

Hall Farm Curve

Our message about Hall Farm Curve has been recognised by TfL. The Curve is a disused rail line that, if reopened, would provide a direct link between Waltham Forest and Stratford. At the last Mayor's Question Time session I was informed that TfL has looked into re-opening the Curve and found that "reinstating the line offers good value for money, with passenger benefits outweighing the costs."

"Our message is being listened to- TfL recognises the benefit of re-opening Hall Farm Curve "

However, the line is under Government control and TfL says they do not have the money to fund the scheme. The Mayor says he will ask TfL to make sure it fully considers the case for the Hall Farm Curve when preparing representations to the Department for Transport for future funding.

I reminded the Mayor that Waltham Forest does not have decent transport links to the Olympic site and the new Stratford City development. TfL is currently developing plans to ensure local people can get to Stratford City after the opening in 2011 and says there will be a consultation on these plans in early in 2010. It will also look into the possible demand of local passengers during the Olympic Games. I will continue to fight to ensure that Waltham Forest is fully connected to both developments so keep an eye out for my updates.

News Flash

*** Coming Soon: a new way for you to keep in touch and tell me your views. I will be launching a brand new **website** early in the New Year, you will be able to find it at www.jennettearnold.com***

*** Improvements to **Angel Town Centre** have just been announced including the replacement of the dangerous staggered crossing outside the tube station with a straight crossing at the north side of the junction Upper Street/Liverpool Road ***

*****Oyster Cards** will be available on Overground trains from the 2nd of January onwards ***

*****3 Mayoral Strategies:** draft Transport Strategy, the Economic Development Strategy and the London Plan are open for public consultation until the 12th of January giving you the chance to let the Mayor know what you think of his proposals. Find out more at www.london.gov.uk/shaping-london



Come & See the Assembly at Work!

All Assembly meetings are held in City Hall, the Queen's Walk London SE1 2AA and **everyone is welcome to attend**. Meetings usually start at 10am unless stated otherwise.

January 2010

- 6 Transport Committee
- 7 Budget and Performance Committee
- 12 Economic Development, Culture, Sport & Tourism Committee
- 13 London Assembly: Plenary
- 14 Planning and Housing Committee
- 19 Budget and Performance Committee
- 20 Business Management & Administration Committee (2.00pm)
- 27 London Assembly: Mayor's Question Time

Some of my Recent Engagements

- 11 Dec Launch of Islington North Labour Disability Group
- 10 Dec Visit to Croydon Rape Crisis Centre
- 4 Dec Waltham Forest Police Topping Out Ceremony
- 28 Nov Residents day new Media Broadcast Centre Olympics
- 22 Nov Culture Jam Community Event, FinFuture
- 20 Nov City Hall Citizenship Ceremony
- 16 Nov Visit to Clarity, Employment for Blind People Factory
- 8 Nov WF Remembrance Service
- 2 Nov Hackney Borough Commander's Commendation Award
- 30 Oct Buckingham Palace to receive OBE
- 20 Oct Visit to Clubs and Vice Unit to discuss

Winter 2009

News from City Hall Jennette Arnold



Assembly Member for Hackney, Islington & Waltham Forest

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. In these past months we have tackled the Mayor over **Fare Rises**. I have seen huge improvements on the **Victoria Line** and at **King's Cross** but we are still battling for access at **Finsbury Park**. I met with **Hackney & Islington Elders** to discuss their views on London life. We **won the battle** to keep **Archway Station** open at weekends and our **Hall Farm Curve message** is getting through. As ever we are keeping a close eye on the **Olympic** development.

Mayor's Transport Policy Mayhem

Mayor Johnson's recently announced transport fare increase is a massive blow to Londoners at the worst possible time. From January onwards Tube fares will rise by 3.9%. Bus users will be worst off with weekly bus passes and single bus tickets jumping by a whopping 20%.

Constituents will wonder why Boris says he can find £5bn of transport savings but can't keep fares down. I told the Mayor that this is a kick in the teeth for hard-pressed Londoners, many of whom are barely able to afford a weekly bus pass. Imagine my rage at being told by the Mayor that this is a 'moderate increase'.

Meanwhile, the dispute over the cost of delayed works continues between the Mayor and TubeLines, the company responsible for upgrading the Jubilee, Northern and Piccadilly lines. As the Jubilee line works are now officially delayed, I am extremely concerned about the adverse effect this will have on the Northern and Piccadilly line upgrade.

Beware, the Mayor has cancelled the traditional agreement to provide free Rail transport home on New Year's Eve. Don't get caught out- plan your safe journey home in advance.

"This is a kick in the teeth for hard-pressed Londoners "

Olympic Women



As a champion of gender equality I was very encouraged to join 270 of the women working on the Olympic Park to mark 1000 days to 2012. It was inspiring to meet these women working in such a variety of roles on the site.

Contact my Team

We want to hear from you about any issues concerning our work in North East London. The full range of our responsibilities is shown at www.london.gov.uk/assembly/index.jsp Please also contact me with any Questions you would like me to raise with the Mayor.

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mary-clare.connellan@london.gov.uk

José Lapré, my researcher, for all casework and campaigns: 020 7983 4357
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Meeting Our Elders

I was delighted to be invited to talk about transport at both the Islington Pensioners Forum and the Hackney Older People's annual event.



At both events, I addressed issues that affect many older people: accessibility, dial-a-ride and safety. I also talked about the work of the Assembly Transport Committee and learned a lot about the problems that elders are facing on a daily basis when

trying to get around in North East London.

"I learned a lot about the problems elders face trying to get around in North East London"

After both events, I was approached by many people with complaints and concerns about cyclists on pavements, dangerous crossings and other matters. I will be sharing these with TfL and the Met so that they can investigate.

If you have any concerns about dangerous crossings and other matters please feel free to share them with me via jennette.arnold@london.gov.uk

Met Regrets Message

In late October I, along with many constituents, was shocked to read that the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) would be introducing routine Armed Police Patrols on estates in London. I immediately contacted the Met to receive clarification. After a rigorous questioning of Sir Paul Stephenson, the Police Commissioner, it became clear that there had been a communications error and armed patrols were not being introduced as a matter of course as had been reported.

The entire fiasco, which could have been avoided, did at least raise this important topic – which in my opinion should never been taken lightly in London. The reaction from our constituency was fierce. It was clear to me that had we been consulted the answer would have been "No, we do not want to remove the principle of policing by consent."

North East London says, "No, we do not want to remove the principle of policing by consent."

I told the Commissioner that any move away from the principle of unarmed policing is not a decision that can be taken by one person, these are decisions that have to be made in full consultation with the communities they will affect. I also highlighted the extreme concern from the Hackney Independent Advisory Group and community members, including friends of Harry Stanley, who was mistakenly shot dead by CO19 officers in 1999.

Higham's Park Tesco Plans

Earlier this year, I was contacted by the Higham's Park Forum about the new Tesco development planned for the area. Their main concerns were about the size of the dwellings, the height of the buildings and the effects such a large project would have on local transport. I visited the site with the Forum and set up a meeting at City Hall between campaigners, Tesco and the architects.

Despite a hard fought campaign by the Forum and other local people, the council decided to allow the project to go ahead. The Mayor supported this decision and the development now looks likely to go ahead. I hope that the concerns voiced by all campaigners will be addressed before the building work starts.

Queen's Visit to Olympic Park

Last Month I had the honour of introducing a group of wonderful constituents to Her Majesty the Queen.

These people are the nearest neighbours to the massive construction project that is the Olympic Site. They told the Queen their thoughts and hopes for the Legacy of the 2012 Games.



Step Free Access Finsbury Park



Our petition to make the Mayor change his mind about cancelling the plans for a lift to the Underground at Finsbury Park is still going strong. Another petitioning session was recently held at the station with local action groups.

So far, we have collected 1,122 signatures but are still keen to get more. The petition goes to the Mayor in February so you have got until early February to sign the petition via: www.gopetition.co.uk/petitions/give-us-access-to-finsbury-park.html

Archway Success

Cllr Janet Burgess contacted me on behalf of shop keepers in Archway who were worried about the weekend closures at Archway Station.

After writing to Commissioner Peter Hendy at TfL, we managed to keep the station open during the weekends in December so that shopkeepers wouldn't miss out on vital trade in the run-up to Christmas.



All Change

This autumn, I visited new and upgraded transport projects in the constituency such as King's Cross and the Victoria Line control room.



The brand new King's Cross ticket hall brings a much-needed improvement to this major transport hub where large passenger numbers and overcrowded conditions made interchanging an unpleasant experience. It now boasts ten new escalators and six new lifts and provides improved links between the different lines and a quick and easy underpass to St Pancras.

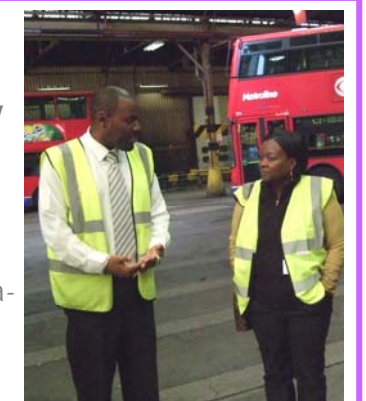
On the same day that the Assembly's Transport Committee published its report on overcrowding on the Tube, I went to see the new Victoria Line facilities that will improve reliability and increase capacity. I was very impressed by the new state of the art control room and very excited



to be invited to travel in the cab of the new train, which has better ventilation and two carriages with room for wheelchairs and prams. You can try the new train yourself during the weekends and on weekday evenings after 8.15pm.

Investigating Route 4

After receiving several complaints about the service on the number 4, I wrote to TfL and they promised me that a new schedule would be introduced to improve reliability.



I also visited the Holloway Bus Garage with Cllr Barry Edwards. We shared our concerns with Sean O'Shea, the Chief Operating Manager of Metrolines, and garage operator Norman Flemming. We were told that two extra buses now serve the route on Sunday. However, Metrolines will not change the service on weekdays as they say that weekday performance is in line with TfL's targets. The new schedule is a step in the right direction but I will continue to fight for improved weekday services.