

# Declaration of Non-Political Status

The **Belsize Society** values its non-political status and sees this as crucial to its credibility and charitable standing. This means we need to ensure that our trustees and committee members are politically neutral and that we take a balanced approach in our contact with local councillors and political parties.

## HOW WE MAINTAIN OUR NON-POLITICAL STATUS

### Trustees' and committee members' involvement in any political or lobbying activities:

- No serving local councillors can be trustees or members of the Society's committee.
- If a trustee or committee member intends to stand for election to the local council, he/she will resign as trustee and/or from the committee.
- Prospective trustees and committee members will be asked to declare whether they are actively involved with a local political party or lobby group and agree that if they are elected as a trustee or to the **Belsize Society** committee, they will not seek to use their position to promote the policies of the party or lobby group to which they are affiliated.

### Contact with local councillors and political parties:

When the **BelSoc** trustees and committee meet with local councillors, singly or as a group, they will ensure that:

- The interests of all the wards covering the Belsize area are represented but recognise that some wards cover less of the area than others.
- All political parties that have councillors in the Belsize area have the opportunity to meet with us.
- We are sensitive to the range of demands on councillors' time.
- The Committee will not invite local councillors to contribute to **BelSoc** events and publications in a way that would provide a platform for a particular party to promote its policies.
- Local councillors may be asked to contribute on local issues in a non-party political way.