

LETTERS

I'm hoping for better things in 2010

AS we approach the end of 2009, a year in which we have seen many ups and downs in the Town Hall and in the fortunes of Redbridge, we can hopefully look forward to a more prosperous New Year. I have very much hope and look forward to:

- The people's battle to save King George Hospital being emphatically won and the future of our iconic Redbridge hospital being safe for many generations to come.

- New leisure facilities for all by the council seeing through to completion on commitments to build a

new swimming pool and the library in Seven Kings.

- Bustling and vibrant town centres rejuvenated through regeneration projects and an end to the construction work misery for the many in places such as Gants Hill and Ilford.

- A highly visible police deterrent through reconsideration of the decision to scrap the mobile station and true fulfilment of the police's pledge to spend at least 80 per cent of its time on the beat in the community.

- New schools being built, such as the academy, to

address the massive shortfall of school places south of the borough.

- A breath of fresh air blowing through our hall, with new councillors, officers and talent replacing those who have become set in mediocrity.

2010 promises to be an exciting and prosperous year of change for Redbridge and I look forward to reading all about it in the *Recorder* next year.

AL
Cameron
Seven

Free parking would save our businesses

I HAVE been a business owner in Gants Hill for more than 26 years and, along with all the other disheartened shopkeepers, am looking on in horror as Gants Hill degenerates before our very eyes.

Plans have been on the table for an improvement scheme for Gants Hill since The Civic Trust Regeneration Unit sent mailers

out to the community in 2001.

We have been waiting patiently for something to happen and, now it is happening, I personally feel a monstrous, clumsy, disorganised cog has been put into motion.

Though there is no doubt the finished work will intrinsically regenerate the area, the severity of the disruption is going to "take out" more than a few businesses during the course of the works.

Radio traffic announcements suggesting that motorists "avoid Gants

Hill at all costs" is not helping!

Instead of displaying sad-looking banners proclaiming, rather obviously, that "businesses are open as usual", we should be entitled to some positive media publicity, and indeed the council could perhaps cut through the usual red tape and immediately implement free parking in Gants Hill during the course of the works.

VINCENT GOODE
Speedprint
Cranbrook Road
Gants Hill

Red card for football stadium

WHILE I have nothing against football in general or Leyton Orient in particular – some of my best friends are keen supporters – I am pleased to note that the leader of Redbridge Council is on record as stating categorically that a new stadium for the club will not be built at Fairlop

And let me sound a warning shot now – any proposal to build a football stadium on the remainder of Fairlop Plain will be resisted with equal vigour and determination.

Hands off the Green Belt of Fairlop!

RON JEFFRIES

Is it a bribe or a donation?

I WOULD be grateful if someone on Redbridge Council can explain the difference in the case involving ex-cou Suresh Kumar – accused of demanding a bribe in order to facilitate planning permission to two applicants over a site Green Lane – when the council itself is taking what they call a donation of £10,000 from the developers of the old Andrew's church site in Green Lane?

The first application for this site was refused but when the "bung" (or donation, as I prefer) was proposed by the developer the second application, it was granted.

OK, they will probably state that the money they have accepted is going to the good community, but surely taking a "bung" conducive, morally or otherwise, in a planning application? The application should be judged on its merits alone.

JIM O'HALL
Goodmayes Residents Assoc
Green

Find man behind windows

MY family lived at 145 Coventry Road, Ilford, from 1924 until after my father died in the 1960s. The

It's a war of words

I FIND it all a little sad that Tony Butt should be moved to write about my letter without once mentioning the point of that letter (*Recorder*, last week).

Perhaps, after writing this letter I may