

CHIPPING BARNET RESIDENTS FORUM

23 FEBRUARY 2010 – As at 23 FEBRUARY 2010

ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE FORUM MEETING

	Issues Raised	Response
1	<p><u>Petition</u></p> <p>Traffic calming measures in Chase Way</p> <p>The lead petitioner/residents have been invited to address the forum with a view to taking forward their request. The invite has been accepted</p>	
2	<p><u>Petition</u></p> <p>Request for a CPZ and 20mph speed limit to be implemented in Puller Road</p> <p>The lead petitioner/residents have been invited to address the forum with a view to taking forward their request. The invite has been accepted.</p>	<p>Response:</p> <p>Residents of Sebright Road, Calvert Road and especially Puller Road have contacted the council expressing their concerns with parking in their roads. The residents have been advised that the council is currently carrying out a review of the Chipping Barnet Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) which entailed questionnaires being delivered to all properties in the CPZ to establish the opinions of those living and operating in the CPZ, about how the CPZ is working.</p> <p>As part of this process the council also considers issues made known to us in roads just outside the CPZ. Should significant levels of concern be expressed in writing to the council the residents were advised that the council would then consider carrying out further investigations into parking in these roads.</p>

		<p>Since carrying out the review, the council has received numerous letters from residents in these roads highlighting their concerns with parking. The general concerns are as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non residents such as people who work and visit the local shops and businesses park in these roads all day as these are the only roads that are uncontrolled and are in close proximity to the High Street.• Demand for resident parking is high. The roads are always heavily parked on both sides and residents are unable to find a place to park in close proximity to their homes.• Due to the narrowness of the road, vehicles park on the footways, causing obstructions to pedestrians.• Some have highlighted speed as being a problem in these roads due to the one-way system in place. <p>Some residents have also expressed their wishes for a controlled parking zone to be implemented in the three roads in order to prioritise residents parking. It must be noted here that some residents have also expressed their concerns at the possibility of having a CPZ, they do not want it for example because they may lose spaces to park or do not want to pay.</p>
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Background and Officer Comments

Puller Road, Calvert Road and Sebright Road are tightly packed residential roads which form a 'U' shape off of Alston Road, access to these three roads is gained only from Puller Road. The roads are very narrow and cannot accommodate parking on both sides of the road without preventing a complete obstruction to through traffic. Vehicles therefore do park with two wheels on the footway. The footways are narrow and this means parking on the footway can also cause obstructions to pedestrians. Due to the nature of the roads however, and the demand for parking in these streets, the roads are on the councils list for allowing footway parking to be tolerated.

It must be noted that there are many different ways to address parking problems; depending on the individual needs and situations of a specific area. A CPZ, as requested by some of the residents, in these roads may not be in the best interest of the residents. When proposing a CPZ there are many options available when designing a layout; this has to be done on-site as it is very much dependant on the nature and situation of a particular area and its individual road layout. If a road is very narrow for example, as they are in this case, parking may only be allowed to take place on one side of the road, as the Council would place parking bays only where it is considered obstructions would not occur and it is safe for parking to take place. If the footway is too narrow to allow for safe pedestrian/wheelchair use then footway parking would not be appropriate, and other affecting aspects for consideration would be the location of street furniture, such as lamp columns etc.

Therefore, all of this may mean that available space on the public highway where motorists have come accustomed to parking their vehicles could be significantly reduced

		<p>Sufficient numbers of correspondence has been received by residents of the three roads for the council to look into the parking matters further and currently the council are considering these requests.</p> <p>The Council's Refuse team have also highlighted a problem turning at the junctions of these roads due to parked vehicles, therefore the council are considering the introduction of short lengths of 'at any time' waiting restrictions at the junctions in order to prevent obstructions and improve safety.</p> <p>The request for a reduction in the speed limit to 20mph has been noted and will be considered further when the results are known. It is anticipated that analysis relating to the Chipping Barnet CPZ review will be complete early in week commencing 8th March 2010.</p>
3	<p><u>Linden Groves</u></p> <p>At the last Residents Forum the council representative told the meeting that she would contact me within a week to arrange a meeting or phone call to discuss a way forward to get the derelict land reopened as allotments. I have been surprised therefore not to have had a reply to my emails trying to get this meeting set up. Is the lack of communication a (welcome) indication that the council is willing and able to get this project completed without our help? If so, what progress has the council made?</p>	<p>Response: Lynn Bishop</p> <p>Lynn Bishop has responded to Ms Groves updating her on the current position.</p>

<p>4</p>	<p><u>Mr Daniel Hope</u></p> <p>1. As I and Her Majesty's Shadow spokesman on local government share the belief that "Residents have a right to know how their council tax is being spent." With reference to http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/7259289/Councils-afraid-to-say-how-much-they-pay-chiefs.html can the Council please detail, the names and salaries, as well as pensions, perks and pay-offs of all employees of Barnet Council over £150,000 Need to check if we have a current policy on this, I believe that some information is in the public domain. .</p> <p>2. As I and Her Majesty's Shadow spokesman on local government share the belief that "Residents have a right to know how their council tax is being spent." With reference to http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/7259289/Councils-afraid-to-say-how-much-they-pay-chiefs.html can the Council please detail, the names and salaries, as well as pensions, perks and pay-offs of all employees of Barnet Council between £100,000 and £150,000</p> <p>3. As I and Her Majesty's Shadow spokesman on local government share the belief that "Residents have a right to know how their council tax is being spent." With reference to http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/7259289/Councils-afraid-to-say-how-much-they-pay-chiefs.html can the Council please detail, job titles of those employees earning more than £50,000.</p> <p>4. What representations did the Council make to the government's consultation regarding local authorities disclosing the pay of senior officers?</p> <p>5. If the Council made no representations, which representations from any organisations that the Council is a member of did it not make an objection to?</p>	<p>Response: Margaret Martinus</p> <p>Information concerning details of Officer Salaries has been published in the Council's Annual Finance and Performance Report 2008-09. The Council has published this information voluntarily. It is currently under no legal obligation to do so.</p> <p>No representations were made by the Council</p> <p>No information is held on this</p>
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5	<p><u>Mr Daniel Hope</u></p> <p>Can I have an update on the Council's withdrawal from the Local Government Association.</p>	<p>Response: Margaret Martinus</p> <p>The Council is still in the notice period. However, discussions with the LGA cost reductions are still in progress.</p>
6	<p><u>Mr Daniel Hope</u></p> <p>1. What legal advice has the Council received on its proposal to change its previously sex/race/religion etc blind planning policies to now positively discriminate on grounds of sex, race and / or religion etc when making planning decisions by incorporating "equalities factors which reflect Barnet's richly diverse communities." as a material consideration ? Has the Council taken legal advice?</p> <p>2. What advice from the Mayor of London has the Council received on it's proposal to change it's previously sex/race/religion etc blind planning policies to now positively discriminate on grounds of sex, race and / or religion etc when making planning decisions by incorporating "equalities factors which reflect Barnet's richly diverse communities." as a material consideration ? Is it in accordance with the London Plan? Has the Council consulted the Mayor of London?</p>	<p>Response: Martin Cowie Verbal Response</p>

	<p>3. What advice from the Secretary of State has the Council received on it's proposal to change it's previously sex/race/religion etc blind planning policies to now positively discriminate on grounds of sex, race and / or religion etc when making planning decisions by incorporating "equalities factors which reflect Barnet's richly diverse communities." as a material consideration ? Is in accordance with National Planning Guidance / Statements ? Has the Secretary of State been consulted ?</p> <p>4. What advice from the The Equality and Human Rights Commission has the Council received on it's proposal to change it's previously sex/race/religion etc blind planning policies to now positively discriminate on grounds of sex, race and / or religion etc when making planning decisions by incorporating equalities factors which reflect Barnet's richly diverse communities." as a material consideration " ? Is it in accordance with Race Relations and Equalities Law ? Has the Commission been consulted ?</p>	
7	<p><u>Mrs Massey</u></p> <p>Has any progress been made with the transfer of powers from the Council to the local police for dealing with street littering/dog fouling and other minor offences?</p>	<p>Response: Lynn bishop</p> <p>A report considering the delegation of authority to Police and Police Community Support Officers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for litter, dog fouling and graffiti is being prepared. It is anticipated that this will be ready for Cabinet to consider on the 12th April 2010</p>

<p>8</p>	<p><u>Mr David Howard</u></p> <p>How much money will Barnet have to pay in the next financial year for the Carbon Reduction Commitment?</p> <p>What steps is the borough taking to implement measures that will reduce that sum?</p>	<p>Response: Nigel Bell</p> <p>The Council estimates that it will have to budget to purchase £600K of carbon allowances next year, although there will be a recycling payment made to the Council, it is not clear as to the value of this payment which is dependant on a number of factors including its position in the CRC performance league table.</p> <p>The Council has managed an Energy Efficacy Investment Programme which operates as an "Energy Bank" providing funding for energy saving schemes in its buildings. The Council is currently considering its sustainability policy options going forward which will also reflect its approach to its investment in energy efficiency and the early CRC metrics</p>
<p>9</p>	<p><u>Mr Ashwood</u></p> <p>Would like an explanation as to why various areas within the borough were treated less favourably when it came to road gritting during the recent severe weather conditions.</p> <p>Additionally, he is complaining about the current standard of work in repairing pot holes. It is his view that the current measures were of a substandard nature and would require further repairs sooner rather than later.</p>	<p>Response: Lynn Bishop</p> <p>Due to the national shortage of Salt central government took control of all salt supplies and requested all London Boroughs to restrict gritting operations to a minimal network, known as the Resilience Network. Allocation of salt to the London boroughs was on the basis of the amount required to grit the Resilience Network only and hence the Borough would have run out of salt if ignored the request and continued to grit a wider network.</p> <p>Due to the shear volume of pot holes it has been necessary to employ additional resources dedicated to dealing with potholes. In order to ensure that the potholes were made safe as quickly as possible some of the potholes have been filled on a temporary basis. It is likely that those roads with a number of pot holes will need to be resurfaced in the near future and it would not have been a good use of resources to carry out a more expensive permanent repair in those roads.</p>

10	<p><u>Mr Ashwood</u></p> <p>Requested clarity on whose responsibility it was to maintain the sewers in the Crocusfield area. He has been in contact with Thames Water regarding constant overflowing and pollution over a number of years, and he has been told that the sewers came within the remit of Barnet Council.</p>	<p>Response: Lynn Bishop</p> <p>Highway drainage engineers have been in discussions with David Harding, Asset Condition Consultant for Thames Water. He had identified that an outline solution has been developed, however this was held in abeyance as TW understood that Barnet had plans to redevelop the Estate. Recent discussions have led to TW offering to meet and discuss the short and long terms plans for the estate in order for an action plan to be developed. This will be led by the Barnet Homes Asset Management team.</p>
11	<p><u>Mr Ashwood</u></p> <p>At an extraordinary meeting of the Council on 3 November 2009 it was agreed to adopt new executive arrangements. Mr Ashwood wishes to know what response there has been from the public regarding this decision.</p>	<p>Response: Acting Democratic Services Manager</p> <p>The report to 3 November 2009 Council regarding the adoption of new executive arrangements (which will be implemented later this year) did not seek the views of the general public as the council was required, by legislation, to pass a resolution at a specially convened meeting.</p> <p>There will be further consideration of this issue at the upcoming meeting of the Special Committee (Constitution Review) taking place in March. The agenda and reports for this meeting will be published and this is a public meeting</p>
12	<p><u>Councillor Kate Salinger</u></p> <p>Raised a question as to whether the Barnet Archive facility was moving and whether it would be fully accessible to Barnet's residents.</p>	<p>Response: Hugh Petrie/Barnet Archives</p> <p>The Council has yet to agree whether the archives will be moved from its present location. New locations are under investigation, and will be fully accessible to the public. The physical move of archive materials would be carried out by professional removers."</p>

13	<p><u>Mrs Massey</u></p> <p>Has Property Services department had any further recent contact with the owner of the market, and if so what was the outcome?"</p>	<p>Response: George Church/Property Services</p> <p>A site meeting on the Barnet Market St Albans road site has been held to discuss the problems with the current condition of the market site. Officers made it clear to the owner of the market that the current surfacing is unsuitable and there is a conflict of people and vehicles near the entrance to the market. The offer of the Council lending the cost of putting a temporary surface down was repeated and the owner was reminded of a more competitive surfacing quotation which had been obtained by the Council. Reference was also made to the fact that Statutory Powers under Environmental Health legislation could be used, if appropriate action was not taken by the owner.</p> <p>As the meeting has not generated a response from the owner, she is being written to setting out what officers said at the meeting. If no further action is obtained, the Council will give consideration to the use of its statutory powers to improve matters for the public.</p> <p>As the market no longer occupies Council land , the lead officer concerning the market is Pam Wharfe, Head of Housing and Environmental Health.</p>
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14	<p><u>Updated Response to Mr Bernstein (Issue 11)</u></p> <p>During the recent icy weather there have been up to six traffic collisions per day at the junction of Hollyfield Avenue and Hillside Avenue (including a council gritting lorry). This highlights the urgency of the concerns of our Residents' Group on traffic flows through surrounding streets. Has there been any progress with Highway officers looking into the question raised at the previous meeting on 24 November? We are particularly concerned that their investigation should mirror the traffic data collected by residents.</p>	<p>At the meeting Lynn Bishop referred to Mr Bernstein's questions from the last meeting and said that dialogue would last a maximum of three months. She noted the news that there had been six collisions per day and she undertook to liaise with the police regarding their accident records.</p> <p>Further Update The Council has previously - in 2008, investigated speeding concerns and the possibility of introducing traffic measures, but no measures were subsequently proposed. It was felt that closing off Hillside Avenue's access to Colney Hatch Lane would not be acceptable as it would restrict movement for the residents of Hollyfield Avenue, St John's Avenue and Hillside Avenue: the lengths of road for Holyfield and St Johns Avenue are 130m & 139m respectively, and are therefore unlikely to suffer speeding due to their relatively short lengths, although 'rat running' by its nature can give an impression of speeding. Under current assessment criteria there is no justification for introducing measures, as the unfortunate incidents referred to can be considered to be primarily as a result of unusual weather conditions and cannot automatically be attributed to the existing road layout or normal motorist behaviour. However, Officers will investigate to ensure that the signals are operating optimally at the Colney Hatch Lane/Friern Barnet Lane junction to minimise the occurrence of rat running .</p>
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<p>15</p>	<p><u>Updated Response to Ms Spindlow (Issue 1)</u></p> <p>The North London Waste Disposal site proposal at the former Friern Barnet sewage works.</p> <p>What sort of waste disposal is being proposed at this site?</p> <p>What will the noise and smell pollution be like?</p> <p>Where will the access be to this site for all vehicles including staff, and will this access be safeguarded so that no alternative access can be opened up later by, for example Hollickwood park/Sydney road?</p> <p>What is the correct consultation process required with the public and is it being strictly adhered too?</p> <p>What is being done to inform the residents of Coppetts and the 'Freehold' that this is happening, and could really affect them?</p> <p>CONCERNS:</p> <p>How can we be sure that access to this site will not come through our side roads? Particularly Hampden road, Pembroke road, Cromwell road and Sydney road. Which are already rat runs.</p>	<p>Updated Written Response:</p> <p>The position regarding the land transfer is that Contracts were exchanged with NLWA on the 17th December 2009. Completion of the sale will occur on or before 30/10/2010 subject to the Dept of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) consent being achieved by NLWA for their business case, and a satisfactory resolution to the costs of remediation being agreed.</p> <p>The council has been in contact with the NLWA about developing a comprehensive consultation strategy for the emerging proposals to ensure that the local community is kept informed of progress in the matter and is properly engaged. The NLWA is currently preparing an information leaflet for residents providing details of the project which is will send out shortly.</p>
<p>16</p>	<p><u>Updated Response to Mr Hope (Issue 7)</u></p> <p>Why does the Council seemingly make no effort at all to deal with the steep roads of Osidge Lane, Hampden Square and Parkside Gardens which carry bus routes that people desperately rely on? People were risking their safety with access to no grit or salt helping cars turning back from an impassable Osidge Lane. Does the Council not monitor its CCTV? Every time there is snow the buses are abandoned and the routes</p>	<p>It is intended to carry out a full review of the Winter Maintenance Service and this will include responding to lessons learned and addressing any new National and Local guidelines</p>
<p>17</p>	<p><u>Updated Response to Mr Dix (Issue 15)</u></p> <p>Referring to town centres floorspace</p>	<p>Response: Martin Cowie</p> <p>A meeting has been arranged with Mr Dix.</p>

18	<p><u>Ms Cavanagh (not attending the meeting)</u></p> <p>. The workmen have created a pathway down the slope to the road opposite the end of Falkland Avenue. This suggests that the site is not properly fenced at that end. Should young people decide to enter it could be extremely dangerous. I have mentioned this to the local Community Police.</p> <p>2. Failure to manage the 'green screen' of trees and shrubs on the site perimeter has resulted trees dying or choking with ivy. The internal road has been pushed closer to the edge of the slope so that the site is increasingly exposed to the road with greater intrusion of dust and noise pollution. In addition the slope itself is littered with rubbish, concrete slabs and a fallen skip. This is very unsightly for neighbours and for the many folk who use the Recreation ground opposite the site.</p> <p>3. The site is still being used before the legal time in the mornings - e.g. lorry movement and noise at 6.30 a.m. the Friday before last.</p> <p>I do realise that we have to have such disposal sites but do think that there should be a requirement for the owners to find ways to limit the impact on the residents close by. Instead things have worsened considerably over the last two years.</p>	Written Response: Lynn Bishop
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