## **WHAT'S THE POINT OF ONE** MORE LABOUR COUNCILLOR IN **WALTHAM FOREST?**

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO PROTEST!

Labour already has 45 councillors in Waltham Forest. Instead of voting for one more to go along to meetings and put their hand up to cut our services and jobs, why not vote for a socialist fighter who has campaigned to save libraries and youth services, who campaigns for council homes instead of blocks of expensive flats, and who isn't afraid to stand alongside workers striking for a pay rise?

# **Vote Socialist**



**Nancy Taaffe** 

**Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition** 







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### You don't have to vote Labour to keep out the **Tories in Higham Hill**

There's no risk of the Tories winning. The Socialists got

more votes than the Tories in the last Higham Hill election

2022 in Higham Hill









Nancy Taaffe is a member of the Socialist Party. You see us campaigning every Saturday. The Socialist Party is part of the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition, TUSC, an electoral alliance of socialists, trade unionists and community campaigners. We think it is clearer than ever that working-class people need a party of our own.

#### Are you a socialist? Get involved!

If you have had enough of the rich getting richer while we can't afford to pay our rent or mortgages, or our food and energy bills, then get involved with us. We campaign for inflationproof pay rises and council housing, for a fully funded NHS, schools, public transport and services. We want a society in which the wealth is owned and controlled democratically for the benefit of the millions not the millionaires. Join us!

- socialistparty.org.uk
- tusc.org.uk

## **Nancy Taaffe says**

Higham Hill has returned Labour councillors for years. Many Labour councillors just trundle along to the council chamber, collect their expenses, and lead no resistance or make any stand against the devastating cuts, for fear of losing their positions and their potential future careers.

We don't need any more councillors like that.

There are many campaigns outside of election times where our elected Labour councillors are nowhere to be seen.

Campaigns such as those against the superincinerator, the cutting of Higham Hill library service, the decimation of youth services, the fight for a good community school instead of a business-run academy, or the rent and council tax rises this year.

People who are elected to stand up for us should be leading the fight against deteriorating services and the impoverishment of more and more families. Instead, the profits of the rich are protected and cuts cascaded into poor wards like Higham Hill.

But we in the Socialist Party and the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition, TUSC, are not like that.

On every important issue that effects Higham Hill, Socialist Party members have been part of the campaign or have led the campaign. We are not only seen at election times, we can be seen every Saturday down the market, campaigning against low pay or supporting strikers.

#### **Fighting to save Higham Hill library**

Higham Hill Library supporters successfully fought off Labour council plans to diminish the library service. If councillors had stood up to Tory cuts the onus would not be on local communities to defend their library. Nancy collaborated with Sue Wills in Higham Hill in this fight. Nancy worked at Wood Street Library and led the campaign against job cuts for staff. After she was made redundant she fought a five-year battle to stop the Labour council flattening the old Wood Street library and turning it into yet more micro-flats that many young people can't afford.

"Nancy is a brilliant campaigner, who puts local people and services at the heart of all she does"

Sue Wills, Chair of Save Higham Hill library

#### Housing

Nancy Taaffe is chair of the campaign against the monster blocks by Walthamstow's Mall. The Save Our Square campaign has been going for eight years. The Labour council is ploughing ahead, but we think, in the aftermath of the Grenfell fire, we are duty-bound to keep fighting for safe and affordable council homes for all.

We are very proud that as a by-product of our eight-year campaign we helped to save the lime trees.

Nancy has campaigned against evictions and for council homes and rent control. She supported tenants on the Butterfields estate who successfully resisted eviction.



Campaigning to save our square from the monster blocks

"Nancy was solid and unwavering in support of 63 tenants who fought a year-long battle from being evicted"

"We could not have won the battle without Nancy"

**Butterfields residents** 

#### **Youth facilities**

There is nothing for young people to do.

Real-terms cuts by the Labour council to youth services since 2010 have now reached an appalling 74%. Almost half of youth centres have closed in the last decade. And no work has been done to restore the 4,500 youth work jobs that were cut during the pandemic. The annual spend per head on 5-7 year olds has been slashed from £158 to just £37.

Nancy Taaffe and TUSC supporters campaigned against all the cuts from start.

## Instead of rent rises and council tax rises - Fight the cuts!

This year the Labour council agreed a council tax increase of nearly 6%. This means that the average Waltham Forest family on a band D will see council tax bills rise to £2,055, an increase of £116.

Higham Hill has one of the highest densities of council housing. It is wrong that the council raised the rent by £30 a month. The 7% increase hits the 15,000 social tenants managed by Housing Associations in the borough.

Nancy and TUSC has always said there should be no rent rises and no council tax rises to compensate for Tory cuts - fight the Tories instead!

## compensate for Tory cuts - fight the Tories instead

### **'Bankrupt' councils - Fight the cuts!**

Birmingham is the biggest but many councils are going 'bankrupt' due to Tory cuts. The Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition, TUSC, has argued all along that Labour councillors should stand up to the Tories. Set no-cuts, needs-based budgets, use reserves and borrowing powers to stave off cuts, and build a campaign with trade unions and our communities to win the funding we need.

Nancy and the socialists have stood on this platform in council elections for years.

### Incinerator – dirty air in Higham Hill

Supporters of the Socialist Party campaigned with Blackhorse Lane residents to stop plans for another incinerator. We have been part of the campaign against the Edmonton super-incinerator.

How can we trust private companies chasing profit? Waste disposal should be run as a public service under democratic scrutiny. We need environmentally safe waste disposal just like we need green energy.