

WHAT HAPPENED TO SOUTHALL?

KEY SUMMARY

This report looks at the problems in Southall and beyond. It looks at why they happened in the first place.

Problems that are not accidents. They are choices made by people in power: Ealing Labour Council and its leader, Peter Mason.

This report was written by the community, for the community.

Key Findings

Waste Management Failures



- ⇒ Fly-tipping doubled when collections went fortnightly.
- ⇒ Returning to weekly collections could **save £929,000–£1.6 million per year**. Addressing the cause would be 4.6 times cheaper than managing the symptoms. Yet the Council's public explanation blames the residents.

Community Services And Green Spaces Under Attack

- ⇒ **10 children's centres proposed for closure** in the borough's most deprived communities.
- ⇒ Ealing Council's own 2022 data shows residents view **Southall's conditions as worse, not better**.
- ⇒ Southall Town Hall was saved by judicial review. The Young Adults Centre was saved by the young people who use it. Tudor Rose was threatened with demolition. 61 acres of Warren Farm was saved through a decade long campaign, and a petition with over 26,000 signatures.

The community has to keep fighting.
Each time it gets harder.

SCAN ME



Housing Crisis

- ⇒ Only **16% of affordable homes have been built.**
- ⇒ Housing waiting list **rose from 9,000 to more than 12,000.** The Council claimed they had reduced the list, but they just **removed low-priority applicants.**
- ⇒ Ealing Council **demolished 5,000 social homes.** That's more than any other London borough in the past 10 years.
- ⇒ Southall received £13.1m developer fees. Only £4.9m went into local spending. New homes but **no new roads, schools, or GP surgeries.**

Health and Environmental Injustice

- ⇒ Southall has the **highest number of preventable chronic illnesses** in the borough.
- ⇒ Residents were **exposed to dangerous chemicals** during the Gasworks remediation. Public Health England confirmed this.
- ⇒ Monitoring was compromised. **The air monitor measured the wrong pollutants.** The monitoring officer was paid by the developer, Berkeley Group.
- ⇒ Southall **lost its sports centre, leisure pool, and the hope of an accessible sports ground,** because of the Council's singular focus on an unsuitable site.

Democratic Deficits

- ⇒ Ealing has one of the **highest petition signature thresholds in London.** The Council will only accept paper or online petitions. No hybrid petitions are accepted. Ward forums have been restructured, making it harder for residents to be heard.
- ⇒ Ealing Pension Fund **invests in companies that are complicit in genocide.** The Fund Panel has never placed divestment on the agenda – even though residents been campaigning for this for nearly two years, and have submitted two petitions.
- ⇒ The Leader of the Council, **Peter Mason's record reveals a pattern of failures.** A chart of his career progression suggests his priorities are focused on the national level and not locally on the vital work of improving conditions in Southall. He is the ward councillor for Southall Green.

WHAT THIS MEANS



The problems in Southall are not natural or inevitable. They happened because of decisions made by the people who run Ealing Council.

In other places with similar problems, the Councils have made different choices. They found ways to help their communities.

What happened to Southall could have been different.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The people who made this report want to help everyone understand:

- What happened to Southall
- Why it happened
- Who made the decisions

By understanding these things, we can come together to make Southall better for everyone.

The people of Southall deserve better.
They deserve safe streets, good homes, and a fair chance in life.

Southall wants change.

The time for that change is now.

Community Powered Reporting,
a community focused, volunteer-led
research group, campaigning for change.

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