

NEWS & UPDATES

Homebase/ O2 Shopping Centre update

At the end of 2024 we heard that Landsec, the owners of the O2 Centre site, intend to submit a revised planning application, for more flats, taller towers, and more green space, early in 2025. We'll let you know when we see the detail of what's planned.

Meanwhile, the Homebase store has been demolished, and work will start soon to reduce the car park to 200 spaces, and to install new power and sewerage facilities. Janet attends regular meetings with Landsec and the demolition company, so if you have any questions, email us on NW6libdems@gmail.com.



Pavement outside Five Guys on West End Lane

Several people have asked us about the untidy barriers outside Five Guys on West End Lane. It seems that the plans were signed off with a gradual slope down to Five Guys and Amazon Fresh, but a steep slope has been built. This is Council land, but the Council seems to have missed that this was how it was being built.

Camden Council's Highways Department is now discussing with the developer how to fix it and have put plastic barriers there temporarily. In addition, the whole of the pavement outside the new development will be resurfaced once all the work is finished, paid for by the developer.

Local Campaigner Janet Grauberg receives OBE

Congratulations to Lib Dem campaigner Janet Grauberg on receiving an OBE for "services to the community in North London and to Education". Janet has volunteered locally for over twenty years, including co-founding the West Hampstead Community Food Hub and being a School Governor. She is currently Chair of local organisation West Hampstead Amenity & Transport (WHAT).

Lib Dem Leader Sir Ed Davey MP said "Janet Grauberg embodies what it is to be a champion for her community in North London. She combines care for others with a great intellectual ability, a huge appetite for hard work and a willingness to roll up her sleeves and get stuck in."

Rubbish, Crime, & NHS top list of local concerns

Every year the West Hampstead Lib Dems undertake a residents' survey to hear about local priorities. In 2024 the top concerns were:

1. Clean High Streets
2. Crime & Anti-social behaviour
3. NHS
4. Traffic



Less than 20% of people who responded said they were happy with rubbish collection on our high streets. More than 50% of residents said they hadn't noticed any improvement in the last year, while 20% said they had. **The Labour Council has spent £1000s on this issue, but it clearly isn't working.**

On crime, less than 10% of people said they'd been a victim of crime, but 60% said they'd witnessed anti-social behaviour. Priorities for the police to address were drug using and drug dealing, anti-social behaviour and theft. **Patrick has volunteered to join the local police panel, so contact him on NW6libdems@gmail.com if there are issues you'd like him to raise.**

Other topics that residents asked us to campaign on included tackling homelessness, the need for more social housing, and congestion on the pavements. We'll do another survey later this year, but in the meantime you can always get in touch via NW6libdems@gmail.com or 07980 650101.



Get in touch

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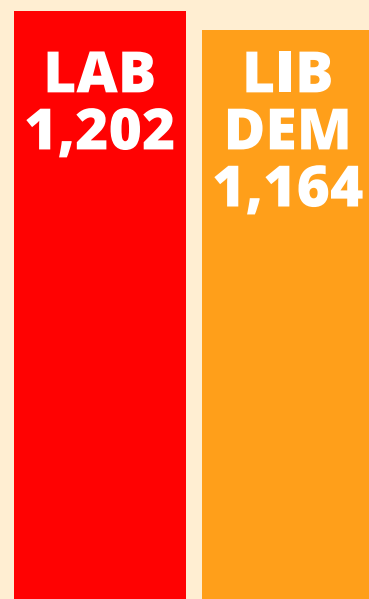


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www.camdenlibdems.org.uk



The **Liberal Democrats** are the challengers to **Labour** here.

At the 2022 local elections there were only **38 votes** in it!

CON
494

Barchart shows the votes for the third placed Labour candidate and the top placed Liberal Democrat.

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REPORTING BACK

West Hampstead Liberal Democrats



JANET GRAUBERG PATRICK STILLMAN and the West Hampstead Liberal Democrats

LABOUR FAILURES

Camden Council's Record

Complaints - The number of complaints to Camden Council nearly tripled between 2021-22 and 2023-24.
Only 42% of complaints were handled on time in 2023-24.

Rough Sleeping - Camden has the 2nd highest rough sleeping rate in London (behind only Westminster).
Plans to build new temporary accommodation are running **four years late**. Yet the Labour Council rejected calls from homeless charities for an independent review of its services.

Recycling Rates - Camden's recycling rates are in the bottom 25% of London Councils.
It only recycles 28% of its waste. The best London Council (Ealing) recycles over 48%.

Anti-Social Behaviour - Fewer than half of council tenants were satisfied with Camden's approach to handling anti-social behaviour.
The London average is for two-thirds of tenants to be satisfied.

Housing Fire Safety - in the summer of 2023 the Council received a formal "Regulatory Notice" highlighting 400 outstanding "high-risk" fire safety actions.
It took until June 2024 to complete these "high-risk" actions and at July 2024 there were still 8,609 medium & low-risk fire safety actions outstanding.

Background & Sources at
www.camdenlibdems.org.uk/labourfailures

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT OPPOSITION COUNCILLORS IN ACTION



The Liberal Democrats are the official Opposition to Labour on Camden Council. They are busy holding Labour to account on key issues affecting residents. From improving accessibility for disabled people to tackling homelessness, fire safety, and clean air, they are challenging Labour's decisions and demanding better.

Cllr Judy Dixey

Appointed Champion for visually-impaired people in summer 2024, Judy is investigating what facilities are available from the Council and voluntary groups in Camden, focussing on transport, Council communication, and accessibility of services. Highlighting a disconnect between individuals losing their sight and engaging with the Council, she is committed to fostering stronger connections to ensure their voices are heard and they access the services they need.

Judy wants the Council to review and consider how all its plans and decisions impact disabled people.



Champion for visually-impaired people – ensuring they get the services they need from Camden Council

Cllr Tom Simon



Leader of the Opposition Lib Dem Group – holding the Council to account on Fire Safety and housing

Tom is the leader of the Lib Dem Group on Camden Council. Following a critical report by the Regulator for Social Housing on Camden's fire safety record, Tom insisted that Opposition Councillors should be allowed to join the Housing and Fire Safety Advisory Panel, which is monitoring the Council's improvement programme, and is keeping up the pressure to get the 1000s of outstanding fire risks addressed.

Tom has also worked with the Camden Federation of Private Tenants to organise workshops on renters' rights and Council support.

Cllr Linda Chung



Chair of the Resources Scrutiny Committee – making sure our money is spent well

Linda is Chair of Camden's Resources and Corporate Performance Scrutiny Committee. She works hard to hold Labour to account for how they manage public money and deliver services. Linda focuses on making sure the Council's spending gives value for money and benefits residents.

She has challenged Labour on delays to key projects and pushed for better planning and efficiency. Linda also ensures the Council listens to residents and keeps its promises. Her leadership helps make sure resources are used fairly and responsibly, always putting the needs of local people first.

Cllr Nancy Jirira

Nancy has been highlighting the Council's terrible housing performance, including failure to tackle damp and mould in Council properties, and how hard it is for residents to get repairs completed. In 2024 she was on a panel scrutinising the Council's role in tackling homelessness.

The forced removal of tents from outside UCLH sparked outrage, but the panel heard many other horror stories, for example of families living in hostel accommodation for years, with children forced to move school frequently. The panel made several recommendations for improvement which Nancy will be following up throughout 2025.



Leads on housing repairs and homelessness – campaigning for better services for vulnerable tenants and rough sleepers

Cllr Matthew Kirk

Matthew has been an active member of Camden's Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee, vociferous on environmental issues. He has led on clearing Lime Bikes from cluttering pavements and addressing their climate impact – whilst recognising the convenience. He has campaigned for buildings to be refurbished rather than demolished – and for recycling and reuse generally.

As a member of Licensing Committee he has looked to achieve a vibrant nightlife scene but always protecting residents – and argued against the changes to framework hours. More generally, Matthew has pushed for more music teaching in schools and greater support for musicians and music.



Leads on environment and transport – pushing the Council to do more to tackle climate change