

## LETTERS AND COMMENT

### ■ GRAVEL EXTRACTION

# Tories showing their hypocrisy

Vanessa Cole's letter (*Recorder*, last week) confirms what I've been saying all along about the gravel extraction debate: we've been set a duty to extract gravel, a clear policy position agreed by local, London and national government and a responsibility to judge the planning application for gravel extraction on its merits.

I know we will all be looking very closely at that application, as will bodies like English Heritage and the Environment Agency.

To be clear: I don't blame the Conservatives

for passing the policy. I'm accusing the Conservatives of hypocrisy for saying one thing whilst running the council and "enough is enough" now they're in opposition.

Readers may also wish to know that while Conservative members are readily available for photo-shoots on this issue, not a single Conservative councillor attended the first meeting of the Fairlop Gravel Advisory Panel on Thursday, December 11. The members concerned did seem to make it along to an Ilford North Conservative Association meeting held later that same evening. So much for representing the interests of residents.

**Cllr Wes Streeting  
Labour, Aldborough**