



Haringey's civic newspaper

SUMMER 1985

THE FIGHT GOES ON!

Important changes have taken place in the Council Chamber since the last issue of the Star:

- The former Leader and deputy Leader of the Council, Councillors Meehan and Greatley, resigned as Leaders of the Labour group because, against the wishes of the majority of the group, they favoured setting a rate on April 11th.

- A rate was set in the early hours of April 12th. It meant a rise of 14.19% on the general rate — or a rate in the pound of 298.68p for domestic ratepayers — a rise of 15.2%.

- A new leadership of the Labour group was elected on April 22nd of Councillor Bernie Grant, Britain's first black Council Leader, and deputy Steve King, Chair of the Council's Planning Committee. The two men had been leading opponents of setting a rate at all, as they felt ratecapping should have been resisted by continued defiance of the Rates Act.

- A series of new chairs was elected to head the major Council committees at the Annual Council meeting on May 13th. The election of these chairs has generally been interpreted as a move to the political left.

The Haringey Star has interviewed the new leaders and new chairs and present their hopes for the future.

FRONT BENCH

The mood of the new Labour "front bench" and Council leadership is best summed up by Councillor Grant: "Haringey's fight against ratecapping continues. If we are ratecapped again we shall resist the government with renewed determination."

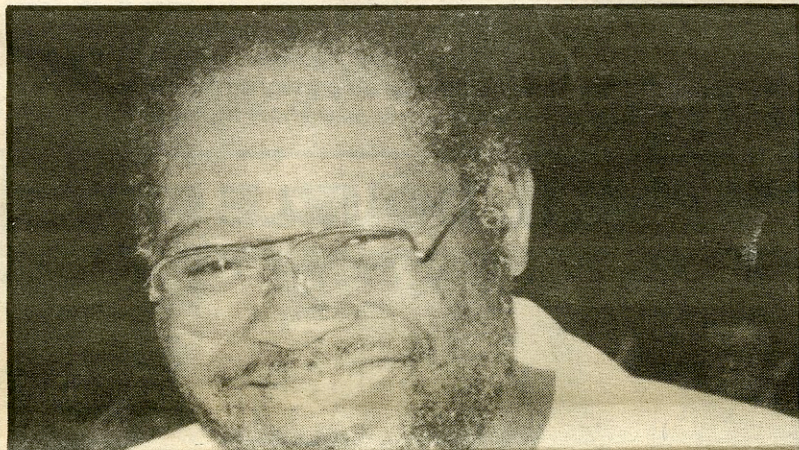
"This year will be particularly difficult for us because we face two additional political assaults on local democracy: the abolition of the GLC and the threat of privatisation of our services. That could mean cowboy contractors running substandard services for the Council and providing poor pay and conditions to their workers."

"We got a mountain to climb to fight these threats but I do hope the people of Haringey appreciate that the deal that was done on the rates this year is a one off deal. There seem to be no more financial tricks available to

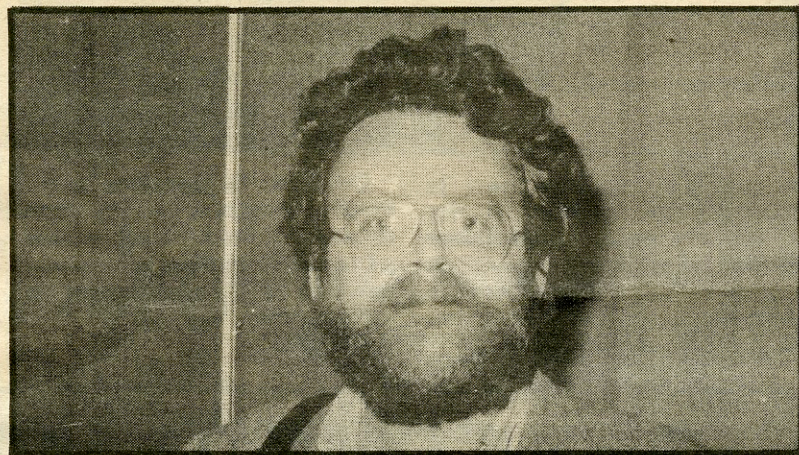
the Council. In 1984/85 we stripped the cupboard bare to keep Council services going. This year we've sold the cupboard to make ends meet. Next year

there's likely to be no easy deal or creative accounting.

"We've got to fight, we've got to win, if we are to keep jobs and services in Haringey."



Cllr Bernie Grant



Cllr Steve King

STOP PRESS INCREASED BUDGET

The new leadership of the Council, is determined to put money into schemes to help disadvantaged groups. It has decided to increase its budget this year, above that agreed when the rate and budget were set on April 12 (see back page).

The details aren't finalised as we go to press, but it is expected that in the region of £1m. extra will be spent this year on a variety of initiatives which will probably include:

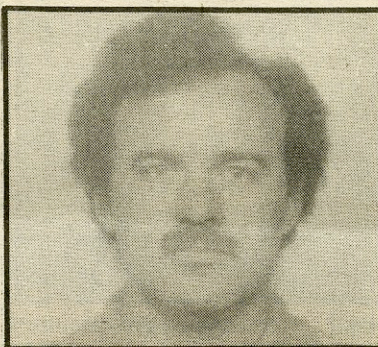
- more money for housing repairs
- more money for the educationally disadvantaged
- more publicity for Council Services
- more access facilities for disabled people — particularly for public toilets
- money for a workplace nursery project
- money to eradicate racist graffiti
- employing people to improve the job prospects of women and minority ethnic workers
- extra resources for blind people
- more money to ensure that as many people as possible claim their basic democratic right — the right to vote.

Deputy Council leader Steve King said: "We are a Council with renewed determination to stamp out discrimination and ease the problem facing the disadvantaged sections of the population. This spending is the first step to show this commitment".

NEW TEAM... NEW DETERMINATION

The Haringey Star asked the chairs of the Council's major committees what they saw as the priorities for their services in the coming year. We present their responses below, together with a short biographical note on the chairs. An asterisk (*) next to the name of the Councillor indicates that they are new to the post.

Housing



Chair: Cllr Andy Love*. Haringey Councillor since 1980. Member of London Regional Labour Party Executive, chair of TGWU branch, last year's chair of Finance and Resources.

Priorities: to continue to decentralise and offer a more immediate and responsive service to the community. To build confidence in Housing as an equal opportunities service, providing positive action for the minority ethnic communities. In conjunction with Public Works, to provide repairs that meet the needs of the tenants and the tenants' charter.

ensure the DLO has sufficient work. To improve liaison between the DLO and its clients and council tenants. To ensure that health and safety is given top priority and that the wages and conditions of service of the workforce are defended. Continued opposition to rate-capping.

Community Affairs



Chair Cllr Philip Jones: Haringey Councillor since 1978. Member of the Arts and Recreation Committees of both the Association of Metropolitan Authorities and the Association of London Authorities.

Priorities To establish arts and recreation as a matter of political importance for Haringey Council. To evolve community development techniques for arts and recreation and to develop and implement leisure strategies for the Borough. To further the policy of decentralisation and to ensure that the needs of minority and disadvantaged groups are met.

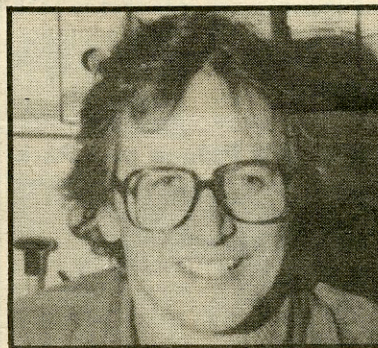
Planning

(See photo on left)

Chair Cllr Steve King: Haringey Councillor since 1982. Deputy leader of Labour Group and of Council and vice chair of Public Works Committee. An administrator.

Priorities Socialism!

Public Works



Chair Cllr Nigel Knowles* Haringey Councillor since 1982. Trade Union education officer. Ex-Labour Party Parliamentary candidate.

Priorities To defend the service and all jobs from the Tory government and local Tories who want to close it; to oppose all attempts to privatise the service and encourage trade union participation in the service. To scrutinise large and small building companies in the borough and

Women's Committee



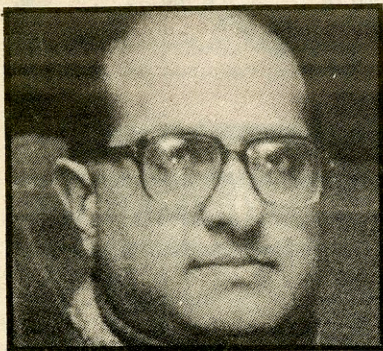
Chair Cllr Sharon Lawrence*: Haringey Councillor since 1984. Also chair of Labour Group and of Housing Policy Committee, vice chair of Alexandra Park and Pavilion Committee and Housing Committee. A senior lecturer.

Priorities The women's committee will be the focus for women's demands for more local services, not less and for equality in employment. In the next year we shall be continuing to defend the women of Haringey in the face of the contemptuous policies of this government. More women

P.T.O.

in Haringey are conscious of these attacks as a result of the campaign against ratecapping, and they will continue to be at the forefront of that campaign.

Finance



Chair Cllr Narendra Makanji*: Haringey Councillor since 1982, former chair, and present vice chair of Police Sub-Committee. Local government officer, member of Greater London Labour Party Executive and secretary of Labour Party Black Sections National Committee.

Priorities To fight off the government's attack on democracy, whether the attack is through rate-capping, GLC abolition or the Police Act.

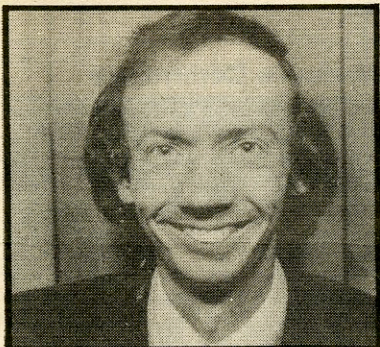
Employment



Chair: Cllr Ros Cave*. Haringey Councillor since 1982. Also chair of Under 7's Co-ordinating Committee. Ex-chair of Women's Committee, now its vice-chair.

Priorities: To achieve the beginnings of a childcare service to parents in work or education and to link this with initiatives toward equal opportunities in employment, both in the Council and the private sector. Economically disadvantaged women — particularly black women, should be the primary beneficiaries of this strategy.

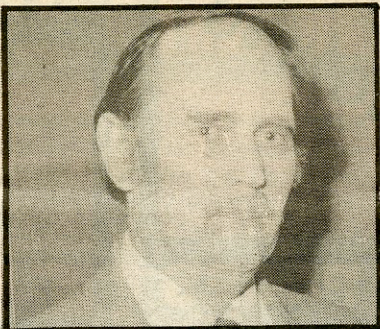
Education



Chair Cllr Bob Harris*: Haringey Councillor since 1982, previously on Havering Council, ex Labour Parliamentary candidate, teacher.

Priorities To attack racism, sexism and "classism" within the education system and to try to ensure that working class and disadvantaged children get the best possible education. Other major concerns will be the clerking of primary school governing bodies, reviewing special needs education, co-ordinating developments in the 16 — 19 age range, strengthening the links between primary and secondary schools and reviewing in-service training.

Personnel



Chair Cllr Ernie Large: Haringey Councillor 1964-68 and since 1982. 27 years a Labour Party member and 40 years membership of the print union SOGAT.

Priorities Councillor Large's special interests are employment, action for unemployment, training and employment legislation. His priorities, as chair of personnel, are the continuation of good employer policies and equal opportunity strategies.

Civic Services



Chair Cllr Maureen Dewar: Haringey Councillor since 1971. Physiotherapist in a local hospital with 30 years membership of Labour Party. Special interests are Social Services, disablement and mental health.

Priorities To continue to provide a cleaner borough and to fight for more resources from Central Government to enable us to expand services to the people of Haringey.

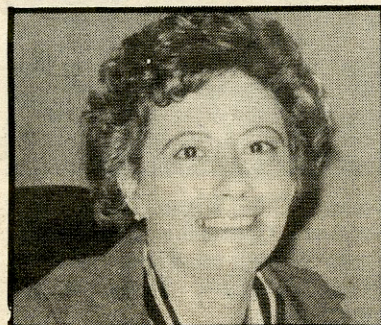
Social Services



Chair Cllr Toby Harris: Haringey Councillor since 1978, has chaired the Social Services Committee since 1982 and has been chief Labour whip since 1982.

Priorities To continue to protect and improve services and to seek to complete the implementation of Labour's manifesto commitments.

Alexandra Palace and Park



Chair: Cllr Viv Fenwick*. Mayor 1984/85. Represented Hornsey Vale ward since 1981. Her main interests on the Council have been Housing, Social Services and Alexandra Palace.

Priorities: To see Alexandra Palace rebuilt as a people's palace

... Readers' Letters ...

Write to: Editor, Haringey Star, Civic Centre, Wood Green, N22

From Haringey Community Transport

Haringey Community Transport is a voluntary organisation providing cheap and reliable transport for the people of Haringey.

We are a non-profit making organisation surviving mainly on Urban Aid and GLC grants. We currently have five minibuses for hire, one equipped with a tail lift for the disabled and the elderly and a specially converted under fives minibus with a cooker and sink unit.

We are now finding it difficult to operate efficiently in our one roomed office and shared parking space. We need somewhere to park our vehicles in safety where our mechanic can work on them without being outside in all weathers.

We would be delighted to hear from anybody who can help. What we need is:

- Premises at a very low rent to use as office and garage space
- Volunteers to drive the vehicles, escort users and help with office work.

Please contact us on 801 2525.



From SENSE, the National Association for Deaf-Blind and Rubella Handicapped.

We would like to thank everybody who helped us set up our Charity Shop at 40 Tottenham High Road, N.15.

We still need volunteers and goods to sell in the shop. If you can spare a day, an afternoon or even just an hour or two, or if you have any good second hand clothes, jewellery, china, books etc which we could sell, then please contact our Appeals Director, David Saint, 278 1005/1000.

All money raised is used to help children like the one pictured below, who was born both deaf and blind because her mother had German Measles (Rubella) during pregnancy. Please help us — you know it makes SENSE!

From the Haringey-Koblenz Friendship Association

The Haringey-Koblenz Friendship Association exists to foster friendship with our twin town of Koblenz, West Germany.

The Association provides German lessons for interested members as well as a whole range of social events throughout the year, including trips to places of interest in England and to festive occasions in Koblenz like the "Rhine in Flames" Festival in August.

New members are joining the Association from all ages groups and more are welcome. There is a club and bar at Frederick Morfill House in Bounds Green Road behind the ambulance station and there is usually some activity on Friday evenings.

We have been asked to try to find an amateur radio enthusiast who will act as a London contact for enthusiasts in Koblenz. We would be delighted to hear from anybody interested.

We are also looking for more slides of Haringey for use in Koblenz. The theme is 'Spring in Haringey' and we would be grateful to hear from anybody who could provide use with some.

We can be contacted through Fred Neuner on 883 2127 or Vic McRae on 348 3418. New members are very welcome.

MAYORAL DOUBLE FIRST



Haringey's new Mayor is Councillor Jim Gardner — the first visually handicapped holder of the office in Haringey. His deputy, Councillor Andreas Mikkides, is the borough's first Cypriot-born deputy.

Councillor Gardner was born in South Tottenham and has spent all his life in the borough. He was a Councillor for Bowes Park ward between 1978 and 1982 and has represented Woodside ward since 1984.

His main interests as a Councillor are in the area of Housing, Social Services, Public Works and the adoption of children. His personal interests lie in music, the theatre, sport and games such as cribbage, whist and bridge.

Councillor Gardner's Mayoress will be Kathy Hollis, a close friend who because of his visual handicap has assisted him in his Council duties.

The Mayor's charities will be Haringey's children in need and Haringey's Visually Handicapped.

Councillor Mikkides is particularly interested in promoting a multi-racial, multi-cultural society. He is a vocal opponent of the Rates Act, and he will be keen, in his year of office, to ensure that there will be no redundancies and no cuts in services in the Borough.

GREEN COMMITTEE

Haringey has probably become the first Council in Britain to establish an Environmental Co-ordinating Committee which will make recommendations to the existing committees on a whole range of environmental issues.

Among the vast array of matters it will oversee are:

- Nuclear Free issues
- Peace matters
- Animal rights affairs
- Provision for cyclists in the borough
- Heavy lorries and their impact on the environment
- Pollution issues
- Acid rain
- Recycling
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Lea Valley regional park
- Environmental planning
- Energy conservation
- Lead in petrol and paint
- Chemical storage and transportation

Although the committee will be mainly advisory, its composition will ensure that its advice will have considerable

weight. Its members will automatically include the leader of the Council and the chairs of the Planning, Civic Services and Community Affairs committees. Once the Committee has been established it will also have as members recognised delegates from a number of environmental pressure groups.

The Committee's first chair, Councillor Ron Blanchard, said: "Until now the whole range of important environmental issues had been dealt with in an unco-ordinated way by a variety of different committees. For the first time we will be adding an environmental dimension to the Council's work. I'm pleased the Council has taken this step in promoting so called "green" issues and I am delighted to be the Committee's first chair."

"Pollution knows no boundaries, either between Council departments, local authorities or nations. We hope that our committee will have a broad perspective and play a small part in trying to defend the earth from its worst enemy: humankind."

TRADE EXHIBITION

The 1985 Trade and Industry Exhibition, sponsored by the boroughs of Hackney, Islington and Tower Hamlets as well as Haringey, is all set to get under way in October.

The annual exhibition, which has been running for five years, is an ideal chance for local businesses to display their wares and generate extra business — and hopefully more jobs. It also gives the opportunity for the Council to explain what it is doing to help small businesses and combat unemployment in the borough to visitors to the exhibition.

Already half the available stands have been booked, so anybody interested in exhibiting there should contact the Council's Economic Development Unit on 881 3000 immediately. They will also be able to provide further details.