

CHIPPING BARNET RESIDENTS' FORUM

MEETING HELD ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2009 ACTION NOTES

held at: Coppetts Wood School, Coppetts Road, N10 1JS

*Chairman: Councillor Bridget Perry Vice-Chairman: *Councillor Kate Salinger

*Denotes Councillor Present

	Issue Raised	Response	Update (and by whom)
	<p>Mr Newton (From Previous Forum) What the Income and Expenditure budget is for the Planning Department in 2009/2010 and how much of the budget was it estimated would be met from Planning & Housing Delivery Grant (broken down between the grant elements)</p>	<p>Martin Cowie (written response) Total income received - £503,290,70 Total expenditure - £874,052,37 (Actual to date 28/08/09) HPDG (expected Oct/Nov 2009):- 45% Planning Element - £170,500 55% Housing Element - £139,500 Total – £310,000 (estimate)</p>	
	<p>Mr Newton (From Previous Forum) What was the Planning Department Income and Expenditure outturn figures were for 2008/2009 and how much of the income was represented by Planning & Housing Delivery Grant (broken down between the grant elements).</p>	<p>Martin Cowie (written response) Total income received - £2,246,805,45 Total expenditure - £2,756,764,22 HPDG:- 60% Planning Element - £201,937,80 40% Housing Element - £134,625,20 Total – £336,562,40</p>	
	<p>Mr Newton (From Previous Forum) What the criteria and targets are for qualifying for the individual elements of Planning & Housing Delivery Grant. At the meeting Mr Newton asked how the council would cope with scaling back and whether the council was meeting targets in respect of the Housing Delivery Grant.</p>	<p>Martin Cowie (written response) The overall aim of the housing and planning delivery grant (HPDG) is to incentivise local authorities to improve delivery of housing and other planning outcomes as part of their strategic, place shaping role and to provide more support to communities and local councils who are doing their bit to deliver new homes. It supports the delivery of the national target of delivering 240,000 new homes per year by 2016.</p>	

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		<p>Current allocation mechanism:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The housing element currently goes to all local authorities with net additional housing completions above 0.75 per cent of their existing housing stock. The data is taken from a rolling average of the previous three years. For each net addition above the threshold, the local authority receives one unit of housing grant. The amount per unit is calculated by the total amount of money for the year divided by the total number of units above the threshold. - The planning element of the grant is based upon the local authority completing a range of activities that support housing supply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrating sufficient land for housing in line with <i>Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS3) Housing</i> • delivery of core strategies and development plan documents (DPDs) allocating more than 2,000 dwellings • joint working on the production of development plan documents • publication of a strategic housing market assessment (SHMA); and • development control performance <p>Proposed allocation mechanism:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The housing element of the grant will continue to reward local authorities for net additional homes above the threshold. There are no reforms proposed for year 2 of the grant, but in recognition of the challenging circumstances in the current housing market the Government is proposing a minor tweak to the allocation mechanism in year 3. Year 2 grants are 	

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		<p>calculated on the basis of average net additions from 2005-06 to 2007-08. During this period house building was largely sustained and the number of eligible authorities is expected to remain broadly the same. With this in mind the Government is not proposing to make any changes to the allocation mechanism in year 2. Year 3 grants are calculated on the basis of average net additions from 2006-07 to 2008 Current estimates suggest that house supply numbers will be significantly less in 2008-09. In order to recognise the more challenging conditions in the housing market, the government is proposing to reduce the threshold from 0.75 to 0.65. This will go some way to ensuring fairness and equity across the board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The planning element will continue to reward local authority performance in plan-making across the original four elements. However, a number of minor reforms in year 2 are proposed to ensure the allocation mechanism provides incentives for actions which will enable local authorities to respond positively and effectively to the economic downturn. Government is also intending putting in place the conditions which will enable housing supply to come back quicker and further when the upturn comes. In year 3 there will be further reforms to ensure continued progress. - Government intends to continue the current abatement mechanism on the plan making element of the grant where development control performances falls under any national planning standard included in NI 157 (processing of planning applications as measured against targets for major, minor and other application types). 	

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	<p>Mr Newton (From Previous Forum) What steps the Planning Department is taking to maximise the grant payment for each element</p>	<p>Martin Cowie (written response) The planning department is working hard to secure grant allocations over the next 2 years through the preparation of the Local Development Framework (LDF) and associated documentation and in sustaining high levels of performance via its development management service. Key LDF policy documents have been adopted including the Mill Hill East Area Action Plan or are nearing completion such as the Colindale Area Action. Others are in an advanced stage of preparation including the Core Strategy and the North London Waste Plan. It has commenced work on its Infrastructure Delivery Plan and is will begin preparing the Site Allocations and Development Management Development Plan Documents. The department has prepared its Strategic Housing Land Allocation Assessment (SHLAA) identifying development capacity in the borough up to 2021 and it continues to deliver upper quartile performance in relation to the processing of planning applications. At the meeting, Martin Cowie referred to the challenge of the reduction in development and the decline in funding allocations and the statutory duty to deliver appropriate developments. There would be no let up in the production of key policy documents despite the fact that currently posts were being held vacant. Robust documents were being prepared to allow the industry to forward plan so that when the market picked up, they would be ready to go forward.</p>	

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1	<p>J McKenzie Is the council currently in dialogue with Tesco about its supermarket plans for New Barnet?</p>	<p>Martin Cowie The council is not in dialogue with Tesco although it has been in communication in the past. Tesco was approached briefly by our planning consultants assisting in the preparation of the town centre strategy back in June to better understand its interest in New Barnet as were other supermarkets. Ward member, community and residents groups including Save New Barnet and Places were also approached. Tesco contacted the planning authority after the withdrawal of the Asda application to present a sketch proposal for its site but this went no further and we are yet to hear how its wishes to proceed with matters.</p>	
2	<p>Mr Dix At the General Functions Committee of 5 August I understand that a revised corporate structure was agreed. One of the posts deleted from the current structure is the Executive Director for Communities. However, in the proposed new management structure there does not appear to be any senior management role that has specific responsibility for the community. Could the Council please explain who will have responsibility in the new management structure for ensuring the delivery of better community engagement and in particular, increasing opportunities for local people to participate in the democratic process and enriching the Council's understanding of the needs, wants and aspirations of Barnet citizens.</p>	<p>Nick Walkley (Chief Executive) In the revised structure the Chief executive will have overall responsibility for the issues raised by the question. The Assistant Chief Executive will have responsibility for the delivery of community engagement and enriching the Council's understanding of the needs, wants and aspirations of residents. The Director of Corporate Governance, will work closely with the ACE to ensure that we increase the opportunities for participation in the democratic process as part of our community engagement efforts.</p>	<p>Nick Walkley to outline any specific target in respect of the delivery of community engagement</p> <p>There are already targets set out nationally as part of the national satisfaction survey, know as the "Place Survey". The Council will seek improvements that put or keep it in the top quartile for the basket of indicators relating to keeping residents informed and engaged. More details on the Place Survey can be found on the Council and the Central Government Department for Communities website. Whilst the survey has weaknesses it does not seem a good use of money to run parallel exercises.</p>

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	At the meeting, Mr Dix welcomed the fact that the Chief Executive had assumed overall responsibility. He went on to ask what specific targets would be set in respect of increasing public engagement and participation		
3	<p>Mr Howard</p> <p>1). Please can I have an update on who at the date of this meeting is operating the minor traffic offences legislation under the Civil Enforcement Area section of the Road Traffic Acts (Barnet or the Metropolitan Police?).</p> <p>At the meeting, Mr Howard said that there was yet to be a resolution as to enforcement and he asked for clarification as to the responsibilities of the council and the police.</p>	<p>Lynn Bishop (Assistant Director, Environment and Transport)</p> <p>1) The Met Police undertake the enforcement of minor traffic offences. This would be driving without a seat belt, jumping a red light, as examples</p>	<p>Lynn Bishop to clarify whether both the council and the police have agreed on responsibilities regarding minor traffic offence enforcement</p> <p>There has been further communication with Mr Howard informing him that at present the situation remains the same. The Police are responsible for all enforcement of moving traffic offences on borough roads. The offences (e.g. turning where not permitted, stopping on yellow boxes) have not been decriminalised on Barnet's roads, and therefore the Council currently has no role in enforcement. Although the borough is a Civil Enforcement Area under the Traffic Management Act 2004, this only relates to parking contraventions, which the Council does enforce. The Council is</p>

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	<p>2) When the JCOSS planning application was approved it was agreed that a number of individuals and groups within the community would be involved in agreeing the Green Travel Plan. Why is there reference to the travel plan in quotations from various bodies in the local press when the community representatives have not been involved at all to date?</p>	<p>2) The Unilateral Undertaking contained within the planning permission includes the requirement to implement a School Travel Plan (STP). This set out various measures that would be included within the STP, which for this development does include the requirement to have community involvement in the process. We understand that the school will not be in a position to appoint a School Travel Co-ordinator until January 2010 and therefore, to date, have not progressed the STP. This has been confirmed by the Head Teacher.</p> <p>The question makes reference to quotations in the local press, we are unsure what these quotations are in this context.</p> <p>The School Travel Plan is due for completion at the end March 2010. the council can and will advise the School of any representatives from the local community who want to be involved in the development of the STP.</p>	<p>also responsible for bus lane enforcement as this was decriminalised under a previous London Local Authority Act. The Council will be writing to the Borough Commander to seek assistance in getting this issue resolved.</p>
4	<p>Mr Howard What progress is being made on the Barnet Bond to raise money to fund the infrastructure required to serve the massive growth proposed by the Council?</p>	<p>Brian Reynolds (Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director for Environment and Regeneration) The Council submitted its detailed plan to raise money for infrastructure works to HM Treasury and Communities & Local Government (CLG) in November 2008. On the 18th May 2009 the Minister for Local Government,</p>	

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		<p>John Healey MP, wrote to all Council Leaders inviting them to submit expressions of interest for innovative funding models, particularly those that share similarities with US style Tax Increment Financing (TIFs), or the Government's own Approved Development Zone (ADZs) models. A deadline of 30th June was set. The Barnet Financing Plan (BFP) is very similar to a TIF: it relies on capturing the incremental growth in various tax and other income streams and securing those against a loan, that loan being used to pay for the infrastructure works. A summary of the November 2008 BFP submission was duly made by the deadline, and we now await a response from CLG.</p>	
5	<p>Mr Howard The Councils Forward Plan of Key Decisions 15th August shows that the Cabinet on 2nd December will receive a full report on the New Barnet Town Centre Framework. What is the difference between a Framework and a Strategy and how will it affect New Barnet? When will the local community, residents and traders be consulted and will it be one meeting or a series of meetings?</p>	<p>Martin Cowie (Head of Planning and Development Management)</p> <p>The terms 'framework' and 'strategy' have been used interchangeably in the past and for the purposes of preparing a town centre policy document there is no difference. The planning service will however be using the word 'framework' in the final version as indicated by the Councils Forward Plan of Key Decisions. The local community will be consulted in October this year and the planning service is currently considering appropriate ways of</p>	
	<p>At the meeting Mr Howard said that there was a cause for concern after the lack of public engagement in respect of the Finchley North consultation.</p>	<p>undertaking this engagement. Key groups will be notified in due course however. It was hoped that a report would be submitted to Cabinet by the end of the year and that it was intended to pursue a systematic approach which would include stakeholder meetings in addition to an exhibition. He confirmed that traders were recognised as a key group.</p>	

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6	<p>Mr Howard The Councils current performance on consulting residents is derisory. Will the council be taking on Board the benefits that come for all parties from holding Charrette consultations? Will the Council be sending officers to the training sessions being held at the University of Hertfordshire on 6 – 8th October?</p> <p>At the meeting, Mr Howard reiterated his dissatisfaction at the way Barnet consulted in general and in particular in respect of planning applications.</p>	<p>Lucy Shomali(Strategy, Planning and Environment) There are a number of techniques for engaging communities in the development of plans and strategies for their local areas. A Charrette is an intensive process which takes place over a number of days and includes a series of meetings, presentations and workshops involving the design team, local residents and other stakeholders. Although the Council has not applied this approach directly a number of the associated methods of consultation have been used in developing key planning documents such as the Area Action Plans for Colindale and Mill Hill East which both involved intensive workshop sessions with key stakeholders at an early stage</p>	
		<p>facilitated by the design teams, and exhibitions where consultant teams and planning officers were available to receive feedback and discuss emerging ideas in detail.</p> <p>It is proposed to use a number of consultation techniques for developing strategies for Barnet's priority town centres including scoping meetings with local groups, participatory workshops and detailed exhibitions.</p> <p>The cost of the Charette consultation training at University of Hertfordshire is £990 per person. Given the expertise that the Council already has in house and its ability to access advice on planning consultation techniques through organisations such as the Royal Town Planning Institute, the Planning Advisory Service, the Town and Country Planning Association and Urban Design London it is not considered that this cost would be value for money – particularly given the tight financial constraints that the Council is now operating under.</p>	

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7	<p>Mr Constable During debate at the last meeting, residents made a number of positive suggestions to encourage attendance and participation at these forums, including a published deadline for submitting questions, better written / more explicit publicity, and advance email notifications of meetings. Is there any intention for these suggestions to be taken up?</p>	<p>David Seabrooke (Democratic Services Manager) We will be building-up the emails of interested parties into a list on which to issue reminders and information about the residents' forums. We are discussing a re-vitalised approach to publicity for residents' forums as some mechanisms, such as newspaper adverts may not be cost-effective. The issue of a deadline for questions is a matter for each forum to agree for itself; at the moment the approach is one of flexibility.</p>	
	<p>It was agreed at the meeting that residents welcomed the e mailing of action notes and issues list prior to the meeting. They indicated that they would like to see the action notes e mailed more or less at the same time as the advertising flyer was distributed.</p>		
8	<p>Mr Constable From September 2010 JCoSS intend to use both New Barnet Station and the Mount Pleasant Roundabout as drop off and pick up points for 5 coach</p>	<p>Lynn Bishop The catchment area for the school is yet to be determined. In terms of planning for the future transport requirements it is the intention to use New Barnet Station and Mount Pleasant area as potential drop off areas for Coaches/mini-buses for JCOSS. This initiative is to work in conjunction with the School Travel Plan with the aim of reducing car-borne trips to the School and promoting more sustainable modes of travel.</p>	

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8	<p>routes running from Golders Green, Ilford, Bushey, Crouch End, and Pinner. Exactly where at the two locations has space been identified for coaches to be parked?</p> <p>At the meeting, Mr Howard said that the area around New Barnet Station was owned by the rail network and it was his view that they would not give permission to use the land for the use of buses. Mr Dix contested the figure of 9 coaches being sufficient when the school was at full capacity and it was his view that pupils and staff travelling to and from the school would pose significant traffic issues at peak times.</p>	<p>As the School is not yet open it is not possible to confirm the catchment area of pupils and therefore the exact coach or mini-bus provision that would be required from specific locations. In addition, in Sept 2010 there will only be one year of pupils at the school.. The proposed coach services and drop off can be incorporated into the emerging School Travel Plan Document.</p> <p>At the meeting Martin Cowie said that there would be more issues to be clarified and that this would be relayed to the forum.</p>	
9	<p>Mrs Miller JCoSS - I would ask that Mr Cowie re checks the figure work on how many coaches/buses will be using the two drop off points, one being New Barnet Station and the other at Mount Pleasant roundabout and reclarify them to the forum. These figures should take into account the school at full capacity.</p>	<p>Lynn Bishop The School will be developing the coach services however it is not estimated that the full complement of coaches (approx 4 at each location) will be operating until 2017. As stated at the last meeting the expectation for coaches at full capacity is 9.</p>	
10	<p>Mrs Miller JCoSS - If part of the granting of the planning application was the transport issue of the children, teachers and staff, then why was this not ironed out before permission was given?</p>	<p>Lynn Bishop The Unilateral Undertaking contained within the planning permission includes the requirement to implement a School Travel Plan (STP). This set out various measures that would be included within the STP, which for this development does include the requirement to have community involvement in the process.</p>	

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11	<p>Mrs Miller JCoSS - What plans do the Council have if any? What stage are they at? When do they anticipate to have final plans in place? Residents were concerned that a co-ordinator was not due to be appointed until January 2010.</p>	<p>Lynn Bishop We understand that the school will not be in a position to appoint a School Travel Co-ordinator until January 2010 and therefore, to date, have not progressed the STP. This has been confirmed by the Head Teacher.</p>	
12	<p>Mrs Miller JCoSS - Are they meeting with the JCOSS travel strategy team? When will local residents be notified?</p>	<p>Lynn Bishop The School travel plan coordinator has been in constant contact with the school and has offered her assistance to prepare their plans. As soon as the preparation commences the local community will be involved as stated above and as required by the STP.</p>	
13	<p>Mrs Miller Is there any update on investigation on the distribution problems regarding the delivery of "barnetfirst" magazine? Is the Council paying for a service that is not being delivered as per its contract with the company involved? If yes what is being done to recoup any funds if applicable?</p>	<p>Jonathan Schroder (Communications) The distribution of Barnet First is carried out by a company called PLC Systems. They provide a 'solus' delivery service which means that the magazine is distributed door to door on its own. Whenever we receive notification from a resident that they have not received a copy of Barnet First we send the address to PLC who carry out a 'backcheck' on the alleged non-delivery address. This means they send out one of their representatives who goes to the address to find out if there is any particular reason why the magazine has not been delivered. In some cases they have a conversation with the occupant or they may take a photograph of the letterbox showing that it has been taped up or has a notice saying something like 'no newspapers/junk mail etc.' They report back on their findings</p>	

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		<p>by completing a Backcheck report establishing any reasons why Barnet First has not been delivered. The backcheck report is sent to us and in individual cases we go back to the resident to report the findings. We do not report back on block cases.</p> <p>PLC Systems have recently told us that they are retiring and handing over the business to a company called Impact. Impact has over 20 years worth of experience in devising and implementing leaflet distribution for a wide range of organisations including theatres, museums and galleries, orchestras, charities, heritage sites, visitor attractions, local authorities,</p>	
		<p>retailers and festivals. All the information regarding any problem deliveries has been passed to Impact and they are aware of the recent difficulties.</p> <p>A meeting was held between council officers and Impact in August when they were informed that the distribution of Barnet First would be going out to tender shortly and that a contract would be put in place. Impact will be welcome to tender for the contract along with other distribution companies.</p>	
14	<p>Mrs Miller I understand that Councillor Daniel Thomas, cabinet member for policy and performance, said in the local paper this week that Barnet Council was working hard to improve its range and quality of sports facilities. What exactly has been done?</p>	<p>Matthew Gunyon (Contracts Manager, Leisure Services)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Council works very closely with its partners to improve the facilities and activities it offers. - GLL have its Club Wellness brand for 55+ years. From January 09 the club has been concentrating on the social side of keeping healthy and active, with classes, Quiz Nights and the GLL Club Wellness games. GLL have been working closely with 	

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14	<p>At the meeting, Mr Dix raised a concern that the response did not address the question as to how facilities would be improved.</p>	<p>the Council, Age Concern Barnet and representatives from the Older Peoples Forum in addition to Middlesex University to help deliver this complimentary programme across the borough.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GLL and the Council recently launched Over 60's free swimming and the Kids for a Quid schemes. - GLL in partnership with the London Borough of Barnet launched the London Track Stars Junior Athletics Programme at Hendon Leisure Centre starting on the 2nd June 2009. - The London Games is fast approaching and GLL want to give children and young people in London the opportunity to participate in the sport at a local level working in partnership with England Athletics. - The athletics courses will provide participants with a fun experience of athletics and will develop their athleticism skills so they can progress through the sport or participate in any other sport in the future. Athletics underpins the fundamental movement of all sports. - The courses at GLL's athletics centres will provide top quality coaching for children and young people aged 5-12 years old. The team of UKA qualified coaches are the best in London! They have been trained to deliver the national curriculum for athletics through the Elevating Athletics programme as well as having coaches with the technical knowledge to progress participants through the athlete pathway into club athletics. 	

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15	<p>Mrs Miller I understand that a three-year plan has been put in place to guide how the council and health sector work with sports providers to improve their services - is this plan available to the public to view and pass comments?</p>	<p>Matthew Gunyon Julian Mauger is working on this plan , It has not been put in place yet but a Leisure Facilities Strategy is being formed for Barnet. In addition we have joint working initiatives within sport and health that can be found in the sport and physical activity strategy that is on line for public. GLL and the council are among a large group of organisations which meet once a quarter as part of Barnets CSPAN (Community Sport and Activity Network) which works to deliver sport and activity for all.</p> <p>At the meeting Councillor Salinger outlined some of the activities within Coppetts Ward, including a 12-19 year old sporting activity using school facilities and a Kickz Programme run by Barnet FC.</p>	<p>Martin Cowie Undertook to feed back on the timescales and scope on the three year leisure plan in respect of the Local Development Framework</p>
16	<p>Mrs Miller What new opportunities have been looked at so far to increase the uptake of sporting activities across our communities, especially in the run-up to the 2012 Olympics.</p> <p>At the meeting Mr Dix said that Barnet, in line with other outer London boroughs, was losing out on the Olympic legacy.</p>	<p>Layla Hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of Sport Unlimited programme, offering a range of new sporting activity for 5 – 19yr olds across Barnet - Club development and encouraging greater participation - Community Investments programmes for older adults, estate based and women - The development of the Barnet London Youth Games squad (representation in over 20 sports) developing player pathways and competitive opportunities that follow an Olympic theme. - Development of Street Athletics programme (estate based athletics). - Promoting Barnet's Olympic hopefuls at such events like the celebrating sport awards on 4th November- nominations still being accepted until 11th Sept to encourage and inspire. 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of sporting festivals - Volunteer programme - School Sport Partnerships development <p>All info on programmes can be found on the website, follow links to leisure and culture – sports clubs and centres.</p>	
17	<p>Linden Groves A question as to whether in the light of the lengthy waiting lists for allotments, and the high local demand, the council could create some new ones on the several areas of disused land in our area.</p> <p>Obvious locations are the waste ground next door to Coppetts Wood School (opposite the existing Trott Road allotments), the 'Skate Attack' land on Colney Hatch Lane/North Circular, and, in particular, the old sewerage works adjacent to Hollickwood Park at the bottom of Alexandra Road. Many local people are desperate for an allotment but the waiting lists are almost static so the creation of new allotments would be a welcome use to 'spare' land.</p> <p>At the meeting Ms Groves reiterated her concern that the council underestimates the demand and that there were long waiting lists in many areas. She said that young children wanted to</p>	<p>Jenny Warren (Parks and Open Spaces) The borough is well served with 45 allotment sites borough wide. Allotment plots are available on some sites within 6 months with the average waiting time being 2 years and 6 months.</p> <p>The Council are currently working with Barnet Allotment Federation to implement a better methodology for allocating vacant plots to reduce waiting lists, (as some sites prove to be more popular than others with extensive waiting lists, whilst a site within a mile may have vacant plots).</p> <p>Other work currently being carried out is a survey of all allotment sites to identify any land within the current site provision where there may be potential to create more plots. An action plan for how these can then be brought into service can be developed providing there is a demand and commitment to take them on.</p> <p>The creation of additional allotment sites is not financially viable as significant investment in infrastructure would be required.</p>	<p>Martin Cowie/Lynn Bishop to look at the possibility of clearing the site opposite Trott Road allotments and bring into use</p> <p>Lynn Bishop to clarify whether the land opposite Trott Road was in fact contaminated or not. The land opposite Trott Road Allotments is not contaminated. The land is derelict and would require an estimated investment of:</p> <p>£15,000+ to clear the site £6,000 for water services £10,000 for parking/roads £20,000 for fencing £2,000 to lay the site out</p>

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	<p>be involved and it was unfair to expect them to walk miles or catch numerous buses. She wanted a community allotment in her area of Muswell Hill and that she was making no progress despite her efforts. Discussion took place on the possibility of some metropolitan open land coming into council control and the understanding that the site opposite the existing allotments at Trott Road could be cleared and brought back into use. There were various other residents at the meeting who had attended in order to show solidarity with Ms Groves in her request for more allotment space to be made available.</p>	<p>At the meeting Councillor Salinger referred to the sites proposed by Ms Groves and said that the waste ground she understood was contaminated, Colney Hatch Lane was metropolitan open space and the sewerage works land was partially outer borough and there were proposals to utilise this for a waste disposal site. Councillor Salinger reported that the Chief Executive had recently undertaken a ward walk and had noted the poor condition of the land opposite Trott Road allotments.</p>	
18	<p>Mr Dix I have read some rather alarming details about proposed council policy in the Guardian newspaper making comparisons between the new structure and a budget airline. It would be helpful to understand three specific points as follows: 1.Has the Council identified who was the "Council Spokesman" mentioned in the article who unofficially dubbed this project "Easy Council" and was their communication with the press authorised. If not, will there be any action arising.</p>	<p>Jonathan Schroder The term 'Easycouncil' was used informally in response to queries from the media about an analogy with Ryan Air and Easy Jet used in an interview about future shape. That analogy was used to explain how the introduction of budget airlines has changed the relationship with customers that the air transport industry now has. As the Future Shape report sets out, the council is seeking to develop a new relationship with citizens. The Council is not proposing to base its future model of operation on the business model of budget airline.</p>	

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	<p>2. When will the Council discuss this radical policy in more detail with the residents so that we can understand exactly what is being proposed and how it will impact on our lives.</p> <p>3. Do the Council think that this sort of publicity benefits Barnet?</p> <p>At the meeting Mr Dix said that this question had not been answered and he reiterated his concern that Residents were not being given an opportunity to be consulted on how the council intended to make savings. He had been horrified about the press exposure as to the analogy between the council and budget airline companies. He asked that an assurance be given that those services currently supplied by the council will not be subject to a charge in the future.</p>	<p>As outlined in question 1, there is no radical policy above and beyond the proposals set out in the future shape report which was agreed by Cabinet in July 2009. This has been published on the Council website and has been widely reported in the local media. It is not our intention to consult the public on the principles of the future shape programme. As we have stated elsewhere the programme is a response to known concerns, such as declining satisfaction and significantly lower grant settlements and the Council is showing clear leadership in addressing these issues directly.</p> <p>However there will be a process for engaging citizens in the 'commissioning' phase of the future shape programme to ensure that we understand how we can work with people to achieve better outcomes for the people of Barnet. Those areas will be discussed in the next future shape report. The timescales of this will vary depending on the issue but we would expect this process to start within the next 12 months and to involve large numbers of residents. The issue of charging for services that are additional to current freely available services will be part of those discussions.</p> <p>At the meeting, Councillor Salinger confirmed that the council had made no decisions in respect of a future charging policy.</p>	

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19	<p>Mr Massey Parking in High Barnet In Barnet Press 27 August a council spokesman said "we are currently looking at new ways to support local traders...including the pricing structure and location of parking controls". Are you able to say more on what is in mind and what form consultation will take? Mr Massey welcomed the news that commuter parking would be included within the consultation and he would be happy to participate.</p>	<p>Martin Cowie gave a verbal response and confirmed that traders would be consulted. Some consultation had already taken place but more was to come, including asking Mr Massey's views, before proposals would be put forward. Consultation would also include asking for views re: commuter parking.</p>	
20	<p>Mr Hope Who has nicknamed the Council 'EasyCouncil'?</p>	<p>Jonathan Schroder The term 'Easycouncil' was used informally in response to queries from the media about an analogy with Ryan Air and Easy Jet used in an interview about future shape. That analogy was used to explain how the introduction of budget airlines has changed the relationship with customers that the air transport industry now has. As the Future Shape report sets out, the council is seeking to develop a new relationship with citizens,. The Council is not proposing to base its future model of operation on the business model of budget airline.</p>	
21	<p>Mr Hope Has the Council had any contact from or sought permission from easyGroup IP Licensing Ltd to use the phrase 'EasyCouncil'?</p>	<p>Jonathan Schroder The Council has not contacted Easy Group to ask permission to use this term because there is no proposal to adopt the term 'EasyCouncil'.</p>	

	Issue Raised	Response	Update (and by whom)
22	<p>Mr Hope</p> <p>In the light of the newly announced Ryanair 'we'll charge you for the air you breathe / try to charge people in wheelchairs to be pushed to the plane' business model, can the Council completely rule out introducing or proposing:</p> <p>i) Reducing the size of the standard wheelie bin?</p> <p>ii) Charging to borrow Library books?</p> <p>iii) Reducing the loan time or the amount of books that can be borrowed from the Library service?</p> <p>iv) Charging a fee to return a Library book to different Library to the one it was borrowed from?</p> <p>v) Charging any fees for the public to dispose of items or introducing limits for household waste at Summers Lane amenity centre?</p> <p>vi) Charging for the kerb side recycling service, either for any service or for using more than one box?</p> <p>vii) Introducing a Borough wide CPZ so people will need to buy a 'Barnet Card' to park anywhere in the borough, including outside their own door?</p> <p>viii) Charging to use the toilets at the Town Hall?</p> <p>ix) Charging for copies of printed papers for meetings at the Town Hall?</p>	<p>Jonathan Schroder</p> <p>There are no specific current proposals relating to any of these points, and at this stage we are simply looking at possible solutions to the significant spending challenges that all councils will be facing over the coming years as part of the council's 'Future Shape' programme. Any future proposals to change the council's charging policies for any service will be subject to the council's normal processes and procedures.</p>	

	Issue Raised	Response	Update (and by whom)
	<p>x) Extending charges for parking in Town Centres to 7pm, 8pm, 9pm or 10pm?</p> <p>xi) Extending charges for parking on Sundays in the remaining Town Centres?</p> <p>xiii) Accelerating spot revaluations of houses with extensions / improvements to increase Council Tax yield?</p> <p>xii) Introducing a charge for the instalments plan to pay Council Tax?</p> <p>xiii) Installing more bus lane cameras?</p> <p>xiv) Using CCTV cameras to issue parking tickets in the post?</p>		
23	<p>Jean Lamont What are the plans for consulting with residents immediately outside the Milton Avenue CPZ? A petition was sent to the council in 2001 requesting inclusion of the surrounding area. At the meeting Ms Lamont raised her concern that consultation was not being extended to the surrounding area despite residents suffering from the outcomes of the current CPZ and the situation was getting worse. She understood that the closing date for consultation was mid July and she asked when other residents would be consulted. At the meeting, Mr Massey raised the issue of CPZ extensions and that the piece-meal approach being taken by the council was helping no-one. It was his view that a balance should be struck and that some areas could have a dual use</p>	<p>Nicola Cross gave a verbal response regarding the consultation process and confirmed that those residents within the CPZ would be approached first, and outside would come later.</p>	<p>Nicola Cross to ascertain the timetable for consultation of the Milton Avenue area CPZ and to feed back</p> <p>Martin Cowie to follow up on a response to Mr Massey's letter to Councillor Harper</p>

	Issue Raised	Response	Update (and by whom)
	with commuter parking during the day when the demand for resident parking was lower.		
24	Mr Werma raised the issue of numerous broken pavements in the area he lived.	At the meeting, Councillor Salinger undertook to speak with the resident and follow up his report of broken pavements	
25	Mr Dix Referred to Issue 29 of the last meeting and confirmed that the Democratic Services Manager had contacted him but that the response was nothing to do with public engagement. As part of better communication, residents requested that an advert publicising the forums should be placed in both local newspapers one week before the meetings take place.		The request in respect of newspaper adverts was sent to the council's communication section
	DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS	15 October 2009 24 November 2009 (Presentation on the Core Strategy Direction of Travel) 12 January 2010	Danegrove School, Windsor Drive, EN4 8UD Chipping Barnet Library Hyde Hall, Stapylton Road, Barnet EN5 4QT Coppetts Wood School Coppetts Road Friern Barnet, N10 1JS

The meeting finished at 7.50 pm

Officers Present:

Nicola Cross

Lead Officer

Martin Cowie

Head of Planning and Development Management

Pauline Bagley

Democratic Services

In addition, there were approximately 18 members of the public present and Victoria Blyth Democratic Services (Leader Listens)

**FORTHCOMING PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
AND SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS**
(meetings usually start at 7.00pm)

AREA PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE: - ALL TO BE HELD AT HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, NW4 4BG

Chipping Barnet

Democratic Services Contact: Pauline Bagley, Tel: 020 8359 2023

Hendon

Democratic Services Contact: Paul Frost, Tel: 020 8359 2205

Finchley and Golders Green

Democratic Services Contact: Nazyer Choudhury, Tel: 020 8359 2031

Forthcoming meetings:

Finchley & Golders Green

13 October 2009

10 November 2009

2 December 2009

Chipping Barnet

13 October 2009

10 November 2009

2 December 2009

Hendon

13 October 2009

10 November 2009

2 December 2009

Public requests to speak at Area Planning Sub-Committees on planning applications

Written requests to speak on planning applications should be notified to the relevant Area Planning Officer by 10.00am on the 2nd working day before the day of the meeting.

Public requests to speak at Area Planning Sub-Committees on matters other than planning applications

Written requests to speak on matters other than planning applications must be received by the Democratic Services Manager by 10.00am on the 2nd working day before the day of the meeting.

Public requests to ask questions at Area Planning Sub-Committees

Any request to ask a question (exact wording) on the work of the Sub-Committee must be received by the Democratic Services Manager by 10.00am on the 7th working day before the day of the meeting.

• **AREA ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEES:**

Venue: Hendon Town Hall, the Burroughs, NW4 4BG

Chipping Barnet

Democratic Services Contact: Stephanie Chaikin, Tel: 020 8359 2019

Finchley & Golders Green

Democratic Services Contact: Nick Musgrove, Tel: 020 8359 2024

Hendon

Democratic Services Contact: Jonathan Regal, Tel: 020 8359 2012

Forthcoming meetings:

Finchley & Golders Green	Chipping Barnet	Hendon
1 October 2009	1 October 2009	1 October 2009
30 November 2009	30 November 2009	30 November 2009

Public requests to speak at Area Environment Sub-Committees

Written requests to speak on issues on the agenda must be received by the Democratic Services Manager by 10.00am on the 2nd working day before the day of the meeting.

Public requests to ask questions at Area Environment Sub-Committees

Any request to ask a question (exact wording) on environmental matters must be received by the Democratic Services Manager by 10.00am on the 7th working day before the day of the meeting.

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Venue: Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, NW4 4BG

Democratic Services Contact: Maria Lugangira (tel: 020 8359 2761)

Public requests to speak at Planning & Environment Committee

Written requests to speak on planning applications should be notified to the relevant Area Planning Officer by 10.00am on the 2nd working day before the day of the meeting.

Public requests to speak at Planning & Environment Committee on matters other than planning matters

Written requests to speak on matters other than planning applications must be received by the Democratic Services Manager by 10.00am on the 2nd working day before the day of the meeting.

Public requests to ask questions at Planning & Environment Committee

Any request to ask a question (exact wording) on the work of the Committee must be received by the Democratic Services Manager by 10.00am on the 7th working day before the day of the meeting.

Forthcoming meetings:

23 September 2009, 20 October 2009, 12 November 2009, 9 December 2009