



# Murad Qureshi

London Wide Assembly Member

## Get Clapham Junction on the Tube

**I** joined Martin Linton, MP for Battersea, Balham and Wandsworth, in his campaign to have the East London Line extended to Clapham Junction.

The East London Line (ELL) is currently being extended as part of Transport for London's £10bn investment Programme. The new extended line, from Dalston to West Croydon, will reopen as the East London Railway in 2010 and will be extended to Highbury and Islington in 2011.

In phase 2 of the project, a 2.5 km link will connect the line south of Surrey Quays to the overground

Network Rail South London Line to Clapham Junction. The line will be constructed on a disused rail alignment. Although the 2nd phase of the ELL has been approved, it still needs funding. Already being the UK's busiest station, passenger numbers at Clapham Junction are expected to rise by 30% in the next ten years.

Not only will the Western extension of the ELL finally link Clapham Junction Station to the tube network but it will also bring many benefits to South London in terms of jobs, regeneration and economic competitiveness at relatively low costs (£100m).

Together with Martin and the rest of the East London Line Group, I will continue to lobby the Government to fund the £100 million scheme and link Clapham Junction to the rest of the tube network.



Murad and Martin Linton MP at Clapham Junction Station

### Saving London's Mature Street Trees

**London's broadleaf trees are under severe threat. 40,000 trees have been lost whilst 48,000 trees have been planted in London. Despite this, there was a net loss of street trees in a third of London Boroughs, particularly outer London boroughs such as Croydon (2,600) and Harrow (5,000).**



Murad watering a newly planted broad leaf tree in Hackney

Many mature broad leaf trees are being chopped down and replaced by much smaller, cheaper and easier to maintain types. Blaming mature trees for subsidence, some boroughs chop down 10-40% of trees a year in response to such claims.

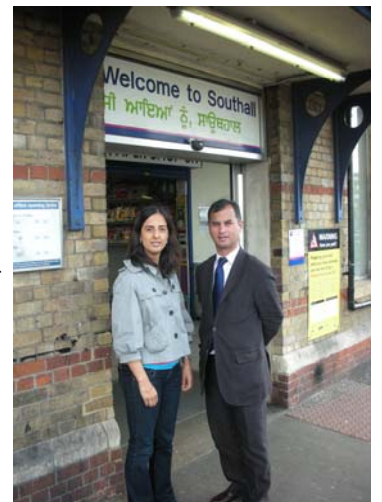
The Assembly Environment Committee launched a report (Chainsaw Massacre: A review of London's street trees) in which we call for a London-wide broad leaf street tree planting strategy, and, as part of the investigation, we went to visit a new street tree-planting programme in Stoke Newington, Hackney. I urge all Londoners who are concerned about the loss of street trees to urge their local council to adopt a street tree planting strategy. Trees enhance our well-being by providing cleaner air, noise reduction and shade.

### Improving safety and rail services at Southall Station

**Ever since a number of tragic suicides occurred at Southall station, local residents have become increasingly anxious about safety at the station.**

I have asked First Great Western on several occasions to improve safety at Southall station and consider making the following adjustments: have solid barriers at the platform edge and reduce the speed of through trains when they pass through stations, or re-route these trains onto tracks that don't run alongside the platforms.

I have also been actively campaigning for better rail services from Paddington to West London because I worry about the poor services offered to West Londoners by First Great Western. I put forward a motion on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July, joining forces with London Travel-Watch to call on the Department of Transport to investigate whether First Great Western has breached its franchise agreement. The motion was unanimously supported by all parties on the Assembly.



Murad and Ealing Councillor Sonika Nerwal campaigning for a safer

## Waterways Event with BBC's Robert Elms and Author Peter Ackroyd

**A**s chair of the Mayor's London Waterways Commission (LWC), I am hosting an event as part of the Mayor's Thames Festival. The live debate, titled 'Your River, Your Say', will take place on board the **HMS President on Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of September at 6.30pm** and will be presented by BBC London Radio's Robert Elms. Peter Ackroyd, the critically acclaimed author of 'London: The Biography', will be among the guest speakers discussing the Future of the Thames.



Author Peter Ackroyd's will talk about the river Thames.

Like last year, the event is linked to a **questionnaire** asking Londoners what they want from their river. The results will be displayed on the Thames Festival website and informs the LWC and the Mayor about what Londoners believe can be improved in relation to their river. Please spare us a few minutes of your time and

fill in the questionnaire : [http://www.thamesfestival.org/cn/whats\\_on/index.php?event\\_id=24](http://www.thamesfestival.org/cn/whats_on/index.php?event_id=24)

## Pakistan and Bangladesh IGCSEs launched with Professor Amartya Sen

**The 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Plassey (Polashi), took place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June. The clash is often seen as one of the pivotal battles leading to the formation of the British Empire in India.**

To mark the occasion, I organised an event at which Nobel Prize winner, Amartya Sen, addressed a 200 strong audience about the historic background of the battle. Other speakers were historian/



author Nick Robins, and barrister/broadcaster Huma Price. The event was chaired by Channel 4 News' Faisal Islam.

From left to right: Murad, Ann Puntis CEO at CIE and Prof Amartya Sen launch the IGCSEs

In cooperation with the University of Cambridge International Exams (CIE), I launched the New Cambridge IGCSEs in Bangladesh, Pakistan and India Studies at the event. I have been making the case with the Department for Education to have them add these IGCSEs to the UK Curriculum for Secondary school pupils because I believe the opportunity to study these IGCSEs will help strengthen community cohesion, tackle extremism in South Asian Communities and raise aspirations among South Asian youngsters in the UK.

## "Two Tings" for safer Towpaths



Murad launching the "Two Tings" campaign with Emily Thornberry, MP for South Islington, and a cyclist.

**B**ritish Waterways' improvement programme to make Regent's Canal's towpaths safer, more attractive and more accessible has led to increased use by pedestrians and cyclists. After local residents raised concerns about inconsiderate behaviour from some towpath users, British Waterways (BW) launched a 'code of conduct' encouraging cyclists to ring their bell twice when approaching a pedestrian, to pass people slowly and ride at a sensible speed. It also encourages pedestrians to listen for cyclists' bells and to allow cyclists enough room to pass.

## London Plan: Development must not encroach on Green Spaces

**In June, I responded to the Mayor's draft alterations to the London Plan by taking part in the Examination in Public (EIP).** This spatial development strategy has several objectives: accommodating London's growth within boundaries without encroaching on open spaces; making London a better place to live in; increasing prosperity; promoting social inclusion and accessibility and making the city more attractive.

During the EIP panel session, I focused on issues that are directly linked to my work as Chair of the London Waterways Commission and as rapporteur on the loss of playing fields for the Assembly Environment Committee. To support my argument about playing fields in London being under threat, I presented the panel with a document listing all the playing fields under threat. In September, the panel will present its report to the Mayor.

## Coming up in the Autumn issue of News from Murad Qureshi.....

- **Low Emission Zone: The benefits to your health**
- **The October Launch of the Report on Travel to Stadiums**

## Contact me

If you would like to raise an issue about life in London or invite me to your local group or campaign meeting, then please get in touch:  
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**Soon to be launched**

Murad's new website: [www.muradqureshi.com](http://www.muradqureshi.com)

