Fulham Town

Where is Fulham town centre? Nowadays, people might say North End Road or Fulham Broadway - these are, after all, where the bigger and busier shops are found. But neither of these is Fulham's High Street.

Fulham High Street is the western boundary of Town ward: the road that used to exploit the trade generated by Thames travellers crossing by ferry or later the wooden Fulham Bridge to Putney. Just behind the High Street in Burlington Road was John Dwight's Fulham Pottery - and the kiln survives to this day, almost hidden by an ugly 1980s office block that wraps around it. There are still shops in Fulham High Street but they tend to be small and boutique.

So this is Fulham town: the original settlement that spread from here up Fulham Road. And this is Fulham Town ward: a tightly packed grid of streets stretching east up to Parson's Green, with Fulham Road and the District Line as almost parallel spines.

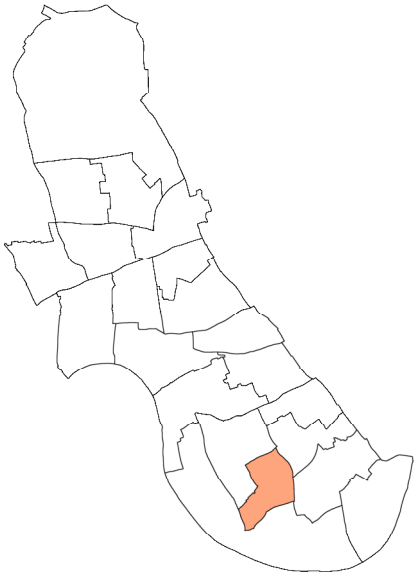
As Fulham away from the river evolved, so market forces pulled traders into town and Fulham Road became a bigger shopping centre than the High Street. And that trend continued as Walham Green established itself, closer to Chelsea, with its own station and where the town hall was built, pulling Fulham east.

There isn't that much more that can be said about the historic evolution of Fulham Town ward. Because this was a ward of traders, businessmen and entrepreneurs it was a more affluent, more middle-class ward than the industrial wharves of Crabtree and Sands End.

Town was the scene of many nursery gardens providing a range of exotic plants for the mansions that typified Fulham in the 18th and 19th centuries - Mimosa Street is so named because of this and Dancer Road is named after the family that owned one of the largest plant nurseries.

In Town ward the houses are, recognisably of the same classic architectural "Fulham" terraced style, but they tend to be a storey bigger, slightly grander.

What makes Fulham Town interesting politically is how this affluent ward behaved electorally throughout the 20th century.



Town is the best local example of a ward that started off safely Conservative (or, to be strictly accurate, Moderate, then Municipal Reform) at the turn of the century, trended Labour from 1945 until the mid 1970s and then returned to being reliable for the Tories.

There is no demographic trend that explains why Fulham Town - indeed lots of pretty affluent neighbourhoods dotted around the outskirts of central London, like Northcote in Battersea, dallied with Labour for thirty-odd years before reverting to their natural voting habits.

Town didn't suddenly become a slum and then recovered; it wasn't so bomb-damaged that the council demolished it and built huge council estates as happened elsewhere in Fulham. It's residual population wasn't suddenly transported out and replaced by a new, quite different type of Labour-supporting voter.

An emergent party like Labour breaking onto the scene just after the First World War was always going to gradually improve in an emerging, growing urban area. The same forces that made Margravine a strong Labour ward existed in Town - just in smaller proportions.

Town started off as the second safest Municipal Reform ward in Fulham after Baron's Court. Yet by 1945 it was Labour when Baron's Court was not. Of the ten contests between 1945 and 1978, the ward returned full slates of Labour candidates just twice, but at least two Labour

councillors five further times. The Conservatives won all of Town's seats only in 1949, 1953 and 1968.

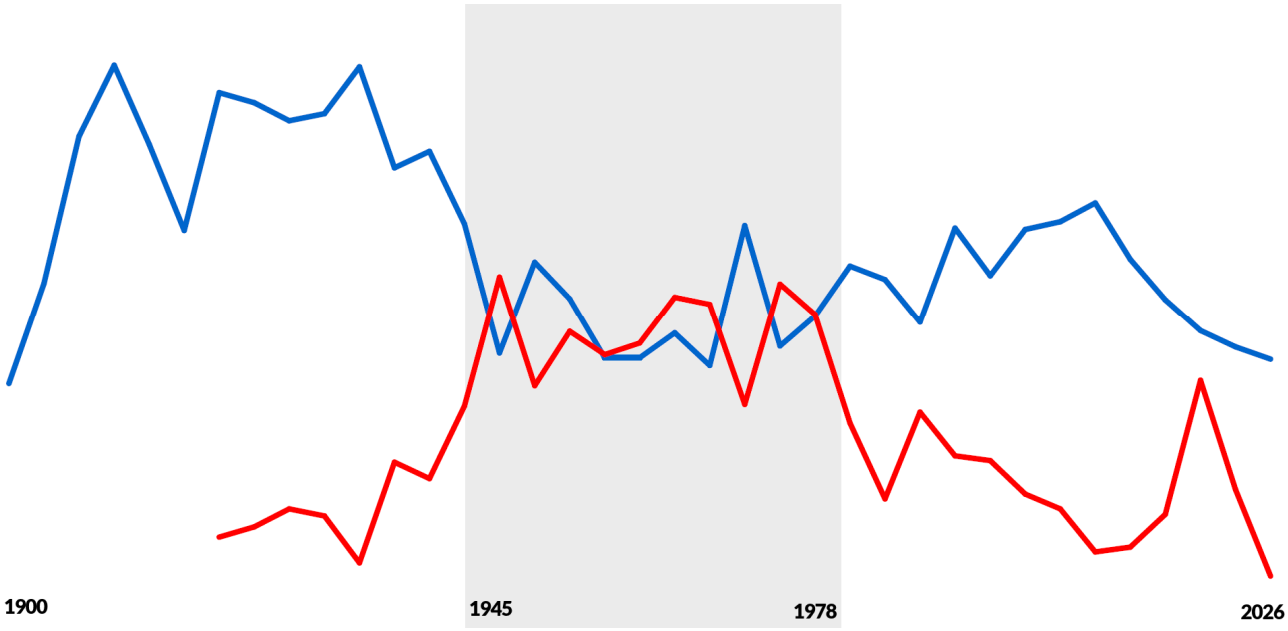
Labour was helped by the building of some council housing in the old Town ward, but not all that much of it. Arthur Henderson and William Banfield Houses, that sit behind Fulham Road from Fulham Park Gardens to Munster Road, are the largest and oldest blocks but there were also small infill estates scattered here and there: Ethel Rankin Court in Fulham Park Road; Burlington Place in Rigault Road and Bearcroft House in New King's Road.

It was also a substantially larger ward than today: not because it had wildly different boundaries but because so many more people were squeezed into these houses. In 1962 Town had over 8,600 electors.

the Beveridge Report: Want, Disease, Ignorance, Squalor and idleness.

High unemployment (especially with memories of the Great Depression very recent) was a scourge and the solution was full employment needing state intervention. Poor quality housing, made worse by the Blitz, required masses of new homes built by councils. State pensions and the Welfare State were needed to enable those too old or unable to work to live in dignity. The state needed to educate every child. And of course the NHS was needed to provide cradle to grave healthcare for all.

Yes, the parties could quibble around the edges: Fulham Council, for example, invested huge time arguing over whether the people building the council estates should be



Fulham Town ward results from 1900 to 2026 with the competitive era from 1945 to 1978 shaded

They lived in the packed terraces in the west of the ward; in the huge sub-divided houses in Fulham Park Gardens that sweeps around almost from New Kings Road to Fulham Road; in Crookham and Rostrevor Roads with their (unusual for Fulham) basement flats; and in the larger town houses between Fulham Road and Bishop's Road. Town also included the avenues nowadays in Munster ward, which also house stacks of residents.

But there was a national reason too, not just local ones. And that was the so-called "post-war consensus", where parties - and their voters - broadly agreed on what the challenges facing the country were and the solutions to fix them. In essence they were the five social ills framed in

directly employed or local private firms should be hired (Labour on the side of direct labour, the Conservatives on the side of local contractors).

The first time Labour won the council in 1919 they tried to establish a public laundry as part of a wider public sanitation drive which created the Fulham Baths in Vanston Place, which would have threatened private contractors and which eventually failed. But on those core principles there was no disagreement about the critical role the State had to play in building a better Britain.

That consensus naturally pulled the country leftward: it was the epitome of what Socialism argued for, after all.

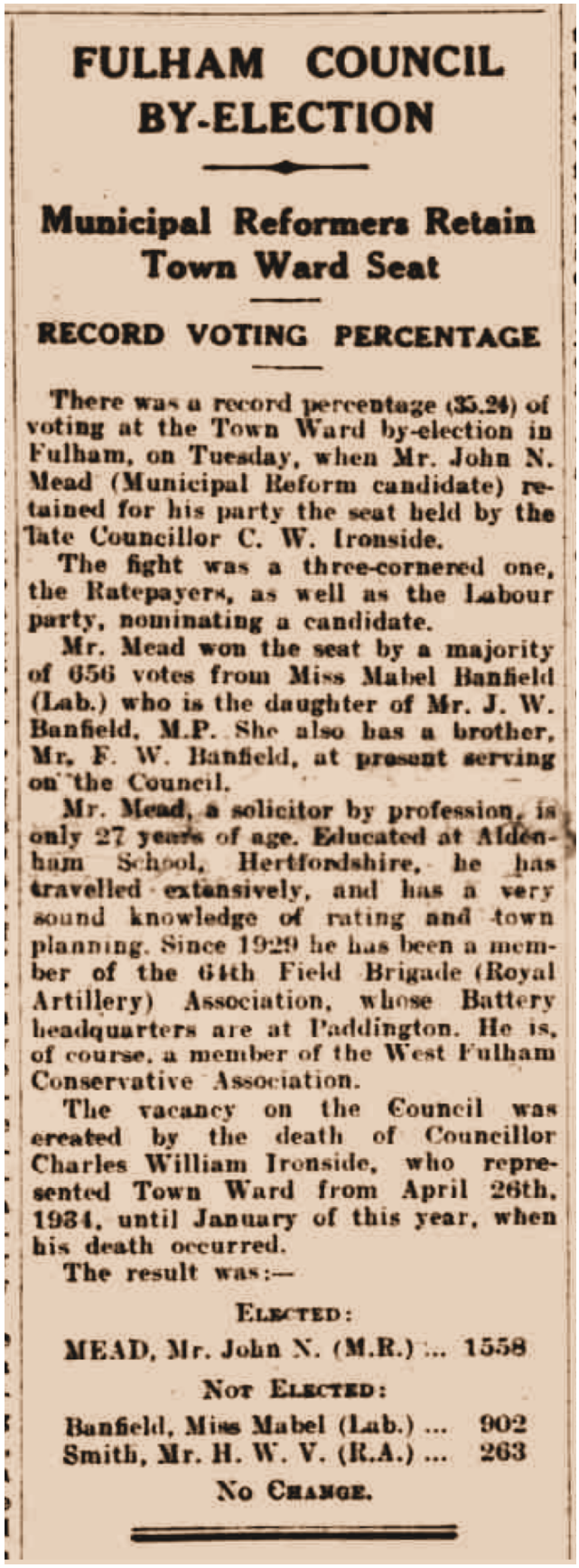
And provided there was something for everyone, not just the very poorest - and provided there was full employment so that paying for all this was spread across many shoulders - it was something a middle class Tory could vote for just as much as a working class Socialist. Furthermore, if you believed all that, didn't it make sense to vote for the party that intrinsically believed in a big state: Labour, rather than the one that looked at the cost of everything and the value of nothing - the Conservatives?

So these are the reasons Town improved for Labour: political consensus, dense housing, a growing stock of council homes with their working class tenants, and, house prices in the rest of the ward that, if towards the top end of the market were still broadly affordable and created a mixed if leaning affluent neighbourhood, unlike the Fulham Town of today.

Labour was also getting better organised, with a big membership and a full time election agent and assistant. Fulham Labour Party's headquarters, Harold Laski House, were in Fulham Road on the junction of Munster Road, opposite what was then the Durrell Arms pub. Labour had a permanent presence in an HQ equipped with a printing press from which to go out and campaign in Town.

But for all their campaigning effort, Labour never managed to make Town safe. In the same way that Hammersmith's Brook Green ward was only winnable in the very best Labour years, so Town in Fulham was somewhere the party had to work ceaselessly just to maintain a foothold. As that post war consensus disintegrated because the privations that fuelled collectivism faded, as unions became more militant, as the Empire was dismantled, the pound devalued and despite government efforts unemployment crept up, Labour's ability to hold Town disappeared with it.

In the last election of Fulham Borough Council in 1962, Town voted 52% Labour to 48% Conservative. Two years later, in the first election to the London Borough of Hammersmith, Labour's position had strengthened and they were about 15% clear. But a freak occurrence led to a Conservative winning despite this big lead: four hundred more voters marked their "X" against BARRY Hill, the Conservative, than for the other two Tory candidates while Labour's ERIC Hill, who came below his namesake, polled 400 fewer than his Labour running-mates.



FULHAM COUNCIL BY-ELECTION

Municipal Reformers Retain Town Ward Seat

RECORD VOTING PERCENTAGE

There was a record percentage (35.24) of voting at the Town Ward by-election in Fulham, on Tuesday, when Mr. John N. Mead (Municipal Reform candidate) retained for his party the seat held by the late Councillor C. W. Ironside.

The fight was a three-cornered one, the Ratepayers, as well as the Labour party, nominating a candidate.

Mr. Mead won the seat by a majority of 656 votes from Miss Mabel Banfield (Lab.) who is the daughter of Mr. J. W. Banfield, M.P. She also has a brother, Mr. F. W. Banfield, at present serving on the Council.

Mr. Mead, a solicitor by profession, is only 27 years of age. Educated at Aldenham School, Hertfordshire, he has travelled extensively, and has a very sound knowledge of rating and town planning. Since 1929 he has been a member of the 64th Field Brigade (Royal Artillery) Association, whose Battery headquarters are at Paddington. He is, of course, a member of the West Fulham Conservative Association.

The vacancy on the Council was created by the death of Councillor Charles William Ironside, who represented Town Ward from April 26th, 1934, until January of this year, when his death occurred.

The result was:—

ELECTED:

MEAD, Mr. John N. (M.R.) ... 1558

NOT ELECTED:

Banfield, Miss Mabel (Lab.) ... 902
Smith, Mr. H. W. V. (R.A.) ... 263

No CHANGE.

It is of course possible that some genuinely preferred Barry to Eric, though Eric perhaps got the last laugh in that he was one of just six Labour councillors elected in 1968 (this time in Margravine) while his comrades in Town were heavily defeated. He went on to become mayor of the borough in 1971.

Labour regained Town in 1971 - all three seats this time - but their majority was half that of 1964. South Fulham was the first part of the neighbourhood to begin gentrifying as young professionals who wanted, but couldn't afford, to live in Chelsea began searching for the nearest pleasant neighbourhoods to populate.



Fulham Chronicle
Friday February 11, 1938

Fulham Council

Four nominations for Town ward seat

Four candidates were nominated yesterday for a Fulham Borough Council by-election in Town ward, occasioned by the death of Mr. C.W. Ironside. The election will take place on Tuesday, February 15. Polling hours will be 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. There will be two polling stations - at the Artillery Drill Hall in Fulham High Street, and at Munster Park Chapel Hall.

The Fulham Ratepayers Association are not dismayed at the defeat of their candidates - allied with the Municipal Reform Party - at the election last November. One of their nominees on that occasion, Mr. H.W.V. Smith, is contesting this by-election. In this contest there is no alliance between the Ratepayers Association and the Municipal Reform Party. Mr Smith is standing in opposition to the Municipal Reform candidate.

The Labour Party has also nominated a candidate who stood at the Borough Council election - Miss Mabel Banfield. The nominee of the Municipal Reform Party is comparatively unknown in Fulham. Added interest is provided by the nomination of a lady by the Communist Party.

Particulars of the nominated candidates are as follow:-

BANFIELD, Miss Gladys Mabel (Lab), 3 Rosedew Road, Fulham; shop assistant. Proposed by Walter Rankin, 19 Burnfoot Avenue, Fulham, seconded by Elizabeth Eva Hollingbery, 5 Clonmel Road, Fulham.

MEAD, John Nielsen (M.R.), 69 Earls Court Square, S.W.5; Solicitor. Proposed by William Lewis Upham, 32 Epple Road, Fulham, seconded by Edward William Wilson, 955 Fulham Road, Fulham.

ROBERTS, Jeanette Pearl (Com.), 21 Finlay Street, Fulham; married woman. Proposed by Wilhelmina Holland, 22 Fulham Park Gardens, seconded by Robert Burn Holland, 22 Fulham Park Gardens.

SMITH, Harold William V. (R.A.), 51 Finlay Street, Fulham; civil servant. Proposed by Alfred P. Mobbs, 785 Fulham Road, seconded by Evelyn Bishop, 779 Fulham Road.

MISS G.M. BANFIELD

Miss Banfield is the only daughter of Mr. J.W. Banfield M.P., and a sister of Councillor F. Banfield. She unsuccessfully contested Town ward in the Borough Council election in November. She has taken a prominent part in the local Labour Party activities. She is a member of the executive and also of the general management committee of the West Fulham Labour Party, and secretary of the women's section. She belongs to the Shop Assistants Union.

MR. H.W.V. SMITH

Mr. H.W.V. Smith was born in Fulham and has lived in the borough all his life. He was one of the Fulham Ratepayers' Association candidates who, with the support of the Municipal Reform Party, contested Lillie ward at the November election. Mr Smith is well known as Scoutmaster of the 33rd West London Independent Troop of Scouts.

MR J.N. MEAD

Mr. Mead is 27 years of age. He has been a member of the West Fulham Conservative Association for some time. He holds a commission in the 64th Field Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery (T.F.), whose head-quarters are at the Drill Hall, Fulham High Street. He has travelled extensively, and has a wide knowledge of rating and town planning.

Monday next week has been fixed as the latest date for withdrawals.

Out and About

It is not often that a Borough Council by-election creates much interest, but there are some unusual features about the contest that takes place next Tuesday in Town ward.

The necessary procedure for the filling of the seat on the council rendered vacant by the lamented death of Mr. Ironside began in a somewhat mysterious atmosphere owing to the fact that neither Labour nor the Municipal Reform Party announced their candidates until a few hours before the time for nominations. Town ward is regarded as a Conservative stronghold not only by members of that party but by Labour as well.

It is common knowledge that if only a Municipal Reform candidate had been nominated Labour would not have forced a contest. The Municipal Reformer would have been returned unopposed. From the start, however, there was a feeling that the Ratepayers' Association might intervene, and in that event Labour was determined to contest the seat.

The statement from the Communist Party, published in another column, discloses that that party thought that in any event the Municipal Reformer should be opposed. Hence the nomination of a Communist, who has since withdrawn, leaving Labour to fight two opponents. So the Ratepayers' Association and the Communist Party must share the responsibility for forcing a contest. Many Fulham citizens will welcome the intervention of a Ratepayers' Association candidate, especially one unfettered - for this contest at any rate - with any political alliances.

This is as it should be, for the Ratepayers' Association claims to be a non-political body, and as such has great possibilities. The Association has chosen as its nominee Mr. H.W.V. Smith, who is certainly about the strongest candidate they could have found.

We know nothing of his politics, but he is a Fulham man in the truest and fullest sense of the word. He knows his borough and its problems well, and he has always taken a lively interest in its local affairs. We know of no better qualifications for a candidate at any municipal contest.

Miss Banfield comes before the electors with similar qualifications as the Labour nominee, and a staunch upholder of Labour's rule at the Town Hall. Her chances in this three-cornered contest are by no means hopeless, even though Town ward is regarded as a Conservative stronghold.

Mr. J.N. Mead, with the backing of the well-tried Conservative organisation, is endeavouring to retain the seat for the Municipal Reformers. Although he has little or no previous association with municipal life, he is an enthusiastic young man intensely interested in local government and is an officer of the Territorial Artillery. At the triennial election in November Labour, in a straight fight with Municipal Reform in this ward, came within 661 votes of success.

There are 7,768 local government electors on the register - 4,344 women and 3,424 men. To win, all the candidates will require every vote they can possibly obtain, but the weather on polling day may well prove the deciding factor.

Back to the polls as Tory resigns

COUNCILLORS are preparing for a crucial battle that could decide Hammersmith's balance of power.

This follows the shock resignation of Tory Chief Whip Courtenay Warner on Thursday night which has forced a bye-election in the Town ward.

Both Labour and Tory leaders have promised to put up strong candidates for the election on June 28.

Cllr. Tony Powell said he was personally sorry to hear of Mr. Warner's resignation, but politically delighted.

He said: "So long as Mrs. Thatcher is in power we stand a good chance of winning the seat."

But Tory leader Stuart Leishman said the two Town ward seats were safe and his party would be putting up a strong candidate.

He said: "I am verry sorry to lose Mr. Warner because he was a good chief whip — but I don't think there will be any shift in the balance of power."

Mr. Warner has resigned on the advice of doctors, and is moving with his wife and four-year-old son to Norfolk where he will continue in the antique business.

Mr. Warner was elected to the council in May 1978, and after only a few weeks he was appointed Tory Chief Whip.

His resignation and Ettie Crawford's resignation from the labour benches leaves the two major parties with 23 councillors each — the balance of power being in the hands of Liberals Simon Knott and Robert Mulcahy.

Town ward was held by two Labour councillors and one Tory before the ward was reduced to two seats in 1976, when the Tories took both seats.

But even if Labour win the vacant seat next month it would not necessarily lead to a Lib-Lab pact.

Liberal leader Simon Knott said: "It would take at least 25 seats for Labour to take control of the borough. I have seen nothing of their conduct over the last 12 months to make me think they are fit to govern."

In 1974 Conservative Esme Clarke won one of the Town seats and in 1978 a 10% swing to the Conservatives put the ward well and truly beyond Labour's reach for good.

Councillor Clarke resigned in 1976 causing a by-election, something that Town has gained a bit of notoriety for. The ward has had at least nineteen by-elections since 1900 - that works out as one every six and a half years. Safe wards can sometimes end up bearing more by-elections than the norm because there is less risk to the incumbent party of losing, even if each one does tempt fate. In the modern era, seven of the eight by-elections that have occurred since 1964 have been due to resignation.

One seat in particular has proved jinxed: the seat that in 1986 was won by Diana Fawcett. She resigned in 1987 and Terry McGrath was the by-election victor. He resigned in 1993 and Tony Glover was the by-election victor. When he disappeared leaving a trail of suspect Housing Benefit claims in 1996 Stephen Greenhalgh, the future council leader, was the by-election victor.

He in turn resigned when he was appointed Boris Johnson's Deputy Mayor responsible for Policing in 2012. Greenhalgh's replacement was Andrew Brown who made way in 2022 for Andrew Dinsmore - and he resigned in 2025, purportedly to spend more time with his family, only to then pop up literally days later as a council candidate in Rutland.

Tories hold Town ward

THE Conservatives won Thursday's by-election for Hammersmith's Town Ward with a majority of more than 350.

The new Tory councillor, David Clark, replaces Courtney Warner who resigned because of ill health. Cllr Clark, 31, is a financial consultant

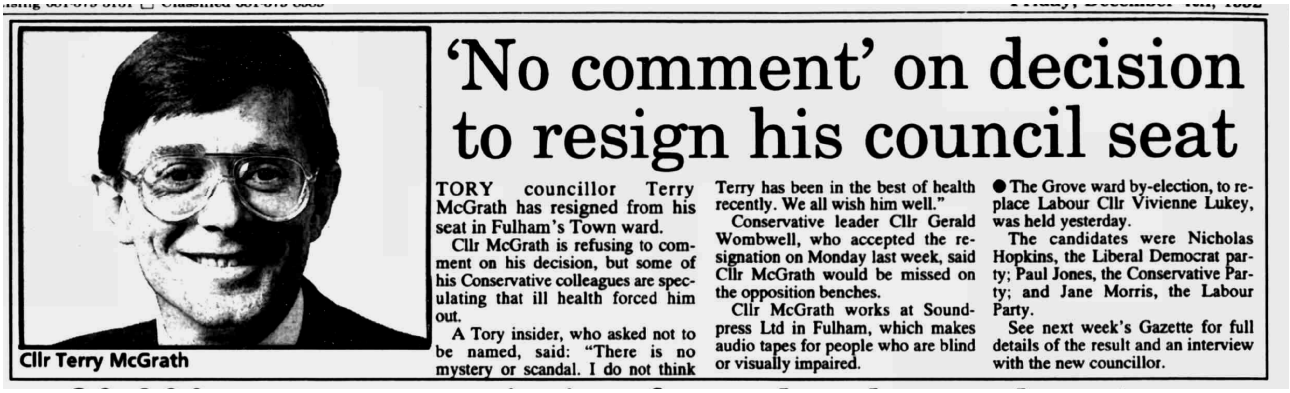
Martyn Heale, the former chairman of Hammersmith National Front, who says he's now working for racial harmony, polled just 10 votes.

Results of the Town Ward by-election, were: Moira Carroll (Liberal) — 168, David Clark (Conservative) — 1,144, Martyn Heale (Progress) — 10, Leslie Hilliard (Labour) — 790, Joseph Keats (Independent) — 9, Raymond Perrin (Independent) — 11.

The current holder of that fated seat, Liam Downer-Sanderson, will hope it doesn't eject him any time soon.

During the 2000 boundary review, neither of the big parties proposed retaining Town ward. Because of the criterion that all wards had to have 3 councillors, 2-member Town had to be enlarged regardless. But Labour wanted the Fulham High Street end moved to an enlarged Palace ward with the rest in a new Parson's Green ward while the Conservatives proposed a Filmer ward for the streets north of Fulham Road and a Parson's Green ward for the rest. The Commission rejected both ideas and rescued Town ward, extending it to Fulham Broadway.

This was a logical choice in some respects: this was still a "Fulham Road" ward. It contains three big council estates: Fulham Court, Lancaster Court (named not after the



‘No comment’ on decision to resign his council seat

Cllr Terry McGrath

TORY councillor Terry McGrath has resigned from his seat in Fulham’s Town ward.

Cllr McGrath is refusing to comment on his decision, but some of his Conservative colleagues are speculating that ill health forced him out.

A Tory insider, who asked not to be named, said: “There is no mystery or scandal. I do not think Terry has been in the best of health recently. We all wish him well.”

Conservative leader Cllr Gerald Wombwell, who accepted the resignation on Monday last week, said Cllr McGrath would be missed on the opposition benches.

Cllr McGrath works at Soundpress Ltd in Fulham, which makes audio tapes for people who are blind or visually impaired.

● The Grove ward by-election, to replace Labour Cllr Vivienne Lukey, was held yesterday.

The candidates were Nicholas Hopkins, the Liberal Democrat party; Paul Jones, the Conservative Party; and Jane Morris, the Labour Party.

See next week’s Gazette for full details of the result and an interview with the new councillor.

county town of Lancashire but a long-serving Labour councillor and alderman, Christopher Lancaster) and Barclay Close. But these big council estates were atypical of Town and they also looked east towards the Broadway and North End Road - not for them the chi-chi boutiques of Fulham Road to the west. This was never part of the historic settlement of Fulham township.

Because Labour support fell off steeply in successive elections: 2002, 2006 and 2010, there was little sign that putting these council estates into Town had any political effect. There was also something of a hangover Lib Dem presence from the abolished Eel Brook ward which that party had won in 1994 and from which these central council estates had been donated. As Labour's vote declined, the Lib Dems were, on occasion, able to push Labour into third, but only just and still miles behind the Tories.

Even though Town was not the least bit close in 2014, the impact of the Conservatives implementing the outcome of the EU referendum gave Labour the confidence to have a real go at winning this heavily Remain-voting ward in 2018. The core of their strategy was to massively increase turnout from the estates at the east end of the ward.

Allegation of fraud: Tory quits

A TORY councillor has quit after an investigation into benefit fraud allegations.

Town ward Cllr Tony Glover faces prosecution after claiming income support while receiving thousands of pounds in allowances.

He was interviewed under caution by Department of Social Security officials on December 12.

Two days later, he tendered his resignation "for personal reasons". Fellow Tory councillors were left in the dark about the "reasons", as Mr Glover offered no explanation.

Left flat

He left his flat in Romney Court, Shepherds Bush Green, and friends, who believe he may be staying with his parents on the south coast, have not heard from him since.

The DSS is considering whether to bring court proceedings against Mr Glover.

The allegations will embarrass Conservative Party chiefs who are preparing to defend the vacant seat at a by-election on January 25.

The regulations governing councillors; entitlement to benefit are notoriously complex.

However, guidelines have been drawn up by the Local Government Information Unit.

In its publication *Councillors, Tax and Benefits: A Guide to the Rules,* the unit states: "Most of the allowances you receive as a councillor count as 'earnings' or 'remuneration' for both tax and social security purposes. You should therefore declare this income on your tax return and to any office where you claim benefits."

Copies of the guide were distributed to every councillor in Hammersmith and Fulham last summer.

Council records show that since his election in 1993, Mr Glover claimed nearly £5,000 in allowances.

Although he was entitled to some benefits, any payment should have been offset against his allowances.

Mr Glover was a popular figure in Town ward, the second safest Tory seat in the borough. Last year he played a key role in helping New Kings Road traders battle against bus lanes which they believed would stifle business.

Tory Cllr Adronie Alford said: "I was a very good friend of his, but I haven't heard from him since he resigned. I think some people decide on a clean break when they leave the council."

A council spokesman said: "Cllr Glover explained that he resigned for personal reasons and he has not added anything to that since his resignation."

A benefits Agency spokesman said its policy was not to discuss individual cases.

As the Town results since they were added suggests, these were not been the most enthusiastically Labour supporting estates ever built - Fulham Court in particular.

Fulham Court gained a reputation as a "problem" estate - in part because it is very high density crammed into a constrained piece of land almost on top of the District Line, with virtually no outdoor recreation space for its residents. It was also an estate on which, for whatever reason, white families tended to get housed. When it started to become more ethnically diverse there was some racial tension here, especially in the late 1970s when the National Front were as strong as they would ever be.

Labour never felt it get as big a vote from this estate as it expected to in the old Eel Brook - which the party had drawn in 1978 to be reasonably safe. But it never worked out that way, even in 1986 - indeed, the very narrow 2026 Labour win in Walham Green, of which those estates are now a part, might substantiate those beliefs further.

But in 2018 circumstances were quite different and the Conservatives were shocked at how Labour's new-found activism had driven up their vote in the

Tories take safe by-election seat

By MIKE PARKINSON

CONSERVATIVES across the borough are celebrating a by-election victory in Fulham last week.

Stephen Greenhalgh, 28, won more than half the total votes polled, dashing Labour and Lib Dem hopes of narrowing the margin between the parties.

Town ward is the Tories' second safest ward in the borough, but many were surprised that there was only a 2.5 per cent swing to Labour.

The combination of an out-of-date electoral roll and Siberian weather was blamed for a low turn-out of voters – fewer than one in three braved the icy winds to reach the polling stations on Thursday last week. The electoral roll is due to be updated next month.



Town ward winner Steven Greenhalgh

Mr Greenhalgh, son of Charing Cross surgeon Professor Roger Greenhalgh, said he was "delighted" with the result.

"Labour and the Liberals tried to campaign on national issues, but the bottom line is that you have got to fight a campaign on issues where the council can make a difference," he said.

"We will be fighting hard for local businesses in Fulham High Street, which have been affected by the bus lane."

Mr Greenhalgh, a management consultant specialising in sales and marketing, also intends to focus attention on the need for controlled parking across Town ward.

Council leader Iain Coleman, Labour's parliamentary candidate for Fulham, defended his party's record.

He said: "To be frank, Town ward is not great territory for us. I'm prepared to accept that Town ward and Palace ward are the only safe wards for the Conservatives."

A Labour Party activist added: "It's not really that indicative because it's such a low poll. It's a safe Tory seat, and I don't think anybody really expected miracles.

"It was useful for us as a dry run for the next general election. Many of our new members were involved in the campaign and we had a chance to try out a new computerised system of counting votes."

Labour also passed up the opportunity of embarrassing the Tories about fraud allegations levelled at former Conservative councillor Tony Glover, preferring instead to fight a "clean" campaign.

The by-election was called after Mr Glover tendered his resignation for "personal reasons".

It later emerged that DSS officials had quizzed Mr Glover about allegations that he had signed on without declaring his councillors' allowances, two days before he quit.

The DSS is considering whether to prosecute Mr Glover.

● Town ward results: Greenhalgh (Conservative) 670; Allen (Labour) 435; Green (Lib Dem) 160.

east end of Town, to the extent that the Tories concocted a fanciful story about Labour campaigners somehow fraudulently signing up postal voters by means of a petition. They even reported Labour to the police and got the Evening Standard to run this fake news "scandal". But no-one was arrested, charged or imprisoned: it was nonsense.

Yet postal voters did surge, almost doubling from 1,028 in 2014 to 1,929 in 2018. Voter turnout in the polling district that covered these estates - rose from just under 33% in 2014 to nearly 46% in 2018. 51% of Fulham Court turned out; just 40% of Burnthwaite Road - a pretty strongly Conservative street behind Dawes Road. Barclay Close turnout was 53%; Swan Court: 69%; Ravensworth Court: 59% and Lancaster Court 48%.

The Conservatives very nearly lost the ward. The lowest-placed Tory ended just 126 votes ahead of the top Labour candidate. Labour's vote rose over seventeen percentage points, mopping up a Lib Dem vote that halved to just over ten.

Had the Conservative vote fallen by anything like as much as Labour's climbed they'd have lost for the first time in over forty years, but they slipped by less than five.

That was a pretty impressive assertion of the resilience of the Conservative vote here: Labour's advance was basically driven by all non-Tories aligning behind them and that big increase in turnout.

At the 2019 electoral review the Conservatives tried to retain the existing Town ward but with a few streets from Hurlingham added to shore their vote up. Labour more or less wanted the Town ward that existed prior to 1978 back, regaining the avenues from Munster and the "villes" just north of Bishops Road. Munster would have become a two-councillor ward while Town would have retained three seats.

The two areas Labour wanted to transfer contained almost the entirety of the Conservative majority in Munster ward in 2018: the rest of that ward was essentially neck and neck.

Summary results for Fulham Town ward

	Con	Lab	LD	Grn	Oths
1900	41.2		30.9		27.9
1903	54.1		36.9		9.1
1906	72.9		27.1		
1909	82.0	18.0			
1912	71.9		28.1		
1912B	Unop				
1919	60.9				39.1
1922	78.5	21.5			
1923B	57.8				42.2
1925	77.2	22.8			
1925B	Unop				
1928	74.9	25.1			
1928B	75.8	24.2			
1931	81.8	18.2			
1932B	Unop				
1934B	68.9	31.1			
1934	71.0	29.0			
1936B	Unop				
1937	61.7	38.3			
1938B	57.2	33.1			9.7
1942B	Unop				
1944B	Unop				
1945	45.1	54.9			
1949	56.8	40.9			2.3
1951B	Result not known				
1953	52.1	47.9			
1956	44.5	44.9			
1959	44.5	46.4	9.1		
1962	47.7	52.3			
1964	43.5	51.4	5.1		
1968	61.5	38.5			
1971	46.0	54.0			
1974	49.9	50.1			
1976B	57.1	38.8	4.1		
1978	56.3	36.1	4.0	3.6	
1979B	53.7	37.1	7.9	1.4	
1982	54.6	26.4	19.0		
1986	49.1	37.5	9.5	3.9	
1987B	67.0	26.8	6.2		
1990	61.2	31.9	7.0		
1993B	61.3	31.7	7.0		
1994	55.1	31.3	13.6		
1996B	53.0	34.4	12.6		
1998	61.0	27.0	12.0		
2002	62.0	25.1	12.9		
2006	64.4	19.6	16.0		
2009B	63.4	17.7	18.9		
2010	57.2	20.2	22.6		
2012B	49.4	26.8	21.3	2.5	
2014	52.0	24.4	18.8		
2018	48.0	41.6	10.3		
2022	45.9	27.6	26.6		
2025B	43.3	16.8	23.1	4.2	12.5
2026	44.3	16.5	16.5	12.2	10.5

The notional Tory majority in Munster on Labour's proposed boundaries was just 17 votes - almost certainly the ward would have elected one Labour councillor had it existed in 2018 on these lines.

Initially the Commission went with Labour's plan. So, instead of attempting to undo the damage the commission's draft did to their hopes elsewhere in the borough, the Conservatives concentrated all their efforts on saving their five councillors in these two Fulham wards. That meant retaining Munster as the 3-member ward, complete with most of the territory that Labour wanted moved to Town; leaving Town with two councillors.

They succeeded: the one consolation for the Conservatives in an otherwise dreadful electoral review for them. But it was a standstill outcome for them: they didn't gain anything from the status quo - just held their number of seats here steady.

In the Coningham profile we looked at what happens when a party - in that case the Greens - target the wrong ward. They are not the only party that has done this.

The Liberal Democrats chose Munster as their target ward in 2022 but made little impact. In contrast they tied with Labour for a quite distant second place in Fulham Town, suggesting that they should have worked this ward far harder.

They got their chance to rectify this in the optimal political circumstances of 2025 when Labour's popularity was tanking and the Conservatives were losing votes by the bundle to Reform UK. The by-election caused by Andrew Dismore's resignation occurred just a year after the landslide Conservative general election defeat. Could the Liberal Democrats capitalise on the near-panic imbuing some corners of Britain's most successful political party and their principal opponents in Fulham?



No. There was actually a small swing from Lib Dem to Conservative in the by-election, and a slightly larger one from Labour - though all three of these parties lost vote share to Reform UK, who polled 13%.

The Conservatives won with almost twice as many votes as the Lib Dem and yet again the innate Conservatism of Fulham Town was reasserted.

The 2026 election, taking place less than a year after the by-election was essentially a re-run of the by-election, with the Lib Dems doing a lot worse and the Greens a lot better. But the Greens still only won 12% - their second weakest vote share in Hammersmith and Fulham and less than two points ahead of Reform.

Although the Conservatives aren't winning here by the sort of margins they have in the past, Labour is at historic lows and there is no conceivable way they can resurrect the spirit of collectivism that enabled them to win Fulham town decades ago.

Rollcall of Fulham Town ward councillors

including Town ward (1900-2022)

2026
- Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler
- Liam Downer-Sanderson

2025B
- Liam Downer-Sanderson

2022
- Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler
- Andrew Dinsmore

2018
- Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler
- Andrew Brown
- Belinda Donovan

2014
- Andrew Brown
- Viya Nsumbu
- Greg Smith

2012B
- Andrew Brown

2010
- Oliver Craig
- Stephen Greenhalgh
- Greg Smith

2009B
- Oliver Craig

2006
- Stephen Greenhalgh
- Antony Lillis
- Greg Smith

2002
- Stephen Greenhalgh
- Greg Hands
- Antony Lillis

1998
- Antony Lillis
- Stephen Greenhalgh

1996B
- Stephen Greenhalgh

1994
- Mark Loveday
- Tony Glover

1993B
- Tony Glover

1990
- Terence McGrath
- Guy Roberts

1987B
- Terence McGrath

1986
- Diana Fawcett
- Fiona MacGregor

1982
- David Clark
- Fiona MacGregor

1979B
- David Clark

1978
- Fiona MacGregot
- Courtney Warner

1976B
- Fiona MacGregor

1974
- Esme Clarke
- Les Hilliard
- Will Unwin

1971
- Jonathan Boswell
- Ian Gray
- Les Hilliard

1968
- Paul Dwyer
- Peter Fane
- Sidney Lilley

1964
- Ian Gray
- Barry Hill
- Max House

1962
- Abe Desmore
- Ian Gray
- Les Hilliard
- Ian Jordan

1959
- William Hallam
- Les Hilliard
- Birte Little
- Thomas Parker

1956
- Brian Galpin
- Margot Noyes
- William Pittman
- Sidney Toms

1953
- Marjorie Gale
- Brian Galpin
- Eric Keeble
- Herbert Poulter

1951B
- Brian Galpin

1949
- A. Fox
- Marjorie Gale
- E. Pickles
- Herbert Poulter

1945
- Helen Fournier
- M. Jamieson
- C. Otley
- William Wallis

1942B
- William Moon

1938B
- John Mead

1937
- Charles Epps
- Charles Ironside
- John Melville
- William Upham

1936B
- John Melville

1934
- Charles Epps
- Charles Ironside
- Sydney Carnt
- William Upham

1934B
- Charles Ironside

1931
- Sydney Carnt
- Stanley Cave
- George Clark
- William Upham

1928
- Sydney Carnt
- Stanley Cave
- William Corbin
- William Upham

1928B
- Cyril Hicks

1925
- George Clark
- William Corbin
- Sydney Carnt
- William Upham

1923B
- Cornelius De Coster

1922
- George Clark
- Arthur Andrews
- George Peachey

1919
- George Clark
- Arthur Andrews
- George Peachey

1912B
- Charles Hawker

1912
- George Clark
- Edgar Sainsbury
- George Peachey

1909
- George Clark
- Edgar Sainsbury
- George Peachey

1906
- George Clark
- Edgar Sainsbury
- George Peachey

1903
- George Clark
- Charles Hawker
- George Peachey

1900
- John Flew
- Charles Hawker
- Henry Williams