

List of Petitions to be presented at Full Council - 7 July 2025:

(1) No to Twinning with Nablus

Lead Petitioner Ian Collier – currently 1,427 signatures but due to close on 7 July 25

We, the undersigned, do not support Brent's twinning with Nablus and call on the Council to halt immediately any process leading to it. Nablus, is a town on the west bank of the River Jordan.

We do not support Brent's Twinning with Nablus on the following grounds:

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion: It is our opinion that considerations are not met. Brent is a diverse borough, and we believe that the majority of the various communities have not been consulted on this issue. The proposal to twin has not given due regard to the effects of this decision to those residents with protected characteristics which include, along with the Muslim community, Jews, Christians, Jains, Sikhs, Hindus and the LGBTQ community. Brent's objectives should be to enhance community relations and cooperation, and this proposal will undermine this objective as it appears sectarian in its nature.

Sharing knowledge: It has been reported that Nablus is the home of militant groups such as 'Lions' Den' and we would not wish Brent's residents and especially its children, to be subject to its rhetoric.

Tourism. In reality, tourism is not realistically possible for most people, including students of Brent, to Nablus. Jewish, Christian and LGBTQ communities are unlikely to be made welcome. This goes completely against the spirit of mutual co-operation and the rationale for twinning. In addition, Foreign Office advice is against all but essential travel to Nablus.

Peace should be Brent Council's aim for any twinning. Seven out of fifteen of Nablus's Council are Hamas backed ([Carter centre report](#)), a proscribed group by the UK Government. We therefore consider that it is inconsistent with reasons for twinning. Given constraints on Brent's resources, Brent should prioritise its time and money on local issues.

Furthermore, Brent's own report on this subject suggests that such a twinning might lead to disharmony amongst the people who make up Brent's diverse community.

(2) Save East Lane Theatre

Lead Petitioner Susan O'Connell – 1,714 signatures

We the undersigned petition the council to reconsider the rent increase of circa 5000% on the current rent of £1,500 per annum on our small, volunteer run theatre. An affordable rent for East Lane Theatre Company (ELTC), a valuable community asset, would ensure it can continue to serve the community of Brent.

East Lane Theatre Club (ELTC) has been in residence at the Vale Farm Tennis Pavilion since the early 1960s. ELTC have developed a theatre on the site and maintain & insure the buildings with no council funding. Although recognising the obligations on ELTC under the current lease to maintain the site on which the theatre is located, it is the theatre rather than the Council which has ensured the site remains in good order for many years.

ELTC were in negotiation over our lease renewal with Brent prior to their new Property Strategy being published with the Strategy having subsequently led to what the Club now feels is an unjustifiable high increase in their rental charge.

We the undersigned feel that Brent's new Property Strategy should therefore make allowance for buildings that have a specific role and are used by the community also, in the case of ELTC, recognising the link to Brent's Cultural Strategy.

The Club provides theatre at an affordable price, it supports its members' wellbeing and provides a safe place to explore new skills. It entertains and supports residents unable to afford West End ticket prices or travel to the West End, with other similar local theatres in Greater London and other areas supported by their Councils.

We urge the Council to reconsider the way in which the Property Strategy has been applied to ELTC in order to avoid the theatre being destroyed by a rent hike it just cannot afford.

(3) Support Barham Park

Lead Petitioner: Paul Lorber (on behalf of Friends of Barham Park) - 530 signatures

We the undersigned petition the council to listen to local residents, users and supporters of Barham Park and for the Barham Park Trust and Brent Council to respect the wishes of Titus Barham who gifted his home and gardens for our recreation, by upholding the Covenant which prevents the building of extra houses on the site of 776/778 Harrow Road and to continue to refuse any attempts to modify or discharge the restrictive covenants to increase the numbers of homes on the site of 776-778 Harrow Road.

The two cottages were built of the purpose of housing park keepers (gardeners and other staff) working in the Park and not to provide general housing. As the existing houses have not been used for that purpose for years we the undersigned feel there is a valid argument for their removal and for the park land to be reinstated with no valid justification to expand the number of houses from two to four.

The original Covenant was put in place by the Barham Park Trust Committee in 2011 (when the two cottages were being sold with the aim of generating match funding for a National Lottery Heritage Grant) with the clear intention of protecting Barham Park by NOT allowing the building of more houses or extensions on the existing site. The buyer of the two houses was fully aware of this and willingly signed and entered into the Restrictive Covenant. Any attempts by the appointed Trustees to modify or

discharge the restrictive covenant in exchange for cash go against the original aim in seeking to protect the whole Park for the benefit of local people as opposed to its use for the enrichment of a selected individual/family.