

**For a cleaner, greener, safer Camden**

# **MAKE CAMDEN LISTEN**

**Restore weekly bin collections**

**More police on local streets**

**Freeze Council Tax**

**More electric vehicles chargers**

**Stop high-rises at O2 and Murphy's Yard**

## **Camden Conservatives Local election manifesto 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

**Printed and delivered at no cost to taxpayers**

# ON 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY, YOU CAN MAKE CAMDEN LISTEN

**On 5<sup>th</sup> May, you have a opportunity to elect your local councillors and decide who will stand up for you when you need help locally.**

Four years ago, Labour was given a super-majority on Camden Council – and what has our borough got to show for it?

Cuts to bin collections led to Camden having the most fly-tipping of any council in England.

Bad administration means average council tax in Camden is now almost £1,000 higher than in neighbouring Conservative-run Westminster.

An uncaring council has led to Camden having the most run-down council homes in England.

Complacency means that Camden's schools have slipped from 2<sup>nd</sup> in Inner London to 9<sup>th</sup>.

Labour ignoring residents' views means tower blocks being foisted on low-rise areas from the O2 Centre to Murphy's Yard, and road changes made without any consultation at all.

## Labour isn't listening

Camden Council is not interested in listening to you. We had to back a court claim to force Labour to recognise your right to be consulted.

Yet even when it consults you, on many issues, Labour does the opposite of what you tell them to do.

Labour have ignored the majority of residents on issue after issue: from the 69% who opposed removing all parking on Haverstock Hill to the 98% of people who opposed Labour's proposal to replace the O2 Centre with high-rises.

Indeed, every single response to Camden's consultation on Carlton School opposed closing it, but they closed it anyway!

Labour have made their slogan 'on your side', but they're on the side of ever fewer Camden residents. You have a chance to change that.

## The only opposition

In this May's local elections, the stakes are even higher, as Labour seeks to make Camden a one-party state.

Twelve Labour councillors who wanted to scrutinise the council were blocked from standing. One Labour councillor said his party was replacing them with "Yes Men", who would back the council leadership over residents.

Meanwhile, Lib Dems see the council as a platform to politick about national issues, rather than using its £1bn budget to solve local problems. When local issues emerge, they almost always remain silent and abstain.

It is vital that residents are asked their views and that councillors listen to what they say.

**“ One Labour councillor said his party was replacing them with ‘Yes Men’, who would back the council leadership over residents. ”**

## Making a difference for Camden

That's why Conservative councillors constantly survey your views, ask how we can help, and act on what you tell us.

So instead of using the council to score points on national politics, we've developed a plan to make Camden cleaner, greener, and safer:

- **Cleaning up Camden**, by reversing Labour's and Lib Dems' cuts to bin collections in 2017 and taking tough action on fly-tipping.
- **Banning high-rises in low-rise areas**, and particularly opposing high-rises in the O2 Centre and Murphy's Yard developments
- **Protecting Camden's environment** by installing 4,000 electric vehicle charging points, planting more trees, and teaching cycling in every school.
- **Keeping communities safe** by opening police bases in Hampstead and Swiss Cottage, putting police on local streets,

and using SmartWater to combat burglary.

- **Making Camden democratic** by empowering communities and giving you a direct say on every council decision.
- **Improve Camden's homes** by tracking repairs properly, ending 'sweetheart' deals that rob Camden of affordable housing, and reviewing Camden's failed £1 billion "CIP" property development programme

And our plan is costed by Camden Council's own finance officers, who have assessed that it allows us to **freeze Council Tax**.

**“ Instead of using the council to score points on national politics, we've developed a plan to make Camden cleaner, greener, and safer. ”**

### **The only party that will put you first**

Camden Conservatives are the only party focused on solving problems locally, while Labour and Lib Dem councillors ignore local issues in favour of arguing about national politics.

Labour and Lib Dems are so distracted that they both tabled proposals in Camden's council chamber last September that would recognise *the Taliban* as Afghanistan's government: which no *country* has done, let alone local *council!* Only Conservative councillors stopped this outrageous proposal being adopted.

So we've been clear: Camden Conservatives don't and won't use council time and your money arguing for or against anything outside the council's control - we'll use all of our energies

fighting to change things we can change.

Electing Conservatives isn't a mandate for us to discuss national politics, but to listen to you and make Camden cleaner, greener, and safer.

### **The only party that will put you first**

There is plenty to improve locally. Whether it's Camden's dirty streets, its decrepit social housing, its non-stop proposals for skyscrapers, its high taxes, or its ever-worsening services, Camden is going in the wrong direction with Labour's super-majority.

If you usually vote Conservative, you already know that having Conservative councillors makes a huge difference to the local area.

If you don't usually vote Conservative, we ask you to lend us your votes to scrutinise Camden. Conservative councillors will hold the council to account, focus on solving problems locally, and make Camden listen.



**Cllr Oliver Cooper**

Leader of the Opposition, Camden Council



## **Get involved**

**The policies in this manifesto can't be delivered without your help to elect Conservative councillors on 5<sup>th</sup> May. To get involved, please contact us:**

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# MAKE CAMDEN CLEAN

## Local Conservative councillors will:

- **Restore free weekly bin collections** for every resident whose bins are collected once a fortnight – reversing the cuts that Labour and the Lib Dems made in 2017.
- **End soft-touch on fly-tipping** by fining all fly-tippers at least £400, as other boroughs do and increasing fines for littering to £150. We will impose fines on people littering from vehicles.
- **Scrap the £75 Garden Tax** and make green waste collections free once again.
- **Install smart bins** with ten times the capacity of ordinary bins to stop bins overflowing.
- **Raise Camden's recycling rate** by introducing smartphone apps and Alexa skill that will immediately tell you on request whether any item is recyclable.
- **Introduce a plastic bottle deposit scheme** to reduce plastic waste.

Camden is in the middle of a rubbish crisis.

Camden has more fly-tipping than any other council in England, with over 37,000 fly-tips last year. That's a five-fold increase since Labour and Lib Dem councillors cut bin collections for half the borough in 2017.

Making sure bins are collected and streets are clean is the first job of councils, but it's one that Camden just doesn't seem interested in.

When Conservative councillors requested a review of the waste service in 2020, Labour's Cabinet member said a review isn't needed, because it's 'working well'! But that isn't our view and it isn't the view of Camden residents.

Camden Conservatives are committed to restoring weekly bin collections, tackling fly-tipping and littering, increasing recycling, and cleaning up Camden's mess.

### Restoring weekly bin collections

Labour cutting waste collections for half the borough to once a fortnight saved just £3 per

resident a year — one-thousandth of Camden's budget — but has led to dirty streets, more vermin, fly-tipping, and inconvenience.

We will reverse this cut and ensure every resident receives collection of residual waste at least once a week. If your black bins are now collected once a fortnight, that will be returned to once a week, and will not cut collection schedules for a single resident.

Regular bin collections are a basic service, with bins in neighbouring Conservative-run Westminster collected at least twice a week

Labour and Lib Dems are implacably opposed to Camden emptying bins frequently, and vote and speak against it every time it's proposed.

### Scrapping the Garden Tax

We will end the £75-a-year Garden Tax and restore free green waste collection. The charge has increased fly-tipping and reduced recycling. Fewer residents have signed up to this paid-for service than was forecast, meaning charging for it barely raises more than it costs.



“ Labour cutting bin collections has led to a huge rise in recycling having to be incinerated, as collection-starved residents resort to putting non-recyclable waste in the recycling. We need to reverse the cuts to bin collections and promote recycling with a carrot, not a stick. ”

Fortune Green candidate **Hannah David** was a councillor for 9 years, with a focus on the environment



“ Rubbish has turned West End Lane and Finchley Road into obstacle courses. While Camden has painted pink boxes on West End Lane to encourage rubbish to be left on the pavement, Westminster has 160 waste centres to ensure rubbish isn’t left on the street. ”

West Hampstead candidate **Ian Cohen** runs a business on West End Lane and is an anti-fly-tipping campaigner

### Tackling fly-tipping and littering

Camden Conservatives take a zero-tolerance approach to fly-tipping and littering, and will use all available powers to keep streets clean.

We will end Camden’s leniency to fly-tippers by imposing the maximum possible fines for fly-tipping – and not letting fly-tippers off with lower fines if they pay quickly. Labour initially didn’t want to impose any fines for fly-tipping at all, but Camden Conservatives forced them to.

We will increase fines for littering to the legal maximum of £150. We will use powers to fine vehicle owners for littering from their vehicle.

We will increase enforcement significantly, by doubling the waste enforcement and education team: funded by levying higher fines.

### Cleaning up our streets

Camden Conservatives will ensure that all streets are cleaned at least once a week and will back the return of regular street sweeping.

We will install smart bins, which use solar power compactors to increase their capacity ten-fold and inform Camden when they’re getting full - as used in Westminster and the City of London. This will end overflowing of bins and reduce collection costs.

We will install more public waste and recycling bins to end the requirement for residents living above shops to discard loose rubbish bags on the street. Westminster has 160 such ‘micro-recycling’ centres, but Camden has just 4.

We will put more dog waste bins on well-known dog walking routes, including near Hampstead Heath and Primrose Hill.

### Making it easier to recycle

We will raise Camden’s recycling rate. Despite claims that slashing bin collections would raise recycling, barely a quarter of Camden homes’ waste is recycled: 20% lower than in 2010, when Conservatives last ran Camden’s waste service (and bins were collected twice a week!).

Camden Conservatives will lead the country in making it easier to recycle, which will make a bigger difference than cutting collections.

We will launch a plastic bottle deposit scheme. We will provide better information on what can be recycled. We will introduce digital tools to allow you to ask Siri or Alexa whether a given item can be recycled in Camden.

We will open Regis Road recycling centre into the evening to allow people to recycle large items more easily. We will raise take-up of the under-used large item collection service.

## Our record: Getting tough on fly-tipping

The problem

What Conservative councillors have done

What we will do for you

Camden has the most fly-tipping in the country, but imposes low fines and does negligible enforcement.

Camden Conservatives proposed fines for fly-tipping in 2016. Labour derided this as “Councillor Oliver Cooper’s big stick”, but finally relented. Yet the fines are still less than the legal maximum and Camden still won’t fund enforcement.

We will increase fines to the legal maximum, use the proceeds to double the enforcement team, and name and shame fly-tippers.



**A RECORD OF DELIVERY — A PLAN FOR MORE**

# MAKE CAMDEN GREEN

## Local Conservative councillors will:

- **Install 1,000 new electric car charging points a year** on lamp posts on residential roads to allow people to drive electric cars without any loss of parking spaces.
- **Open pocket parks** across Camden, including three new parks in Hampstead.
- **Plant hundreds of new trees** on streets, protect existing trees, and end over-zealous pollarding.
- **Reducing carbon emissions** by replacing gas boilers to electric heat pumps in council properties.
- **Take action to prevent flooding** by clearing drains more often and ending garden grabbing.
- **Reduce exhaust fumes** by backing electric vehicle use, tackling school run traffic, imposing proper fines for engine idling, and creating a Low Emission Bus Zone.

Labour talk the talk on the environment, but has failed to walk the walk. Labour have resisted installing more electric car chargers, said that trees are *bad* for air quality, and taken underwhelming actions to decarbonise, combat flooding, or reduce exhaust fumes.

Camden Conservatives will make Camden the greenest borough in London: raising air quality, opening green spaces, planting more trees, and improving biodiversity.

### Opening more green spaces

Camden is defined by its magnificent green spaces: from the wilds of Hampstead Heath to the garden squares of Bloomsbury. We will preserve these great green spaces and also embed greenery into every community.

We will work to open small pocket parks to give local communities ‘lungs’. Hampstead Conservatives opened a pocket park at Oriol Place, and we’ll create more across Camden.

We will deliver a ‘Fume2Fresh’ plan for public realm improvements to make Finchley Road cleaner, greener, and more attractive.

### Supporting electric cars

Camden Conservatives will support the shift to electric cars by installing thousands of electric vehicle charging points (EVCPs).

Electric vehicles emit no carbon dioxide, no nitrogen oxide, and 50% less air pollution than petrol cars, yet Labour have opposed residents switching to electric cars and done the bare minimum to allow it. Last year, Conservative-run Westminster installed twenty times as many EVCPs as Labour-run Camden did!

We will install 1,000 EVCPs in lampposts each year. This will make ordinary residents’ parking bays EV-enabled without any loss of residents’ parking and without additional street clutter.

### Preserving our trees and planting more

Camden Conservatives will plant 800 trees a year. This will be focused on places — such as South Hampstead and West Hampstead — with wide pavements. We will make sure that where trees are felled, they are replaced by the most mature trees that the location can support, not always just saplings.



“ Green space should be at the centre of communities, not just there to fill in gaps. I’ve fought to properly maintain Swiss Cottage Open Space, which was a great oasis, but Camden has allowed it to become run-down. It’s vital we restore it and give communities back their green lungs. ”

Primrose Hill candidate **Alex Andrews** is a member of the Save Swiss Cottage group



“ Camden’s one-size-fits-all approach means areas don’t get the tailored response to environmental challenges. I’ve launched a “Fume2Fresh” project to make Finchley Road greener and cleaner, and I’m working with residents to ensure Camden tackles flooding in South Hampstead. ”

South Hampstead candidate **Marx de Morais** is an environmental campaigner and launched “Fume2Fresh”

We will end Camden’s unnecessary and costly routine pollarding of trees. This has left many streets bereft of leaves and wildlife: robbing them of the benefit of having trees at all.

We will protect trees by putting Tree Preservation Orders on all ancient and most veteran trees. We will place TPOs on trees along railway tracks.

We will protect biodiversity. We will plant hedges next to fences on council land, encourage new developments to integrate hedges, and plant wildflowers in green spaces.

### Reducing carbon emissions

Councils can’t stop climate change by themselves, but they can take practical steps to reduce their own and their area’s emissions.

Camden Labour passed up on £12 million for decarbonising Camden’s buildings by bidding for just 6% as much money from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme as Conservative-run Westminster Council. We will ensure we make the most ambitious bids for every available round of funding.

As well as promoting electric vehicles, Camden Conservatives are pushing to move away from dirty gas boilers on our estates and use electric heat pumps instead. This will reduce emissions and reduce exposure to volatile gas prices.

### Preventing flooding

Camden has catastrophically failed to maintain its flood defences, leading to repeated widespread flooding. This is the council’s responsibility, yet it has tried to pass the buck.

We will increase funding for clearing street drains and gullies by 25%. We will urgently update Camden’s Flood Risk Management Strategy, which the council is legally required to keep up to date, but which expired in 2015.

We will prevent garden-grabbing, as we have done across Hampstead, Frognal, and Belsize, as gardens absorb water and slow down its flow. This will help to stop flooding in South Hampstead and West Hampstead.

### Reducing exhaust fumes

Camden Conservatives will work with TfL to replace diesel buses with electric buses.

We will replace the Council’s diesel vehicles with electric ones. We will tackle traffic from development and consider the cumulative impact of traffic from several developments.

We will address school run traffic by working with schools to develop binding plans that encourage going to school by foot, bike, or public transport, and enforcing parking and engine idling fines more rigorously nearby.

## Our record: Preventing flooding

*The problem*

*What Conservative councillors have done*

*What we will do for you*

Camden has been hit by several flash floods recently. This was partially caused by the loss of trees, which contributed to rainwater flowing uncontrollably into lower-lying areas.

A Conservative councillor developed, presented, and got Camden to adopt a plan to block garden-grabbing and tree loss uphill of flood-prone South Hampstead, West Hampstead, and Gospel Oak to stop flooding there.

We will protect gardens and plant trees in other areas too and clear more drains.



**A RECORD OF DELIVERY — A PLAN FOR MORE**

# MAKE CAMDEN SAFE

## Local Conservative councillors will:

- **Open two new police bases** adjacent to the Royal Free Hospital and Swiss Cottage Library, so police don't just patrol from bases far away and leave large blind spots to crime.
- **Ensure police are deployed across the borough**, not just in Camden Town and the West End.
- **Make Camden a burglary-free borough** by deploying 'SmartWater' liquid forensic borough-wide, and making it impossible.
- **Make better use of CCTV**, including installing more CCTV in crime hotspots and use the council's CCTV control room to make it cheaper for local businesses to maintain CCTV systems.
- **Take a zero-tolerance approach to anti-social tenants**, by making it easier to remove anti-social tenants from Camden-owned properties
- **Tackle violence against women and girls** by requiring all bars to participate in Ask for Angela, and taking nation-leading action against FGM.

Making residents safer and feel safer on our streets is imperative. Yet under Labour, Camden has relegated it to an afterthought.

Thanks to a national government recruitment drive, Camden now has 100 more police officers than it did to just three years ago - but they're not visible or active enough locally, and we have a plan to change that.

Camden Conservatives will open two new police bases and put more police on local streets.

We'll make better use of CCTV and use make Camden a burglary-free borough. And we'll take tough, practical action against violence against women and girls.

### Opening two new police bases

Camden Conservatives are working to open two police bases to increase local police visibility in the north of the borough.

Conservative councillors have secured an offer from the Royal Free to open a police base in the hospital, and are exploring opening a base in unused space at Swiss Cottage. We have proposed both in budgets, but it's been voted down by Labour and Lib Dems.

This will increase police visibility in Hampstead, Gospel Oak, Belsize Park, Primrose Hill, and South Hampstead. It will enable officers to work in the local area, rather than having to return to Kentish Town or Fortune Green Road to do paperwork or get changed: increasing the time they can spend on the beat.

### Making police local

We will also ensure that police resources are spread across the borough more evenly.

The Met has recently deployed 50 new officers to Camden Town and the West End, despite crime falling there due to Covid, but none extra to areas north or west, where crime has risen.



“ I've served in the police in Camden and seen the good, the bad, and the ugly. You need local officers on the beat in local communities, not stuck behind desks far away. Opening bases around Camden will give communities visibility of and confidence in the police. ”

West Hampstead candidate **Ali Hassan Ali** is an ex Met police officer and founded an anti-knife crime initiative



“ My wife and I have run our local Neighbourhood Watch for several years. Often, the police can’t find evidence to follow up break-ins. But homes that have SmartWater are rarely broken into and the police find much easier to investigate. We should roll it out borough-wide. ”

Hampstead Town candidate **Deborah Dor** is the coordinator of her local Neighbourhood Watch

### Make Camden a burglary-free borough

We will give all households in the borough ‘SmartWater’ invisible forensic liquid, so they can protect their valuables, and make Camden a burglary-free borough.

This invisible liquid is traceable back to its owner: making it impossible to sell on stolen goods that are marked with it. Where it is used by most homes, as we plan for it to be, it has been shown to reduce burglaries by over 90%.

### Deterring crime and anti-social behaviour

We will do more to deter criminals: making it clear that our borough is not a soft touch.

We will create an integrated Camden CCTV library — as in Glasgow — which will make it easier to identify and trace criminals. We will increase the effectiveness of private CCTV by allowing operators to have their systems monitored by Camden’s qualified staff at the council’s under-utilised CCTV control room.

We will make preparations to allow Primrose Hill park to be closed at night in the event of renewed crime and anti-social behaviour there, as was seen in 2020 and 2021.

We will support rolling out Neighbourhood Watch across Camden: empowering residents and collecting information about local crime.

### Making our estates safer

We will work with Tenants & Residents’ Associations to install CCTV cameras in anti-social behaviour hotspots on Camden’s housing estates to keep residents safe.

We will also tackle anti-social tenants, and ensure those acting abusively are quickly transferred out of Camden’s housing. Camden is a soft touch on anti-social tenants, and evicts less than one tenant a year on average for crime or anti-social behaviour.

### Stopping violence against women and girls

We will help victims of domestic violence by working with local hospitals to track victims that appear at more than one NHS location and advising them of their options.

We will require all bars and pubs to participate in the ‘Ask for Angela’ scheme, whereby anybody feeling intimidated can discreetly get help by asking for ‘Angela’ at the bar.

We will designate domestic abuse and sexual offences as serious violence under the council’s statutory Serious Violence Strategy.

We will work with the nation’s leading experts and campaigners to tackle female genital mutilation and support victims of it.

## Our record: Making better use of CCTV

*The problem*

*What Conservative councillors have done*

*What we will do for you*

Camden has a very few CCTV camera itself, but lots of private operators: not linked up and so under-utilised.

Conservatives have funded new CCTV cameras across Belsize: reducing crime locally. We also tabled a plan in 2020 to use Camden’s CCTV control room to reduce the cost and increase the effectiveness of private CCTV.

We will install more CCTV across the borough, as we have proposed in the last 5 budgets, and we will make private CCTV more usable.



**A RECORD OF DELIVERY — A PLAN FOR MORE**

# MAKE CAMDEN LISTEN

## Local Conservative councillors will:

- **Adopt a Camden Democratic Charter** to strengthen your right to be consulted and listened to.
- **Give you a vote on all council decisions** through a participatory democracy online platform, as is used in global cities like Madrid, Barcelona, and Kyiv.
- **Make every councillor count by replacing Cabinet with collaborative decision-making:** restoring the ‘committee system’ that Camden used before 2001 and Barnet uses to this day.
- **Introduce local area Community Councils** that oversee Camden’s service delivery in their local communities: making the Council more responsive to overlooked areas of Camden.
- **Use their time on the council discussing council issues, not national issues**

At a time when most councils have been made more accountable, Camden has become less accountable.

Camden Labour have recently forced out seven of their own councillors for daring to question the leadership, and replaced them with what a Labour councillor called “Yes men”.

Time and time again, you’ve expressed your views in consultations, but Labour have ignored you and the Lib Dems remained silent.

We want to empower you, making Camden the most democratic council in the country, not the least democratic. This is our plan to make Camden listen.

### Introduce a Camden Democratic Charter

We will table a Camden Democratic Charter to detail how Camden will consult and listen to you. This will enshrine your rights to be heard and give you confidence that Camden must listen.

Councils must have this kind a statement in planning policy, which is legally binding on the council. We want to apply this principle to other decision-making, so Camden listens to you.

### Give you a vote on council decisions

We will introduce a web platform to give you a vote on every policy that Camden Council adopts. This would use the same open-source software platform used by major city councils across Europe: from Madrid to Kyiv.

Policies that received more ‘no’ votes than ‘yes’ votes and had a certain number of votes overall would have to be debated and voted on by all councillors in a public meeting – or abandoned.

This would put you in control of Camden’s policies. It would make councillors more accountable, as it would force them to publicly defend the positions they take.

### Democratise Camden’s decision-making

Camden has the least democratic form of local government in the UK. It’s called the ‘strong Leader-Cabinet’ model. The Leader appoints the Cabinet and the Cabinet decides everything – this means you get left out.

We will end this undemocratic system and bring in the system based on collaborative decision-making that councils used until 2001.



“ Camden has ignored public opinion time and time again, but giving people a direct say can stop that. I worked for a French city council running a project to give residents a vote on what the council did, so you get a vote between elections as well as at elections. Camden should too. ”

Primrose Hill candidate **Pierre Andrews** worked on direct decision-making at Rennes City Council in France



“ Camden is a hugely diverse borough, and one size often can’t fit all. Having decisions made more locally within Camden, by councillors that know the area and are accountable to residents for it, would put residents in charge and offer closer scrutiny of what Camden does. ”

Frognal councillor **Gio Spinella** has championed local area-based Community Councils, as in Southwark

This gives councillors representing all wards and all parties, not just the appointed Cabinet, a direct vote on decisions.

### Creating Community Councils to make Camden more accountable

Diversity is one of Camden’s great strengths, but you wouldn’t guess it from the Labour’s one-size-fits-all approach to running the council.

No London borough has a more geographically concentrated leadership than Camden: with 4 times as many Cabinet members representing Kentish Town as represent the entire north-western half of the borough combined!

Following the lead of Labour-run Southwark, we will create five ‘Community Councils’ that will put budgets in the hands of local communities, from Hampstead to Holborn: devolving powers from Town Hall to every corner of our borough.

These councils would have a number of powers, from traffic management to planning. This would give powers to local councillors in their area — regardless of party affiliation — and give a direct voice to residents.

### Focusing on the day job

Camden is a billion-pound council, and councillors have a huge impact on your life.

Yet in the last four years, most motions tabled by Labour and Lib Dem councillors have been on matters the council has no control over.

This led to the grotesque spectacle of Labour and Lib Dems being so eager to use the council to criticise the UK government on Afghanistan that they both tabled motions recognising the *Taliban* as Afghanistan’s government - which only the Conservatives stopped.

Councillors debating issues outside the council’s control is a deliberate distraction from Camden’s poor record.

Camden Conservative councillors will not use the council’s time and your money to table motions, ask questions, or give speeches on matters outside the council’s control.

### Improving communications

Camden Conservatives will reduce waiting times for the Contact Camden phone line by make it clearer who residents can talk to.

We will overhaul Camden’s website, which is difficult to navigate. We will fund this by ending the grant to the underused *LoveCamden* website, which uses taxpayers’ money to replicate newspapers’ events listings.

We will support our brilliant local press instead of using your money trying to compete with it.

## Our record: Focusing on the day job

The problem

What Conservative councillors have done

What we will do for you

Camden has a £1 billion budget, but instead of scrutinising it, Labour and Lib Dem councillors bicker about national politics.

We never use the council to discuss issues outside Camden’s control. But of the 22 Lib Dem motions since 2018, just four were on local matters – despite Lib Dems supposedly being opposition councillors, whose job it is to scrutinise Camden.

A Conservative council will require all council motions to concern council services, not party politics, so Camden solves your problems.



**A RECORD OF DELIVERY — A PLAN FOR MORE**

# CONSERVE CAMDEN

## Local Conservative councillors will:

- **Oppose the O2 Centre and Murphy's Yard applications.**
- **Block high-rise developments in low-rise areas** by designating them as inappropriate for tall buildings, and instead support mansion blocks, terraces, and mews housing.
- **Introduce a 'sub squad' to police basement developments** and ensure they do not harm neighbouring properties, funded by the applicants.
- **Reinstate notification letters to neighbours of planning applications.**
- **Support Neighbourhood Plans** being adopted across Camden and **protect Conservation Areas** by updating out-of-date Conservation Area statements.
- **Protect and restore the picturesque characters of Camden's urban villages.**

Camden is brilliantly diverse, but united in its beauty. Each community has a distinct identity that sets it apart, and Camden Conservatives are committed to preserving each and every one.

But each year, the Council allows more and more identikit developments that transform our different and diverse neighbourhoods to be more and more like each other: eroding what makes each neighbourhood special.

We will keep opposing over-development in all its forms: whether high-rise developments in low-rise areas, ugly developments that are out-of-character of the area, or basement excavations that threaten neighbours.

### Opposing O2 and Murphy's Yard proposals

Camden Conservatives oppose the applications made to develop high-rises at the O2 Centre and Murphy's Yard, between Parliament Hill and Kentish Town.

Labour have tried to blame the developers, but they can only build what Camden's policies allow them to. Indeed, Camden's

Labour Cabinet bragged in March 2022 that "the Council has been working with Landsec to co-design the O2 redevelopment".

We will withdraw Labour's draft Site Allocation, which earmarks the O2 and Murphy's Yard for high-rise redevelopment. When Labour adopted it in 2019, Camden Conservatives were the only councillors to object. When residents overwhelmingly opposed it too, we pushed for it to be withdrawn. Labour refused, but we forced Camden to consult again — and you *again* told Camden to scrap it.

### Blocking tall buildings

We will immediately use powers given to London boroughs last year to ban high-rise buildings in low-rise areas. Under the London Plan, councils can block tall buildings in areas that it designates as unsuited to them.

We will instead push for more housing through terraces, mansion blocks, and mews housing, which can provide equally high housing density at much lower heights.



“ The plan for the O2 Centre would be a disaster for the community. But instead of fighting it, Labour have rolled out the red carpet. I stood as an independent in 2018, but I'm standing for the Conservatives because they're the only party that will block Labour's O2 Centre plans. ”

South Hampstead candidate **Calvin Po** trained in architecture and is running a petition against the O2 plans



“ I’ve seen lots of best practice around the country and lots of powers Camden could be using. The fact so many local communities have adopted Neighbourhood Plans shows that far too many residents think Camden’s planning policies don’t protect their communities. ”

Frognaal councillor **Andrew Parkinson** is a planning barrister and chairs the RedFrog Neighbourhood Forum

### Reducing the impact of development

We will oppose inappropriate basement excavations. We will follow Conservative-run Westminster’s lead of introducing a ‘sub squad’ — funded by higher application fees for basements — to police excavations and ensure they do not harm neighbours.

Camden Conservatives will reduce the harm caused by development by requiring construction management plans sooner, reforming how they are signed off, and giving extra resources to the team overseeing them.

We will clamp down on rogue developers that breach construction management plans, and penalise them to the full extent of the law.

We will devote extra resources to the planning enforcement team to carry out these checks, and end Camden being seen as a soft touch.

### Empowering residents

We will send letters to residents informing them when a development is proposed next door: a service ended by Labour in 2016.

We will reform the planning process so that it works for residents. We will stop Cabinet members sitting on the Planning Committee and devolve many decisions to local community councils (see p.11).

### Backing Neighbourhood Plans

Neighbourhood Plans help to protect what’s best about an area. We will help develop new Neighbourhood Plans, including in Belsize and South Hampstead, as we have in Hampstead, Frognaal, and West Hampstead.

We will protect Conservation Areas by updating out-of-date Conservation Area appraisals, as Conservatives have in Fitzjohns/ Netherhall and Redington/Frognaal.

We will make sure that Camden fulfils its legal obligation to take account of Neighbourhood Plans and Conservation Areas and to consult with residents.

### Restoring our heritage

We will protect and restore the village-like architectural features of our urban villages, from Regent’s Park Road to York Rise, with a dedicated Urban Village Fund, as Conservative councillors have implemented and provided funding for in Belsize Village.

Conservative councillors worked with the Heath & Hampstead Society to get Camden to buy new black-and-white heritage tiles to fix broken street signs in Hampstead. We will install these across the north-west of Camden, where they were once commonplace.

## Our record: Opposing Labour’s O2 Centre plans

*The problem*

*What Conservative councillors have done*

*What we will do for you*

Camden and Landsec have co-designed a high-rise development of 1,800 flats in a low-rise area.

We objected to Camden earmarking the site for high-density development. When most people agreed, we fought for six months and forced it to consult again. And we identified powers to ban high-rises there - and tabled a motion to do so.

We will withdraw Labour’s earmarking of the site, block high-rises at the site, and fight for local amenities to be retained.



**A RECORD OF DELIVERY — A PLAN FOR MORE**

# REDUCE COUNCIL TAX

## Local Conservative councillors will:

- **Freeze or cut core Council Tax** every year of a Conservative administration, and table proposals to reduce it each year we're in opposition: by **cutting waste not services**.
- **Make better use of unused office space, parking spaces, and council flats**, which Camden currently loses millions of pounds a year by leaving empty.
- **Save millions by sharing back office services**: working with Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea, which have saved tens of millions of pounds a year each and delivered better services.
- **Bid for all funding available** rather than being unambitious or refusing funding due to politics.
- **Be entrepreneurial to increase council revenue without raising taxes**

Camden is London's high-tax borough. It has increased your Council Tax for eight years straight: increasing Council Tax by more than any other London borough. It now charges three times as much Council Tax as Conservative-run Westminster – which also has cleaner streets and better services.

That is a choice. Every year, Camden Conservatives table a detailed alternative budget – costed by Camden Council's own finance director, so you know the sums add up. That identifies millions in back-office savings and would lead to lower taxes, less waste, and more money for front-line services: from restoring weekly bin collections to installing hundreds of electric car chargers.

Conservative councillors scrutinise Camden's finances, identify areas of waste, and will lower your Council Tax without impacting services.

### Freezing Council Tax

Camden has increased Council Tax by the legal maximum that it can for the last 8 years.

As a result, Council Tax in Camden is three

times higher than in Conservative-run Westminster – a staggering £928 a year more for a Band D property – despite Camden getting larger grants from the government.

Labour and Lib Dems have shown little interest in keeping Council Tax low, and have tried to blame the government, despite Conservative councils keeping taxes down. Conservatives will freeze Camden's core Council Tax for each of the next four years.

Camden Conservatives secured a 100% reduction in Council Tax for the worst-off. We will back this continuing.

### Making use of Camden's assets

We pushed Labour to let out the unused top floor of Camden's plush new office building. But there is still the equivalent of two floors of unused prime office space – opposite the Google HQ! – which would save another £1 million a year.

Camden is also sitting on thousands of completely unused parking spaces, garages, and sheds on its housing estates. We will



“ Camden charges almost £1,000 more Council Tax than Westminster, but it has a choice. Each year, Conservatives work with residents to identify millions of waste – from unused offices to unused powers to unbid-for funds – to allow us to cut your taxes while improving services. ”

South Hampstead candidate **Don Williams** was a councillor (2002-18) and opposition finance spokesman



“ Camden is a huge organisation, but it makes its own job much harder by not working with other councils. No private organisation would work in silos in the way Camden does. It could save tens of millions by merging its back office functions like IT with other councils. ”

Primrose Hill candidate **Alexandra Marsanu** is a senior consulting manager for both public and private sectors

raise £2m a year by letting out two-thirds of the otherwise unused spaces commercially.

Camden has the most empty council homes in the country, and takes longer to re-let a council flat than 30 of the 31 other London boroughs: costing Camden £6m a year. We will reduce the time it takes to re-let a council flat.

### Getting value for money

While some of the savings that Camden Conservatives have campaigned for have been adopted by the administration, there is still too much waste at Camden Council.

We will reduce bureaucracy by creating joint back-office teams with Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea, covering IT, HR, legal services, and HR. Those councils have had a tried-and-tested merger of back-office functions for over a decade which saves each council tens of millions of pounds a year.

We will scrap the council’s ineffective *Camden* magazine; end the funding of trade union officials using taxpayers’ money; and reduce spending on Camden’s PR department.

### Bidding for as much funding as possible

Camden Conservatives will bid for every fund that is available, rather than declining it due to party politics, as Labour has in Camden.

Camden missed out on up to £25m from the Levelling Up Fund because it couldn’t get local MP Keir Starmer to endorse the bid. Camden bid for just £770,000 from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, while Westminster Council bid for and received £13 million. And instead of bidding for two high streets to receive up to £25m from the Future High Streets Fund, as it could, it bid for just one: coincidentally the Leader’s local high street.

We will make all bids public so that you know when Camden Council has asked for money and what it’s for. This will allow residents, councillors, and our local press to scrutinise and help strengthen funding bids.

### Increasing council revenue

We will look at innovative ways to raise money without looking to higher taxes as a first resort.

Charging utility companies to dig up roads (see p.20) will raise £1m a year as well as reducing congestion. Introducing a floating car club scheme (p.21) will raise £200,000 in licence fees as well as making it easier to get around. Increasing planning fees in line with Westminster Council (p.13) will raise £100,000 to fund the planning department. All of this will lead to better outcomes and lower taxes, without a single penny cut from services.

## Our record: Identifying waste so we can keep taxes low

The problem

What Conservative councillors have done

What we will do for you

Labour spent a staggering £123 million on luxury offices next to Google HQ in King’s Cross, and *another* £73m on refurbishing Town Hall: just five minutes’ walk away.

Conservatives consistently argued that the building would be half-empty, and have been proven right. Each year, we calculate how much is empty, and propose letting it out.

We will review Camden’s office needs and ensure Camden does not maintain expensive office space due to the council leaders’ egos.



**A RECORD OF DELIVERY — A PLAN FOR MORE**

# HELP CAMDEN LEARN

## Local Conservative councillors will:

- **Raise school standards** by working with other councils that get better results and by embracing leadership by Camden School for Girls and UCL Academy.
- **Ensure children have the right skills** by launching free computing and coding clubs in every school and promoting enterprise education to teach soft skills.
- **Make Camden family-friendly** to bring an end to Camden's closure of state schools.
- **Support post-Covid catch-up learning** by providing digital devices to pupils from low-income households so they can learn remotely and outside of school hours.
- **Support apprenticeships** by using £800,000 of unspent funds and organising more work fairs.
- **Review how our schools serve our worst-off**, including raising the take-up of free school meals

Education is the great engine of social mobility and prosperity. We are committed to making sure our schools give every child the best start in life. London's schools lead the country, but Camden's have slipped behind other boroughs'.

Yet Covid has exacerbated divides between pupils and requires Camden to prioritise our children bouncing back. Many councils were faster than Camden at adapting and deploying digital devices to help pupils learn.

Camden's top-down approach to schools is failing too many of our young people and not getting the results that pupils and parents deserve. This is our plan to help Camden learn.

### Raising school standards

Between the ages of 11 and 16, pupils fall an average of half a grade behind similar children in Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea, which have the best state schools in England.

We will work with councils that get better results to raise our school standards. We will ensure all Camden schools benefit from the

expertise available at Camden School for Girls and UCL Academy.

Computing is an increasingly essential subject, but often overlooked in Camden. We will establish free computing and coding clubs in every Camden state school.

We will assist enterprise education – teaching young people about creative problem-solving, collaboration, and other key business skills – so that young people have the 'soft skills' that employers say they need most.

We will put more money into teacher training and staff development by sharing revenue from the Apprenticeship Levy with all schools in Camden – which Camden underspends by (and therefore loses) £800,000 a year.

### Make Camden family-friendly

Camden Council has closed two state primary schools in the last 3 years, with Camden's Labour Cabinet member for schools saying that more will close due to the fall in the number of children living locally.



“ Working with the Army Cadet Force allows me to see first-hand the personal growth in those vital teenage years. Camden has good primary schools, but needs to redouble efforts past the age of 11 to make sure it prepares the next generation with the right skills. ”

Gospel Oak candidate **Jah-Love Charles** is a volunteer in the Army Cadet Force and a former trade union rep



“ Raising standards in Camden’s schools is key to social mobility and to doing justice to each child’s potential. Improving computer skills and coding will help prepare our children for the modern workplace and give them all the brightest futures possible. ”

Regent’s Park candidate **Joanna Reeves** is a former secondary school teacher

Through Labour’s planning, transport, crime, and school policies, Camden is increasingly hostile to families, with fewer children born to each family than anywhere else in England.

We will hold a review of how to make Camden more family-friendly and reverse school closures. Camden must investigate how to save and improve schools, not just close them.

### Helping children bounce back

The gap between the best-performing schools and those that need more support was exacerbated by Covid: particularly by the months spent out of the classroom.

We will make it a core mission of the council to help children bounce back. We will provide all pupils on free school meals with digital devices so they can learn and be taught outside of usual school hours.

Conservative councillors persuaded Camden Council to make its Chief Executive personally responsible for ensuring the council prioritises catch-up learning.

### Increasing options for school leavers

We will ensure that all of our 16-24 year olds get training opportunities and apprenticeships available to help them to gain the experience needed to find a fulfilling career.

We will ensure that if the council and schools do not spend the full Apprenticeship Levy sum, it is available to local businesses to hire more apprentices and train more staff. We will organise more work fairs.

Many Camden pupils are deterred from applying to universities that match their talents — Oxford receives twice as many applicants from Camden School for Girls as it does from every other Camden state school *combined*. We will work with schools to give students the confidence to apply to top universities.

### Unleashing every child’s potential

We will hold a review of how our schools serve our worst-off families to ensure every child makes the most of his or her potential.

Almost £1 million of free school meals that Camden pupils are registered for are left uneaten each year. That’s the highest number of any London borough, and hurts concentration and nutrition. We will urgently increase the take-up of free school meals.

We will act speedily and effectively to provide for special educational needs in all schools to ensure all children can get a great education. We will continue to support the Swiss Cottage School.

## Our record: Promoting remote learning

The problem

What Conservative councillors have done

What we will do for you

When Covid struck, the learning gap between pupils widened, due to a lack of both internet access and online teaching.

Former Conservative councillor Leila Roy helped establish Invicta Academy: delivering free online lessons in English and maths to thousands of pupils during the pandemic.

We will ensure every pupils has a digital device so they are able to learn remotely and outside school hours, so they can catch up.



**A RECORD OF DELIVERY — A PLAN FOR MORE**

# FIX CAMDEN'S HOMES

## Local Conservative councillors will:

- **Deliver more affordable housing**, by requiring new developments to contribute to affordable housing and ending Labour's practice of waiving or reducing this demand.
- **Improve council property repairs** by introducing operation and maintenance manuals that log all work and needs of the property over its lifetime.
- **Redesign or replace Camden's failed "CIP" property development programme.**
- **Secure value for council leaseholders** by capping repair costs at £15,000 a year and only making payments for works when they have been signed off.
- **Action on rough-sleeping** by working more closely with shelters and being more ambitious.
- **Help people move** with bridging loans for private tenants and welcome packs to people moving in.

Camden is one of the most expensive places to live in the country, and the council's policies aren't making that better. It's made more expensive by Labour failing to secure affordable housing, losing hundreds of millions of pounds in its own development programme, and blocking affordable home ownership.

Camden Council's own social housing is getting worse too – to the point that *Labour* councillors say it is maintained so badly that it's "uninhabitable" and needs to be demolished.

We will take action to improve Camden's homes, reduce costs for residents, support renters, and build a Camden fit to call home.

## Building more affordable housing

Camden delivers relatively little net new affordable housing, with the almost all of the large amount of funding it receives going to prop up its "CIP" development scheme.

Camden 'sells' its right to demand affordable housing from private developers by seeking payments in lieu of it instead. But those

payments are rarely ever paid – with over £100m unpaid since 2014.

We will require all developments to provide a full contribution for affordable housing, with no exceptions or sweetheart deals. This would provide hundreds of extra affordable homes.

Where affordable housing is provided off-site, we will require it to be nearby to ensure areas are not hollowed out of affordable housing.

## Getting Camden's house in order

The developer that Camden is softest on is itself. Its own billion-pound "CIP" development scheme delivers barely half of the affordable housing that Camden's policies say it should, while it's lost hundreds of millions of pounds.

Labour claim that CIP has delivered for residents, when it's really short-changing you. We will immediately require Camden to meet the same standards as other developers.

Building on Camden's internal inquiry into the failure of Camden's redevelopment scheme, we will bring in an external review of CIP.



“ I've lived in Camden Council flats for 55 years, so I've seen how much Camden needs to improve its repairs service and estate security. When I was a councillor, I fought for Chalcots Estate and Harben Road residents, and Camden Conservatives will keep doing so. ”

Fortune Green candidate **Peter Horne** has been a Camden tenant for 55 years and a councillor for 6 years



“ I’ve been elected by hundreds of residents, and know that Camden doesn’t listen to tenants or leaseholders. Securing good value for both is essential – Camden can’t keep passing the bill for its inefficiencies in ever higher rents, service charges, repair bills. ”

Gospel Oak candidate **Nigel Rumble** is a Camden leaseholder and former chair of his estate’s TRA

**Making it affordable to own your home**

Housing affordability has fallen dramatically in Camden, with median property prices now 20 times median earnings in the borough: the 3<sup>rd</sup>-highest ratio of any council in the country.

Labour councillors have blocked all measures of affordable home ownership in Camden, including Shared Ownership and First Homes. We will end Labour’s obsession with stopping renters ever buying a home in the borough.

**Improving council housing**

Camden has the largest backlog of council flat repairs of any council in the country. Camden’s repairs service is slow, inefficient, and costly. We will improve repairs and save tenants and leaseholders money.

Camden Conservatives will pay contractors only when work is signed off. We will introduce online maintenance logs for every council home to track works across their lifetime. This will allow tenants and residents to monitor, book, amend, or complain about repairs online.

Camden loses £6m a year in rent from empty council homes: the most of any council in England. We will prioritise reducing that, both so more people are housed in council homes and Camden saves millions of pounds.

We will cap charges to leaseholders for repairs at £15,000 in any year. We will consult leaseholders fully before work is commissioned to ensure they are happy before they get a bill.

**Tackling homelessness**

Rough-sleeping doubled in Camden last year, despite falling sharply across England. That was the biggest increase of any local council.

We will work more closely with homeless shelters, who tell us that Camden is the worst borough for working with charities like theirs.

We will make ambitious bids for all funding. Camden missed out on millions from the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme; Islington got £6m, but Camden didn’t receive a penny.

**Helping people move**

To help renters move, we will offer bridging loans to tenants moving within Camden to cover deposits. This will make it easier for them to move when they want.

We will provide welcome packs to people when they move home. These packs will be automatically tailored to each street and tenure of the property, and will outline local services and community groups, give better information on accessing services (such as waste disposal), and outline their legal rights.

**Our record: Standing up for Chalcots residents**

*the problem*  
*what Conservative councillors have done*  
*what we will do for you*

Camden evacuated the Chalcots Estate in 2017, as its cladding was found to be unsafe. In designing the works to re-clad the buildings, Camden have ignored residents’ wishes.

Steve Adams used his expertise as an architect to identify faults in the approach Labour were taking (Camden ignored him: losing it £5m) and fight for residents’ preferred design.

We will examine what can be changed, ask residents their views, and do as they say. We will complete the inquiry into the Chalcots fiasco.



**A RECORD OF DELIVERY — A PLAN FOR MORE**

# GET CAMDEN MOVING

## Local Conservative councillors will:

- **End roadworks chaos** through forcing utility companies to coordinate works by charging them for every day that roads are dug up.
- **Teach every pupil in Camden schools to cycle**, extend TfL Santander Cycles to the flatter parts of north-west Camden, and install cycle hangars where they're needed.
- **Scrap traffic schemes that do not have popular support**: putting residents ahead of ideology.
- **Get traffic moving** by getting tough on parking breaches on the 300 most traffic-sensitive streets and tackling supermarket delivery lorries blocking traffic.
- **Support flexible travel options** by backing floating car clubs and making dockless bikes work.

Transport is one of the key issues that councils control and that affects people's lives. A small change to roads can significantly improve an area – or reduce it to gridlock.

Roadworks should not be about politics, yet Camden has put ideology ahead of practical and evidence-based problem-solving.

We will end roadworks chaos by forcing utility companies to coordinate works, take practical steps to promote cycling, put residents first when designing traffic schemes, keep traffic flowing, and make it easier to get about.

### Ending roadworks chaos

Camden is plagued with uncoordinated roadworks. When residents raised this, Labour blamed drivers for the consequent congestion, while Lib Dems said nothing could be done.

We will force utility companies to coordinate their works by charging them for every day that roads are dug up: encouraging them to do the works faster, get them right first time so they don't need to repair them, and coordinate them with other companies.

This is a power given to Camden in 2019, and is already used by most of England's largest councils, as well as Transport for London: reducing roadworks disruption by 40%.

### Promoting cycling

Camden's current cycling policies are aimed at existing cyclists, not encouraging more people to become cyclists: leading to Camden falling from having the 4<sup>th</sup>-highest rate of cycling in London in 2010 to 12<sup>th</sup>-highest now.

We will teach cycling in every state school in the borough as part of PE lessons. We have included this in our amendment to the council's budget for the last three years, but it was voted down by Labour and the Lib Dems.

We will extend TfL Santander Cycle docks to Primrose Hill, Belsize Park, Swiss Cottage, South Hampstead, and West Hampstead.

We will work with cycling campaigns to hold more bicycle health-check drop-in.

We will install cycle hangars in areas where there is demand for them, to enable people living in flats to keep their own bikes.



“ Uncoordinated roadworks have brought roads to a standstill and created huge pollution and disruption. When residents raised it, Lib Dems said nothing could be done – but I rolled up my sleeves and tabled a plan to fix it. We need local action to solve local problems. ”

Belsize candidate **Aarti Joshi** developed a plan to charge companies for each day they dig up roads



“ Camden should prioritise people that can’t cycle, starting by teaching cycling in schools. Like many residents, I have no space to store a bike. Extending TfL hire bikes and installing more cycle hangars will help people get into cycling far more than Camden’s road closures will. ”

West Hampstead candidate **Marcos Gold** lives in a block of flats in West Hampstead

### Listening to residents

We recognise that some traffic changes work and some don’t – and the people that are best placed to say are the residents affected.

Camden Conservatives will not implement major traffic schemes, such as LTNs or cycle lanes, that do not have the support of the majority of residents in the affected area. Each time one has been proposed, we have surveyed residents and done what you want.

We listened to the 73% residents who opposed the closure of King Henry’s Road and diversion of traffic onto Adelaide Road: and we stopped it. And we listened to 69% of residents who told Camden that a flatter cycle lane up Maitland Park would be much better than a cycle lane up Haverstock Hill – but Labour voted to ignore residents’ opposition and Lib Dems abstained.

### Removing traffic blockages

We will adopt smart kerbside management, like in Westminster, whereby parking enforcement is increased on streets where the impact of parking and congestion is greatest.

We will get tough on supermarket lorries abusing parking – such as on Heath Street, West End Lane, and Swain’s Lane. We will force them to park by the same rules as

residents and neighbouring small businesses. We will amend Camden’s licensing policy to consider delivery traffic, as in Westminster.

We recognise that keeping main roads moving is essential to preventing rat-running. We forced TfL to end the bottleneck they created by closing a lane on Finchley Road: which inundated South Hampstead and Belsize with cars. And we listened to residents and stopped CS11, which would have done the same.

Camden’s Labour leadership has repeatedly said that their response to traffic jams is to restrict traffic even more. That is an ideological response, not a reasonable one.

### Making it easier to get up and go

We know that people often can’t afford or don’t drive enough to need their own cars. We will launch a floating car club scheme, as in Wandsworth, which Labour has opposed. We’ll reinvest the £200,000 raised from licensing it into installing electric vehicle charge points.

We asked Camden to strike a balance between dockless bikes/mopeds and pedestrians, but this hasn’t happened. We will strengthen enforcement against blocking pavements and endeavour to make dockless bike and scooter schemes work.

## Our record: Removing the Finchley Road bottleneck

The problem

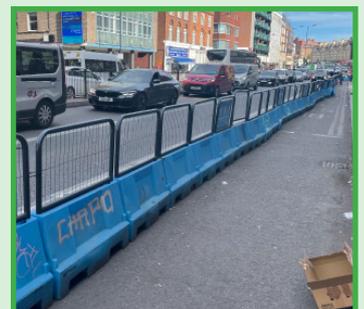
What Conservative councillors have done

What we will do for you

TfL caused huge rat-running through Belsize and South Hampstead by removing a lane of traffic on Finchley Road outside the O2 Centre: creating a bottleneck.

Camden Conservatives surveyed residents and found that 97% wanted the bottleneck removed. We asked Camden to remove it, but Labour wanted it to become *permanent*. So we lobbied TfL ourselves, and finally had it taken out.

We will oppose ideologically displacing traffic from main roads.



**A RECORD OF DELIVERY — A PLAN FOR MORE**

# BACK OUR COMMUNITIES

## Local Conservative councillors will:

- **Support al fresco ‘streateries’ like in Belsize Village** where there is public support for them to revitalise our community centres and support local businesses.
- **Protect community pubs** and give them reductions in their Business Rates.
- **Keep our libraries open** and extend opening hours at Swiss Cottage Library.
- **Support older residents** by helping people take in lodgers, backing inter-generational volunteering, and investing in community facilities, as we have at Henderson Court.
- **Support health and well-being** by ensuring developments have sufficient GP surgeries and providing step-free access at tube stations.

One of Camden’s great strengths is its diverse community institutions. From the West End to West End Lane, Camden has an unmatched breadth of local communities, and we are committed to supporting them all.

We will back alfresco ‘streateries’, save and support local pubs, and work with local businesses to ensure our high streets are vibrant, diverse, and successful.

We will ensure all our libraries stay open, support older and disabled residents, and take steps to ensure Camden remains a safe and tolerant borough for all.

### Spread the success of streateries

We will support the opening and successful delivery of alfresco dining ‘streateries’ where residents want them across the borough.

Conservative councillors sponsored the successful Belsize Village Streaterie, which has greatly strengthened the local community, and brought four previously empty shop units in Belsize Village back into use.

We are working to create a new piazza in the

slip-road at South End Green. We will consult on this and on creating a streaterie there. We will do the same at West End Green.

We recognise that – unlike Belsize Village, where 83% of residents supported the Streaterie – some proposals have not had popular support. We will not support streateries where residents do not back them.

### Protecting community assets and pubs

We will back our local pubs, which have dwindled in number. Conservative councillors have helped reopen several Hampstead pubs, and we want to replicate that across Camden.

We will list all pubs as Assets of Community Value (ACVs): making it harder to change their use to anything other than a pub.

We will use our powers to grant discretionary Business Rates relief to reduce Rates for all ACVs: reflecting their social benefit. This will save each ACV several thousand pounds a year, but just 30% of the cost would be borne by Camden: making it a cost-effective means of supporting pubs and other local institutions.



“ Belsize Village’s Streaterie has been a small miracle: helping businesses and the whole community. I helped design the proposal from the start and sponsored it with six other Conservative councillors. Thank you to the community for working together to make this dream a reality. ”

Belsize councillor **Steve Adams** was the main sponsor of the Belsize Village Streaterie



“ When Covid turned everything upside down, Camden did some things well, but it exposed the inflexibility of its view of who needs its help. It was difficult for the group I was involved in and others to get timely support. We need Camden to listen to everyone, not just the same voices. ”

Camden Conservatives Leader Cllr **Oliver Cooper** responded to Covid by setting up a local food bank

### Helping our libraries survive and thrive

Camden Conservatives guarantee that we will keep all Camden libraries and community libraries open. We will look to extend library opening hours, including opening Swiss Cottage Library on Sundays so they can build upon their great work.

We will provide £100,000 a year of extra funding to Keats, Belsize, and Primrose Hill community libraries to ensure they continue to thrive.

We will co-locate services at libraries that can provide public services and revenue for our libraries, including opening a police counter at Swiss Cottage Library.

### Caring for older residents

We will launch a scheme that helps older people let out spare rooms to younger people at a reduced rent by screening potential lodgers: giving younger people somewhere to live and giving older people company.

We will back inter-generational volunteering among Camden’s large student population to keep older people socially active.

We will invest in caring for our older residents. Conservative councillors provided £300,000 to renovate Henderson Court and make Royal Free’s dementia ward more comforting.

### Helping disabled and health services

Camden Conservatives will support our care providers to integrate health and adult social care: putting patients before politics.

We will work with TfL to finally install lifts at Finchley Road, West Hampstead, and Euston Square tube stations to help disabled or older people and those with prams.

We will ensure GP and dentist surgery places are sufficiently provided for in new developments. Camden has shamefully allowed the King’s Cross mega-development to proceed without a GP surgery, and a repeat must be avoided.

### Guaranteeing community cohesion

Racism, and particularly antisemitism, are on the rise in London and here in Camden. We will work to combat all intolerance to make sure Camden remains a tolerant and diverse borough.

Hampstead Conservative councillors have set up regular meetings between synagogues and the police to improve security. We will fight to keep Jewish residents safe, including working with the CST and protecting Jewish students at Camden’s universities.

## Our record: Supporting London’s first ‘streateries’

The problem

What Conservative councillors have done

What we will do for you

Belsize Village businesses were struggling to remain afloat both before and during Covid.

Conservative councillors sponsored the opening of the UK’s first alfresco ‘streateries’ in Belsize Village. This saved four local businesses and increased business by 112%. Conservatives were the only party to vote for it.

We will consult residents on opening streateries by South End Green and West End Green, and will open them wherever residents back them.



**A RECORD OF DELIVERY — A PLAN FOR MORE**

## **Labour's record in Camden**

**The most fly-tipping in England**

**Police rarely seen in communities**

**London's biggest council tax hike**

**Opposition to electric cars**

**High-rises across Camden**

## **Camden Conservatives' plan to for a cleaner, greener, safer Camden**

**Restore weekly bin collections**

**More police on local streets**

**Lower Council Tax**

**More electric vehicles chargers**

**Stop high-rises at O2 and Murphy's Yard**

**For a cleaner, greener, safer Camden**

**ON 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY, MAKE  
CAMDEN LISTEN**