information, contact Roy Wayre on roy.wayre@newham.gov.uk or telephone 020 8475 8971.



The implementation of a new Resident Parking Zone (RPZ) designed to give priority to residents and customers of local businesses is nearing completion.

The Green Street East RPZ will operate from 8am-6.30pm, Monday to Saturday. The scheme will go live on 12 September, so residents will need to display their permits from then. All local residents and businesses should have received a permit application pack a few weeks ago.

If you need an application pack, you can get one from your Local Service Centre at 403-405 Green Street, E7, download one from our website, www.newham.gov.uk/rpz, or call Newham Council on 020 8430 2000.

BECOME A FRIEND OF PRIORY PARK

Green Street community forum lead councillor Riaz Mirza is inviting local residents to get involved in a discussion group for the Priory Park area.

He said: "I and my fellow councillors Rustam Talati and Rohima Rahman are eager to work with local service providers and residents to develop plans and ideas to ensure that Priory Park is well-maintained and clean and safe for local residents."

For further information contact Shabana Qadir on 020 3373 1267 or email Shabana.qadir@newham.gov.uk



ACT on it!

Do you love attending local events? Do you have lots of ideas for community activities but are not sure how to make them happen?

Why not become an Active Community Volunteer (ACT)? You can help plan and host local events, and you can get involved in as much or as little as you are able.

It's a great opportunity to contribute to the local community, as well as gain valuable experience. It can also make a big difference to your CV and the experience you take to potential employers.

For further information contact Shabana Qadir on 020 3373 1267 or email Shabana.qadir@newham.gov.uk

Head teacher will be missed

Popular head teacher Jane Johnson OBE was thanked for all her hard work by Mayor Sir Robin Wales and Councillor Quintin Peppiatt, executive member for children and young people.



Cllr Peppiatt, left, with Jane and Sir Robin

Mrs Johnson, head teacher of St Stephen's Primary School and Children's Centre in Whitfield Road, Upton Park, joined the school in 1983. She leaves after worked in Newham schools for 38 years. She received a pen inscribed with her years of service.

Jane, who received the OBE for her services to education in the 2010 New Year's Honours list, said: "Teaching in Newham has been such a big part of my life. My award would not have been possible without such a committed community and exceptional school staff over the many years."

Cllr Peppiatt said: "We thank Jane for all she has done in helping young people achieve their potential. She has made a wonderful contribution to so many children's lives."

Spotlight on... Newham People's Panel

If you've got a lot of opinions on local issues, there is now an even easier way to have your voice heard. The Newham People's Panel is a new way for residents and visitors to make an impact on how the borough is run – and you won't even need to leave your sofa to get involved!

Visit www.newhampanel.com to find out more. Register as a member and the rest is plain sailing. We'll send you surveys on a range of topics; some surveys will include the opportunity to be entered into a prize draw.

Most surveys will take about ten minutes to complete. There will also be polls where you can log on and simply answer a quick question.

We want your thoughts on hot topics. This can be anything from employment to the cleanliness of your area, what leisure facilities you need, to what you want to see from the 2012 Games legacy.

Anyone aged over 16 can become a member of the panel

and you could be a resident or a visitor to Newham.

There may be some topics you're more interested in than others, so you can pick and choose which surveys you want to take part in. You will receive a summary of the results from each survey you complete and may be invited to give your opinion in future group interviews or focus groups – where you will probably be paid or receive vouchers for your help.

Become a member of the Newham People's Panel

To sign up to the panel, visit www.newhampanel.com and fill in a short registration form.



WHAT'S ON GREEN STREET

Newham NSP

Five-a-side
11-18 year olds
Wednesdays
5-8pm
Free
Priory Park MUGA, E6

WHU Kickz

11-18 year olds
Thursdays
4-7pm
Free
Priory Park MUGA, E6

For even more things to do check out the What's On in Newham calendar, where you'll find listings for more than 6,000 events visit www.newham.com

If your group has an activity to promote please contact us on:
020 3373 2684 or email:
infocus@newham.gov.uk

MEET YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR

Councillors out and about: If you would like a councillor to visit your community organisation, school, place of worship, meeting or event please call 020 3373 1267 or email shabana.qadir@newham.gov.uk
To email your local councillor write firstname.lastname@newham.gov.uk e.g. jo.corbett@newham.gov.uk



Jo Corbett



Riaz Ahmed Mirza



Pearson Shillingford



Nirmal Chadha



Sharaf Mahmood



Rohima Rahman



Mukesh Patel



Rustam Talati



Harvinder Singh Virdee

Boley

Cllr Corbett
Second Saturday of the month,
10.30 - 11.30am
Priory Park Centre,
106 Parr Road, E6

Cllr Ahmed Mirza
Fourth Saturday of the month
(except bank holidays)
10 - 11am
Priory Park Centre,
106 Parr Road, E6

Cllr Shillingford
Third Friday of the month,
6 - 7pm
Priory Park Centre,
106 Parr Road, E6

Green Street East

Cllr Chadha
Second Saturday of the month, 10.30am - 12pm
Katherine Road Community Centre, 254 Katherine Road, E7
Fourth Saturday of the month, 10.30am - 12pm
St Edmund's Parish Church 464 Katherine Road, E7

Cllr Mahmood
First and third Saturday of the month, 10am - 12pm
Katherine Road Community Centre, 254 Katherine Road, E7
Second and Fourth Saturday of the month, 10am - 12pm

Cllr Rahman
Second Friday of the month, 10am - 12pm
Katherine Road Community Centre
Third Friday of the month, 10am - 12pm
Katherine Road Community Centre, 254 Katherine Road, E7

Green Street West

First, second and third Friday
6 - 7pm
Elmhurst Primary School
Upton Park Road, E7

Fourth Friday
6 - 7pm
Upton Centre
Claude Road, E13