



'Don't make your staff wear Butlins-style uniforms' call

Proposals could mean staff become part of £86,000 re-branding

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New proposals for Haringey librarians to start wearing a "Butlins-style" uniform have come under fire, before the designs or budget have even been put in place.

Anyone who works on a Haringey help desk could potentially be forced to wear a uniform, touted as part of plans to improve libraries and customer service.

Staff have been sent images of a short-sleeved bright red T-shirt as part of the consultation.

On the right breast is the new Haringey logo and on the back of the T-shirt are the words: "How can I help you?"

Haringey Council has said that these are just mocked-up images and that they are still consulting staff on design, colours and whether they even want a uniform.

Highgate councillor Clive Carter is confident that the ideas will prove unpopular with staff and the public.

Comparing the uniform to that worn at a holiday camp, he described it as an "unnecessary ex-



■ Initial ideas for the uniform have been released

pense."

"I've spoken with librarians who are aghast at the new proposals," he said.

"It's verging on an insult. People won't want to work for Haringey Council."

As part of the consultation, staff at the Marcus Garvey in Tottenham and Wood Green Library have been sent e-mails asking them if they want to be a visible part of the Haringey brand.

"We would like to introduce a

uniform to ensure that staff are easily identifiable for our customers, we look professional and like one team, and we tie into our new corporate branding," the e-mails said.

"We know there are lots of people in the service who will welcome this, and probably an equal number who don't!"

"So we want your views... for example, what colours should we wear, which items of clothing do we want included, and how do we feel about a partial uniform and dress code?"

At the moment, there are no uniforms for library or customer service staff.

Some Haringey officers are expected to wear branded high-vis jackets or sweatshirts, for example if street sweeping.

For Haringey Council's recent £86,000 re-branding exercise, it was decided that staff would receive uniforms with the new logo when their old uniforms are worn out.

■ What do you think of plans to introduce a new uniform? Get in touch: letters@hamhigh.co.uk.

Bowie tribute at Arthouse

The Arthouse cinema in Crouch End successfully raised £400 for Cancer Research at their sold-out charity screening of *The Man Who Fell to Earth* last Sunday.

In the classic 1970s film, David Bowie stars as the man who falls to earth.

His character, Thomas Jerome Newton falls to earth from an alien planet, which is slowly dying from a lengthy drought.

Thomas is forced to leave his wife and two children in the hope of finding a solution on earth.

Tom Barrie from the Arthouse said that it was "devastating" to hear of Bowie's death.

"It was an excellent turnout and a fitting tribute to the great man," he said. "It's one of his stronger films, it showed his quirky side. He always took risks and the film suited him."

Love yourself for a charity

A mental health charity is holding a Valentine's four-course meal fundraiser.

It's based around the theme that there may be romance in the air, but all diners should love themselves first and foremost.

Mind in Haringey will be opening a pop-up restaurant at their hall in Stroud Green.

They'll be serving up a fine-dining experience, expertly prepared by Michelin-trained chef Dharam Ramlogan.

Tickets cost £35 and there will be a complimentary glass of prosecco, as well as wine and beer available to buy.

All proceeds will go towards Mind in Haringey.

■ The meal will be taking place on February 13 at 8pm. To book call Suzy on 07712 885974 or email suzy.barber01@googlemail.com.

Parents warned after abduction attempts by fake policeman

■ from front page

All the girls were approached just before the start of the school day, between 7.50am and 9am.

The man is described as black, between 20-30 years old and of medium build. He had short dark hair and was wearing a jacket with the hood up.

Police have not revealed the road

names because of their proximity to schools.

They said that they do not want to reveal which schools the girls go to. Haringey police are carrying out reassurance patrols in the area.

A Haringey Council spokeswoman said that schools would be instructing youngsters to be vigilant.

A statement released yesterday in the wake of the abduction attempts

said: "We are aware of the incidents that took place in the Hornsey area yesterday.

"Incidents of this nature are very rare in Haringey, though we fully understand the concern this has caused for parents."

And the council statement said staff would be helping police to track down the would-be abductor.

It continued: "Pupil safeguarding

is a priority for the council and for all local schools and there is a clear focus on ensuring all pupils are aware of 'stranger danger'.

"We are of course supporting the police in their investigation."

■ Anyone with information is asked to call police via 999, or to remain anonymous, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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