

HAVERING **FABIAN** SOCIETY

HAVERING FABIAN

Volume 2 Edition 65 July 2026

**Havering Fabian
Society newsletter
65**

**Covering: The
May 2026
Havering Council
Elections – our
May meeting
discussing what
happened, why
and what comes
next. Plus the
results from our
March survey**

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HAVERING FABIAN

VOLUME 2 EDITION 65 July 2026

Introduction

Welcome to the new edition of the Havering Fabian Newsletter.

The focus of this edition is the May elections, which saw Reform win control of Havering Council. The election saw significant losses for the main Parties. One of these was Havering Fabian Chair Keith Darvill, who lost his seat after six four-year terms 2002 to 2026 , following his period as MP for Upminster from 1997 to 2001. We thank him for his service, and that he is carrying on as our Chair.

The newsletter includes a review of the elections, which will shortly be added to the review of Havering elections on our website (link below)

[Havering Elections 1964-2022 – Havering Fabian Society](#)

We now have 1,325 followers on X (previously twitter). This number is slowly going down as people leave the site. Keep up to date at our X site **@haveringfabians** for the latest news.

Some of our followers have left or moved to Bluesky. Our account is **@haveringfabians.bsky.social** We have 158 followers already, including some who were not following us before. We have 301 followers on LinkedIn and 851 friends on Facebook.

We have a blog now as well as our website

<https://haveringfabians.org/posts/> You will need to follow us to get

updates. **We have recently added an Instagram account so follow us on there as well!** We have 93 followers.

We are affiliated to the four local Labour Parties and will do all we can to support their campaigns. As opinions are the lifeblood of politics, we welcome a reply to any of the articles. The Fabian Society exists to promote political debate, both within and outside the Labour Party. Progressive politics extends beyond the Labour Party and contributions from the Labour Movement are welcome. Our website address is <http://haveringfabians.org>

As you are no doubt aware, GDPR means we need to keep our mailing list up to date. If you are not on our mailing list (we use Mailchimp – **please check your spam folders!**) contact us via the website or email and we will add you in.

Havering election 2026 wipeout avoided

The opinion polls¹ early in 2026 predicted Reform would win Havering Council and they were correct. Reform won thirty-nine seats; Havering Residents fell to fourteen and Labour held the two-seat Beam Park ward. The Conservatives were wiped out. The Liberal Democrats again failed to register, having last won a seat in 2006. The Greens polled 10% but were not close to their first Councillor in Havering. Turnout was significantly increased from 2022 in every ward.

¹ [Council Projector - 2026 Local Elections | PollCheck](#)

Table 1 Turnout 2022 and 2026 Havering Council Election

Ward	2026	2022	difference
Beam Park	32.63	30.80	1.83
Cranham	54.49	40.83	13.66
Elm Park	47.56	35.51	12.05
Emerson Park	52.70	41.11	11.59
Gooshays	35.20	23.46	11.74
Hacton	51.23	41.20	10.03
Harold Wood	48.19	35.60	12.59
HaveringatteBower –	42.14	29.16	12.98
Heaton –	32.20	23.79	8.41
Hylands & Harrow Lodge	50.81	37.83	12.98
Marshalls and Rise Park	51.80	41.13	10.67
Mawneys	45.03	33.56	11.47
Rainham & Wennington –	44.97	35.12	9.85
Rush Green	39.95	32.84	7.11
South Hornchurch	42.60	31.80	10.80
Squirrels Heath –	49.78	38.54	11.24
St Alban's	43.95	36.84	7.11
St Andrew's	51.00	39.00	12.00
St Edward's	42.00	32.87	9.13
Upminster	56.00	42.30	13.70

Reform clearly expected to win. Their Leader Keith Prince switched from Squirrels Heath to Gooshays in the expectation that Reform would win in Harold Hill, rather than face a potentially closer fight in the seat he was previously elected in with the Conservatives. Reform won both wards, although were only seventy-five votes ahead of the highest placed Conservative in Squirrels Heath.

With five parties standing a full slate of candidates across the borough the ballot papers were longer than previously and counting took longer as a result. The number of candidates made it possible to get elected on a small percentage of the votes cast.

A full breakdown of results can be found below.

[Local Election 2026 Results | London Borough of Havering](#)

The election was very disappointing for Labour. The only positive news was Trevor McKeever and Matt Stanton being-elected in Beam ward with a gap of twenty-five votes to the third place Reform candidate. Turnout was lower than elsewhere at 32.5%, expected given the changing nature of the ward.²

Elsewhere, Labour candidates came behind Reform in every other seat. Jane Keane was sixty-seven votes short of re-election in St Albans with Jack Dobson Smith a further 103 votes behind. In the circumstances this was a better result than expected, although a disappointing one given the impact Jane has had since being elected in 2022.

Labour was also second behind Reform in Heaton ward, this meant defeat for long standing Councillor Keith Darvill after six terms

² Significant development and rented accommodation.

following four years as MP for Upminster. The margin of 832 votes was one of the largest on the day.

Elsewhere the position for Labour was catastrophic. The overall result saw the Labour share of the vote fall to 10 per cent, marginally above the Greens. This was the lowest share of the vote in all 17 Havering Council elections (even though 2014 saw only Keith Darvill elected).

In no other ward were Labour in contention, being reduced to third in Gooshays with sitting Councillor Pat Brown finishing fifth, with the other Labour candidates Sally Omosun 8th and Theo Shaw 11th.

In coming seventh in Rush Green and Crowlands John Curtis polled 810 votes, the highest of any Labour candidate, and was 467 short of the third-place Reform candidate.

So, a bad night for Labour, but an even worse one for the Conservatives. Their vote share fell 19.4 per cent to 13.7 per cent and they lost all their Councillors. They were second in four seats.

Table 2 Seat by seat analysis Havering Election 2026

Ward	Councillors			majority	Next Party	turnout
Beam Park				24		32.6
Cranham				180		54.5
Elm Park				13		47.5
Emerson Park				157		52.8
Gooshays				881		35.3
Hacton				86		51.2
Harold Wood				807		48.2
Havering-atte-Bower				1,593		42.1
Heaton				836		32.2
Hylands & Harrow Lodge				349		50.3
Marshalls & Rise Park				1,008		51.8
Mawneys				135		45.0
Rainham & Wennington				191		45.0
Rush Green & Crowlands				174		40.0
South Hornchurch				300		42.6
Squirrels Heath				75		49.8
St Alban's				67		44.0
St Andrew's				103		50.5
St Edward's				232		42.3
Upminster				591		56.4

Key

Reform	Resident	Labour	Conservative	Harold Wood Resident
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Having eliminated the Conservatives and taking five Labour seats, the Council leadership was determined by voters' preference for Reform and the Residents.

Former Conservative Councillors include new Council Leader and GLA member Keith Prince, joined in Gooshays by Robert Whitton, who was a defeated conservative candidate in Gidea Park in 1998. Several former Councillors stood and lost in Gooshays. Pat Brown (Labour), Paul McGeary (elected as Labour, defected to Residents), Nigel Meyer (Liberal Democrat) Philip Hyde (UKIP – standing as an Independent but also Chair of Havering Restore).

Former Conservative Councillor Robert Benham topped the poll as Reform won Marshalls and Rise Park, with a large gap between the last placed Councillor and unsuccessful ex Conservative Councillor Phillipa Crowder.

The expectation was the Residents would be hard to displace. It was a surprise when Reform took a seat in Hacton, Geoff Burgess beating councillor Reg Whitney, who had served two terms after being elected in 2018. This was the first time the Residents had not won all the seats in the ward since the first Havering election in 1964³. St Andrews had been a safe Resident seat, held by the Residents since the 1990s⁴. Reform took all three seats, with former Conservative Councillor Malvin Brown returning. Havering Fabian Secretary Keith Taffs came 14th with 341 votes.

In Rainham, Reform trailed sitting Resident Councillor Sue Ospreay⁵ but won the two other seats. The impressive Labour candidates had hopes of an upset but were well behind the Residents and Reform in 7th, 8th and 9th place, the highest placed Labour candidate Mohammed Abdullah Siddique was 1,075 votes behind the lowest placed elected Councillor.

³ Although the Borough was formed in 1965, elections were held in 1964.

⁴ Although Graham Carr won a seat in 1994 for Labour and Defecting Councillor John Mylod for the Conservatives in 2018; the Residents won the remaining seats.

⁵ A resident gain from the Conservatives based on the 2022 result, although Sue had defected to the HRA shortly after the election.

In Hylands and Harrow Lodge, Reform took two seats from the Residents and one from the Conservatives. Former Resident and Conservative Councillor Alex Donald was elected in Rush Green and Crowlands for standing for his third political party, a Havering first⁶.

Reform also won two seats in South Hornchurch, displacing two Resident Cabinet members, taking the total resident seats won by Reform to ten.

The results in Havering reflected the collapse in the Labour vote across the capital.

Table 3 Council control across London 2026

Party	Councils controlled⁷	Councillors
Conservative	7	407
Labour	10	701
Green	3	297
Lib Dem	3	243
Reform	1	79
Other ⁸	1	94
No overall control	7	na

The results were not as bad as 1968 when only four councils were Labour (Barking and Dagenham, Tower Hamlets, Southwark, and Newham on the Mayor's casting vote). Of these only Barking and Dagenham now remains Labour controlled, despite being a Reform target a determined campaign building on years of community and casework saw Labour remain in control with thirty-eight seats, with nine for Reform and four for the Greens. Barking and Dagenham and Kensington are now the only London Boroughs not to change control since 1964.

⁶ Unless you know different?

⁷ Newham Labour Mayor, NOC. Croydon Conservative Mayor NOC

⁸ Aspire Tower Hamlets

Redbridge remained Labour with a reduced majority. In Newham, Labour won the mayoralty, with 30 percent of the vote, while the Council moved to no overall control.

Hackney and Lewisham lost the Mayor and the Council to the Greens.

Outside of Havering Reform made negligible impact across London⁹ but did well across the country.

Inevitably Labour turned inwards and the prospect of a leadership election (which may be underway when you read this) increased.

In Havering, prospects for Labour are bleak, at least in the short term. The seats where Labour came second were from a position of previously holding the seat. Winning them back in 4, 8 or 12 years could be a hard slog. Times change. Labour won 42 per cent of the Havering vote in 1994, more than Reform achieved this year.

To do well in Havering, Labour needs to recover support nationally. This will take time. The prospect of Labour not winning the next General Election is sadly all too real.

Should Labour lose in 2028 or 2029, the next council election would be 12 to 18 months into a new Government. It is possible the unpopularity of a new government could present an opportunity to win more seats in Havering. Political opinions are volatile at the moment, and an upturn in the economy combined with reducing NHS waiting lists could see Labour become less toxic. If not, bleak times lie ahead.

⁹ 39 OF THEIR 79 London Councillors were elected in Havering

Table 4 Havering Election Result 2026

	Councillors	% vote
Reform	39	37.8
Havering Residents ¹⁰	14	27.3
Conservative	0	13.7
Labour	2	10.0
Green	0	10.0
Liberal Democrat	0	1.0
Other	0	0.2

¹⁰ Includes Harold Wood Residents

May meeting – What happened and where next

The May meeting did not have a guest speaker, as we had a general discussion on the outcome of the Council elections earlier in the Month.

Keith Darvill opened the meeting .The 2026 Council elections were always going to be difficult for an incumbent government almost two years after being elected. Comments were invited from the audience.

Dave Baldock gave an overview of the results, which in Havering reflected the collapse in the Labour vote across the capital. The opinion polls were bad, with Labour in second, third and fourth in various national polls, although Labour remained slightly ahead in London wide polls.

In Barking and Dagenham, a Reform target, a determined Labour campaign building on years of community and casework saw Labour remain in control with thirty-eight seats , nine for Reform and four for the Greens.

In Havering, Labour had held Beam Park (just) and the two seats the seats where Labour came second were from a position of previously holding the seat. Winning them back in 4, 8 or 12 years could be a hard slog. Results elsewhere in the Borough were very disappointing.

Labour achieved 42 per cent of the Havering vote in 1994, more than Reform achieved this year. The 10 per cent achieved this time, only a few hundred more than the Greens, was an all-time low,

To do well in Havering, Labour needs to recover support nationally. This will take time, although the volatile nature of five or six Party¹¹ politics suggests anything is possible. An upturn in the economy combined with

¹¹ Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrat, Green, Reform, Havering Residents

reducing NHS waiting lists could see Labour become less toxic, so a win at the General Election remains possible. If not, bleak times lie ahead, with Reform potentially forming or being part of a future Government.

Should Labour lose the General Election in 2028 or 2029, the next council election would be 12 to 18 months into a new Government. It is possible the unpopularity of a new government could present an opportunity for Labour to win more seats in Havering, so there is a need to regroup and keep going.

While Reform had a mixed record in local government, the Havering Administration is led by an experienced politician. Keith Prince is a current GLA member and had been Leader of Redbridge Council. Reform has several former experienced Conservative Councillors, so we should not assume an inevitable repeat of the incompetence shown elsewhere.

Reform nationally will be keen that the new administration succeeds and therefore can expect outside resources. Reform is well resourced financially, and this may enable them to bring external support to their Councillors.

Keith Taffs was concerned at the inexperience of the Reform councillors and what this might mean.

Julia Pearman saw Reform as disruptors, and the composition of the council meant scrutiny would be difficult. The danger was Reform might be able to deliver on a visible issue, such as potholes, while less visible issues such as SEND are left to flounder, without scrutiny. The current structures are not delivering and cannot do so

Theo Shaw saw the results as bad everywhere. The Labour vote across London was down 17% since 2022, although in Hornchurch and Upminster the fall was “only” 11 per cent. In Dagenham and Rainham the decline was 22%, Barking 35%¹². West Northampton Council had elected Reform administration in 2024, and Councillors took direction from the national Party. This left council officers to take the lead on many issues. Reform led Councils were all in the bottom fifteen for pot hole numbers,

In many Reform led councils, by elections and defections had seen majorities eroded or even lost.

Julia responded, Reform is a learning organisation and are well funded. We should expect they will put resources in to Havering in preparation for the next General Election.

Mick McCarthy took a different perspective. Reform Leader Keith Prince is an experienced Councillor Mick had worked with previously on cross council initiatives. Reform had experienced people in the background. Would they look to change the Council constitution and bring in a political office? Labour should prepare for by elections and ensure we have a clear message. With Essex being a Reform council, would “Hexit”¹³ come back on the agenda?

Councillor Trevor McKeever stressed the need for Labour to get candidates in place. The Party needs a bigger structure and more people

¹² In 2026, Conservatives Dems Greens and Reform ran a near full slate in Barking and Dagenham, in 2022, this was not the case, and Labour had 14 Councillors elected by dint of opposition candidates being less than the number of vacancies.

¹³ Hexit – Having left the GLA and becoming a unitary council or part of Essex. Keith Prince killed this idea at the first Council meeting.

at grassroots level. Labour needs to list out what the Government has achieved so far and publicise this, it is an extensive list.

Sue Watson had spoken next. She had been one of the unsuccessful candidates in Rainham, where Labour had come a distant third. People did not like Keir Starmer on the doorsteps and were often not interested in talking to the Labour candidates. Occasionally responses had been verbally aggressive, which other candidates had also experienced.

It is important that we hold Reform councillors to account for the decisions that the Council administration make and ensure they take responsible for them. The early indications are that Reform councillors are not engaging with casework. It is possible that they may eventually do so, but they need to be called out if they do not.

Barking and Dagenham councillor Julia Williams spoke next. The Labour Party's communications had been bad, while Reform's communications had been good on their own terms. The level of aggression experienced during the campaign was very much of concern. The emotional response this can generate amongst the public works to Reform's advantage as Reform are very much about generating a response at an emotional level. Their campaigns on violence against women's and girls, and on immigration have got their message across to their target audience, who are not open to different opinions.

Graham Jarvis spoke next. He was concerned about the Labour Party navel gazing when it should be running the country. The Mandelson story continues to rumble on in the background and would be negative for the Party.

David Marshall spoke next. He noted Reform getting about seventy percent of the seats in Havering , on thirty seven percent of the vote. A fairer voting system would have denied Reform a majority.

Joe Jervis spoke next on what Labour had got wrong. There were three areas.

1. Nationally, the direction and vision that was needed, are missing at the top of the Party. What are the Government's values and principles? Was it able to communicate and implement them? Are we dealing with grooming gangs and hotels? Are we dealing with the issues about dangers to women? Are we dealing with the problems of Gaza and small businesses, and have we got our messaging on these issues correct?
2. At a Havering wide level. do not let others dominate the airways and set the agenda. It was not clear Labour had got its messages across in the local media. Had we set the agenda? What was the Labour Havering pitch? What is the story? What does a better Havering mean?
3. At a local level, our data did not match what happened in terms of the vote. For example, where did the Green Party vote come from? We were not picking this up on the doors. Is the implication we are not canvassing in the correct way? Do we need an updated approach?

Sue Watson had picked up that Reform had been telling its voters in Rainham to respond to Labour canvassers that they were voting Labour, to distort our voting returns. The atmosphere had been vile online and on the doors. We need a discussion now about how we are going to deal with this in the future.

Emma Hawkins was very demoralised, having been campaigning for two years. A lot of the progressive vote had gone to the Greens, and we need to seek out ways to get this back.

Ian Rusha raised the international context. The move to the right or populist agenda has been worldwide.

Changes to Winter Fuel payments implemented by the Labour government at the start of its term in office have set the agenda for every other issue and the Party had slipped in the Polls from this point.

Winter fuel payment changes had been the catalyst for everything else and had sent the agenda for the media attacks. A lot of the policy that Labour has implemented has been positive. We need to get this out in the media, focus on our own policies, and then take Reform and others on.

The Reform vote was only 37%, so it is not at a level that is out of reach.

Joe Jervis pointed out polling had shown that Labour up two percent should Keir Starmer be replaced.

Julia Pearman questioned whether a changing the Party Leader would make a sustainable difference, as the Labour Party would soon find itself under similar criticism once a new Leader in place. The press would remain hostile.

The Labour Party existing at all is something that most of the press cannot tolerate. Even in areas where Labour government is performing

well, (such as recent immigration figures, the number of pupils getting their own pupils going to schools their choice) – these are the issues that are important but are not cutting through on the doorstep. They will not necessarily get better with a change of Leader. More of the national press attention will undoubtedly go into picking holes in the “northern powerhouse” type approach.

Graham Jarvis pointed to Reform being a one-man band, and the five-million-pound scandals in the media now about Nigel Farage is something that may hit home. If Farage were not in place, things would be very different.

Ken Clark pointed out that politics has changed. Prime Minister's Questions remains a remnant of the 2-party politics era. The Conservatives are no longer the only opposition and there are 5 or 6 parties vying the contention in recent elections. Even when The Labour Party has a good and popular Prime Minister (such as Harold Wilson), the press will not be good or on our side.

Labour has 400 MPs and we only get to hear from around forty of the usual suspects. TV and radio remain biased, and the panels they put together are all anti-Labour. The papers are much the same.

The hope in Havering was to get to twenty or so councillors and make the difference. The results in East London had been bad with Waltham Forest council going to the Greens. Ken was pleased that Barking and Dagenham had held on.

There is a “blame someone else” mentality and the Labour Party communication strategy is often safety first and avoiding negative attacks. We need to look at who the enemy is.

The recent local Labour social had been a success , and we need to do more of these to build a spirit of comradely support.

Ian Rusha suggested Andy Burnham is s a politician who allows others to speak and he is less controlling, with a focus on the bigger picture. Our social media campaign is important and needs to be better.

Keith Taffs had been canvassing in St. Andrews , where the results were poor and the response was often nasty. This included being shouted at and abused on social media , including one antisemitic attack by a Green Party supporter.

Councillor Trevor McKeever stressed the importance of controlling the narrative and making sure that people who are shouting louder and saying things that are not true are rebutted. For example, the welfare bill had been overstated. He noted the importance of grooming gangs as a key and divisive issue.

We need a different approach. Small boats is a relatively minor issue that may takes up a great deal of media attention. We need to challenge this in a positive way and speak differently.

Mick McCarthy pointed out that the timing of the election was not great for a new Government, and elections in mid-term for a for administration of any Party are always difficult. There was anger over the cost of living, and it is in the opposition interest to blame everybody else.

Locally, The Tories have been in control. Where are they now? Are they having a similar sort of discussion among themselves? The Residents' Association were the big victims of the Reform surge, having been taken apart in wards that they were not expected to lose.

The BBC allow Reform too much leeway and do not challenge them enough. The Labour Party should not follow a Reform agenda, and it is noticeable that the current Home Secretary has done this.

Ian Rusha mentioned the press attention around Keir Starmer's glasses was disproportionate, and the relative lack of publicity given to the five-million-pound issue regarding Nigel Farage showed that the press was biased.

David Marshall had opened the door to somebody canvassing for Reform and had a polite and engaged conversation with them. They too were getting abuse on the doors.

Keith Darvill summed up. It is up to Havering Local Government Committee to bring the discussions together. The knocking on doors has a good impact, but there had been a degree of aggression against Labour and to some extent Labour candidates, and a very anti Starmer feel.

Reform is following a populist agenda, like that in the United States. What can we do to respond? We need to be on the door's aggressively rebutting what they are saying and doing the same on social media but be aware of the comments that follow-on social media and some of the abuse is dangerous.

Trevor McKeever and Matt Stanton will get a lot done in the local media and need to be supported. We do not need to let the summer go before we regroup. The London Mayor elections are the next we will face, followed by a general election in 2028 or 2029, with the next local government elections in 2030.

We managed to contest every seat in the Borough, and it is a challenging time to be in The Labour Party. Should Andy Burnham become the new Leader, he too will be attacked.

We need to make sure the local message as well as the national gets across on the doorstep. We need to look at the resources we need to achieve this, both financial and in terms of party membership.

The Council elections had been very disappointing. We need to reengage with the electorate and go again.

March 2026 Survey Results

In March we sent a survey to all those on our mailing list, with a chaser soon after. The response was disappointing, just 14 replies, mainly from the Executive. This section provides a summary of the responses, and was considered at the Executive Committee in June,

Summary

The survey was sent to 107 people on the main society mailing list. There were fourteen replies, of which seven came from members on the Executive Committee. A follow up email was sent after the original, which increased responses from 12 to 14.

The number of responses is too small a sample to draw any conclusion.

Question 1**"Do you attend in person Havering Fabian meetings?"**

Nearly always	3 (23.1%)
I attend most meetings	3 (23.1%)
I attend occasionally	5 (38.5%)
I do not attend meetings	2(15.4%)

This does not tell us much, particularly as seven of the respondents are committee members,

Question 2 had nine answers.

"Are there any venues we use you prefer? Are there any you do not attend?"

Two preferences for Rainham. One not keen on Rainham when it is dark. One preference for variety of venues and one favours venues with parking. No views expressed on venues not preferred. Anecdotes suggest some people do not attend meeting at Saffron House or on Harold Hill. The replies did not evidence this.

Question 3 had fourteen answers.**"Would you be interested in joining Havering Fabian on-line sessions."**

Yes, would try and join all sessions	7 (50.0%)
Would join sessions depending on the subject	3 (21.4%)
Not interested in on line meetings	4 (28.6%)

The sample size is too small to reach a conclusion. If 50% of those on the mailing list joined on line meetings attendances would be over fifty, a number we have never approached at a zoom meeting from our membership. As only fourteen out of 107 on the mailing list responded , we could also take a view that there is not enough interest to pursue a

zoom (or similar app) based approach, and certainly not for supporting the purchase of a professional licence.

Question 4 had eight answers.

"What subjects would you like us to cover?"

"MPs in Parliament, Lords in Parliament, Local Issues, Fighting the far right, Health, Education, National Fabians Papers."

"BBC, its future! "

"Prefer live meetings in person is so much better."

"Anything which widens our knowledge and viewpoints."

"Education, Youth Engagement, Local Politics, Local Elections, VAWG"

"Violence against women and girls, Environmental issues NHS, funding, future proofing"

"Only recently joined Fabians. "

"Environment, general politics."

So, of all the responses, only VAWG, Environmental issues and local issues\politics were mentioned more than once.

Question 5 had five answers.

"Who should we invite to speak? Do you know anyone we could invite - personal contacts are useful in attracting speakers"?

"Keith Darvill on his time on Havering Council, Insight on how Labour fought and beat BNP in B&D from Dominic Twomey & how Labour beat UKIP from Pat Brown."

"Labour MPs are best and those conducting research into inequality."

"VAWG- Jess Phillips, Women's Aid "

Question 6 had fourteen answers.

"Do you read our newsletter?"

Every edition	11	(78.6%)
Some Editions	2	(14.3%)
Articles I am interested in	0	(0.0%)
Do not read the newsletter	1	(7.1%)

Would you like to write an article for the newsletter? No offers

Question 7 had seven answers.

"If you do read the newsletter, what do you like or dislike about the newsletter ? Are there any items you would like us to cover? "

"Like it all. Love the History"

"I have the main newspaper from the main Fabian Society; I will join local Fabians as soon as possible thank you."

"It's very well set out and informative."

"Like plenty of photos, like use of hyperlinks so can explore articles etc further if want to Like big topical issues covered but linked to local area- input from MP might be worth considering. Maybe a regular piece on her Havering work. Dislike large chunks of text with no breaks."

"I have only just joined Fabians."

Conclusions

The low level of responses is disappointing.

There is no great support for on line meetings.

There were some ideas for future speakers.

The newsletter is read by nearly all respondents,

If you have read this far and did not respond, please let us know what you think, and how we can improve our meetings.

WhatsApp group

We are setting up a WhatsApp group as another form of communication, if you are viewing this on your phone, the link below should work.

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/I5TfwGaK1KuEcQnwluX1pN>

Otherwise, to be included, send an email with your phone number to haveringfabians@outlook.com

We will use this for reminders of meetings, links to national Fabian Society events etc and not (yet) for discussion purposes. So, you will receive one or two notifications a week at most.

If you think we should have a discussion group, let me know and we will create one - so far, a limited response on this !

Future Meetings

A programme of the rest of the year will follow. Let us know what subjects you would like us to cover.

Links

Blog	http://haveringfabians.wordpress.com/
Website	https://haveringfabians.org/
X	https://twitter.com/HaveringFabians
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/havering.fabians
LinkedIn	https://uk.linkedin.com/in/havering-fabians
Bluesky	@haveringfabians.bsky.social
Instagram	haveringfabians

Online payment

Details are included in the regular Havering Fabians email. Contact us for further details if you are not on the current mailing list. Membership is £6 waged, £12 unwaged.

National membership is also available via the link below.

[Join | Fabian Society](#)

National membership includes a regular quarterly magazine; regular email updates and invites to conferences. There are theme-based groups that develop policy in areas such as housing, the economy and environmental issues.

Politics in Havering

You may already be aware of the excellent Politics in Havering Blog, which we repost via our twitter feed. This gives a regular update on politics within the borough – a link is below, please follow them (and our blog!) for regular updates!

<https://havering.blog/>

We value your input!

The Society invites speakers on a range of subjects; if you would like us to invite speakers on a particular subject let us know and we will try to oblige. The Society has a policy of rotating meetings around the borough; **if you need or can offer a lift or if you know of any suitable venues** we could use, contact David Baldock.

Local Fabian Society Contacts

Chair Councillor Keith Darvill	Secretary Keith Taffs	Contact Keith Taffs
Membership Secretary Councillor Harriet Spoor		haveringfabians@outlook.com

Vice Chair Sanchia Alasia

Treasurer Dave Baldock

Committee Members

Jane Keane Ian Rusha

Cecile Duerinckx

Councillor Julia Williams

Sue Watson

David Marshall

Social media

Aishwarya Kumar

Future Editions

The Fabian Society exists to promote progressive ideas from within and outside of the Labour movement. As such we are happy to publish articles in keeping with this broad ethos but reserve the right not to include all or part of any material which falls outside of this parameter. Our next edition will be in **June or July 2026**. – contributions welcome. This will include a review of the Council elections.

Havering Fabian Society is affiliated to.

- National Fabian Society
- Dagenham and Rainham Labour Party
- Romford Labour Party
- Upminster and Hornchurch Labour Party
- Barking Labour Party

Havering Fabian Membership

To join Havering Fabian Society, please complete the following and send to Keith Taffs. You can also join the Society nationally; Keith has more details. You do not have to be a member of the Labour Party to join Havering Fabians, but you will need to be a Labour Party member to take part in Labour Party selections and elections.



Havering Fabian Society

Founded in 1974, the Society promotes progressive political thought in Havering and beyond. Membership of the Society is not necessary to attend meetings, and neither is membership of the Labour Party.

However, to participate in nominations to the Local Labour Parties or in selection conferences, membership of both is required. The Society meets regularly throughout the year, apart from the summer and during election campaigns. Local Membership is currently £12 waged, £6 unwaged.

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I\ we wish to join Havering Fabians

Name

Address

.....

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postcode.....

E-mail.....

Phone number

Waged (£12) unwaged £6.....