

CHIPPING BARNET RESIDENTS' FORUM

MEETING HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2009 ACTION NOTES

held at: Danegrove School, Windsor Drive, EN4 8UD

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

*Denotes Councillor Present

	Issue Raised	Response	Update (and by whom)
1	<p>Linden Groves Has there been any progress on finding new allotment space for residents of the Muswell Hill (Freehold) area? The council had undertaken to investigate the possibility of using the derelict land opposite the Trott Road allotments and was going to establish whether there was any truth to the rumour that it is contaminated land. I now understand that the land is not contaminated but rather is protected from development due to a slow worm population. Slow worms live very happily on allotments, making the allocation of this land the perfect solution to our allotment shortage problem</p> <p>At the meeting, Ms Groves welcomed the fact that the Council had been looking at the viability of Trott Road but said that she thought the estimated financial costs were too high. It was her view that this land should not be allowed to continue to be derelict. She said that she was asking for local allotments which could be reached on foot by families.</p>	<p>Nicola Cross responded that currently no funding could be identified to bring the Trott Road site into use. However, she undertook to ask for a further breakdown on the figures.</p> <p>Nicola Cross said that there were sites available across the borough and some with shorter waiting lists than others. The Council was working with the Allotments Federation to develop a comprehensive waiting list with a priority going to Barnet residents. She outlined new initiatives such as letting half plots and bringing back derelict plots into use.</p> <p>In respect of waiting lists, Nicola urged residents to put their names down as a priority.</p>	<p>Nicola Cross To provide a further breakdown on the financial implications of the land at Trott Road.</p> <p>The following breakdown was provided at the October meeting, it is not possible to breakdown the costs any further.</p> <p>The land is derelict and would require an estimated investment of: £15k plus to clear the site £6k for water services £10k for parking/roads £20k fencing £2k to lay the site out.</p>

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	Ms Groves said that she and other residents local to where she lived had not bothered to put their names down on the waiting list. She added that costs of bringing allotments on stream could be driven down with the help of volunteers and external grant aid.		
2	<p>Mr Gordon Massey High Barnet CPZ review.</p> <p>a) What streets outside the CPZ area has the council consulted or intends to consult?</p> <p>b) what consultation has taken place with traders?</p> <p>c) Is the review considering the provision of parking for town centre workers, shoppers, and Barnet Hospital visitors?</p>	<p>Written Response: Neil Richardson</p> <p>Only properties within the roads included in the CPZ were consulted as part of the CPZ review by way of a questionnaire asking for views on how the CPZ is working in the road and area. Any consultation with streets outside the CPZ would be confirmed once we have established what if any changes might be made as a result of the review.</p> <p>The Council are holding a number of requests on file from roads on the periphery of the CPZ where residents have expressed concern with parking issues. These requests have been noted in anticipation of the review and the concerns will be given serious consideration and consultation carried out in those roads where it is considered appropriate in context of the outcome of the review.</p> <p>Traders were given the same Chipping Barnet CPZ review questionnaire as that delivered to the residents of the zone</p> <p>Due consideration will be given to all relevant comments received through the review and via other written representation received. Although it is not anticipated that</p>	<p>Martin Cowie</p> <p>To report back on officer's response</p>

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	<p>d) Are there any plans to consult with community groups on emerging findings or ideas for change?</p> <p>e) When does the council expect the review to be completed?</p> <p>At the meeting, Mr Massey raised the issue of empty parking bays in some town centres, the removal of virtually all public parking spaces in the area, resulting in the displacement of parking to other roads. He said that earlier promises to take a more strategic approach had been dropped by the Council and he was disappointed with the response. He said that the ad hoc approach was damaging High Barnet Town Centre.</p>	<p>the CPZ review itself will make recommendations regarding the type of parking demand referred to any comments received will be noted, and it is anticipated that a Town Centre Strategy will be developed that will place emphasis on the best way forward for a particular area and it is likely that parking demand such as those mentioned will be considered as part of this strategy.</p> <p>All properties previously consulted as part of the review will be informed of the outcome of the review, and anyone affected by any further actions or proposals will be consulted as part of the council's processes. The Town Centre Strategy referred to above would seek to involve all interested parties in the area through discussion to help in establishing concerns and possible outcomes</p> <p>Analysis of all responses and initial conclusions is expected by the end of November. However, at this time no date for recommended actions is confirmed as the conclusions may be included as part of a wider debate as part of the Town Centre Strategy.</p>	

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3	<p>Mr Ashwood Who approved the design of the new Whitings Hill School and was there any resident consultation re the design carried out either by the Council, or the designers (Kaer I believe). It was Mr Ashwood's view that the building is ugly.</p> <p>At the meeting Mr Ashwood reiterated his view that the design was 'diabolical'. Mr Massey said that the complicated shape of the building could visually degenerate in just a few years.</p>	<p>Written Response: Jacinda Kemp</p> <p>Consultation was undertaken with regard to Whitings Hill school. At the start of the programme a series of 'roadshows' were organised inviting local residents to express their views on the general principles. Subsequently when the planning application was submitted, all local residents were consulted and invited to comment on any aspects of the design. The design was approved by the Programme Board before being submitted to the Planning Authority, who then also approved it.</p>	
4	<p>Mr Ashwood Who authorised pension payments for Councillors and why is this on a selective basis?</p>	<p>Written Response: Jan Willis (Interim Director of Finance)</p> <p>The Local Government Pension Scheme is a national scheme regulated by Government. Under current rules all Members of the Council are entitled to join the scheme and no Council approval is required should an individual Member wish to opt into the scheme. All Pension Fund benefits are paid in accordance with the rules of the scheme which are set by Government. Under the current rules Members of the Council who join the scheme accrue pension benefits on the basis of career average salaries.</p>	

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5	<p>Mr Ashwood A request for an update on Barnet's Icelandic Banks deposits.</p> <p>At the meeting, Mr Ashwood raised a concern at the Council's apparent lack of concern at the loss of residents' money.</p>	<p>Written Response: Jan Willis (Interim Director of Finance) The Council has lodged claims for all of its investments in the Icelandic banks. Negotiations are continuing with the administrators of the banks and a definitive statement on the amount of money that will be returned to the Council is not expected before the end of financial year 2009/10. The position remains that no money has been repaid to date. However, current available indications are that the Council will regain 100% of the monies deposited with Glitnir and 83% of the amount deposited with Landsbanki. It is also likely that the Council will recover a significant proportion of the interest due. Full provision has been made for potential losses in the Council's 2008-09 accounts in accordance with guidance issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy. The 2009/10 budget has also been adjusted to account for lower interest expectations, although the exact amount of potential loss cannot be quantified at this point in time. Councillor Salinger said that Barnet was having much more success than some other investors.</p>	
6	<p>Mr Ashwood A request for an update on the bridge at Mill Hill.</p>		<p>Mr Ashwood has been supplied with the report agreed at Cabinet Resources Committee on 13 May 09 on the current situation regarding Aerodrome Road and Bridge Project Closure</p>

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7	<p>Mr Ashwood</p> <p>Connaughts, one of Barnet Homes' contractors, has been accused of price fixing. Are this company's activities being monitored by Barnet Homes.</p> <p>At the meeting, Mr Ashwood asked how many other companies put in for the tender.</p>	<p>Mike Wiffen (Barnet Homes)</p> <p>The issue of price fixing was looked into by Barnet Homes when the original announcement was made by the OFT some eighteen months ago. It concluded there was no evidence of anti-competitive practice in the repairs tendering process that awarded the contract to Connaughts and that its procedures broadly followed the appropriate guidance from the OFT and the Office of Government Commerce. It was considered that no further action was necessary but the situation would continue to be monitored.</p>	<p>Mike Wiffen</p> <p>Eighty contractors expressed an interest of which 34 completed the pre-qualification questionnaire. Following evaluation of these, 13 contractors were invited to tender and five of these were short listed. Connaught emerged as the successful contractor after a process involving interviews, presentation, site and office visits and evaluation of method statements.</p>
8	<p>Mr Dix</p> <p>On 11 March this year he attended a Barnet Open Spaces, Sport and Recreational Facilities Needs Assessment workshop. At the workshop no recreation facilities were included in any of the plans but it was promised that "they would follow". Since that time he has seen no evidence of a follow up to this workshop, nor any output published. He asked whether an Open Spaces, Sport and Recreational Facilities Needs Assessment report had been published yet and if not what is the anticipated timescale for its publication. At the meeting, Mr Dix said that he felt that the response was disappointing and it was his view that the Council were not serious about consulting residents.</p> <p>Several residents also</p>	<p>Written Response: Cathy Munonyedi</p> <p>The PPG17 assessment provides analysis of the spatial distribution of spaces and facilities, including areas of deficiency. With respect to outdoor sports provision key issues raised at the March workshop included using additional resources such as Active People Survey (Sport England). The Active Places database has now been incorporated which provides details of the type of facilities offered and access arrangements and distinguishes between local authorities' owned or private clubs which have public access. In addition the Active Places dataset has been used to identify school sites which allow public access outside of school hours. The study has not included a comprehensive assessment of non-pitch sports facilities, however sites included in this study included those which contain bowling greens, outdoor tennis courts, and basketball courts/netball courts which have all been mapped.</p>	

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	<p>Raised a concern about whether the Council were consulting or not, and Mr Howard said he assumed that residents would be able to look at and have an opportunity to amend any ancillary documents.</p>	<p>Following the March workshop another workshop took place in June with Council Officers to examine draft findings and developments in the context of providing a robust evidence base for policies relating to open space, outdoor sports and recreational facilities.</p> <p>The study has been evolving and the draft final report has been received this week for comment by Council Officers and it is expected that the final approved version will be available in November 2009.</p> <p>At the meeting Martin Cowie informed residents that they would be consulted on the draft direction of travel and that the outcomes would be fed into a more detailed document.</p>	
9	<p>Mr Dix</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What consultation has taken place over the last 12 months with residents of New Barnet regarding the proposals for New Barnet included in the LDF Core Strategy Direction of Travel Document. 2. Given that the New Barnet Town Centre Framework is due for approval by the Council in December, when will local residents be consulted on its contents. 3. When will the planning department find time to clarify the concerns raised in connection with the Town Centres Floorspace Needs Assessment, especially as this is a point raised through my local Councillor more than 3 months ago. 	<p>Written Response: Martin Cowie</p> <p>The local planning authority was intending to consult with the community on a draft New Barnet Town Centre Planning Framework in November. The December date previously mentioned was only a target set when the study was being scoped.</p> <p>A comprehensive response was provided to Mr Dix on the 17th August in relation to the Town Centres Floorspace Needs Assessment. Senior planning officers will be meeting with Mr Dix shortly to discuss this document and the New Barnet Town Centre Planning Framework in detail.</p>	

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	It was Mr Howard's view that officers would be stretched to comply with the tight deadlines	At the meeting, Martin Cowie outlined the consultation process and the obligation to prepare documents in line with government guidelines. He undertook to ensure that documents referred to at the forum were published on the website.	
10	Mr Howard Asked whether PCSOs were trained to issue penalty notices for graffiti, dog fouling and dropping litter. He asked that the Council would issue the necessary authority for this to be implemented.	Sgt Ball confirmed that children over the age of ten years were liable. He said that if an officer saw an offence take place, they would deal with it in several different ways and issuing a penalty ticket would only be another way of dealing with an issue. He outlined the guidance given to PCSOs and the offences that could be subject to the issuing of a penalty ticket.	
11	Mr John Gardiner requested an update on the issue of the market	Martin Cowie confirmed that negotiations were taking place but that the proposals had to be sustainable. There were health and safety aspects to overcome before the market could be relocated back to its original site. It was hoped that the market would return, however it was important that it was fit for purpose. Councillor Perry said that she had spoken with market traders who were under the impression that they would be back on site by the end of the month. However, it was her view that this date did not seem viable.	
12	Ms Anne Fitzgerald Raised the issue of the houses along Bounds Green Road which had remained derelict for years and would now be refurbished and brought back into use. She asked why they were compulsorily purchased in the first place with plans changing after 20 or 30 years.	Martin Cowie said that this issue was outside the remit of the Council but he undertook to seek an update from Transport for London.	Response from TfL

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	Mr Howard said that the Notting Hill Housing Group had won the tender to bring the properties back into use.		
13	Ms Anne Fitzgerald Raised the issue of the path leading over the bridge into Whetstone, at Netherlands Road. She said that this was overdue for a clean-up and that this rarely happened in that area.	James Graham undertook to refer this issue onto the supervisor with a responsibility for this area. He added that records were kept of when areas had been visited.	James Graham The footpath and footbridge referred to by Mrs Fitzgerald is not maintained by the London Borough of Barnet. It is the responsibility of Railtrack. The litter bins at the Alverstone Avenue side of the footbridge are within Barnet's remit and are checked and emptied three times per week.
14	Ms Anne Fitzgerald Raised the issue of the rubbish bins outside Oakleigh Park Station. She said that these were never emptied.	James Graham undertook to refer this onto the staff at the station as this was not a Council issue.	James Graham Has undertaken to speak with Railtrack staff regarding the cleanliness of the footpath and the maintenance of the station bins.
15	Mr Newton Referred to the CS2 Core Strategy, in particular the potential for redevelopment of major transport routes within the Borough. He was concerned that whole roads of family housing would be lost to flatted developments. Mr Hope said that he didn't like speculative development and that Barnet's policy wording was not strong enough. Mr Howard asked about the requirement to meet the London Plan. He was concerned that the GLA had asked Barnet to identify sites to accommodate 22,500 units But Barnet had identified 37,000.	Martin Cowie confirmed that Barnet had to find locations suitable for development and to protect others. He said that some of the main radial routes had undergone many changes and had altered the characters of those areas. He said that there were opportunities for infill and other types of development that would not adversely affect the character of an area. He said that all views would be sought and that in the Cat Hill area for instance, there were various views and that there was a greater mix of development than might be appreciated. In response to Mr Howard's question, Martin Cowie said that all Boroughs were required to have targets.	

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16	Mr Newton Referred to the response at the last forum in respect of the Planning and Housing Delivery Grant. He said that there was a thrust for small units and a push for conversions. He asked what other developments were being pushed through because of the grant.	Martin Cowie said that developments were carried out on a site by site basis.	
17	Mr Howard Was still concerned about the lack of enforcement for road traffic offences. It was his view that a directive should come from the Metropolitan Police Authority and he requested Sgt Bull to refer this issue to the Borough Commander for action.		
18	Mrs Miller Referred back to the last meeting and the issue of coaches transporting JCoSS students and parking near New Barnet Station. She reiterated her request for clarification on where they would be parking.		Martin Cowie undertook to clarify this issue
19	Mrs Miller Referred to the response at the last meeting regarding sporting activities across the community. She asked for clarification on 'estate based activities'		Layla Hall to clarify estate based activities
20	Mr Howard Referred to Council reports, in particular the Cabinet report on Future Shape. He said that this was full of jargon and requested that all reports should be written in plain English.		Request referred to the Acting Democratic Services Manager for noting

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21	Mr Howard Raised a concern about the last minute cancellation of the Finchley and Golders Green Residents' Forum.	Residents were informed that there had been a problem with the suitability of the venue originally identified for the forum. However this had been rearranged and not cancelled. The forum was taking place at Avenue House on 26 October 09.	
22	Mr Ashwood Had raised three other issues to which a written response had been supplied.		
	DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS	24 November 2009 (Presentation on the Core Strategy Direction of Travel) And Budget Headlines 12 January 2010	Chipping Barnet Library Hyde Room, Stapylton Road, Barnet EN5 4QT Coppetts Wood School Coppetts Road Friern Barnet, N10 1JS

The meeting finished at 8 pm

Officers Present:

Nicola Cross	Lead Officer – Environment and Transport
Martin Cowie	Head of Planning and Development Management
James Graham	Environment and Transport
Sgt Adrian Bull	East Barnet Ward, Safer Neighbourhood Team
Pauline Bagley	Democratic Services
Victoria Blyth	Democratic Services (Leader Listens)

Councillors Andreas Tambourides and Joanna Tambourides were also present. In addition, there were approximately 22 members of the public.

**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: Stephanie Chaikin, Tel: 020 8359 2019

Forthcoming meetings:

Finchley & Golders Green

2 December 2009

5 January 2010

4 February 2010

Chipping Barnet

2 December 2009

5 January 2010

4 February 2010

Hendon

2 December 2009

5 January 2010

4 February 2010

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

Cancelled

24 February 2010

Chipping Barnet

Cancelled

24 February 2010

Hendon

30 November 2009

24 February 2010

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:

9 December 2009, 20 January 2010, 18 February 2010