

## CHIPPING BARNET RESIDENTS FORUM

20 JULY 2010 – As at 20 JULY 2010

### ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE FORUM MEETING

	Issues Raised	Response
1	<p><b>Mr Dix</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. At the last residents forum I asked two questions. The responses at the meeting did not answer the questions and I was assured by the Chair (Cllr Rutter) that I would receive a written response. As at 14 July I have not yet received any response. When can I expect a response?</li><li>2. How much does it cost to operate the Leader Listens blog? When will the leader update this site given that, as of 14 July, the last posting was 15 February, some 5 months ago.</li><li>3. Allowances for the Council leader will rise by £19,318 (+55%) with massive above inflation increases for the deputy leader, cabinet members and certain committee chairmen (although not chair of the Residents Forum). How does the council believe this will be viewed by residents at a time when the council are freezing wages and reviewing services?</li></ol>	<p>Responses have been made via the Action Notes</p> <p><b>Response: Chris Palmer</b></p> <p><b>See Issue 4</b></p>

2

**Karen Miller**

1. Can you please give me an update on the £1m offered under the Play Builders Scheme which offered Every Local Authority capital funding to deliver at least 20 play areas.

(a) How many play areas did Barnet identify needed replacing old equipment for new?

(b) How many completely new play areas were identified as being required with emphasis on the needs of 8 - 13 year olds and based on local needs analysis?"

(c) Which play areas made it to the final list for works to be

2. As the Travel Plan Policy for JCROSS has not been submitted yet and will definitely not make the required 6 months prior to opening deadline, can you tell me what penalties will be imposed on the school

**Response: Jenny Warren**

Phase One of the Playbuilder programme to complete 11 playareas for 8 – 13 year olds was delivered between April 2009 and March 2010.

- (a) Many of Barnet’s current play areas have little or no provision for older children; subsequently in many cases the playbuilder play areas have been built as completely new play areas next to current play provision. In one site – Oak Hill Park, one piece of redundant equipment was replaced.
- (b) One completely new play area was built in Bethune Park where there was no play provision.
- (c) The following 11 sites received a play area in Phase One.
  - ❖ Bethune Park
  - ❖ Tudor Sports Ground
  - ❖ Oak Hill Park
  - ❖ Swan Lane Openspace
  - ❖ Stoneyfields Park
  - ❖ Mill Hill Park
  - ❖ Silkstream Park
  - ❖ Colindale Park
  - ❖ York Park
  - ❖ Sunnyhill Park
  - ❖ Cherry Tree Wood

The second phase which would include a further 11 sites is currently under review.

**Response: Martin Cowie**

<p>3</p>	<p><b>Ms Silverstone</b></p> <p>What is the current position regarding the proposed footpath that had been approved with works commenced but the stopping, on York Road New Barnet towards New Barnet station? Please confirm that funds are still available for this project and when the works will actually be completed?</p>	<p><b>Response: Paul Bragg</b></p> <p>Following clearance of the land it became apparent that due to the gradient of the land it would be necessary to install a retaining wall in order for the footpath to be established. As this had not originally been anticipated, officers are now in the process of obtaining detailed cost estimates for the retaining wall. The land transfer from Network Rail has not been completed yet although progress is being made with securing the agreement. Until all costs are known we will not be in a position to confirm whether sufficient budgets are available to deliver the scheme.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p><b>Mr Ashwood</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will the Leader justify her comments on what Councillors do as Mr Ashwood has made repeated requests to contact her to no avail.</li> <li>• Will the Leader justify increases in salaries when in some cases members are receiving 5 times the hourly rate of the Prime Minister.</li> <li>• Why does this administration think they are justified in obtaining these increases when most of them are responsible for millions of pounds of public money lost over the last 4 years.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>The decision to review the Member Allowances Scheme was taken by Councillors.</p> <p>Any resident wishing to put their views, ask questions etc, should contact their Ward Councillors either at their respective surgeries or via e mails.</p>

<p>5</p>	<p><b>Michael Storey</b></p> <p>I was affected by the apparent impromptu changes to the normal traffic arrangements around the new JCoSS school on 7 July 2010. Please can the Council confirm what due procedure is for changing traffic arrangement (as in this instance from two-way to one-way traffic)?</p> <p>And, given that there didn't seem to be any public notification of the changes, can it confirm that due procedure was followed? If so, can it provide copies of relevant documents? If not, can it assure us that in future, the required public notice will be given.</p>	<p><b>Martin Cowie/Chris Chrysostomou</b></p>
<p>6</p>	<p><b>Helen Green</b></p> <p>(a) Since construction began on the new JCoSS school, our road has suffered hundreds of cases of JCoSS site workers working outside of agreed hours, parking across residents' drives, obstructing traffic, causing disturbance, etc.</p>	<p><b>Martin Cowie</b></p> <p>Late Question - A full response will be put into the action notes</p>

<p>(2) Can the Council explain why JCoSS' Press Relations Guru Ben Rich (who, by dint of the fact he is employed by the school, cannot not independent) is in charge of monitoring traffic and parking infringements (and working out of hours) at the site? Surely, given the size of the development, there should be a council officer in charge of this? If not, why isn't there one, especially in the light of so many problems?</p> <p>(3) Can the Council tell us how many complaints it has logged from affected members of the public?</p> <p>(4) Can the Council detail how many spot checks it has carried out during the construction work, and the findings of those checks?</p> <p>(5) Can the Council tell us what will happen if the school breaks the terms of its planning consent, for example by not liaising with the community in timely fashion as required, or by not keeping to the terms of their Green Travel Plan?</p> <p>(6) Can the Council explain in detail how the drop-off points at New Barnet station and Mount Pleasant will be able to accommodate the number of coaches required to service a full school?</p>	
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<p>(7) Can the Council explain in detail how the drop-off points at New Barnet station and Mount Pleasant will be able to accommodate the number of coaches required to service a full school?</p> <p>(8) Can the Council explain why £40m was spent on JCoSS, which has been built to an exceptionally high standard, with innovative and energy-efficient architecture like natural ventilation that will keep students cool in summer and warm in winter, yet only £26m was spent on the larger East Barnet School, which, due to the poor design, already requires additional air conditioning to keep students cool?</p> <p>(9) Can the Council explain why my neighbour received a letter from one of our local councillors inviting her to join a "JCoSS-Local Residents Liaison Group", yet I did not, nor did my neighbour - who has also complained to the council about contractor parking - on the other side? Are local residents being "cherry-picked" to join a group which will enable JCoSS to tick a 'community engagement' box and validate their attempts to bulldoze through an unpopular (but not unexpected) alteration to their Green Travel Plan?</p> <p>(10) Can the Council explain why the first meeting of this group falls at the same time as the Residents' Forum? Is it poor planning, incompetence, or something more sinister?</p> <p>(11) Although not invited, I intend to attend the liaison group, so will not be able to attend the Residents' Forum. I understand that other residents affected by JCoSS will be attending the Forum to support my views and I look forward to reading the Council's replies in the Action Notes.</p>	
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7	<p><b>Michael Storey</b></p> <p>At the June Residents' Forum, Martin Cowie outlined the current position regarding the Tesco site at 7- 11 Victoria Road, New Barnet and the likelihood of a s215 notice being served. Has there been any progress since the June forum? If so, can he provide details?</p> <p>On the same lines, could he please give details - no matter how small - of any recent discussions between Barnet Council and Tesco / ASDA about their future plans for New Barnet?</p>	<p><b>Martin Cowie</b></p>
8	<p><b>Mr Howard</b></p> <p>1). Now that the Council has been able to find £2.6 million from existing budgets to pay for a senior officer reorganization , £300,000 from existing budgets for three new Assistant Directors of Finance and £15,000 from existing budgets for an increase in Councillor's expense would I be correct in assuming that there is sufficient funds available in existing budgets to meet all of this year's planned commitments on a like for like basis as last year?</p> <p>2). What are the Councils priorities for allocating resources to meet the Conservative Central Government policies and possible cuts?</p>	<p><b>Chris Malyon</b></p> <p>The Council set a balanced budget for 2010/11 without the need for drawing upon reserves. All planned commitments were therefore provided for within this resource plan. Since setting the budget the Government have reduced the level of grant funding to the Council for the year. Proposals on how this reduction will be covered will be considered by the Cabinet Resources Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> July.</p> <p>The Council allocates resources based on local priorities and the legislative framework. Given the reduction in central funding that will occur over the next few years it will do what it can to mitigate those reductions through driving out further efficiencies and developing alternative service delivery models. Ultimately however given the size of the challenge there will be an impact on the services provided and Members will have to make some very difficult decisions over the level of funding allocated to service areas.</p>

	<p>3). Will the Council reinstate the wardens to sheltered housing as required under the contractual terms of tenancy when residents moved in to their flats?</p>	<p><b>Mithu Gosh</b></p> <p>The council's previous decision to withdraw funding for warden services was quashed following a judicial review. following this, officers were instructed by Cabinet in February this year to undertake a new assessment of the options in respect of any future proposals for housing provision with support for older people in the borough. these are now being developed for consideration by stakeholders and proposals will be brought back to Cabinet at a later date. Whilst there is no legal requirement on the Council to provide warden support at sheltered housing the proposals being developed are sensitive to the needs of existing residents as well as older people living in non-sheltered housing who are in need of support.</p>
9	<p>4). A meeting about JCROSS is being held in Livingstone school at 6.00pm on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July. Is the council organizing this meeting? Will the council be sending officers to the meeting? Will officers be minuting the meeting? Does the Council know why entry to the meeting is by invitation only from Councilor Rams?. Will any outcome of the meeting be accepted by the Planning Department as the views of the local community when access has been restricted to a few people only by invitation and does not include those most affected by the school's as yet to be agreed travel policy ?. The Planning permission in 2007 required the school travel plan to be agreed 6 months before the school opens. As this has not yet been agreed will the Council require the school to remain closed until it is consulted upon with the community and agreed?</p>	<p><b>Lisa Wright</b></p> <p>JCOSS submitted their School Travel Plan to the Council in March 2010 and it was approved by Transport for London (TfL) in April 2010.</p> <p>Following the opening of the school in September the School Travel Plan will be revised to incorporate consultation with the full School Community and be re-submitted by the end of March 2011.</p> <p>A copy of the School Travel Plan can be obtained through the School.</p>



	<p>5). JCROSS school held an open day for prospective parents on 7 July. In addition to stewards from the school there were two Police constables and a Police van in attendance for the duration plus at least three possibly more PCSOs. They set up a one way traffic system around Westbrook Crescent. No one recalls seeing any public notices or posters. Was this authorized by the Council? If so why was it not publicized? If no will the Council be turning a blind eye to similar arrangements when the school opens in September?</p> <p>6). When will I be receiving a reply from Lyn Bishop to question 5 at the last Forum?</p> <p>7). Barnet Homes have still failed to answer my original question when I asked why they were not insulating the concrete walls on Dollis Valley estate to save the residents money and save CO2 at the same time. The answer given was a load of hot air as I stated at the meeting. I have heard nothing from them since the meeting.</p>	<p><b>Chris Chrysostomou</b></p> <p>Changing the traffic flow on a road from two-way to one-way can be done either by the publication of a traffic order or by the instruction and presence of the police in uniform. The publication of a traffic order takes approximately 4-6 weeks to prepare and involves statutory consultation. Our records show that the Council has not been approached by the school for changing the traffic arrangement on 7 July 2010</p> <p>Response to this question is included in the updated Action Notes</p> <p>Response to this question is included in the updated Action Notes</p>
10	<p><b>Linden Groves</b></p> <p>Would it be possible please to be given:</p> <p>a) a breakdown of the various costs that you have reached;</p> <p>b) an idea of the funding grants that you propose are applied for (and how);</p> <p>c) what the council is proposing as the next step forward; and</p> <p>d) how the council proposes to further support the project? It is now a year since the issue of opening allotment land was raised at this Forum and surprisingly little progress has been made considering that this is a relatively simple project."</p>	<p><b>Jenny Warren</b></p> <p><b>See Appendix 2</b></p>
11	<p><b>John Gardiner</b></p> <p>With reference to the Council's decision, recorded in the Action Notes for the meeting held on the 15th June, not to delegate enforcement powers for minor offences to the police, could a full explanation of the reasons for this decision be given.</p>	<p><b>Dorne Kanareck</b></p>

12	<p><b>Vishy and Eileen Harihara</b></p> <p>Why do Barnet Council not have a policy for limitation on the size of basements in the Borough ? This method of extending the size of ones property, is becoming more popular by the day ,yet it appears that Barnet has no definite framework in place to deal with this . Other boroughs in London already have definite limitations ( e.g in some boroughs basements are not permitted to be bigger than 50% - 100% of the footprint of the house) and surely Barnet should be doing the same.</p>	<p><b>Martin Cowie</b></p>
13	<p><b>Mr Dix</b></p> <p>Can the Council please state whether they are in favour of, or opposed to, the TFL proposal to remove the traffic lights at the junction of Margaret Road and East Barnet Road</p> <p>(other residents have also raised the issue of the lights in this location)</p>	<p><b>Chris Chrysostomou</b></p> <p>During early 2008 the council was contacted by TfL to discuss possible sites where traffic signals might be removed, which would reduce future maintenance costs. The funds for the work were only available until the end of the financial year.</p> <p>Four potential sites in the borough were identified for discussion, with one site converted from a pelican crossing to a zebra crossing at the time. The remaining three sites, including the East Barnet/Margaret Road Junction, were not progressed as concerns raised by local residents could not be satisfactorily addressed.</p> <p>Since 2008, the council has not discussed these proposals in any detail with TfL, and consider that the issues and concerns raised by the residents at the time to still be valid. It must be remembered that TfL can not remove any signals from the Borough Road Network without the prior agreement of the Council”</p>
14	<p><b>Mr Robb (requests an e mail response)</b></p> <p>What was the total cost of the recent New Barnet Town Centre Strategy in terms of Council management time, materials, and any fees paid to any organisations involved in producing the survey materials and in analysing them?</p>	<p><b>Martin Cowie to e mail Mr Robb</b></p>

**RESPONSE TO MR GREEN RE: QUESTION 14 OF THE 15 JUNE 2010 FORUM**

According to council planners, New Barnet is a "District Centre", giving it equal status to the borough's largest local centres such as Chipping Barnet, North Finchley, Edgware, etc. However, in the Council's Town Centre Framework document for New Barnet, the centre is referred to as a "suburban railway village". A short stroll down East Barnet Road quickly confirms that, Sainsbury's aside, this small local centre seems to have few, if any, of the criteria required for "District Centre" status.

To make things clear to local residents:

Q a) Please could you list the criteria for "District Centre" status (or its replacement buzzphrase "Priority Centre")?

A District Centres provide convenience goods and services for more local communities and are accessible by public transport, walking and cycling. Barnet's Priority Centres are Edgware (a Major Centre), Chipping Barnet, Finchley Church End and North Finchley (all district centres).

A priority centre can be a district centre. The Publication stage of the Core Strategy will not identify New Barnet or Whetstone as Priority Centres. Any opportunities for development of brownfield sites in New Barnet will be primarily considered against saved policies in the UDP or their replacements the boroughwide policies in the emerging Development Management Policies DPD. The emerging Town Centre Framework for New Barnet will be finalised in late 2010 and will provide the basis for managing change in New Barnet.

Q b) Please could you list the criteria for "Town Centre" status?

A. Town centre is not an actual designation - London's Town Centre Network as set out in Annex 2 of the Draft Revised London Plan identifies 5 broad types of town centre

- o International Centres
- o Metropolitan Centres
- o Major Centres
- o District Centres
- o Neighbourhood and more local centres

Q c) Please could you identify which District Centre criteria New Barnet meets? Please be specific if possible.

A The Category below District is a Neighbourhood and more Local Centre. Such a centre may include a small supermarket of less than 2,000m<sup>2</sup>. The main foodstore in New Barnet is Sainsbury's which at 4,700m<sup>2</sup> exceeds a Neighbourhood classification.

Q d) Does New Barnet being a "District Centre" make it easier or harder to build large-scale retail developments there?

A New Barnet is a relatively small District Centre which is dominated by Sainsbury's and service outlets. Any proposed development should reflect the scale of the town centre and be guided by the emerging Town Centre Framework for New Barnet. This Framework provides the basis for managing change in New Barnet.

Q e) Would being a "Town Centre" offer New Barnet more protection against inappropriate developments?

A Refer to response above. We suspect you may mean the category below District which is a Neighbourhood and more Local Centre. Any proposal should reflect the scale of the town centre and its position in the Town Centre Network. New boundaries for the town centre will be set out in the emerging Development Management Policies DPD.

It should be noted that the existing national, strategic and local planning policy framework currently provides robust defence against inappropriate development.

Q f) What more can New Barnet's residents and elected representatives do to get the planning team to re-designate New Barnet a "Town Centre", not a "District Centre"?

A We do not consider that de-designation is the best way forward for a successful New Barnet. We will continue to monitor New Barnet's health as a town centre. If New Barnet were to lose its sole major foodstore it is likely that this would trigger a de-designation through a review of the London Plan.

Trott Road Grant Funding Opportunities

Organisation	Grant Scheme	Potential Funding Available	Application Deadline	Application Time Frame	Primary Concern
Big Lottery Fund	Changing spaces - community spaces	2500 - 50000	01/01/2011	22 weeks	Helping community groups in England create or improve green, open spaces to enhance people's quality of life.
Big Lottery Fund	Awards For All	300-10000	Ongoing	6 weeks from submission	To help improve communities and those most in need
Big Lottery Fund	Changing spaces - community sustainable energy programme	25000 - 49999	29/10/2010		The promotion of microgeneration and energy efficiency within local communities.

Big Lottery Fund	Reaching Communities	10-500000	01/01/2013	Proposal 20 days Application 17 weeks	Projects that respond to needs identified by communities, and those that fund projects that help those most in need including those people or groups who are hard to reach.
Lottery and mayor of london	Capital Growth	50-1500	Next funding 01/10/2010	Within 4 weeks of application	To provide easily accessible support, to help people to initiate and run new food growing projects in London that are for community benefit.

## Trott Road Provisional Budget

Site Area	Contractor	Summary Of Work	Expense Quotes	Expense Estimates
Main Gates	J. O'Leary & Son	Removal of current gates, followed by supply and installation of one pair of new main gates, and 2 gateposts.	£ 1,460.00	
Fencing	J. O'Leary & Son	Repair existing fencing - Including Three new bays of fencing.	£ 990.00	
Land Clearance	BW Services Limited	Supply and operation of an excavator to clear trees, supply of equipment and staff to clear all rubbish. Equipment and staff to rotovate the	£ 15,400.00	

		turf into a level seed bed over 3-4 cycles.		
Land Surveying / Site Layout				£ 2,000.00
Infrastructure				£ 10,000.00
		Sub Total		
			£ 17,850.00	£ 18,000.00
		Total		
			£	-



