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WALTHAM FOREST ECHO

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Disabled man 'trapped' in his council flat living room

by Josh Mellor,
Local Democracy Reporter

A disabled Waltham Forest resident says he is "trapped" in his council flat living room.

In 2019, Jason Munnings, 41, was a postman and weighed about 95kg, but during the pandemic he developed back problems and now weighs more than 220kg. The weight, back and nerve conditions he suffers from means he needs a roller to walk between rooms in his one-bedroom council flat in Walthamstow.

But because the roller does not fit through doorways in his flat, Jason relies on carers and his mother to help him wash, cook and clean his home. A large step at the front door of his ground-floor flat also means he cannot leave the house independently because he cannot access or safely store his scooter.

Speaking to the Local Democracy Reporting Service (LDRS), Jason said he is "literally trapped" in the flat unless he can find a disability-adapted council flat.

However, he said that until recently Waltham Forest Council's housing department has "ignored" his pleas for a new flat.

During the first lockdown, "everything fell apart" when he lost his job as a postman and could no longer exercise at swimming pools which caused his mental health to deteriorate.

He added: "In the second



wave [of the pandemic] my back started to go and the swimming pool stayed closed for nine months."

Five months after approaching the council to ask for disability adaptations to his flat, a care coordinator from the council visited him and ordered a bathing seat and chair to help him wash. Jason believed he was on a waiting list for a shower adaptation so he could wash at home, but in April this year, council staff told him this

was not the case.

The 41-year-old told the LDRS that if he had a home suitable for a mobility scooter, he would be able to travel to an accessible swimming pool which has bathrooms that he can use to wash without the help of carers.

He said: "Having a scooter would change my life, I could be independent and go out then."

But he claims the council offered him a bathroom adaptation on the condition that he stays at the home for another five

years. Jason described the council's offer as "bullying" since he wouldn't be able to leave the flat.

He said: "What they're saying is, that I can be washed but I would have to stay in this home. I wouldn't walk out this house in five years, I would be carried out dead. I need a home that is wide enough to walk between rooms with the roller."

He also questioned whether all the properties on the council's bidding system for social housing are truly available. Jason said

he tested the system by bidding for a home no-one wanted, but no-one ever called or emailed him about it.

His mother also visited another property that appeared to be available on the bidding system, but when she knocked on the door the tenant told her she had no plans to move.

Jason's mother Jacqueline said: "I'm just deflated for my son. We have put so much effort in and we've crossed every bridge that we can. We have tried everything, to no avail, I've come up against a brick wall."

Since he first spoke to the LDRS, the council's housing team put him in a higher priority for a new home, but he is yet to find somewhere suitable.

Ahsan Khan, deputy leader and cabinet member for housing and regeneration, said: "We sympathise with Mr Munnings' situation, and we are working hard to find a suitable home for him in the local area."

"We understand how important it is for him to be able to enjoy living independently in a property that meets his needs."

"Unfortunately, Mr Munnings' situation is complex and, although they met the access standards, neither of the two flats that we have so far been able to offer met his individual requirements."

"His case is of the highest priority, and we continue to search for a ground-floor flat with level access and a wet room that meets his needs."

NEWS

Developer of Lea Bridge towers wants height increase

Developers sent a leaflet to local residents proposing three extra storeys for two planned towers at Lea Bridge Station

by Josh Mellor,
Local Democracy Reporter

Two towers above Lea Bridge Station are likely to be even higher than originally planned.

Earlier this year, developer London Square won planning permission for the 26 and 23 storey towers and a courtyard building at the junction of Lea Bridge Road and Orient Way.

In a leaflet sent to local residents, the developer said their plans have become “less financially viable” due to incoming planning rules requiring a second staircase in all buildings more than 30 metres high.

London Square said: “We are proposing to increase the height of the two tallest buildings by three storeys, so we can deliver the same residential space as before.”

The developer argued that three more storeys would create “no additional townscape or heritage impacts” and claimed that the wind and overshadowing effect on the neighbourhood is “comparable” to the original plans.

When completed, the taller towers would be the second and joint-third tallest in the borough next to the 34 and 26-storey towers planned at The Mall (now known as 17&Central) in Walthamstow town centre.

The proposed towers at Lea Bridge Station
Credit: London Square



Lea Bridge resident Claire Weiss, who objected to the original plans, has written to the council to raise concerns that the “unprecedentedly high” towers will define views over the Lea Marshes and that any extra storeys would “amplify the adverse effect”.

She added: “While this is based on the need for two staircases there should be other ways of dealing with the replacement of loss of habitable space.”

“The taller towers will affect the light and views of residents in the Motion estate who were sold

their flats only a few years ago on the basis of having extensive views over the marshes.”

London Square plans to submit a formal application for the extra storeys this summer.

The developer is working in partnership with Waltham Forest Council, which owns the land, to build a total of 345 flats.

Last year, former council leader Clare Coghill – who ran the council when London Square won a bid to develop the sites – attracted controversy by joining a company owned by the developer.

The council’s planning department

has already approved an application to add new staircases to each of the three buildings.

Ahsan Khan, deputy leader and cabinet member for housing and regeneration, said: “The work at Lea Bridge will create hundreds of new homes, 213 of which will be for London Affordable Rent or shared ownership – increasing the total from 50% to 59% and providing more family homes for local people.

“The project will also bring job opportunities for local residents, an increase in local biodiversity, and improved public spaces.”

Conservative group leader Emma Best said: “The construction of The Mall development is showing the horror of these out-of-place monster blocks on communities.

“Our Labour council would do well to reflect on the destruction they have already created and refrain from making it worse.

“We all want to see new development and housing but the evidence is clear that blocks of these sizes are not environmentally friendly and create health inequality.

“We must focus on creating homes not ‘units’.”

For updates on the proposed changes, visit the developer's dedicated website and to comment, email lbss@kandaconsulting.co.uk

Council proposes eight new high-rise towers for Lea Valley

by Josh Mellor,
Local Democracy Reporter

Waltham Forest Council has proposed plans for eight new high-rise towers on the edge of the Lea Valley.

The plans form part of the council’s long-term plan for housing developments in Leyton.

In total, the council hopes that almost 5,000 new homes will be built between Leyton Station and New Spitalfields Market, next to Hackney Marshes.

Within this area, the council has laid out eight sites with a

“proposed opportunity for high-rise development” of more than 18 storeys between a number of other residential blocks between five and 17 storeys tall.

Although the council has not published exact heights in its public engagement documents, a skyline study from 2021 suggests the tallest buildings in the area could reach up to 30 storeys.

Details of the huge developments were buried on the final page of a public engagement document summarising its “Leyton Mills Supplementary Planning Document”, which will guide development over the next 15 years.

In July this year, Waltham Forest Council quietly consulted residents on the plans, but the page on building heights included only a birds-eye-view map of the tower locations.

However, this engagement document was based on a 141-page “Leyton Mills Development Framework” that includes more detailed images of a wall of towers sandwiched between the Lea Valley, the A12 and the Eurostar train depot on Orient Way.

The public engagement document adds: “These buildings would need to achieve the highest level of design quality, address their impact on the skyline,

include active ground floors, and satisfy safety, wind and micro-climate assessments.”

This includes taking a “considered approach” to where tall buildings will go by respecting “sensitive surroundings” such as the Hackney Marshes, the River Lea and existing residential neighbourhoods.

Waltham Forest Council hopes the homes will be built around a new overground station called Ruckholt Road, on the line connecting Meridian Water to Stratford Station.

To follow the plans, including a statutory public consultation due to start later this year, visit: talk.walthamforest.gov.uk/leyton-mills-spdc



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NEWS

‘Gross failings’ amounting to ‘neglect’ caused death of beloved mother at Whipps Cross

An inquest into the death of a 60-year-old mother-of-five and grandmother-of-twelve found that a catalogue of failings led to her death

by Marco Marcelline

“Gross failings” in the care of a Walthamstow woman while at Whipps Cross Hospital amounted to “neglect” and led to her untimely death, a coroner has found.

Senior Coroner for City of London Graeme Irvine found that a catalogue of failings in the care of Sultana Razia Choudhury, 60, at Whipps Cross contributed to her death on 17th December 2022 from a cardiac arrest following a catastrophic internal bleed.

The inquest concluded that she sustained an accidental injury caused by a kidney biopsy undertaken at Royal London Hospital on 7th December 2022. After being sent home following the biopsy, Sultana attended the A&E department at Whipps Cross Hospital on 14th December 2022 in “excruciating pain” that was “worse than childbirth”.

Irvine identified three key areas of failings during her care: the failure by trust staff responsible for her care to identify a serious renal haemorrhage, the failure to adequately monitor Sultana over the weekend, and the prescription of the blood-clot stopping and blood-thinning drug Enoxaparin to a patient with an active renal bleed.

The court heard how Sultana, who lived in Walthamstow, had been in “pretty good health” before developing diabetes and a kidney problem as she got older.

Her family told the inquest that a doctor convinced her to do a kidney biopsy for the purposes of clinical research which could help others. She was told that although it could help her in the future, it was not something that was needed for investigation or treatment of her condition. Knowing this, Sultana agreed to undertake the biopsy.

A week after the biopsy Sultana was admitted to Whipps Cross Hospital after noting blood in her urine. Over the next few days, tests were carried out and Sultana was given morphine and stronger pain killers, before being told that she needed a blood transfusion.

Scans and tests taken at Whipps Cross failed to reveal that she was suffering a “sig-



nificant” renal bleed, and she was instead diagnosed with a bacterial urine infection.

The court heard how following Sultana’s death Whipps Cross Hospital produced a Serious Incident Report which the coroner described as “relatively damning”.

The report highlighted three failings during Sultana’s stay at Whipps Cross Hospital. The first was the misdiagnosis of Sultana with a urine infection and the failure of anyone to grasp that she was suffering from a significant and dangerous bleed from her kidney following the biopsy. The second was that Sultana’s care over the weekend was poor and there were missed opportunities to take a closer look at what lay behind her deterioration.

The third was that no-one grasped that she was being given a medication that should not be prescribed to someone suffering from an active internal bleed, as it would have made the bleed more harmful to her.

During the hearing the coroner said that the “failure to properly police” the use of blood-clot stopping drug Enoxaparin was part of a “recurring theme” of a “lack of

curiosity” among NHS professionals while prescribing drugs for patients.

Irvine also pointed to a “lack of focus or awareness about what the likely causes of her presentation were” and said that doctors in charge of her care should have considered Sultana’s biopsy in an investigation into whether she was suffering a significant bleed. This, had it happened, “could have saved her life”, he said.

Following the inquest Sultana’s family said: “Our mum was married for nearly 50 years, she had five children and twelve grandchildren. She had a humble upbringing, born and raised in Dhaka, Bangladesh. She was the oldest of four children and lived through the Bangladesh liberation war before completing secondary school and then marrying my father at the age of 17.

“The loss of our mum, who was known as a ‘mum’ to everyone, has left a huge hole in our family. We are grateful to the coroner that her death was thoroughly looked into and the many problems in her care identified.

“It’s ironic that she did this biopsy as she was convinced that this would contribute to clinical research, and it would be impactful in helping improve the treatment and wellbeing of others. This is the sole reason why she did it; she had no other reason to. Ultimately, this decision is what led to her death. She passed away just as she lived – trying to help others.”

Frankie Rhodes, solicitor at law firm Leigh Day, said: “The coroner’s finding of neglect, along with issuing a Prevention of Future Deaths report, reinforces the legitimate concerns Sultana’s family had with their mother’s care and goes some way towards reassuring them that these mistakes will not be repeated. It was shocking to hear staff at the defendant trust admit to issues with diagnostic overshadowing, confirmation bias, medication errors and the failure to do a simple CT scan.

“There were multiple opportunities for staff at the trust to have identified that Sultana was bleeding from her kidney and to have treated her injury accordingly. It is even more worrying to hear that the coroner has identified a pattern of similar mistakes being made and the recommendations for improvement not being implemented within trusts in East London. We can only hope that the findings in this inquest act as a vehicle for much needed change.”

The coroner stated he has concerns that the same failings documented during the hearing could happen again at Barts Health NHS Trust, which runs Whipps Cross. He said he will be writing a Prevention of Future Deaths report to highlight his concerns which will be sent to the trust and to the Department of Health and Social Care.

During the inquest Barts Health NHS Trust accepted that if different care had been provided to Sultana that there would have been an opportunity to save her life.

A spokesperson for the trust said: “We express our deepest sympathies to the family of Ms Choudhury and we apologise that in this instance, the care we provided did not meet the standards we set ourselves.

“We have taken learnings from this case to make sure we maintain these standards and prevent this happening again.”

“There were multiple opportunities for staff at the trust to have identified that Sultana was bleeding from her kidney”

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NEWS

'Honest mistake' led to elderly couple's car being impounded

The couple had been celebrating their 47th wedding anniversary in Walthamstow

by Marco Marcelline

A 79-year-old man whose car was impounded while out celebrating his 47th wedding anniversary with his mobility-impaired wife has criticised the council's "overly strict" action.

Neil Macindoe is appealing against the £65 penalty charge notice and £200 car removal fee he was made to pay to the council. The car was impounded on 14th July after enforcement officers spotted it displaying a blue badge that had been reported lost. Neil told the *Echo* he had put his wife's previously lost and subsequently re-found badge on display by mistake. The replacement blue badge was in the car at the time of the incident, he added.

The car was seized while Neil

and wife Lois Chaber, 80, were having dinner at a Walthamstow restaurant. Lois suffers from chronic health and mobility issues and needs a wheelchair for any excursions out of the house.

Upon realising his 1995 Honda Accord had gone, Neil called the police believing it to have been stolen. He was then told by police that it was at the council's Walthamstow car pound.

There, car pound staff refused to unlock and return the car, citing the need for documents proving car ownership that Neil did not have on his person. The required documents included a certificate of insurance for the car, and vehicle registration document (V5).

Neil, who lives with his wife in Southgate, told the *Echo* that he had reported his wife's blue badge

as lost on 22nd February this year and received a replacement one from Barnet Council on 28th February. The couple found the lost blue badge at home "months" later. Neil says he did not return the lost badge to the council because he was not aware it was a requirement.

The couple were forced to get a taxi home after their unsuccessful attempt at retrieving the car from the car pound on the night of the 14th. After returning to the pound with the required documentation the following day, the car was released and returned.

The "bewildering" experience, Neil said, left him and his wife feeling "distressed" and "extremely frustrated". Neil added that the impounding was an act of "disabling the disabled".

"People need to be treated with compassion and care", Neil said, and added that he wants the "overly strict guidelines" that Waltham Forest's Parking Service follows to



The now returned 1995 Honda Accord Credit Neil Macindoe

"take into consideration" the reality of a population that is growing older and with more physical and mental health issues.

Clyde Loakes, Waltham Forest's deputy leader and cabinet member for climate and air quality, said: "I am sorry to hear the couple's evening was spoilt. I'm assured our officers were sympathetic to their plight and did what they could to help them."

"The car was impounded because the blue badge displayed in the vehicle had been reported as lost on the national blue badge database. Barnet's own blue badge

web page makes clear that blue badges that are found after they have been reported as lost should be returned and not used.

"When the couple came to the pound, they were asked for photo ID, which they provided. However, they were unable to provide evidence it was their car, that is the vehicle registration document (V5) and insurance certificate, and so officers were unable to release the vehicle to them at that time."

"The rules, which are standard across car pounds, rightly apply to everyone. They protect both the legal car owner and officers, who would be held responsible if a vehicle was given to someone else."

Cllr Loakes added: "We make it clear on our website, as well as to all persons attending the car pound, that keys are not proof of ownership, nor is blue badge ownership, as they are allocated to the individual and not a particular vehicle; again this is a consistent approach."



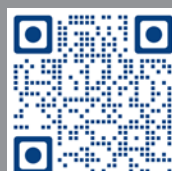
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NEWS

Single mother moved 127 miles away by council loses appeal fight

The Court of Appeal dismissed Katie-Leigh Webb-Harnden's claim that Waltham Forest Council could have housed her more locally

by Marco Marcelline &
Josh Mellor, Local Democracy Reporter

A homeless Walthamstow mother who was moved 127 miles away to the West Midlands by Waltham Forest Council has had her case against the move dismissed by the Court of Appeal.

Single mother-of-three Katie-Leigh Webb-Harnden had two days left of an eviction order when she accepted an offer by the council to be housed in private rented accommodation in Walsall in September 2021.

At the Court of Appeal, her legal team had argued the council failed to consider the discrimination of moving Katie-Leigh's family "very, very, very many miles away" from her home and support network.

But in a ruling on 22nd August the Court of Appeal dismissed Katie-Leigh's case, and described Waltham Forest Council's offer of the Walsall accommodation as "reasonable and suitable". In his concluding judgement, Lord Justice Lewis added that the council's sole offer of housing 127 miles away was "lawful and correct".

Katie-Leigh's legal team argued that the council had used the fact that she was subject to a benefits cap as a means to determine what accommodation was suitable. The benefits cap, her representatives said, disproportionately affects single mothers, and it was argued that the council had failed to establish that the reviewing officer had eliminated discrimination and advanced equality of opportunity when offering Katie-Leigh accommodation. This, it was argued, potentially constituted a breach of the Equality Act.

Her representatives also argued that the council could have either provided short term temporary accommodation rather than a fixed term tenancy in the private sector or that they could have considered making cash payments to top up Katie-Leigh's finances.

In his concluding judgement Lord Justice Lewis said he was "satisfied that, in substance, the reviewing officer did assess the possibility of providing accommodation in or closer to London, and considered the adverse consequences of offering the appellant [Katie-Leigh] accommodation in Walsall."

He added: "The accommodation offered in Walsall was affordable for the appellant. There was no temporary accommodation available for the respondent to allocate to the appellant in London or the neighbouring regions and, in any event, the appellant would be unlikely to be able to afford it and so it would not be suitable



The Royal Courts of Justice Credit: Mahosadha Ong via Unsplash

for the appellant."

Earlier this year, in March, appeal judges told Waltham Forest Council it was wrong to only offer accommodation to mother-of-three Nadia Zaman in Stoke-on-Trent, a 150 mile drive away.

And in December 2021, mother-of-three Izebela Kickoseka – who the council temporarily housed in Bexley – found herself homeless after refusing a two-year tenancy in Derby.

Ahsan Khan, deputy leader and cabinet member for housing and regeneration, said: "We are pleased that the judge has ruled the council acted lawfully in offering Ms Webb-Harnden an out of borough property in line with our accommodation acquisitions policy."

"The reality is that we want to keep local people close to their friends, families and support networks and we work hard to achieve this wherever it is possible. Demand for housing across London, including Waltham Forest, far outstrips supply. Housing options for households on low incomes are extremely limited and we can only place people into properties where they can afford to pay the rent."

"Like all councils we must operate within the law laid down by central government. We have lobbied for a review of this law to make it easier for us to help people at risk of homelessness, but so far have had no success."

"The key to solving the housing crisis in London is to build more genuinely affordable homes. We have committed to building 1,000 new homes for social rent over the coming years. Waltham Forest already has

one of the best records of delivering new affordable homes in London, having overseen the creation of 1,500 new-build homes for housing waiting list tenants between 2012 and 2021.

"We understand it is a very difficult time for people at risk of losing their home. We always work hard to find the most appropriate ways that we can support them."

The Hackney Community Law Centre, which represented Katie-Leigh, said: "We are disappointed with the result in court but wish to thank our client for her perseverance in pursuing the case to the Court of Appeal. She and her family have had to endure a tremendous amount of upheaval over the past two years due to their move from London to the West Midlands, without any support or connections in the area. We know this has had a huge impact on her and her children."

"Sadly we will continue to see distant private sector accommodation used to house homeless families. In practice it is often single parent households, and therefore single mothers, that experience the worst of this. Our hope remains that local authorities will improve on their efforts to procure more local and more suitable housing to meet the needs of the homeless."

Our client in this case is one of very many similar cases we are dealing with where families with long-standing ties to East London have been uprooted and moved far from home. We are keen to continue to act in individual cases and would also highlight that legal aid still exists for this important area of work."

Climate activists back local pensioner facing contempt of court charge

by Marco Marcelline

40 people, including an Olympic gold medalist and a former government lawyer, have called on the solicitor general to charge them with contempt of court if he prosecutes a retired Walthamstow social worker for protesting outside a trial.

The solicitor general, Michael Tomlinson KC, is currently deliberating over whether to charge Trudi Warner with contempt of court for holding up a sign outside a trial for climate protesters.

In March Trudi held up a sign stating: "Jurors: you have an absolute right to acquit a defendant according to your conscience."

The letter in her support said: "Since we, the undersigned, have taken precisely the same action as Trudi, if you intend to proceed with your application, we invite you to prosecute us too."

"The context for Trudi's action is a concerted and cynical programme to erode the right to trial by jury, following a series of politically embarrassing jury acquittals of those who have sought to expose government and corporate injustice and oppression."

"Like Trudi, we are willing to defend the principle of the right to trial by jury...even if it leads to our arrest and imprisonment. We have taken precisely the same action as Trudi on various dates and at various courts."

In May, 24 climate activists held similar signs to Trudi's outside Inner London Crown Court. The protestors have all been referred by Judge Silas Reid to the attorney general.

Lawyers have spoken out in their support of Trudi. Michael Mansfield KC said: "Jury trial is the jewel in the crown of the criminal justice system in the United Kingdom and has to be preserved and protected. The right of a jury to return verdicts according to their 'convictions' and 'consciences' has been enshrined since the trial of two Quakers in 1670 – William Penn and William Mead."

"It has been memorialised with a plaque in the Old Bailey. No defendant and no defence counsel should be prohibited from referencing this paramount feature of our system."

The solicitor general's office did not respond to a request for comment.

FEATURES

Walthamstow's tallest tower becomes a meme

The lift shaft of what will soon be a 34-storey tower in central Walthamstow has been 'memeified' by local residents as the council leaps to its defence

by Marco Marcelline & Josh Mellor, Local Democracy Reporter

Live or work in Walthamstow? Chances are you've seen the tower. Use Facebook too? Then you probably haven't missed the memes of it either.

The lift shaft of what will soon be a 34-storey tower has been the source of simultaneous ire and enjoyment on the Walthamstow Life community page on Facebook. The skyscraper is one of two residential towers being constructed as part of the redevelopment of Walthamstow Mall, or 17&Central.

An Instagram page dedicated to memes of the tower has also popped up. Simply called @walthamstow_tower, the page has attracted close to 1,000 followers so far.

The memes include mockups of Boris Johnson's zip wire stunt, this time from the Walthamstow tower, and King Kong atop the tower. A mockup of the structure as the Leaning Tower of Pisa complete with tourists pretending to push it has also been widely liked.

Andy Bottomley, a graphic designer for film and TV, who has lived in Walthamstow for over ten years, has come up with one of the most popular memes shared so far; a space rocket attached to the lift shaft structure. It has over 700 likes on the Walthamstow



One popular edit shared on social media shows a space rocket next to the lift shaft. Credit: Andy Bottomley

Life page alone. For Andy, making the meme is a means of voicing opposition to the "eyesore" of a tower in an upbeat and lighthearted way. He notes: "Social media is a place where a lot of people voice their negativity; there's a lot of aggravation; a lot of people that bite."

Walthamstow residents opposed to the

towers may have lost the fight to stop its construction but it's clear that the memes are providing some consolation.

The slew of social media posts about the perceived blight on Walthamstow's skyline has forced the council's deputy leader to defend the project.

In a piece in the council's email newsletter on 17th August entitled "helping local people get a home of their own", Ahsan Khan wrote: "I know the development at 17&Central has provoked lots of talk on social media as the lift shaft for one of the towers is built.

"The project will create hundreds of new homes, many for key workers at below-market rents, and create 350 permanent retail jobs alongside an improved town square.

"We're building for the future so that Waltham Forest has the homes and infrastructure local people need."

Cllr Khan did not share that of the 538 one and two-bedroom flats in the towers, only 99 will count as "affordable" because their rent will be 20% cheaper than local rents on the private market.

Reflecting on the attention the lift shaft has brought to the tower plans, Save Our Square campaigner Adrian Stannard said it is "interesting" that more residents are taking notice of the controversial plans.

However, he added: "It's a shame people

weren't more active in the early days when we might have been able to influence people, in terms of stopping it now we've got no chance.

"[Waltham Forest Council] has got this 27,000 home target, which is much higher than [the Greater London Authority] wants it to be, and virtually all of them are going to be tower blocks.

"Look at the Blackhorse Road application, at least one tower is 36-storeys high, all along the Lea Valley are going to be tower blocks, it'll be like Central Park in New York."

The development will consist of 535 one and two-bedroom apartments within two towers of 34 and 27 storeys. The towers will come with a publicly accessible reception and dedicated concierge, lounge area, and ground floor cafe.

According to its website, The Mall is currently on schedule and is due for completion by July 2025. The towers will be wrapped in glazed terracotta cladding, and its developers say it will "underpin" wider regeneration efforts including a re-landscaped town square.

Contractor Tide Construction is completing 100% of the apartment modules off-site. Modular installation is due to begin in October, before the fit-out begins in February 2024.

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LICENSING ACT 2003

(Premises and Club Premises
Certificates) Regulations 2005

Notice is hereby given that I **Mr Nicolae Munteanu** have made an application under Section 17 Part 3 of the Licensing Act 2003 for a new Premises Licence for the Premises known as **Pasha Restaurant, 632 Lea Bridge Road, London E10 6AP**. I intend to conduct on or from the premises the following licensable activities:

- **Supply of alcohol ON / OFF the premises:**
Sunday to Wednesday from 11:00 to 23:30
Thursday to Saturday from 11:00 to 01:00
- **Provision of Late Night Refreshment:**
Sunday to Wednesday from 23:00 to 00:00
Thursday to Saturday from 23:00 to 01:30
- **Opening Hours:**
Sunday to Wednesday from 06:00 to 00:00
Thursday to Saturday from 06:00 to 01:30

Any interested party or responsible authority may make representations on this application in writing to the Licensing Section, 3 The Square, Leyton London E10 5NR, email: licensing@walthamforest.gov.uk, by not later than **21st September 2023**.

For full details and to view a copy of the application please contact the Licensing General Section.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction is unlimited.

Applicant Licensing Rep: NARTS, 53 Stoke Newington High Street, London N16 8EL

LICENSING ACT 2003

Application for the Grant of a Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that **Mr Florenc Sadiku** has applied to the London Borough of Waltham Forest for the grant of a Premises Licence at **Orient Lounge, 389 High Road, Leyton, E10 5NA**. The nature of the application is to permit activities on the premises as follows:

- **Sale of alcohol: Monday to Sunday, 07:00-23:00**
- **Late refreshment: Monday to Sunday, 07:00-23:00**
- **Recorded Music: Monday to Sunday, 07:00-23:00**
- **Hours the premises is open to the public: Monday to Sunday, 07:00-23:00**

The Licensing register listing full details of the application is kept by the Licensing Section, Town Hall, Fellowship Square, Forest Road, Walthamstow, London E17 4JF. The application may be viewed Monday to Friday between the hours of 9am - 5pm (except Bank Holidays).

Any person wishing to make a representation in respect of the above activities may do so in writing to the Licensing Section, London Borough of Waltham Forest, Town Hall, Fellowship Square, Forest Road, Walthamstow, London E17 4JF or via email: licensing@walthamforest.gov.uk

Representations must be received no later than **28.09.2023**.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with this application. A person is liable to an unlimited fine on conviction should such a false statement be made.

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LETTERS

Keep ticket offices open

Dear WFE

I am writing to highlight the proposed closure of rail ticket offices across England that will have a devastating impact on blind and partially sighted people's ability to travel independently: stopping people getting to work, health appointments, and seeing friends.

Ticket offices are not just about selling tickets. They provide a reliable first point of contact for many kinds of staff assistance such as arranging sighted guidance through the station and safely on to the train, to advising on any changes to journeys.

Modernisation of our railways doesn't just mean apps and touchscreens; modernisation means inclusivity and not leaving anyone behind. These proposals must be scrapped.

Keith Pilling
Leyton

Traffic is damaging our homes

Dear WFE

Buses and HGVs driving over council-installed humps are causing our homes to vibrate, windows to creak and items in our homes to rattle. Residents have

taken photos of damage to our properties that are a result of the vibrations.

A growing number of residents across Waltham Forest are contacting me with regards to their homes shaking from road traffic and I have more than 200 signatures on a continuously growing petition. Residents have asked for the humps to be removed and speed cameras to be installed as fining speeding drivers is deeply disliked.

We have been told by the council to stand by the roadside, make notes of speeding vehicles and report this to the police. We never asked to be put into this position. How is this showing care, kindness and compassion when working people, parents with children, the retired, the elderly and people with disabilities are expected to do this?

The council have constantly repeated themselves by stating they have 'followed correct procedures and that they are 'saving lives' with the unmonitored enforcement of a 20mph speed limit. Their response does not help residents and we have a right to live in our homes with peace of mind.

Shanta Prasad
Chingford

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Got an opinion on something in Waltham Forest? Email wfecho@socialspider.com before the deadline on Monday 18th September

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COMMENT

Credit Polly Kersys-Hull



Don't keep Langthorne Park in the dark

By The Langthorne Collective

Langthorne Park in Leytonstone is a gem. Built in 2000 in the Cathall ward, it is classed as one of the borough's premier parks and features a wide range of facilities, including an amphitheatre, children's play areas, sports courts, public art works, ecology areas, picnic areas and the pavilion. During daylight the park is well used and provides a welcome oasis in the urban environment, especially for residents who live in flats or only have access to small outdoor spaces.

Sadly, the park has a poor reputation for being associated with anti-social behaviour and youth violence which means regular weapon sweeps are carried out by the safer neighbourhoods team. As evening approaches, groups of boys and young men gather on the outskirts of the park or near the pavilion, causing women and girls to feel unsafe. With the winter months fast approaching, parents are naturally concerned about sending their children to the weekly youth club. The youth club is one of only two provisions in Leytonstone. Last winter attendance dropped from 40 young people to less than ten.

During the last 18 months, we, The Langthorne Collective – a group of local organisations and residents – have been campaigning to 'Light Up Langthorne'.

In July, 50 young people from the youth club held a successful social action event to collect signatures. Over 500 residents have backed the campaign, signing online and paper petitions and a letter to council leader Grace Williams. From the onset, we have been met with opposition.

The benefits to lighting the park far outweigh the disadvantages. There is much evidence, including by the charity Parks for London, of the importance of appropriate lighting to promote safety and encourage use, particularly by more vulnerable people as well as helping deter criminal activity and reducing the risk of accidents. Research consistently shows that well-lit areas tend to have lower crime rates compared to poorly lit areas and a well-lit park encourages people to visit at various times of the day, enhancing community engagement.

Good lighting extends the hours during which the park can be used, making it accessible to people who are busy during the day, including all working residents and school children. Increased use of the park facilities fosters positive community interaction and physical activity which in turn promotes good health and wellbeing and can help combat social isolation.

Proper lighting also supports inclusivity and accessibility to a broader range of people including those with mobility

challenges or visual impairments. Thoughtful lighting can enhance the visual aesthetic of the park, showcasing its natural beauty, architecture and landscape features. Lighting can help change people's perceptions of the park, encouraging them to take pride in their local area and get involved in its care, supporting biodiversity and climate action. This aligns with the council's own 2020–25 management plan for the park which covers safety, accessibility and the provision of a variety of activities.

Of course there are disadvantages and some residents have raised concerns about light pollution and disruption to wildlife. Guidance and research from the Bat Conservation Trust shows that lighting can be incorporated without negative impacts on nocturnal wildlife. It is important to remember that we are not asking for year round, all night lighting; we just require adequate lighting between September to March, on specific days, between 4pm–9pm.

Cathall is one of the poorest wards in the borough. Residents feel let down and unheard. Let's change the narrative. Lighting infrastructure is in place, but it just needs to be fixed or replaced before it gets too dark.

The Langthorne Collective is made up of Leytonstone Toy Library and Play Centre, Holy Trinity and St Augustine of Hippo, Friends of Langthorne Park, Waltham Forest Citizens, Worth Unlimited and Peabody Housing Youth Club

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*Source: Census 2021

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AROUND THE BOROUGH

LEA BRIDGE

Lea Bridge Gasworks developer plans more homes



Credit St William

by Josh Mellor,
Local Democracy Reporter

A developer planning to build hundreds of homes in Lea Bridge wants to increase the number of homes due to rising costs.

Developer St William, a joint venture between Berkeley and the National Grid, has planning approval for 573 homes in ten blocks up to 18 storeys high on contaminated land at the former Lea Bridge Gasworks on Clementina Road.

The company has now published a newsletter saying it plans to submit a new application for 670 homes in towers reaching up to 21 storeys.

It told residents: "Since we last presented our plans for the site, the financial viability of the scheme has been affected by

very high inflation, particularly impacting the costs of materials and labour.

"Changing expectations for fire safety measures, including the need for a second internal staircase on buildings over 30 metres tall, have resulted in us fully reviewing our approach to fire safety.

"Our design work shows that the site is comfortably capable of sustainably delivering more homes than the current planning consent."



Credit St William

The former gasworks site is in the north-western corner of Leyton Jubilee Park, bordering a residential street of terraced houses and some low-rise industrial buildings.

Berkeley won permission to build a cluster of ten buildings in 2020, including two taller towers of 17 and 18 storeys on the edge of the park, which it hopes to add three storeys to.

It also hopes to add three storeys to the six medium-height blocks in the middle of the cluster.

The company expects to submit a new planning application to the council in September 2023.

Community before Construction member Ben Copsey, who lives nearby and campaigned for better management of the contaminated soil, said: "With all these things the question is 'is this a real consultation?' Probably not.

"They've got a plan, they know what's going to make it profitable and as far as I can see the council is perfectly supportive of this kind of intrusive, high-rise development with pepper-potted affordable housing ghettoised into separate blocks.

"For me [a consultation] would be meaningful dialogue and responding to community concerns in a reasonable way.

"I think that was done with the gasworks in regards to remediation.

"The additional cost of that is being taken out on the park and extra storeys on the towers."

WALTHAMSTOW

Man charged for attempted rape and stalking

Police have arrested and charged a man for attempted rape and stalking offences after a woman was followed and attacked on Chingford Road, E17 and another woman was approached in Walthamstow on 1st August.

A public statement by Waltham Forest MPS posted on Twitter read: "Officers from the North East BCU predatory offender unit conducted a proactive operation to two linked offences from 01/08/2023, where a man approached two women in the Hoe Street to Chingford

Road area of E17."

The statement continued: "The predatory offender unit's skill and experience in deploying fast time man hunt tactics, quickly identified a suspect who was subsequently arrested, charged and remanded for attempted rape and stalking offences."

WALTHAMSTOW

TfL completes 350 homes opposite Blackhorse Station

Transport for London (TfL) has announced the completion of a 350 home and car-free housing development opposite Blackhorse Road Station.

Blackhorse View, which comprises of 350 three, two and one bedroom flats, is the first of TfL's joint venture housing developments with Barratt London and London and Quadrant (L&Q) and sits on what used to be a 280-space TfL car park.

50% of the flats meet the Mayor of London's definition of affordable, with 60% of those flats available through shared ownership and remaining 40% available at London Affordable Rent (rent at no more than 80% of local market rates including service charges).

The 1.8 acre site development

includes the delivery of a new public cycle hub on Forest Road along with 650 cycle parking spaces for residents.

Blackhorse View features six blocks of flats that are arranged around two green spaces linked by a through walkway. Construction on the car-free development began in 2019, and its completion last month comes as TfL seeks to deliver a total of 20,000 new homes in London by 2032.

TfL is delivering the properties through its wholly-owned commercial property company, TTL Properties Ltd. TfL currently has more than 3,350 homes where work has started on site and more than 800 homes already completed. TTL Properties has a number of partners, and counts Network Rail as a strategic partner.

LEYTON

'Climate resilient' community garden unveiled



Credit Studio Weave

A'climate resilient' community garden has been opened at Lea Bridge Library in Leyton.

Together with long-term collaborator Tom Massey, architecture firm Studio Weave designed a new forest garden which is a self-sustaining, layered ecosystem of edible, medicinal, and nitrogen-rich planting

chosen to provide a diverse range of habitats for insects, sustenance for birds, and flowering species for pollinators.

The gardens also include a new timber playground sited opposite a raised seating area and performance space, consisting of variously sized cylindrical sawn timber logs.

Local residents played a core role in the project's delivery, and were invited to join the design team in planting a variety of climate-resilient species in the newly defined planting beds.

Plants were donated by the Royal Horticultural Society and nursery Hortus Loci from Tom Massey's RHS Resilient Garden at RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Festival, and installed with the assistance of Meristem Design which provided tools and expertise to assist volunteers from the local community.

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ARTS & CULTURE

Celebrating local artists

Sarah Mercer, curator and volunteer for Art Works at The Mill on how the Walthamstow community centre is platforming local artists



The “Collage!” exhibition
Credit Sarah Mercer

after having her baby last autumn: “It is so lovely to have the work on display, especially in such a warm and welcoming place, and to feel part of the community. Motherhood can be lonely at times, and spaces like The Mill are so important.” Emily’s artworks – *Jigsaw Collage #1: Badlands* and *Jigsaw Collage #2: Boreal* – depict moody, remote landscapes, and are constructed from cut down pages of fashion magazines, selected for their colours and tones.

A number of works in the exhibition were for sale, giving visitors the opportunity to buy beautiful, unique artworks at affordable prices whilst also directly financially supporting local artists. A percentage of the proceeds of each sale also goes back to The Mill to be reinvested in other community projects.

While *Collage!* ended its display on 1st September, the open call is already out for the next exhibition: *Colours of Walthamstow*, curated by Jane Evans, also from Art Works. The exhibition will show works by local artists in various mediums that reflect the vibrant colours of Walthamstow’s people, places and life. Jane said: “The idea behind the broad call out is to create an inclusive community exhibition where exhibitors can interpret and exhibit from different perspectives, observations and media.”

For many years now, volunteers at The Mill, a community centre at the heart of the St James Street area in Walthamstow, have been organising and curating ‘open call’ art exhibitions celebrating the diverse creative skills of local people of all ages and abilities. The most recent show, *Collage!*, which I curated, was free to view from 25th July until 1st September, and it shows 55 artworks by 35 artists.

Art Works is a fantastic team of creatives and organisers, who work hard in their spare time to ensure local people have the opportunity to develop and show their creative skills in a free, accessible public space. Each exhibition has a theme to inspire people: in the past year we’ve organised shows exploring animals, our “happy places” and Walthamstow’s industrial heritage to name a few. I wanted *Collage!* to allow people to explore any theme they liked through the medium of paper cutting and sticking – encouraging them to experiment with a new technique if they hadn’t tried it before.

Artists have responded to the theme in varied, creative and sometimes unexpected ways. We had a fantastic response – one of our largest yet – receiving submissions from experienced artists, children and complete beginners alike. It’s amazing to see how each

artist has interpreted what collage can be. Some have made images using torn, cut and decorated paper, whilst others have explored using digital technology, textile collage and even collagraph printing: a specialist relief printmaking technique that involves applying ink to a textured surface before pressing it onto paper, leaving an image.

The exhibitions at The Mill often provide vital inspiration and motivation for artists. Emily Brown, who had two pieces on display in *Collage!* told me how participating inspired her to return to her practice



‘D10S (God)’ upcycled wooden collage by Tommaso D’Auria (tommydauria.com) Credit Sarah Mercer

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FOOD & DRINK



Food review: 'Embers'

Maya Sall reviews Embers, the Renegade Urban Winery food pop-up promising 'heat smoke and flavour' that is running through September

In early August, Renegade Urban Winery just off Blackhorse Lane, opened their kitchen for their latest pop-up dining experience, Embers. A joint venture between two friends, Graham Lewis and Ernesto Gabriel, Embers aims to give its punters a taste of Ernesto's culinary adventures through Asia and the Americas.

I went to check it out with Marco Marcelline, editor of the *Echo*. If you are unfamiliar with the Renegade Urban Winery, I highly recommend you pay it a visit. The distillery warehouse will shelter you from any ominous looking clouds, and a glass of their orange Pinot Grigio promises to alleviate any late-summer-stickiness that you may be suffering from. If visiting over Christmas, I imagine a glass (or bottle!) of their Albanian Merlot does wonders for warming those chilly mid-winter cockles.

Embers is running from Wednesday to Saturday evenings until October, and their Wednesday deal of a bite, plate, and glass of wine for £25 is inviting. If you make use of this deal, go early to avoid disappointment. Popular dishes, like the lemon sole, grilled fennel and mussel sauce were gone by the time we made our order.

After a glass of wine each,

Marco and I made our way through almost all of the available menu. To start, I opted for the aubergine croquettes, onion marmalade and curried mayo (£7.50), while Marco dove in with the BBQ'd octopus, nectarine chutney with chilli and basil (£12) followed by the smoked chicken wings, hazelnut satay, eel glaze and spring onions (£9).

My croquettes were crisp on the outside, but the aubergine was melt-in-the-mouth, and the flavours of the onion marmalade and curried mayo struck an enjoyable counter-balance without over-powering the filling. Marco reported his octopus to be "succulent, smokey and full of flavour". It was an undeniably strong start.

Marco's chicken wings indicated the rest of the meal would not go down so smoothly. He enthused about the satay sauce, commenting on how the sauce's hazelnut base made a welcome change to the usual peanut, but ultimately this sauce carried the dish. Marco was less enamored by the chicken itself; although tender, it ultimately lacked flavour.

For the main course, I decided to try the vegan option, a British seasonal veg ratatouille', (£17), with a side of coal roasted potatoes, miso and chives' (£7) and Marco chose the 400g aged

ribeye, stuffed onion, bone marrow and the Renegade vern cab sauv sauce (£45). The presentation of both main dishes was questionable – my ratatouille looked a bit too rough around the edges, and Marco's steak was swimming in excess sauce.

Regrettably, tasting them did not alter our initial first impressions. Marco's ribeye was served lukewarm and my vegetables felt simulatenously under, and overcooked. Although I enjoyed the combination of chive and miso with my side of potatoes, it seemed to me that the potatoes were boiled, and not 'coal roasted' as was advertised. Unfortunately, our dishes were bland and a far cry from the 'heat, smoke and flavour' that inspired the menu.

Nevertheless, eager to relive the success of the starters, we stayed for another glass of wine and dessert. I went for the cheese plate with damson jelly' (£12) while Marco opted for the sour cream sponge, raspberry compote, orange curd and mint' (£9.5), and both proved a pleasant finale to the meal. Go to Embers for the 'bites' and desserts, and stay for Renegade's delicious wines and the playlist of R&B hits past and present.

'Embers' is open 5pm–10pm every Wednesday to Friday, and from 12pm–10pm on Saturdays.

LISTINGS

GIG

Joel Stoker

Saturday 2nd September, 7pm
Walthamstow Trades Hall,
61-63 Tower Hamlets Rd E17 4RQ

Fresh from supporting Liam Gallagher, Joel Stoker returns to home soil for a special show at the Trades Hall to celebrate the launch of his new album 'The Undertow'. Known primarily for his work as front man of local heroes The Rifles, Joel's solo debut has won plaudits for its effortless melody and unflinchingly honest reflections. Support comes in the form of another local act, Turncoat Billy, with their blend of sharp wit and catchy tunes.

Tickets £25.31

Visit eventim.co.uk/event/joel-stoker-walthamstow-trades-hall-17326423

EXHIBITION

Sacred Wings

5th–29th September, Tuesdays
9.30am–3pm, Fridays 9.30am–
1pm, Saturdays 10am–3pm,
Sundays 12.30pm–3pm
St Peter-in-the-Forest Church,
18 Woodford New Road E17 3PP

Due to popular demand, this butterfly art exhibition by Walthamstow-based artist Jason Hawkrige has been extended to the 29th of September. Inspired by his love of symmetry, sacred geometry and nature, the part paint, part gold leaf, winged moths, butterflies and dragonflies sit symmetrically on sepia aged canvases and watercolour paper.

Free

FESTIVAL

Blindspot Gigs presents Stow Sausage and Cider Festival

16th and 17th September, 12pm
Walthamstow Cricket Tennis and
Squash Club, 48A Greenway
Avenue, Walthamstow E17 3QN

We're back! Blindspot Gigs presents Stow Sausage and Cider Festival 2023 offering a huge selection of ciders and sausages, other food stalls and live music for all! Doors will open at midday, and on Saturday 16th September, you can enjoy live music from tribute acts for ABBA, Elton John, Green Day, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Michael Bublé, and Elvis. On Sunday 17th September the fun will continue with music from tribute acts for Britney Spears, Robbie Williams, Muse, Becky Hill, Adele, and Cher. As well as live music, we will have plenty of other things for the whole family to enjoy. From free face painting to rides and inflatables, there is something for everyone!

Adults from £15, five and under Free

Visit stowsausageciderfestival.co.uk/tickets

MARKET

Artisan Market

Sunday 10th September 11am–4pm
Waltham Forest Town Hall, Forest
Road, Walthamstow E17 4JF

The Creative Side of London is holding a series of Maker Markets in the heart of Walthamstow, a grade 2 listed location of Fellowship Square, outdoors. Come and enjoy the food, fountains and lots of your local creative artisans. Our events are pet friendly and have free entry. The venue is easily accessible, step-free and has ample free car parking.

Free

Email market@thecreative-sideoflondon.com

FOLK

Nancy Kerr and James Fagan

17th September, 7.30pm–10.30pm
Ye Olde Rose and Crown Theatre
Pub, 53 Hoe Street E17 4SA

Nancy and James are at the top of British folk music. They are superb and inventive musicians with great voices and sensitive playing of fiddle, guitar and bouzouki. They are part of the Melrose Quartet, Nancy plays with Magpie Arc and they both are involved in many other collaborations. Booking ahead is advised. There will be floorspots available for local musicians.

£10–12

Visit wegottickets.com/event/586077

Email walthamstowfolk@gmail.com

JUMBLE TRAIL

Age UK South Chingford Jumble Trail

Sunday 24th September, 10am–3pm
Front gardens all over South Chingford

This fundraising initiative organised by Age UK Waltham Forest is a big boot sale over South Chingford with sellers setting out in their front gardens. Sell or follow the trail, grab a bargain and meet your neighbours. Donate £5 to Age UK to get your house put on the jumble trail map.

Free

Link to online map of stall holders: bit.ly/4650BH4

To register a stall: bit.ly/3KXpBak

CHARITY

Eat or Heat Quiz Fundraiser Night

Tuesday 19th September, 7pm
Walthamstow Trades Hall, 61–63
Tower Hamlets Rd E17 4RQ

You are all invited to a quiz and raffle night happening at Walthamstow Trades Hall raising money for the Eat or Heat food bank on Tuesday 19th September. All proceeds will go to support the work the local foodbank does.

£6 adv, £7.50 on the door

Visit bit.ly/3P0wd8S

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SPORT

Walthamstow FC gets stylish new kit

by David O'Driscoll

Walthamstow FC are approaching the upcoming season in the manner it finished last season, with confidence, but also now in some style. Walthamstow FC won their first away game with Ipswich Wanderers 2-0, wearing the most talked about, and arguably most stylish football kit this pre-season.

This kit was well covered by all the major media outlets and created a significant stir. It was developed over three years and was masterminded locally with the aid of art collective Wood Street Walls, the William Morris Gallery and Walthamstow FC.

The shirt pattern chosen via the museum archives is based on 'yare' by John Henry Dearle, the former apprentice of William Morris. The shirt features the museum's logo on the front. The club announced the kit with a stylish video shot at the old pie and mash shop L Manze at Walthamstow Market and at the William Morris Gallery. The collaboration is the first time a museum and a football club have come together to fashion a kit.

Hadrian Gerrard, director of the William Morris Gallery (which is just down the road from the football club's home



Walthamstow FC rocked the new kit at their Ipswich away game on 12th August. Credit Andrzej Perkins (north-east London and this is a great way for us to bring the work of Morris out of the gallery and into the streets and football pitches for next season.)

While the cost of the shirts is not cheap, it must be remembered that some of the proceeds of sales will go towards helping to establish a Walthamstow FC women's football team. Moreover, due to the phenomenal demand, with orders from across the globe, the kit promptly sold out. However, the club are keen to say that it will be soon available at the ground and at the William Morris Gallery to purchase.

Walthamstow FC centre forward, Duncan Culley, was delighted with the new kit, and the buzz it has generated. Culley said that he managed to wear the shirt at Stamford Bridge, which is the home of his beloved Chelsea. The centre forward is also confident about the upcoming season. Walthamstow FC is now in the Isthmian North Division One league and will be looking east with many games in the Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk regions.

Culley believes having a core of last year's successful team will prove vital to success on the pitch. He said: "We're all very excited to start the season and have looked good in our warm-up games. The group is really tight-knit already and I can see us continuing from where we were at the end of last season". The matches will be coming thick and fast, and the club hopes to see some new supporters cheering on this exciting and stylish team.

Coppermills

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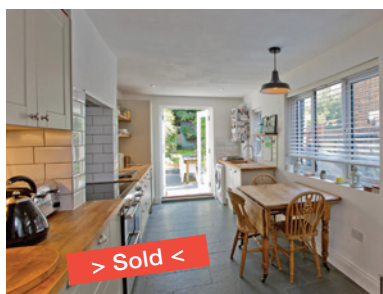
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