

in rackets.
in the free world, if 30pc
businesses pop off to vote
of some private limited
by charging a fee for a scheme
pc don't want, it shouldn't
in those in that 70pc being
to pay it? After all, none of
agreed to it and no contract
er signed.

far as we can see, the
instead BID is not only an abuse
contract law, but also a rather
er manipulation of democracy,
se Camden's ballot system,
the BID used in order to get its
s the same one used for general
ons and referenda. That is, it
signed for polls accommodating
than one campaign as in the
versus the Blues, Yes's v No's,
Outs - that sort of thing. Yet
was only one campaign in the
up to this Hampstead BID ballot.
s called The Road to a YES Vote
the only information anyone
ived came directly from one
r Hampstead Village BID Ltd.
alip Siddiq has told us she
raise this in Parliament and
enge the legislation that has
wed a private limited company
a council to enforce payment
s behalf from unwilling third
es: not least charities, NHS
eries and state schools.

y guess is we'll have to wait till
next ballot to be rid of it. But
BID will receive a well deserved
w at the next ballot (in two year),
ase at least 170 businesses,
eries, state schools and NHS
eries in Hampstead can't wait to
er it the Spanish archer. It can't
e soon enough.

Had to see you focusing on Barnet

th Martin, Friern Park,
net, writes:

Wolpe's accurate report
Barnet Council's financial
ormance and contracts
ommittee (October 18) tells us of
ouncil's continued resistance to
aying the whole truth to be told
its dire financial plight.
fect the reports presented by
ail staff to the meeting still
wed only half the true facts. My
estions, submitted in good time to
n the agenda, were deemed "out
rder" because they asked for
ormation the councillors found
available, so they chose to hide
from the press and public.
What is the forecast total cost of
easing staff redundancies and
structural changes to 14 libraries?
What is the forecast timetable

for implementing the restorations
envisaged?

With the probability of a public
enquiry "soon", the culture minister
wrote in August, into the legitimacy
of the 1964 Libraries Act, this
information should have been part
of the officers' report.

Given that the Grant Thornton
report will be discussed in public
on November 22 at a council audit
committee meeting, and action
confirmed at the council meeting
on December 11, at which decisions
on staff redundancies will be taken,
the truth needs to be told with no
further delay.

The stifling of the truth is no
small matter: Parents must decide on
their choice of countries in which
their children will be educated:
countries that allow the publication
of the truth or those who stifle it in
the public interest? Barnet Council,
you are not above the law. You have
this on your conscience.

Latest from local pensioners' group

Janet Shapiro, on behalf of
Hornsey Pensioners Action
Group, hornseypag.org.uk,
writes:

October has brought a whirlwind
round of events for pensioners in
Haringey. On Older People's Day,
October 1, Hornsey Pensioners
Action Group (HPAG) handed out
leaflets outside Hornsey Central
Neighbourhood Centre. These
celebrated the National Pensioners
Convention (NPC) campaign Unite
the Generations. The NPC opposes
any phoney war between the
generations and we join with young
people to stand up for better public
services.

A People's Day event took place
on October 9 at the Learning
Centre, Tottenham Green, that was
heaving with voluntary groups
and local services of all sorts. This
was organised by the Haringey
Pensioner Action Group affiliated
to NPC based in Tottenham and
brought many groups together.

Haringey Clinical Commissioning
Group (CCG) held two public
meetings on October 11, also at the
Learning Centre. Local groups,
Haringey Keep Our NHS Public
(HKONP) and pensioners were very
vocal at both the afternoon and
evening meetings.

We objected that the CCG had
neglected to include some very
important contentious issues on
the agenda. These included the
consultation being carried out by
NHS England on a draft contract for



Protesters outside Highgate Newtown Community Centre at the start of October.

Integrated Care Providers (ICPs)
that would represent an enormous
upheaval in the way the NHS is
organised. This is very important:
being unaccountable, with non-
NHS organisations on track to get
contracts to run NHS services for
half a million people across a whole
geographical area, for 10 to 15 years.

It is totally unacceptable that
consideration of such an important
proposal be conducted though a
brief little known consultation that
ends tomorrow (Fri)! There should
be parliamentary scrutiny of ICPs.
Everyone is urged to sign the online
petition at [keepournhspublic.com/
news/scrap-the-icp-contract-rally-
and-petition-to-save-the-nhs/](http://keepournhspublic.com/news/scrap-the-icp-contract-rally-and-petition-to-save-the-nhs/) or
alternatively write your own letter
to ICT Consultation Team, Area 2D
NHS England, Skipton House, 80
London Road, London SE1 6LH.

If you can, please join the petition
hand-in to parliament at 10.30am
tomorrow at Old Palace Yard,
Westminster.

On October 1 local pensioners also
publicised the HPAG meeting on
October 17. The topic was the crisis
in social care with speakers Cllrs
Peray Ahmet and Gordon Peters.
The question addressed was how

Haringey Council was going to cope
- how could statutory social care
duties be effectively delivered while
severe cuts in funding continued?
The government's failure to fund
public services adequately, both
the NHS and local authorities,
was acknowledged. But there was
a notable determination that the
community should work together. It
was clear that residents have ideas
to confront the challenge. Cllr Zena
Brabazon called for submissions to
the Fairness Commission on a range
of local services and announced a
public meeting on November 1.

Activities in October show
pensioners are a vibrant section of
the Haringey community.

Why no older pics of King's Cross?

June Gibson, Chandos Way,
Hampstead, writes:

Regarding your article on the King's
Cross story (October 18).

In seeing articles and photos of
King's Cross, or any area come to
that, the photos shown are never of