

Ms Valerie Munday comments

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The Enfield Archaeological Society welcomes the fact that boroughs should demonstrate a clear understanding of London's Historic Environment but this should cover not only in situ assets of archaeological significance, historic buildings etc but also the objects that might be excavated from these archaeological sites and come from these historic buildings. No mention is made in the document of the objects that museums preserve for posterity that can make history and archaeology accessible particularly to children and young people but all ages and abilities and those with visual impairment through handling original objects that the museum keeps. Although Arts Council Museum Accreditation is designed to prevent boroughs from abusing their museums and collections this has not prevented some boroughs in London no longer maintaining a museum and these 'valuable' assets that have been given to the borough being disposed of.

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Enfield Archaeological Society agrees that London's culture and creative industries be supported however this should include existing museums that have a duty to preserve their archaeological & historical collections in suitable conditions so they can be preserved for posterity. Museums should have a vibrant exhibition programme to attract new audiences. Enfield Museum has organised exhibitions in the past including a Roman exhibition jointly curated by young people from local schools. Many people in Enfield do not realise that a Roman settlement exists beneath the streets of Bush Hill Park and Prehistoric and Roman periods are included on the National Curriculum for schools.

Enfield Museum has also organised joint exhibitions with BAME communities including 'Black is Beautiful' with girls from Enfield County School and an exhibition with the local Polish community and one organised to commemorate the Anniversary of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade in 2007. Exhibitions which gave local groups pride in their cultural heritage.