



Murad Qureshi

London Wide Assembly Member
News and Views from City Hall

Murad leads call to preserve London playing fields

With the 2012 London Olympics and heightened interest in sport, the London Assembly took the opportunity to look at London's playing fields and found that over the last 20 years London has suffered a significant loss of green space.

As chair of the Environment Committee's playing fields investigations I found a strong link between sport and health and the need to open up access to all remaining playing fields and to engage local communities in the fight to preserve London's playing fields.



Murad pictured above with Sir Trevor Brooking at the report launch of Offside, at City Hall

A message from Murad...



Welcome to my newsletter. I want to keep in touch with you and hope that you find these updates useful about my work as your Labour London Wide Assembly Member. Please tell any family and friends who may be interested to sign up too, by calling me on 020 7983 4400 or emailing me murad.qureshi@london.gov.uk

I argued that the best defence against losing playing fields was to ensure its intensive use by local people and to do this the green spaces must be accessible, safe and attractive.

The Report 'Offside – the loss of London's playing fields' calls for the Mayor of London to work with partners in sport and local communities and use the planning framework to make it harder to change the use of London's green spaces.

With so few open spaces, particularly in inner London, I believe we must make full use

of what we've got. This means increased access to privately owned playing fields.

If we want London's young sports men and women to lead the way in the 2012 Olympics we have to provide local facilities as well as running tracks and 50 metre swimming pools.

And what better way to get active and healthy than to take advantage of the 'Summer of Sport' offering free taster sessions in athletics, cricket and & much more. These sessions will take place from July to September every year until 2012 London, see: www.london.gov.uk/summer-of-sport.

A great cultural event – The London Mela

On behalf of the Mayor of London, I welcomed the audience to the London Mela in Gunnersbury Park, West London, on the 13th August.



As in previous years, the Mela displayed a vibrant mix of multicultural activity and proved once again that it is without doubt the premier showcase for Asian arts and culture in our diverse City.

The London Mela offers Londoners from all communities the opportunity to

get together and enjoy a display of classical, urban, community and modern Asian music, dance, theatre and other forms of Asian culture.

The Mela's success proves that London is a truly diverse city to which Asian communities make a positive contribution to London's culture, life and business.



Murad addresses the crowd



Murad with former Miss World Diana Hayden

Review of Powers



The big news for July was the report of the government's review of the powers of the Mayor and Assembly.

The government decided that the Mayor should have new powers over Planning, Housing, Learning and Skills, Waste and Appointments to functional bodies. For its part the Assembly gets to set its own budget and is able to hold confirmatory hearings on some of the most senior of the Mayor's appointments.

Ken Livingstone thanked minister Ruth Kelly and the government for recognising that the GLA had been a remarkable success since its inception in 2000 and promised he would work closely with government and other organisations in London to ensure these new powers deliver for the capital.

Victory against noisy bikers on Chelsea Bridge

In June I presented a petition to the Mayor of London on behalf of Chelsea Bridge Wharf residents demanding action against a group of bikers who were turning the bridge into a race track every Friday and Saturday night with dangerous, noisy and anti-social riding.

Along with the chair of the residents association we took a video of the riders to the BBC who showed it on the regional news and now, thanks to our efforts, the police have taken action to enforce traffic and parking laws.

If you've got similar problems, drop me a line with full details.



This picture of an exploding motorcycle on Chelsea Bridge was taken by a local resident



Get in touch

London's Assembly scrutinises the work of the Mayor and investigates issues of concern to Londoners. If you would like to raise an issue about life in London with Murad or invite him to your local group or campaign then please do get in touch

Write to Murad at:
London Assembly
Labour Office
City Hall
Queens Walk
LONDON
SE1 2AA

Phone Murad on
020 7983 4400

Not many Londoners know that...

London is full of history and memories and none more so than its sporting traditions. So I was delighted when approached by people living near Lords cricket ground to head up a campaign for a commemorative plaque to mark the old site of Lords – now part of the Lisson Grove Estate. The plaque – unveiled



Although a keen cricketer, Murad enjoys all sports and his attendance with so many other British supporters at the 2004 Athens Olympics helped the Mayor to decide to host 2012 Olympics.

by Charlotte Edwards, captain of England's Women's cricket team, was installed on the old ground's eastern side. It may well be that there are many more such 'treasures' across London that could be so commemorated, if you have any suggestions, please let me know.

Murad unveils plaque with England's women's Captain Charlotte Edwards



Photo: © Polly Hancock/MCC