

# AN UPDATE FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR

**Councillor Jonathan Andrews says: "As someone with a strong local and family connection to Darwin ward, it was an honour to be elected as your councillor in May 2022.**

Since being elected, I've worked hard to ensure that Darwin's residents are represented on Bromley Council. As well as representing your views on matters such as Biggin Hill Airport and the ULEZ, I have served on several planning committees, dealing with matters from inappropriate development and retrospective applications to traveller sites, and was particularly pleased to have been elected as the Chairman of a Planning Committee within just one year of my election as a councillor.

I've also worked closely with Darwin's local communities on the ground. Alongside attending regular meetings across the ward, from the Downe, Cudham, Pratts Bottom and Blackness Lane Residents Associations to the Darwin Safer Neighbourhood Police Team, I've supported community events with

Darwin's local churches and more widely, such as the Downe Duck Race and Christmas Lights, the unveiling of Cudham's newly refurbished millennium sign, and fundraisers for Cudham Recreation Ground and the Pratts Bottom fete and school.

I'm particularly pleased to have been able to make tangible differences for the betterment of Darwin's local communities and landscape – from securing new village benches for Downe and Cudham, to protecting the local environment through the creation of several Tree Preservation Orders.

I am always happy to respond to queries or concerns from residents and should you wish to contact me, please don't hesitate to do so via the email or phone number overleaf."



Jonathan with our local MP Gareth Bacon, Assembly Member Peter Fortune, Bromley's Deputy Mayor and Cudham residents

## FIGHTING SADIQ KHAN'S ULEZ EXPANSION

Jonathan ardently opposes Sadiq Khan's expansion of the ULEZ zone (forcing drivers of non-compliant vehicles to pay £12.50 a day) across Greater London and even into Darwin ward - a predominately rural area with little to nothing in common with Central London.

Jonathan fully supports local MP Gareth Bacon's work to oppose the ULEZ expansion, and proudly supported Bromley Council's legal challenge alongside his Conservative colleagues. Whilst bitterly disappointed at the court's judgment, this concerned the legality of the expansion, not whether it is a good or fair policy - which it plainly is not - and so the political fight continues.

Jonathan has also attended demonstrations and



Jonathan with Pat Auld, Chairman of Darwin Conservatives, opposing the ULEZ expansion

spoken to Bromley Radio about the negative impact of ULEZ locally, and has been out campaigning for our 2024 London Mayoral Candidate Susan Hall - who has pledged to scrap the ULEZ expansion on day one if elected.

## COUNCIL FUND SUPPORTS DOWNE VILLAGE HALL

With the full support of local Councillor Jonathan Andrews, Bromley Council has provided Downe Village Hall with a grant of £6,000 in order to support the installation of new heating in the hall.

Councillor Jonathan Andrews said "Having made the case for supporting Downe Village Hall, I'm pleased to see the council confirm its support for this cornerstone of the local community".

CLL Christopher Marlow, who approved the grant, called the installation works "an excellent project with long-lasting community benefit" and Downe Village Hall have described the grant as an "enormous help".

## PLATINUM JUBILEE FUND SUPPORTS DARWIN'S LOCAL GREEN SPACES

In 2022 Bromley Council unveiled the Platinum Jubilee Parks Fund, supporting community-led projects to improve our green spaces.

Applications have since been made by the Friends of Cudham Rec Play Area to support the redevelopment and improvement of Cudham Recreation Ground's children's play area, and by the Friends of Pratts Bottom Common and Pratts Bottom Residents Association to update and refurbish the Hookwood Road play area by Pratts Bottom School.

Councillor Jonathan Andrews has given his full support to, and supported fundraising efforts for, these important projects, and we are pleased to report that both bids have been successful, with each receiving grants of £20,000 (for a total of £40,000).

Idverde will now work closely with the Friends Groups and Residents Association to support the plans, improving Darwin's local amenities for the benefit of local residents and families.



Cudham Recreation Ground Play Area

## BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT: AN UPDATE

As residents may be aware, in November 2022 the airport made a further attempt to amend its lease to allow fare-paying passengers (which Bromley Council had previously refused just a year beforehand).

Jonathan - who remains firmly opposed to any expansion of the airport, and to any changes to the terms of the existing lease - worked hard to ensure the responsible council committees were aware of the strength of feeling of Darwin residents, and Bromley council again refused to allow any changes to the lease.

Negotiations are also currently underway for the airport's updated Noise Action Plan (NAP). In January, Jonathan spoke at the council's ERC committee emphasising the strong importance of maintaining the existing cap on movements and gave his full support to efforts to strengthen the NAP, including the inclusion of air quality monitoring.



## News SNIPPETS

### SHIRE LANE: AN UPDATE

In February, Councillor Jonathan Andrews attended the Planning Inspectorate's hearing for the traveller encampment at Shire Lane.

Jonathan spoke on the importance of preserving the Green Belt and made clear his support for the development being removed from the site and restoring the land to its former character.

The Planning Inspectorate agreed and has ordered those currently on the land to vacate. Although they were granted 12 months to do so (which neither Jonathan nor the council supported) this would require the encampment to be removed by the end of April 2024. However, as of the time of writing, the Planning Inspectorate's decision is subject to an appeal to the High Court.

Jonathan strongly supports the preservation of the local Green Belt and also backs our local MP Gareth Bacon's efforts since his election to tackle the laws surrounding unauthorised developments and retrospective applications.

## YOUR CONSERVATIVE COUNCILLOR FOR DARWIN



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Councillor Jonathan Andrews has been pleased to welcome Bromley's new Mayor, Cllr Mike Botting, to events across the length and breadth of Darwin, from the Pratts Bottom and Cudham fetes to a visit from the Bishop of Rochester to Downe.