

Harringay Ward By-Elections

July 2016

Candidate Responses to Four Standard Questions

Harringay By-Election Questions

All six candidates standing for the role of councillor in this month's local by-election were sent a set of four simple questions by Harringay Online.

The answers won't give you a detailed sense of who the candidates are or how they'll perform in office, but it should give you a few good clues.

All candidates but one were very happy to participate and provided the answers within the timescales we set.

Responses were copied and pasted as received with no editing.

Thank you to all those who responded.

Cansoy Cetin Elmaz – Conservative

1. What do you feel are the three priority issues in Harringay and how would you seek to address them?

The first issue i see is with regards to the Harringay ward is a environmental issue what one tends to see more and more is the build up of rubbish and dumping on the streets which is unacceptable for residents. I believe the council needs become more proactive and get on top of the issue by ensuring more regular garbage pick ups and knocking on the doors of people who are dumping on the streets and explain their behaviour is unacceptable.

A second issue i have found as i have been door knocking with local residents is a recent issue caused by the bridge reconstruction on Wightman road this has been carried out in once again a sloppy way by the council. As its caused a great deal of inconvenience for the local residents i believe the issue could of been avoided through better management of trying to redirect the traffic.

Thirdly the council have for at least run 40 years unopposed by solid labour rule i argue if residents want a a candidate that will scrutinise the council effectively then i the Conservative candidate will be the best for the job. As of now the council where able to spend over £80,000 on the rebranding of the Haringey logo i would argue these types of decisions can be prevented through a effective opposition which no other candidate can ensure other then I the Conservative candidate.

2. How do you think a local councillor can best serve their electors?

Local councillors would do very well if after they where elected they still where willing to listen to resident ideas. I believe no one person has all the answers as a elected councillor i believe it is ones duty to serve and remain accountable to the electorate.

3. What about you and your record makes you the best candidate in this election?

I have been a resident in Tottenham for the majority of my life i have grew up listening to to people explain there distrust for those who are supposed to represent them so i recognise the trust anyone gives when they vote for you. Being a man of action when i see a issue I'm determined to fix it as a care greatly for the area and those who live there i have campaigned in the stronger in Europe campaign unfortunately the outcome of the referendum did not go the way i wanted. I joined the Conservative party as in my view it looks to benefit everyone regardless of age, race, gender and class. I am the youngest of all the candidates and I'm sure the youngest going back quiet a while i don't see this as a disadvantage as i believe i can bring an energy that will force the council to become more productive.

4. What do you hope you will have achieved by the time of the next local election?

By the next local election i hope to see Harringay ward become considered a centre point of Haringey across green lanes there are many successful business its a brilliant area with decent people. However the councils management risks it being in decline i want to be given a chance to show the people who live in haringay don't get used to labours mess vote for change.

Jarelle Francis - Green Party

1. What do you feel are the three priority issues in Harringay and how would you seek to address them?

I have personally canvassed many homes and streets in Harringay ward with a quick 60 second questionnaire. After my conversations with people and the results from the survey I would say the three main issues are:

1. Traffic - we need to sit down with local transport groups and I will use my links with Greens on the London assembly to highlight the terrible congestion we have in Harringay ward. There needs to be a permanent solution for Wightman road which I know has many positives being closed with air and noise pollution reduced dramatically. In turn it has shifted some traffic to Endymion and Green lanes exacerbating their grid lock problem. So I would be working for a solution sooner rather than later.
2. Pollution - we need to get rid of Diesel buses as soon as possible, we also have a problem on Green Lanes in rush hour where traffic is static which increases pollution. I want to see the ultra low emission zone moved to outer boroughs and would also enforce the bus lanes more stringently. Sometimes vehicles block the busses getting through which makes a bad situation worst.
3. Housing issues- we need to ensure all landlords are being properly checked and monitored. Some of the conditions people are living in are unacceptable. I am also a member of StART a social housing scheme in neighbouring ward St Ann's. I hope we are successful and can roll it out in places like Harringay too.

Rents are rising and this also stretches to small businesses. As a former small business owner I know how rising rents and businesses rates can be a problem. We need to ensure that small businesses which are the life blood of Harringay are given as much help as possible.

2. How do you think a local councillor can best serve their electors?

It seems obvious but the first thing a local councillor should be is available! I have spoke to many residents who have no idea who their councillors are or have contacted them to no avail. For me that is unacceptable, I want to be held fully accountable and I want to be the voice for residents who are currently not being heard.

3. What about you and your record makes you the best candidate in this election?

I am just like many of the people in Harringay ward which makes it easy for constituents to relate to me. Like many around here I sat at home and despaired at some of the poor decisions Haringey council have made across the borough not just this ward. I decided to do something about it and that's exactly why I am running.

I have lived in and around Harringay ward for most of my life. My first home was on Harringay road, my grandparents lived on Burgoyne Road and I used to go to Sunday school at North Harringay school.

If you want a hungry, passionate and dedicated councillor who will provide the fresh green voice needed to hold Claire Kober and her Labour council to account vote for me on July 28th.

4. What do you hope you will have achieved by the time of the next local election?

I want to have put the traffic and pollution situation at the top of the agenda. I am planning to work with other Green councillors like Sian Berry and Caroline Russell who have had success in their local areas. They show what electing green councillors can achieve.

I want the council to be held fully accountable so I will be holding surgeries and I will be making sure the councillors do what they are supposed to which is work for you!

I will still be canvassing the areas in the coming weeks, If you want to specifically contact me please feel free. My email address is Jarelle.francis@greenparty.org.uk. Twitter @francisjarelle

Labour are complacent! Let's have a fresh positive green outlook in Harringay ward.

Zena Brabazon - Labour

1. What do you feel are the three priority issues in Harringay and how would you seek to address them?

Clearly traffic is a top priority issue for residents in Harringay. It is no secret that Harringay ward bears the brunt of the traffic locally as the statistics in the traffic study confirm. The enforced closure of Wightman Road offers a real – and very rare – opportunity to review and think about how things might change and to think creatively and laterally about some different solutions to the current problems. The closure has forced people to change their travel habits and seeing the empty roads it is like seeing an experiment in real time. I would like to see the stakeholder group convened in June - which I understand has met only once – reconvened immediately so there is a joint process for coming up with and testing ideas. A wider Living Wightman conference or seminar could be organised, where professionals, local people and representative groups can have a serious dialogue. Having traffic experts working alongside residents and councillors should be a positive process for analysing ideas for traffic calming; making cycling safer; reviewing Green Lanes and any other ideas which are being proposed. It would also be a chance to hear about projects elsewhere where seemingly intractable problems have been tackled. There is no time to waste in assembling ideas and possible solutions to the traffic problems.

Houses in multiple occupation remain a big issue in Harringay and there is no prospect from the Government that the private rented sector is going to improve or be regulated. I would want to continue pressing for strong enforcement, making sure landlords comply with regulations and that properties are licensed. This means working closely with the Cabinet member to lobby for more funding for enforcement (environmental and planning) which I don't think is funded sufficiently. Not funding is a false economy. Early intervention can prevent cases going to court and sends a message that the Council means business. This links, of course to waste management and dumping so I'm linking these all together under housing and environment.

Local schools and education in general have passionate advocates amongst local people. The same is true for adult social care. Although this may affect fewer local people. I've combined these as social issues which should have priority. The government is proposing huge changes in education, and the local authority has a big role to play in supporting local schools staying local. I will work to ensure that happens. Regarding adult social care, there are many elderly people living in Harringay, and they need good reliable services. There are people suffering mental ill-health, and homelessness is on the rise. I would work with the schools, governors and parents on education (including under 5s of course); with regard to adult social care, initially find out the current position and what plans the Council has in place and how it is working with other agencies to provide services and support vulnerable people.

2. How do you think a local councillor can best serve their electors?

In my view a ward councillor must listen to, and learn from local people; hear their views and stand up and speak out for them as their representative. A councillor needs to be an advocate, a champion, and needs to be able to work with different groups to campaign for local issues and improvements. A local councillor needs to be willing to ask hard questions and to scrutinise policy proposals. I know how local government works and that is an advantage. As well as representing elector on local issues, my view is that a ward councillor also needs to be aware of the bigger picture and how that impacts locally. Regeneration plans; the proposed Haringey Development Vehicle; policies on green spaces are examples where it is essential a ward councillor is on top of their brief so they are aware of the implications and can ask pertinent questions.

3. What about you and your record makes you the best candidate in this election?

I have a detailed understanding of local government and how problems get solved. I am persistent and can nag effectively. I fight for what I think is right, and am proud that between 2010-2014 I fought for our children's centres, the HMO licensing schemes, and the Green Lanes improvements. I was conscientious and brought forward modest proposals for street and housing improvements in areas of my last ward which needed attention. These were funded and improved people's environment. I have experience, knowledge of many areas of local government, aim to get things done, and I work hard.

4. What do you hope you will have achieved by the time of the next local election?

I would like to have the trust of Harringay residents, so they know that I have worked as hard as I can on their behalf. I would like a culture embedded where the Council works alongside local residents and where we can problem solve together. Issues like Wightman Road and Finsbury Park would benefit from this approach. If working on enforcement and regeneration improves housing prospects for local people I would be very pleased.

Karen Alexander - Liberal Democrat

1. What do you feel are the three priority issues in Harringay and how would you seek to address them?

The three priority issues in Harringay at the moment I would say are:

(a) Wightman Road and the Green Lane Traffic Survey: The current closure of Wightman Road has highlighted how key this road is in finding a solution to the traffic issues affecting Harringay. I would be seeking reassurance from the council that when the bridge replacement is complete the current weight restriction is held in place and not increased to allow larger HGVs to use our ladder roads. I will be working with the council, residents and the stakeholder group to implement the recommendations of the Green Lanes Traffic Survey. Bold and courageous solutions are needed to solve this issue while making sure that other areas aren't disadvantaged. This is a once in a life time opportunity to resolve Harringay's traffic problems. I won't allow this to slip through our hands.

(b) Planning: The councils Site Allocations Plan will see a lot of development in Harringay over the next few years, a few large sites have been earmarked for development for housing and it is important to have a strong local councillor to make sure that residents are protected from the effects of overdevelopment in terms of more pressure on local schools, GP practices, parking and pollution. Housing is desperately needed and it is important that Harringay contributes to that.

(c) EU: Whilst obviously a national issue, it is also a very local issue with many of our friends and neighbours being EU citizens. Talking to local residents over the last week or so one recurring theme is how worried they are about what will happen as a result of the vote to exit the EU. Many are worried about their residency and their rights here. I know at the moment nobody really know what will happen going forward, I will be doing as much as I can make sure that in the coming months I am able to help, advice and hopefully reassure them.

There are of course other issues that vary in importance to different residents. My role as local councillor is to treat all these issues equally, sensitively and help and advise on a issue by issue basis.

2. How do you think a local councillor can best serve their electors?

A good local councillor should be the residents voice in the council rather than the councils voice to residents. This is essential in making sure residents get the best deal and are not disadvantaged by council decisions. I will listen and respects local views. I will be working with residents and local groups to drive change, lead campaigns and improve Harringay for all residents

Being a guardian to the wellbeing of the ward is another important role, being out and about in the ward, picking up issues. I cycle through the ward most days and it's essential for keeping an eye on things such as fly tipping, planning abuses, issues with rubbish and recycling etc

Being available to residents when they need to discuss problems and need advice and knowing where in the council to go to access that help. My 8 years on the council means I know where to go and who to speak to to get issues for residents resolved.

3. What about you and your record makes you the best candidate in this election?

I've have lived in Harringay since 1996. I have raised my family here. I got involved in local politics in 2005. Harringay is the only place I want to be a local councillor because it is my home, I love the area and that drives me to make it a better place for everyone.

I was the councillor here for 8 years, from 2006 until 2014. Put quite simply, my work here is not yet done and I want the council seat back to continue the good things I achieved.

Whilst on the council I have been on the scrutiny (watchdog) committee as a full member/panel member and have chaired various scrutiny reviews and held the Labour council to account and helped shape policy.

Locally I have successfully campaigned with local residents to get traffic calming and 20mph limit on Wightman Road and a traffic camera on Wightman Road to catch HGVs breaching the weight limit. Led by David Schmitz we campaigned for a pedestrian crossing at Green Lanes/ Falkland Road. I'd like to continue with pressing for a crossing at the Endymion/Alroy Road junction which is still extremely dangerous.

Harringay deserves a councillor who works tirelessly for them. I have a reputation as a councillor that gets things done. Elect me again and you will have a hardworking local champion. Libdem councillors work hard for their keep and won't let you down.

4. What do you hope you will have achieved by the time of the next local election?

By the 2018 council elections I would like to have worked extensively with the council to resolve the traffic issues affecting Harringay, working with them to mitigate knock on effects on surrounding areas. This is vitally important because it brings together many themes in terms of pollution, the health of residents and making Harringay cleaner and greener.

Neville Watson - UKIP

Responses invited but not received.