

Full Council - 26th November 2007**Motion selected for debate by Councillor Bob Blackman,
Leader of the Conservative Group****Politics in the capital**

This Council acknowledges that Brent Council is one of the best known London Councils and is a very important part of this great city. When mentioning London it is time that Londoners were able to “smile again” – something that has not been seen since Mr Livingstone was elected as London’s first Mayor.

This Council is aware that Ken Livingstone, the godfather of the London “loony Left” in the 1980’s now has a capable and interesting candidate to stand against him in the 2008 Mayoral election. Both colourful and young, the robust Boris Johnson will be a very adequate candidate to stand against Ken Livingstone and will come up with serious policies to improve London. He will stand for a “greater London” and Boris believes that the time has come for law-abiding members of the community to take a stand against the culture of casual theft and incivility on our streets and is calling on us to stop looking away or burying our noses in our newspapers when we witness loutish behaviour.

This Council notes that we are still hearing about anti-congestion campaigners who have hit out at the Mayor after claiming that recent reports into the scheme reveal that traffic in the zone has increased. After the publication of the fifth annual report into the congestion scheme by Transport for London it was reported that congestion in the original zone is up by 15% despite their efforts and this is due to the traffic light re-phasing, the installation of bus and cycle routes and other restricting measures which have the effect of limiting overall road space.

This Council should also be aware that over the months Ken Livingstone has continued to mislead the public into believing that the future of the Freedom Pass is under threat from Boroughs like Brent Council but this is not true. Brent Council wants a fairer process for agreeing the costs of the Pass in the annual negotiations that take place between Brent, other London Councils and the Mayor’s transport body, Transport for London. This matter is still to be agreed.

This Council realises that Ken Livingstone must be even more miserable than Gordon Brown at present as he has made no secret of his desire to have a May 2008 National poll which will now not happen. Ken Livingstone may have hoped that having a poll for both on the same day could have taken away media attention from Boris but now the biggest winner after Brown's 'big bottle' may in the end be London with a new Mayor - Boris Johnson.