

Less Time to Cross our Roads?

Mayor Johnson has released new plans to smooth traffic flow. Under this scheme, traffic lights at pedestrian crossings will be rephased, leading to pedestrians having less time to cross the road. Jeremy Corbyn and I got together with local campaign groups. To meet TfL and discuss the plans.



"We will do everything to ensure safe crossings in London"	At our meeting we asked TfL how this scheme will effect vulnerable pedestrians like the elderly and disabled people, who need more time to cross the road. We also raised concerns about the likelihood of more road accidents.
	We agreed to keep an eye on this process and that we would meet up with the TfL engineers again in the Autumn to discuss the traffic lights reviewed at that stage.

Rest assured that we will do everything to ensure safe crossings in London. In fact after a complaint from the Islington Mobility Forum we successfully lobbied the Mayor and TfL to increase the crossing time on the corner of Holloway Road/Tollington Way. TfL has now lengthened the time from 8 to 10 seconds . If you have any crossings in your locality that are hard to cross in the given time, please let me know and I will take it up with TfL

Fonesforsafety

Earlier this month, the 'fonesforsafety' campaign was relaunched at City Hall.

This scheme turns used mobile phones into reconfigured "999 only" phone alarms for victims of domestic violence. I believe this scheme will help victims report abuse and hopefully prevent a serious tragedy.



Fonesforsafety need your used mobiles! Donate your old one or even better organise a collection at your workplace or in your neighbourhood. Find out more at: www.fonesforsafety.org.uk.

News from City Hall Jennette Arnold



Assembly Member for Hackney, Islington & Waltham Forest

Welcome. In these last few months we have launched our campaign for Step-Free Access at **FinsburyPark**. I am monitoring the Mayor's plans for **pedestrian crossings** and the Assembly is maintaining a close scrutiny of the **Olympic Development**. I am campaigning for more money for **Rape Crisis provision** in London. I have also been finding out more about **apprenticeships for young people** in London and am supporting London's bid for the **2018 World Cup**.

Recent Highlights

I stood down as Chair of the Assembly in May and was elected as Deputy for the forthcoming year. I was also elected to chair the increasingly important Business Management and Administration Committee.

The Assembly is currently putting together our responses to the Mayor's strategies. I have been feeding in the views of people from North East London concentrating on accessible transport, better and bigger housing provision, job creation, opportunities for young people and facilities for women experiencing violence.

We want better and bigger housing in North East London

In June we welcomed two new Borough Commanders to the area; Mike Wise in Islington and Steve Bending in Hackney. I am very much looking forward to working with them.

This month has brought great personal news as well, I was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for services to Local Government and London. I have also been appointed to the University of East London's Board of Governors. My greatest honour however is becoming a Grandmother as we welcomed little baby Savannah to our family.

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.

September 2009

- 3 Transport Committee
- 8 Environment Committee
- 9 London Assembly: Mayor's Question Time
- 10 Budget and Performance Committee
- 15 Economic Development, Culture, Sport and Tourism Committee
- 16 Health and Public Services Committee (2.30pm)
- 17 Business Management and Administration Committee

Some of my Recent Engagements

- 1st June Visit Blunt 2 Operation
- 6th June Opening Light Project, Islington
- 10th June Planting flowers with Gainsborough School, E9
- 12th June Visit to Farringdon Station to discuss future improvements
- 14th June Met Police Service Volunteer Police Cadet Parade Day
- 18th June Keynote speech Business Link London
- 20th June Panel member Hackney Young Women Event
- 27th June Speech Islington Women's Forum
- 4th July Fire Service Pride Breakfast
- 6th July Host Olympic Construction Crew Event
- 10th July Older People's Assembly

Keeping in touch...



Chukka Umunna, Labour parliamentary candidate for Streatham, and I recently met the gorgeous **Stephen Fry**. We had a great chat about keeping in contact via the web through facebook, YouTube and Twitter. You can follow me on **facebook** at www.facebook.com/jennette.arnold

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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Accessibility at Finsbury Park

On Saturday the 18th of July, I joined Jeremy Corbyn MP, Islington Councilors, disability action groups, Islington Pensioners Forum and local residents to launch our campaign to make Finsbury Park tube station step free.



Plans to make Finsbury Park accessible were shelved by Mayor Johnson last year, denying older and disabled people and parents with young children as well as passengers with suitcases easy access to the underground platforms.

“The plans were shelved by the Mayor last year”

There are 32.1m passenger journeys to and from Finsbury Park and another 17m interchanges per year, making it one of the busiest interchanges outside central London. Not offering accessible transport to such a large number of people doesn't make sense. Especially because Network Rail has pledged they will provide a lift from the overground platform to street level.

We need your support! You can sign the petition online at: www.gopetition.co.uk/online/29257.html. The signatures will be handed to the Mayor at the October Assembly Plenary.

Boris... Keep Your Promise!

While of course I welcome the new Rape Crisis Centre in Ealing, it is clear that this rape crisis 'funding announcement' is just a way to spin a near £1m cut in previously pledged spending.

Hackney has the second highest rate of Rape Crime in London. In Waltham Forest, the police are investigating a serial rapist who has been linked with a number of attacks and a murder in the area. In Islington, there were 69 reported rapes between June 08 and June 09. We should add to that number the fact that we know that 90% of rapes go unreported. The women of North East London desperately need a Rape Crisis Centre in their area.

Boris first promised in his manifesto over £2.23million for four Rape Crisis Centres in London. When he was elected he went back on that promise and could only find £233,000 a year. Only after widespread criticism and lobbying from Labour Assembly Members and pressure groups such as Boris Keep your Promise (www.boriskeyourpromise.com) he announced that the GLA will provide £1.4m over three years- still only almost half what he originally promised.

The “funding announcement” is just a way to spin a near £1m cut.

I will continue to put pressure on the Mayor and campaign on this issue until London's women get four well funded, well resourced Rape Crisis Centres serving all of London.

“Inspiring” Young People

In July I was honoured to hand out awards to our local businesses for their great work in offering apprenticeships and work experience to young people across Hackney.

inspire!

The ceremony was being hosted by Inspire, an organisation in Hackney that do fantastic work in enlisting the support of local businesses to offer opportunities to young people

“Just one day can change a young person's entire outlook”

In Hackney over 600 companies have provided 1700 work placements to young people. These placements enhance their employability by developing their understanding of how real business works and developing their skills base.

At the awards I heard about a local sixth former, studying hair and beauty. She attended a one-day training taster course in construction at the Mears technical training centre. It opened her eyes to a whole world of options that she didn't think included her before. It just goes to show: just one day can change a young persons entire outlook – and possibly their future.

London Youth Games



I recently attended the London Youth Games where I met the fabulous **Anne Keothavong**, Hackney's very own tennis star and Britain's ladies no.1 Champ. Anne trained in Clissold Park and many other public courts around Hackney. Her story just goes to show how important it is to have decent sporting facilities in our communities.

Campaign to save Rise

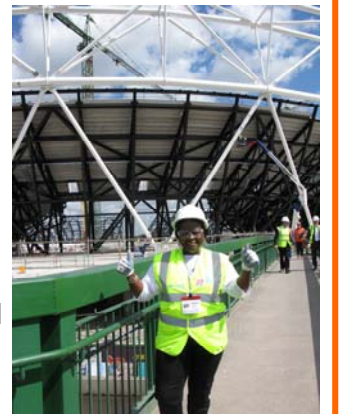
Last April, Mike Barnard and Freya van Lessen, two very disappointed constituents from Islington contacted me to see if we could work together to save the annual Rise Festival. We set up a petition which was signed by 2,000 Londoners calling on the Mayor to reverse his decision to cancel the Rise festival which we handed over at Mayor's Question Time in May.



Disappointingly but not surprisingly, the Mayor will not be backing the return of the Festival. Our campaigners are looking at other ways to bring this important festival back.

Olympic News

I recently visited the Olympic site, and was delighted to see that significant progress is being made. I was quite overwhelmed by the scale of the development and impressed by the ability of this complex project to stay on schedule. By the summer of 2010, just 12 months away, the Olympic Park will be largely in place, with many of the venues structurally complete; 2 years in advance of the opening of the Games. The site will be open on 19th and 20th September as part of the London Open House architecture festival 2009 and I urge you to visit - check www.openhouse.org.uk



“Olympic site is open to the public on 19th & 20th of September”

In June, I chaired the “2012 and Beyond” meeting in Waltham Forest Assembly Hall. This event gave Londoners, and especially local constituents, the chance to question the Mayor and Olympic officials about plans for the site and the legacy post 2012. Panelists included Hackney Mayor Jules Pipe; Chair of LOCOG, Lord Coe; Dame Tanni Grey Thompson; David Higgins, CEO of the ODA; and chair of the Legacy Panel, Baroness Margaret Ford.

The panel was asked many challenging questions. I was pleased that local people raised the profile of Hall Farm Curve, the rail link between Chingford and Stratford. Regular readers of my newsletters may remember that I raised this issue on numerous occasions with the previous mayor. Mayor Johnson has now committed to a detailed TfL report on the feasibility of reinstating the Curve. For responses to other issues raised with the Mayor at the meeting, you can go to www.london.gov.uk/mqt/

Back London to Host 2018 World Cup!

Every so often in this job you get offered the opportunity to be part of something historic. In May I attended the launch of England's 2018 World Cup Bid. It was a really exciting event, attended by many English footballing legends, including national hero David Beckham.



I am supporting London's bid to be a host city and, as ever, we need your support! Just log onto www.England2018bid.com to register your support for England's bid and London as a host city!