

Dear Lorna,

Thank you for sending this — and for the work that clearly went into it. It's a thorough and honest reflection of what residents are experiencing, and I'm glad FLAG is giving candidates the opportunity to respond directly.

As you know, Makbule, Sheila and I have been your local councillors for the past few years. Now that Sheila has stood down, Anna is very much picking up the baton — and I can tell you that the very week she was selected as a candidate, she came to meet you specifically to hear about the concerns on Ferry Lane. That tells you a lot about the seriousness with which she is approaching this role.

We've knocked on many doors on the estate, attended FLAG meetings, and raised a significant number of these very issues formally with the council. Makbule also holds her monthly councillor surgery on Ferry Lane, so residents have always had direct access to one of us. I want to be straight with you: some of what's in your document I'm proud of the progress we've made on, and some of it I share your frustration about — because we've pushed and haven't got the results residents deserve.

For the avoidance of doubt, here is a summary of the formal representations we have made in the last few months:

- [November 2025] — Letter to Cllr Sarah Williams (Cabinet Member for Housing) requesting a meeting with residents, officers and councillors to address the CPZ permit charges and insurance disparities.
- [January 2026] — Letter to Peray Ahmet (Leader of the Council) escalating the lack of response from the Cabinet Member and urging her to facilitate a residents' meeting given the growing anger on the doorstep.
- [March 2026] — Comprehensive formal letter to the Cabinet Member covering nine specific issues: housing repairs, void properties, void garages and fire risk, untaxed and abandoned vehicles, CPZ unfairness, buildings insurance charges, fire door compliance, and the failure to respond to FLAG.

On the abandoned vehicles specifically, I'm pleased to say that following our sustained campaigning, the council has written to residents about the removal of dumped cars from the estate. This is a direct result of the pressure we have applied and the work done alongside FLAG. There is still more to do — particularly regarding the illegal car repair business — but it is progress.

Here is our response to each of your ten priorities:

1. Green spaces — Green spaces matter enormously and we will fight to protect them. We cannot make an unconditional promise that the council will never seek to build on any part of the estate, but we will push hard against any such proposals and make clear that residents' wishes must come first. What we can point to is a track record: I am Chair of the Friends of Markfield Park, and Sheila and Makbule have both attended Friends meetings and campaigned actively for a better park. The council has committed funding to address flooding and improve the playground at Markfield, and £25,000 has been invested in the community gardens — an area that was once a no-go space and is now thriving, with different community groups growing their own food side by side. That is what investment in green space looks like in practice, and we want to see the same energy directed at Ferry Lane. We will

advocate for collaboration between Haringey grounds maintenance and residents, protection of biodiversity areas, delivery of promised trees, and we will support FLAG's application for a Green Flag Award.

2. Leaseholder charges and insurance — We raised the insurance charge issue formally in both our November 2025 and March 2026 letters, including the change in how charges are calculated and the significant disparity with neighbouring boroughs, where equivalent leaseholders are paying less than half of what Ferry Lane residents are charged. We have also raised this within the Labour group to ensure it has visibility at a political level. This needs a root and branch review and we are committed to pressing for that.

3. Retail park — We will represent residents' views. The retail park is a vital local resource, particularly for residents without cars who rely on ASDA, B&Q, Lidl and Boots, and for the jobs it provides. We will oppose any redevelopment that reduces access or removes the car park without alternative provision, and we will make clear that the transport infrastructure cannot support further high-density residential without concrete Crossrail 2 plans.

4. Independent businesses — We agree the council needs to do far more to support local entrepreneurs into the empty units on Ashley Road, Hale Village and the Argent/Newlon site. We will work with neighbouring ward councillors to push for this.

5. Garage management — We raised void garages and the fire risk from unsafely stored materials in our March 2026 letter to the Cabinet Member. We support a full review of the rental policy, with priority given to estate residents, a one-garage-per-resident rule, and all non-resident tenants given notice to vacate.

6. Parking and abandoned cars — We know this has been a long battle and credit must go to the enforcement officer who worked closely with you on this. As noted above, the council has now written to residents about the removal of dumped cars following our campaign. We agree the expanded parking scheme must be brought in urgently and not left until 2027 — we will push for this to be accelerated. We have also been actively engaged in the parking consultation and are pushing for the CPZ on Ferry Lane to be brought in line with the rest of the borough. Currently residents are restricted to one permit per household regardless of need, and are being charged to park on their own driveways in front of their garages — neither of which is acceptable, and both of which we are challenging.

7. Anti-social behaviour — We will continue to advocate on individual cases where tenants and neighbours are affected, escalating to housing and ASB teams where the response has been inadequate. We know this affects people's daily lives and cannot be left to drag on. We have campaigned for police ward panels to be held across the ward — not just at the police station, but on the estate itself, as well as at Sofier House and on Crowland Road, bringing policing closer to where residents actually are. We have also raised the issue of lime bikes being left strewn across pavements on the estate and pushed for better-designed parking bays so that residents can use the pavements safely.

8. Fire doors — We raised this formally in our March 2026 letter. Residents should not be charged a second time for fire safety works without proof that the original doors were inadequate. We are calling for existing doors to be tested first, and for any replacement contract to be properly retendered — the current pricing is not value for money and the single-supplier procurement is not acceptable.

9. Repairs — The deterioration in repairs services is something we hear constantly on the doorstep and have raised repeatedly. An hour's wait on the repairs line is not acceptable. We are pleased that the council will be investing £570m in a Decent Homes programme, and we will be pressing to ensure Ferry Lane sees a proper share of that investment. We also support a cross-borough review of repairs services and charges involving councillors from other large Haringey estates.

10. S106 contributions — Ferry Lane residents have put up with years of disruption from neighbouring developments and have seen none of the benefit. We have secured investment in the new playground at Markfield Park, but we recognise that residents on the estate itself need to see direct investment too. We will advocate strongly for S106 funding to be directed to the estate — specifically the playgrounds, the MUGA, and the school — and we will make the case that Ferry Lane has waited long enough.

Lorna, I want to be honest: some of these issues have taken too long and residents have every right to be frustrated. What I can tell you is that we have not sat on our hands — we have written letters, raised Members' Enquiries, attended meetings, and escalated all the way to the Leader of the Council on your behalf. If we are re-elected, we will continue to do that, and we will push harder on the areas where progress has been too slow.

We'd also welcome the opportunity to come and speak to FLAG members directly before polling day if that would be helpful.

Kind regards,

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(Also on behalf of Councillor Makbule Gunes and Anna Lawton)