



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cllr Raymond Puddifoot
Leader's Office, Conservative Group Offices
Civic Centre
Uxbridge
Middlesex
UB8 1UW

13 December 2017

Dear Ray,

Re: Local opportunities for young people

Ever since being first elected in 2005, I have appreciated the commitment that Hillingdon Council have shown to young residents locally. At a time when many other local authorities have reduced their offer to young people, Hillingdon have consistently invested to create more opportunities to help them. In terms of improved youth clubs, I recall the significant investment in South Ruislip and Northwood. Like many of the young residents themselves, I have also appreciated the pioneering upgrade of Hillingdon libraries. We have worked together for many years to safeguard the HOAC facilities from the threat of HS2, and I am delighted that Hillingdon Council is now being given the budget and responsibility to make that happen.

As we look to the future, I know that Hillingdon Council will want to go with the grain of what young people want. That may well have changed and may require new approaches. Facilities that may have been popular in 2005, may face uncertain demand in 2018 and beyond.

In that context, you will be very well aware that local uniformed groups, such as Scouting and Guiding, continue to flourish in the area and are well supported by local families. I know from my experience as a Minister for Youth, that participation in these groups delivers well-documented benefits to young people in terms of building confidence and so-called life skills. These groups are also an invaluable part of the fabric of the community, offering highly-valued volunteering opportunities and local events that bring people together.

I am aware that a number of local groups across the constituency are trying to raise funds to upgrade their huts, facilities and offer to young people. One of the most visible examples is the campaign to raise funds for the Northwood Scout Hut. It is testimony to local support that this campaign has already raised almost c. £100k.



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As you consider your long term budget, I am writing to ask for your support in helping popular, local uniformed organisations to raise their own funds to improve what they offer local young people. That would demonstrate the continued commitment of Hillingdon Council to make sure that local young people have access to high quality, community led opportunities for constructive personal development.

On a final point, you will be well aware that there is uncertainty in Harefield about the Council's plans for youth services. It is welcome that the Council has responded to the need for there to be more on offer for local young people. The original plans for Ash Grove did raise concerns among residents, especially those living close to the proposed site. I did represent those concerns and I welcome the way in which the Council listened. As you determine your future strategy, I know that residents would appreciate clarity on your plans for Harefield.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Hurd".

Nick Hurd MP

Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner

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Cc. Cllrs Henry Higgins and Jane Palmer