

Leader's Column

December 2021-January 2022

As we prepare for the festive period, I want to thank our incredible community once again for the resilience and spirit they have shown over the last 21 months.

This has truly been one of the most testing times this borough has ever experienced but it has been amazing to see our residents stand together as we look to overcome the impact that Coronavirus has had on thousands of people across Haringey.

As we enter 2022, there is no doubt that there are still tough times ahead of us but together, we can help to shape an even stronger community.

It has been an honour for me to lead this great borough and as we prepare for the start of a New Year, rest assured the hard work is not going to stop here and my Cabinet will continue to collaborate with you to address a number of key issues.

As we have seen with the recent COP26 event, the environment continues to dominate all the headlines and I have made it one of my top priorities to ensure Haringey is taking a stand in tackling this.

There is clearly a social justice issue. We need to make the case over and over again that this is about fairness. It is the poorest communities that suffer the worst air pollution, the worst access to public transport, and the fewest trees and green spaces.

We have an enormous shift to make if we are really going to green our cities. We must retrofit our homes, re-engineer road space, and reduce car journeys.

That is why we have introduced a Walking and Cycling Action Plan. We already have 17 school streets in operation, and we are looking to introduce Low Traffic Neighbourhoods across the borough.

This is the change we are striving for in Haringey.

The other changes I am determined to focus on include our pledge to deliver new council homes, provide the best education for our young people and improve the safety of our residents.

I have been meeting with many of our communities to understand their concerns, and I welcome the news that Wood Green is to benefit from a new team of 24 police officers to help residents feel safe in the town centre.

Extra police patrols are just one of the ways that we are working with our partners to help make our public spaces safer for everyone, especially women and girls.

Finally, we recently launched our #WipeOutDiscrimination campaign which aims to raise awareness about discrimination so that we can all work together to wipe it out of Haringey.

Haringey is such a rich and diverse borough, with people and communities from all different races, faiths, and backgrounds. It should be a place where everyone is welcomed and treated fairly, but unfortunately that is not always the case.

There is simply no place for hate or discrimination, so we all need to continue working together to help make our borough a safe place for all.

Haringey welcomes everyone!

I wish all our residents a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

And to those who are celebrating, a Happy Hanukkah too!

Cllr Peray Ahmet
Leader, Haringey Council

Contact details

Councillor Ahmet's ward surgery and contact details are shown on her [councillor web page](#).

