

Islamic 'radicals' at the heart of Whitehall

Andrew Gilligan in the [blockaded Newham Town Hall](#) after councillors refused planning permission for the mosque. It has run a virulent campaign against Sir Robin Wales, the borough's mayor, calling him "Dirty Robin", a "Zionist" and a racist and saying that no Muslim should vote for him.

It fiercely supports Lutfur Rahman, the extremist-linked mayor of the neighbouring borough, Tower Hamlets, saying Newham should be more like Tower Hamlets. "It was a very vicious campaign, with a lot of lying and making things up, and they were close allies of Lutfur," said Sir Robin last night. "Muddassar Ahmed wanted to stand as candidate for us [Labour], but we blocked him because of his background."

The mosque applicant, Tablighi Jamaat, a conservative Islamic sect accused by some of being a gateway to radicalism, is appealing against the refusal of planning permission.

Mr Ahmed and others from Unitas Communications represented the