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## Music news



### Bragg down after BNP success

Singer-songwriter Billy Bragg has expressed his disappointment after the far-right BNP party enjoyed huge success in his hometown at Thursday's

local council elections.

The BNP put forward 13 candidates for Barking and Dagenham Council and had won 11 seats by Thursday morning - and Bragg was clearly upset that the party, who have been accused of racism, did so well.

Bragg has been on a nationwide tour in the last few weeks to campaign against the BNP and called on the Labour party to fight back by "reconnecting" with the voters.

He said: "It is really disappointing that the BNP has been successful in stirring up hatred in Barking.

"The concerns of the local people now have to be addressed. The Labour party has to find a way of reconnecting its commitment to the ideals that the people of Barking have traditionally voted for, including free health care, free education, decent, affordable housing and pensions for all.

"We did our very best to try to persuade people not to vote BNP, but the fightback starts now."

Meanwhile, Bragg has been asked to support Hard-Fi at the London Brixton Academy later this month.

Hard-Fi frontman Richard Archer said: "I saw Billy Bragg play Reading and it has to be one of my all-time favourite shows.

"He held the crowd captivated: just him and an acoustic guitar. 'Tank Park Salute' leaves me in bits."

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