

Thank you for your thorough and thoughtful questions. As a resident of Ferry Lane estate myself, I have a genuine personal stake in seeing the place where we live properly looked after and invested in.

The Labour Party has run Haringey Council for 55 years - too long for any one party to be in control. I was once Chair of Seven Sisters Labour Party, but like many residents, I feel that Labour no longer represents us. That feeling was crystallised by learning of our local Labour councillors' Whatsapp messages, which included a comment from one about wanting to deport all foreigners. This is no longer a party that deserves to represent a welcoming and diverse community such as ours.

Green Party councillors will stand up for every resident in South Tottenham, regardless of religion, nationality or background. We want this to be a safe and welcoming place for everybody who lives here.

To take your questions in turn:

1. Green spaces

As a resident of Ferry Lane, I share the frustration that our shared spaces are not properly maintained, especially as we all pay so much in service charge. There absolutely has to be regular collaboration and consultation with residents - that is non-negotiable.

Ferry Lane is a fantastic estate, well-designed and planned out as council housing by the Greater London Council. We want Haringey Council to provide that same opportunity to this generation of residents, by continuing to build council homes and buying back council homes where possible. There should always be a preference for building on disused land over existing green spaces, which is why we want to advocate for national statutory protection of green spaces for this and future generations.

We are committed to reducing the number of mature trees felled across Haringey as a borough, by signing up to the Joint Mitigation Protocol, and requiring developers to protect mature trees and green infrastructure. We will also aim to become a pesticide-free borough, phasing out glyphosate (as a third of London councils have already begun to do), and support a borough-wide community food growing network.

If elected in South Tottenham we would absolutely support the estate getting a Green Flag award, and would always support resident participation when it comes to improvements.

2. Service charges

I am a leaseholder on the estate, so have been directly affected by the sharp increase in fees. A key manifesto pledge of Haringey Green Party is that we will not raise service charges for leaseholders or council tenants for two years - a policy formulated in consultation with FLAG members directly. We know that residents simply cannot put up with the terrifying hikes we have seen in recent years, especially amidst the ever-worsening cost of living crisis. We are also committed to reviewing all contracts with service providers to find much better value for money for residents.

Any future changes to service charges will be made with considerably more transparency than we have seen under Labour. If service charges do change, residents have a right to know up front why, and what the council has done to mitigate it. It should not be left to residents to endlessly chase the council to find out why increases have been so steep. I am extremely proud to be standing on a platform of freezing service charges for two years.

3 and 4. Future of the retail park, and support for independent businesses.

I am totally committed to ensuring our public space is fully accessible, inclusive and works as well as possible for local people. That means local residents must have the opportunity to buy affordable essentials nearby, but it also means there must be community spaces, public parks, leisure activities, public services and accessible units for local people to start and run their own businesses.

Any changes to local retail premises must be done in consultation with local residents. Supporting independent businesses, which keep profits in the local areas instead of funnelling them off to rich shareholders is also crucial to our local economy, and they must be supported wherever possible.

Fewer than half of Haringey residents own a car, and yet traffic and pollution are serious problems where we live - not least on Ferry Lane itself. Air quality is also a serious issue, especially along main roads – and will particularly affect those on the North of our estate such as Reedham Close.

That is why the Green Party wants to promote active travel, and make it easier to walk and cycle wherever possible. We also want to make a joined up cycle network across the borough; widen pavements; introduce more pedestrian and cycle crossings; and secure more cycle hangars for residents. We also want to improve public transport wherever possible - and I know from personal experience that there are reliability issues with the W4 bus - a key transport link on our estate which must be addressed.

5. Garages

The garage situation on Ferry Lane estate is a classic example of the council simply not working for residents. I find it quite unbelievable that some Ferry Lane residents have been waiting for years on the garage waiting list, and for that entire time, there will have been unused garage units sitting empty. There are so many examples of cramped and overcrowded housing on our estate – for many of those households, having a garage for storage could make a genuine difference to their lives.

The current council have proven incapable of rectifying this major oversight. If elected, I will do everything I can to ensure a full review of the garage places, and will fight for them to be available to rent by nobody else apart from residents of the estate.

6. Parking

I totally understand the frustration with abandoned cars on the estate, and as somebody who lives at the South of the estate, I share the frustration particularly with dumped cars littering our streets.

If elected, Green councillors in South Tottenham will push for the new parking scheme to be expanded across the estate as soon as possible - 2027 is far too late.

7. Anti social behaviour

We hear these concerns clearly. When individuals with severe and untreated mental health conditions are housed without adequate support, the consequences ripple outward - affecting them and the wider community. Residents understandably want the borough's housing and anti-social behaviour teams to respond promptly and effectively when problems arise.

We are totally committed to acting as genuine advocates for all affected residents: raising individual cases directly with housing officers, escalating where response times fall short, and pushing for proper multi-agency case management to bring together housing, mental health services, and community support to find durable solutions for those in need.

For us, this also points to a broader need - as a society we must be investing in the preventative infrastructure, mental health outreach, and tenancy sustainment services that stops situations deteriorating to this point in the first place. We want Haringey to be a borough that is safe for everybody.

8. Fire doors.

This is an ongoing issue, and I know residents are fed up of waiting for an answer. Whilst we wait, people are being billed up to £2,000 for doors that may not need replacing, at more than twice the price paid by comparable boroughs, through a contract awarded seemingly without competition. The extent of the mismanagement here points to a serious governance failure at the top of the council, and it is local residents who are literally paying the price. It is very difficult to argue that a council overseeing this process is a council on your side.

Local Green councillors would demand a retesting of the doors and ensure full transparency throughout that process. We will also ensure a proper competitive tender process for the procurement of any doors which genuinely do need replacing.

This is an issue that affects the block where I live - I won't let it drop.

9. Repairs

Housing is central to Haringey Green Party's manifesto.

In 2024/25 the housing ombudsman provided Labour-run Haringey with a maladministration rate of 95% for complaints relating to property condition, of which over half related to leaks, damp and mould.

The borough's 2024/25 independent tenant satisfaction survey showed that just under half of tenants were satisfied with the repairs service over the last 12 months.

The Green Party will improve the repairs service by creating a public repair dashboard so you can see response times and progress of repairs in real time. We will improve email

responsiveness, enforce better standards with contractors, and work with (and not against) repairs teams (who themselves have been forced to go on strike to reform the service).

10. S106 Contributions

Ferry Lane residents have lived next to eighteen years of construction, absorbed the noise, the dust, and the disruption, and received nothing in return. A playground at Markfield Park is not compensation for what this estate has endured. We will advocate directly and persistently for S106 funding for Ferry Lane. Residents have waited long enough, and we will make that case forcefully on their behalf.

After 55 years of Labour running Haringey, it's time for something new. The Green Party is offering a new approach to running Haringey council: we want a more responsive council and lower bills. We will deliver real democracy to put power back in people's hands. We will end bad deals, make great public spaces and protect nature. We will be a borough that cares.

Joss MacDonald

Running with **Aisha Dodwell** and **Charlotte Pink**
Haringey Green Party