

CHIPPING BARNET RESIDENTS FORUM

WEDNESDAY 14 MARCH 2012

ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE FORUM MEETING

	Issue Raised	Response
1.	<p>A severe congestion point is developing in the Oakleigh rd south area between Beaconsfield rd and Balfour Grove. Inconsiderate parking, including the large trucks from the local depots, often creates a dangerous pinch point. this is a busy local road, a cut through to the North Circular and has two Bus routes. Add to this speeding drivers and the danger increases dramatically.</p> <p>I would suggest more yellow lines and increased enforcement of local parking controls.</p> <p>Is there something the council can do to remedy this worsening situation?</p> <p><i>(Mr Mark Greateorex)</i></p>	<p>Officers are aware of this issue and are currently looking at the various aspects that contribute to the congestion and general road safety concerns, and anticipate formulating proposals over the next few weeks.</p> <p>Any identified measures will need council approval, but assuming this happens statutory consultation on any identified measures will take place in the Summer,.</p>
2.	<p>Please could we have a dog bin put on the library green on Friern Barnet Road.</p> <p><i>(Frances Briers)</i></p>	<p>It is believed that waste bins are located within this area at present and these can be used for dog litter. The site will be checked to see whether the current arrangement is sufficient and appropriate measures will be instigated if this visit identifies a specific requirement.</p>
3.	<p>In 2001 the Council proposed introducing charges for the car park behind the shops in Church Hill Road East Barnet. This was dropped the same year allegedly on the grounds that the access road between Church Hill Road and the Car park was in private ownership and the council had no rights of passage over it and also because the lower car park which comprises about 80% of the spaces are located in an Environment Agency high risk flood plain which has flooded several times in living memory. I understand that the legal advice the Council received at that time was that if the</p>	<p>The proposal to charge in this car park , along with others that are council owned but currently free, stems from a Council adopted policy last year. Certain technical elements have delayed the formal consultation until now.</p> <p>It is not possible to state at the time of writing what reasoning lay behind previous decisions not to proceed with charging in this car park but Officers are grateful for the information provide which will be reviewed.</p>

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	<p>council took money from the car owners and the cars were write offs or badly damaged as a result of water damage then the council would be liable to pay the owners.</p> <p>Can the Council please confirm :-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) that this was the case in the past and 2) What has changed this time and 3) That the Council has carried out a risk assessment and 4) That the Council will publish the risk assessment. <p><i>(David Howard)</i></p>	<p>In addition to the statutory consultation being carried out which invites comments and/or objections to the proposals it is understood that local Ward Members are also carrying out their own consultation, the results of which will also be taken into consideration before any decision on the future of the car park is taken.</p>
4.	<p>Do the Council feel that the residents of Barnet should be encouraged to drive to other Boroughs to do their shopping where the parking charges are affordable? How will this assist our High Street and local shops to survive the recession?</p> <p><i>(James Bradshaw, Chairman East Barnet Residents Association)</i></p>	<p>Parking in Barnet is no less affordable than in comparable areas, and is for example cheaper than the neighbouring borough of Brent. Nevertheless, the Council is mindful of the concerns of traders and will not be increasing on-street charging this year. Additionally, it is with this in mind that the council will soon be commencing a parking review of North Finchley Town Centre with a view to establishing what the most appropriate layout and approach should be which will lead the council to devise and implement a strategy for mitigating, in so far as is possible, the effects of increased parking charges on town centres and more localised shopping areas.</p>
5.	<p>I would like to know if there are any plans to re-assess the phasing of the traffic lights and pedestrian crossing arrangements on the junction of the North Circular and Colney Hatch Lane.</p> <p>The reason for my concern is that our walk to school from the end of Colney Hatch Lane at Friern Barnet to the entrance to George Crescent is fraught with dangers too numerous to list here. In my opinion the most worrying is the timing of the pedestrian crossings entering and exiting the footbridge over the North Circular by Tesco and the Power League football ground.</p> <p>My husband has filmed footage on his i-phone of 8 cars in sequence driving straight through a green man at one of these crossings, all of them oblivious to the red light asking them to stop. When I make this crossing with my 3 and 6 year-old children, we</p>	<p>All Traffic Signals fall under the remit of TfL. There were no plans to review signals at this location. However, this concern will be forwarded to TfL for them to investigate and rectify as appropriate and we will work with TfL on this issue</p>

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	<p>wait for the red man and then allow the 2 or 3 cars that come straight across from the North Circular slip-road to pass before making a run for it. This is still safer than crossing when the man is green, as the cars that are coming around the corner and do not see the red light.</p> <p><i>(Miriam Gopaul)</i></p>	
6.	<p>Why is the council determined to destroy the local community in East Barnet by imposing charges to the Church Hill Road Car Park. What is the economic rationale for this decision and to what extent did the council consider the financial impact on local shops?</p> <p><i>(John Dix)</i></p>	<p>The decision to introduce charges in the existing free car parks in the borough was approved on 14th February 2011. The council is of course mindful and supportive of its local businesses and town centres and as such consider the proposed changes would allow the council to better manage its assets as well as making sure the car parks are able to meet varying demands for short and long stay parking as appropriate in each area with a view to improving access to local amenities. However, the proposals are very much subject to the consideration of responses received through the statutory consultation currently being undertaken before any final decision is made.</p>
7.	<p>Given that 94% of local residents were opposed to holding events in Oak Hill Park will the council now listen to what they have been told and drop this idea?</p> <p><i>(John Dix)</i></p>	<p>Response from Parks Officer</p> <p>The question refers to the consultation feedback in relation to holding private events in Oak Hill Park. The consultation feedback is being used to formulate an updated 'Events in Parks Policy' which will be presented to Cabinet later this year for consideration. There are already over 45 successful events that take place throughout the park portfolio each year and the Council will continue to allow events to take place in Oak Hill Park as per the current practice.</p>
8	<p>The public toilet in Oak Hill Park is still out of order. Please can we have a definitive deadline as to when these toilets will be repaired and reopened.</p> <p><i>(John Dix)</i></p>	<p>Response from Parks Officer</p> <p>The café operator is carrying out the required remedial works at this present time. It is expected that the toilets will be re-opened for the Easter holidays providing that all the works go to plan.</p>

Contact: Maria Lugangira, Business Governance Service, Corporate Governance Directorate, Building 4, Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1NP. Email: chippingbarnet.residentsforum@barnet.gov.uk