

Shipton resigns key job — and party whip

SENIOR Tory councillor June Shipton has resigned as education chairman — and has accused some of her Conservative colleagues of being more interested in power than people.

She has also quit the Tory whip and is now an independent Conservative.

Mrs Shipton has also revealed she tried to resign from the Conservative group last December after a clash with the then leader John Wood over the handling of school closures.

But Cllr Wood, who was voted out as leader and replaced by Ken Kettle last week, persuaded her to stay on.

Mrs Shipton regrets not sticking by her decision in December.

"I wish I had kept to my stand then," she said.

"I am still a Conservative party member but I will not be following the Con-

servative group on the council.

"I feel very strongly that some councillors are more interested in power than policies and that's not what I went on the council for.

"My principles are more important than my position. I feel now that I can best serve the community outside the Tory whip.

"I will be voting with the Tory group on most issues if they are brought about in a democratic way.

"But if proposals are not in the interests of the public I will vote independently."

Mrs Shipton's resignation came hours before Cllr Kettle announced he was replacing her as education chairman.

He has given the job to former mayor Anita Fookes.

Pupils go on tour

SIXTH-FORMERS from Elthorne High school were shown round the Houses of Parliament by Lord Molloy, formerly Bill Molloy, Labour MP for Ealing North for 15 years.

The sixteen pupils were given a two-hour tour.

Ten sixth-formers also went to a one-day conference organised by the Hansard Society when Greater London Council leader Ken Livingstone, journalist Robin Day and environment minister Tom King were present.



Shipton quits

JUNE Shipton — the woman behind Ealing council's moves to close Elthorne High School — has resigned as education chairman.

She has also resigned from the ruling Tory group and says she will now sit as an independent Conservative.

"I am still a Conservative, but I feel that I can best serve the public by being outside the group."

Ken Kettle has been named as the new Leader.

Figure juggling makes no sense

SO a baby boom has been discovered in Southall!

I am sure that most parents could have told the council this several years ago, as could child clinics.

Birth statistics reveal that there has been an increase of about 15 per cent from the low reached in 1977 up to 1981, an upward trend that probably continues.

Today's toddlers become tomorrow's high school pupils.

Will we witness a situation in which high schools are overcrowded, or even a new one built, not far from the site of Elthorne High School which is due to close in 1986.

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