



**Fox Lane and District Residents' Association
London N13 & N14**

Cllr Nesil Caliskan
Leader,
Enfield Council

Dear Cllr. Caliskan

We are writing on behalf of the Fox Lane & District Residents' Association (FLDRA), which has a large membership base in the Southern part of the Borough. You may be aware that we have been very active supporting local businesses during the lockdown and we regularly offer opportunities for information and non-partisan debate on key issues for our community, such as the Low Traffic Neighbourhood Scheme and the Climate Action Plan. LBE officers and councillors are often invited to speak and participate.

We are writing to you now to express our concern about the amalgamation of several specialist consultative groups into one new "Environment Forum" (Climate Change, Conservation, Green Belt and Transport) which will, we fear, be a step back in the democratic process of community involvement. One group called it "a sad day for democracy" and it is easy to see why.

We are quite baffled that your officers have chosen to exclude from the Forum almost all community groups with expertise on these important topics, other than conservation. Similarly, almost all community organisations with a wide membership base, including FLDRA and other independent residents' associations (not represented by any umbrella grouping), have not been included.

They have also chosen to exclude the Enfield Climate Action Forum, a proactive, committed and well informed grouping of over 60 local groups, in spite of the Council's own target to achieve carbon neutrality for the whole Borough by 2040, for which it will no doubt need community involvement.

We seek therefore an explanation of the criteria which led your officers to select none but a few groups with a strong membership base or with specialisms covering the full spectrum of topics covered by the new Forum.

Yours sincerely

Richard Mapleston, Chair,

Lia Dover, Vice-Chair,

FLDRA