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HARROW TIMES

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Opposition leader under police probe

By Beth Cherryman

HARROW Council's opposition group leader is being investigated by police for allegedly failing to declare a personal interest before a debate.

Cllr Susan Hall, the Conservative group leader, was reported to the Met last month after she presented a petition during a full council meeting on February 25 calling for plans to move the Civic Centre to Wealdstone to be stopped.

She then took part in the subsequent debate.

However, the Hatch End representative has now been accused of failing to follow council rules as it is claimed she did not declare she owns a business in the area, which means Cllr Hall should have been removed from the discussion.

The complaint is now being investigated by the MPS Special Enquiry Team.

Cllr Hall denies any wrongdoing and claims her interest was declared appropriately.

She said: "My interest was declared at the council meeting of February 25, a fact which is clearly recorded in the minutes of the meeting."

"Over 4,000 people have signed a petition against the Labour plan to knock down several major buildings and forcibly relocate the Civic Centre."

"This affects residents across two wards, with potential repercussions across the whole borough, not to mention hundreds of businesses and thousands of jobs."

"The deep unhappiness with the anti-business agenda of the Labour Party in Harrow was clear with nearly 100 employees from one business alone coming to the council meeting to protest."



Cllr Susan Hall is being investigated by the police

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bour Party in Harrow was clear with nearly 100 employees from one business alone coming to the council meeting to protest.

"I am a hard-working councillor

who will always fight for Harrow's residents and against the Labour Party's anti-business agenda."

At the meeting, during which the administration's draft budget was also discussed and approved, other councillors raised a concern that Cllr Hall should have excused herself from the debate.

They were advised by the authority's lawyer that the matter would have to be reported to and investigated by the police.

Members of the Harrow Monitoring Group believe Cllr Hall is in "self-denial" over the matter.

Husain Akthar, the group's researcher, said: "Such a serious non-compliance of the councillors code by a senior councillor damages the council's image and shakes people's confidence in the local democracy and transparency."

Gary Martin, branch secretary for Harrow UNISON, said no elected politician should be able to flout the rules.

He said: "We do not expect councillors to enact double standards as and when it suits them so that they, potentially, may pursue their own personal interests."

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COMMUNITY PHARMACY The basics

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Community pharmacists are the most accessible healthcare professionals. Every day they ensure thousands of people receive the medicines and advice they need, but here are some facts you might not have known about pharmacy



There are
11,646
community
pharmacies
in England

MORE THAN
1 billion
prescription items
are dispensed
in community
pharmacies each year

EVERY DAY
1.6m
people
visit a
community
pharmacy in England

89.2%
of the population
can walk to a
community pharmacy
in **20 minutes**

MORE THAN
485,000
flu vaccinations
were given in
pharmacies in the
last flu season

Pharmacies delivered
more than
3.17 million
medicines use reviews in
2014/15 to help improve
adherence to medicines



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