



# Money Matters with Les Conway

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## I Love It When A Plan Comes Together

Back in the 1980s, you may remember a popular TV show called *The A Team*. One of its main characters was a chap called John 'Hannibal' Smith played by George Peppard.

Hannibal led the A Team and was renowned for his planning nous. His catchphrase was 'I love it when a plan comes together'.

I had that same feeling of satisfaction after the Pinner Pantomime Evening on November 30. Not only was it a big success but it also highlighted the power of having a plan and how it pays to prepare for the unexpected.

I'm on the organising committee of the event and my chief task on the day is to oversee stewarding of the crowds who flock to Pinner in their thousands, whilst liaising with the authorities.

On most occasions over the past 20 years, the evening has gone without incident. But this one saw the plans we had worked on throughout the year swing into action.

A car overheated and caught fire in Bridge Street and was nothing more than that, despite the wild reporting by some of the worldwide media of something more sinister. I received a call over the walkie talkie to say what had happened and our priority was keeping people safe by stewarding them away from the fire because there was an obvious real risk.

Our brilliant volunteer stewards communicated to the crowds exactly what had happened, which meant there was



Image from SNT Pinner

no sense of panic. The steps we had in our emergency plan were actioned and everyone was safe.

The police and fire services dealt quickly with the incident and the interlude didn't affect people's enjoyment of the evening too much with just a slight delay.

Taking the time to think things through in advance and recognising that the unexpected can happen ensured that our plans paid off. I'm no Hannibal Smith, but it works when stewarding a community event and it works when planning your finances.

The moral of the story is to have a plan, expect the unexpected and be prepared to act.

Thanks for reading and I wish you all a great year ahead.

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