

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT**Full Council – 8th September 2008****Motion selected for debate by Councillor Ann John,
Leader of the Labour Group****Fair Play in Brent**

This Council notes that the Government has committed £235m in a three-year funding programme with over £1m for Brent to ensure every child has access to good quality and safe outdoor play, especially for 8 – 13 year olds. The Mayor's fund is providing £1m for Opportunities and Positive Activities for Young People over the next three years and more funding to combat gun and knife crime has been announced recently. In addition funds for providing youth centres or improving existing facilities have been made available through the Big Lottery.

All this adds up to a golden opportunity for the Council to provide for outdoor play spaces, games/ball courts and other facilities for young people.

We regret the Council's failure to build on the previous administration's record of improving provision for play and sporting facilities for young people especially in the south of the borough, which has been neglected as a matter of political policy. We deplore the fact that only one new playground has been installed since Labour lost power in 2006 – in the north of the borough - and that gain was offset by the recent demolition of the 'kick about area' in Bramshill Road, Harlesden, which is in the south of the borough. We condemn the Liberal Democrat/Conservative council for failing to install new facilities at Bramshill Road in Harlesden, Villiers Road in Willesden and Kimberley Road in Kilburn.

We call on the Council to use additional resources provided by the Government to ensure that new playgrounds and sports facilities are provided in those areas of the borough which most need them especially in the three playgrounds identified above but including new estates throughout the borough.

Further, we call upon the Council to involve service users and other stakeholders in developing future plans and to inform all ward councillors of new facilities planned or provided in their respective wards.