

Minutes

OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET
held at The Town Hall, Hendon, NW4, on Tuesday, 13 September, 2005

PRESENT:

*The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Andreas Tambourides)

*The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Victor Lyon, BA (Hons))

Councillors:

*Steve Blomer	* Arun Ghosh BSc BVSc&AH	*Matthew Offord
*Maureen Braun	MPhil CBIOL MIBIOL,	*Monroe Palmer OBE FCA
Fiona Bulmer	MSFAM, MAPHV, MRSM	*Suzette Palmer MA
*Terry Burton	*Brian Gordon, LL.B	*Kanti Patel MEng, MCIOB
*Anita Campbell	*Eva Greenspan BA, LL.B	FFB, MCMI
Wayne Casey BA (Hons)	(Hons)	*Wendy Prentice
MIIA	*Andrew Harper	*Barry Rawlings
*Danish Chopra	*Christopher Harris BA BSc	*Colin Rogers
*Jack Cohen	MPhil	*Paul Rogers
*Melvin Cohen LLB	*Helena Hart	*Brian Salinger
*Brian Coleman, AM, FRSA	*Lynne Hillan	*Gill Sargeant
*Katia David BSc, MBA, JP	*Sean Hooker, BA (Hons)	*Joan Scannell
*Jeremy Davies BA (Hons),	Daniel Hope	*Alan Schneiderman
CPFA	*Anne Hutton	*Gerard Silverstone
*Peter Davis Ctext, FTI,	*Mark Langton	*Agnes Slocombe SRN RM
FCFI	*Malcolm Lester FCCA	*Ansuya Sodha MBA (Middx)
*Aba Dunner MCIJ	Kitty Lyons	Cert Ed, DipM (CIM), AMBA
*Kevin Edson	*John Marshall	*Susan Steinberg
Olwen Evans ACIS	*Linda McFadyen	*Leslie Sussman, MBE
*Claire Farrier	*Kath McGuirk	*Soon-Hoe Teh
*Anthony Finn BSc (Econ)	*David Mencer	*Jim Tierney
FCA	*Alison Moore	*Allan Turner
Mike Freer	*Jazmin Naghar	*Phil Yeoman
	*Robert Newton	*Zakia Zubairi

*denotes Member present

51. PRAYER (Agenda Item 1):

The Mayor's Chaplain offered prayer.

52. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 2):

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fiona Bulmer, Wayne Casey, Olwen Evans, Kitty Lyons, Daniel Hope and Mike Freer, and for lateness from Colin Rogers, Kath McGuirk and Agnes Slocombe.

- 53. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 28 JUNE 2005 (Agenda Item 3):**
RESOLVED –That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2005 be approved.

54. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS (Agenda Item 4):

A minute's silence was held to remember the victims of the London Bombings on 7 July.

The Worshipful the Mayor referred to the achievements of Barnet's young athletes in being awarded "the most improved Borough" trophy. In presenting the trophy, The Worshipful the Mayor particularly drew attention to the achievements of Oliver Keegan, Christopher Warren, Michelle Wong, Steve Wright, Karl Nicholls, Tommie Thorneycroft, Chloe Mitchell, Servnaz Nasiri, Jayvon McGlone, Naomi Singer, Shannon Nichols and their managers, Ms Sharin Evans, Mr Steve Harris and Mr Norbett Soans.

55. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS (Agenda Item 5):

Councillor Brian Salinger declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Question 17 to the Cabinet Member for the Environment and Transport, and a personal interest in Motion 8.5 as he was a carer.

Councillors Helena Hart and Linda McFadyen declared personal interests in Motion 8.5. A close member of Councillor Hart's family was a Research Fellow at the Royal Free Medical School and received a small stipend for on – call vascular sessions, but would not be affected by the current proposals. Councillor Hart further indicated that if at any future time he were to become directly affected by such proposals, she would take no further part in the deliberations and withdraw from the meeting. Councillor McFadyen worked for the NHS.

Councillor Jeremy Davies declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Motion 8.5 as he was an employee of the Royal Free Hospital, as did Councillor Teh who was a non – executive member of Barnet PCT. Both Councillors withdrew from the meeting during debate on the Motion and did not participate in the vote.

56. QUESTION TIME FOR MEMBERS (Agenda Item 7):

Questions were put to the Leader and the relevant Members of the Cabinet. Those questions, together with the original answers provided and the text of any supplementary questions and answers are set out in the Appendix to these minutes.

57. VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

Councillor Joan Scannell, duly seconded, moved that the order of business relating to Agenda Item 8 be varied so that Motions 8.2, 8.4 and 8.5 be heard first.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED – That the order of business be varied to allow Motions 8.2, 8.4 and 8.5 to be heard first.

58. MEMBERS' MOTIONS (Agenda Item 8):

The Mayor stated that, using his discretion under Rule 34.2, he would allow 20 minutes each for Motions 8.2, 8.4 and 8.5 and then put the remaining Motions and Amendments to the vote without debate.

59. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR BRIAN SALINGER (Agenda item 8.2)

Motion 8.2 in the name of Councillor Brian Salinger was moved.

Debate ensued. Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED - Council notes with deep sadness the London Bombings of 7 July, attacks on our City that killed more than 50 and injured at least 700 innocent people.

Council further notes that at least 8 residents of the Borough were among those killed by the atrocities.

Council condemns utterly the individuals and organisations responsible for this outrage. We believe their wicked act was aimed to drive a wedge between the communities that exist in harmony in our great and diverse city.

Council by contrast pays enormous tribute to the very brave and effective response of all the emergency services, transport staff, hospital personnel, as well as members of the public that lent a hand to their fellow citizens in their hour of need.

Council believes that without their sterling work, more people would have been killed in the terrorist attacks.

Council welcomes the multicultural harmony of the London Borough of Barnet. This is a Borough where residents, of all faiths and creeds, live and work in peace together, united in condemnation of the bombings.

Council resolves to stand steadfast against the hate and oppression these extremist individuals and their cohorts stand for, and to work with all the communities and organisations in the Borough to ensure that there is no place for such evil criminals in our society.

60. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR MELVIN COHEN (Agenda items 8.4 and 15.1.12A (b))

Motion 8.4 in the name of Councillor Melvin Cohen was moved. The amendment in the name of Councillor Paul Rogers was not moved.

Debate ensued. Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED – Council welcomes the news that the Green Belt celebrated its 50th birthday on 3 August.

Council believes that the Green Belt is instrumental in protecting the attractive environment of the Borough, and protecting our suburbs from excessive development.

Council notes that Hendon Council was the first authority in the country to designate land as Green Belt, and further notes that the Green Belt extends through the middle of the Borough of Barnet.

Council is however dismayed by moves by the government to force Councils to release Green Belt land for development, trying to turn the Green Belt into an “Elastic Belt”.

Council believes, in contrast, that the values of the Green Belt are as valid now as they were in 1955: the Green Belt must be site specific, permanent, and sacrosanct.

Council resolves to celebrate the anniversary of the Green Belt, and calls on Cabinet to take what action it can to ensure that Barnet’s beautiful environment, that owes so much to that policy is protected for generations to come.

61. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR MONROE PALMER (Agenda items 8.5 and 15.1.12A (d))

Motion 8.5 in the name of Councillor Monroe Palmer was moved.

Amendments in the name of Councillors Helena Hart and Linda McFadyen were moved. Debate ensued. The amendment in name of Councillor Bulmer was not moved.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment moved by Councillor Helena Hart was declared carried and that by Councillor McFadyen declared lost. Ten Members demanded a division on the voting on Councillor McFadyen’s amendment. Upon being taken, the results of the division were declared as follows:

For	Against	Not Voting	Absent when vote taken
Councillors	Councillors	Councillors	Councillors
Blomer	Tambourides		Bulmer
Campbell	Braun	Lyon	Casey
Chopra	Burton		Davies
Jack Cohen	Melvin Cohen		Evans
Farrier	Coleman		Freer
Ghosh	David		Hope
Hooker	Davis		Lyons
Hutton	Dunner		Salinger
Langton	Edson		Teh
McFadyen	Finn		
McGuirk	Gordon		
Mencer	Greenspan		
Moore	Harper		
Monroe Palmer	Harris		
Susette Palmer	Hart		
Rawlings	Hillan		
Colin Rogers	Lester		
Paul Rogers	Marshall		
Sargeant	Naghar		
Schneiderman	Newton		
Slocombe	Offord		
Sodha	Patel		

Tierney	Prentice		
Turner	Scannell		
Yeoman	Silverstone		
Zubairi	Steinberg		
	Sussman		

For 26
Against 27
Not Voting 1
Absent 9

The amendment moved by Councillor Linda McFadyen was therefore declared lost

Upon being put to the vote, the substantive motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED – Council is extremely concerned by the failure of Edgware Community Hospital to consult with this Council’s Supporting the Vulnerable Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding its proposals to alter the service currently provided at that Hospital’s 24 Hour Walk In Centre.

Council is dismayed that not only has this committee not been asked to comment on the proposals, but also that it has received no information whatsoever regarding the proposals in direct contravention of both the Health and Social Care Act 2001, and the Local authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002.

This Council has a long history of opposition to the closure of the Accident and Emergency department at Edgware and although Council welcomes the new buildings and facilities at the site, Council is adamant that there must not be any sacrifice made to the 24 hour Centre or any other service the Hospital currently provides.

Council also notes that major alterations to provision of Healthcare have been proposed by the Royal Free Hospital with a grave lack of proper consultation with either this Authority, or other stakeholders. Many of these proposals have again come out in August, a month when many interested parties are on leave, effectively precluding comment from them.

Council resolves to request the Chief Executive writes to all Barnet NHS healthcare providers and the Secretary of State in order to make the Council's views known on the appalling lack of consultation, or inadequate consultation, that has taken place over the recently proposed changes to NHS provision in our area.

62. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR PHIL YEOMAN (Agenda Items 8.1 and 15.1.12A (a))

Motion 8.1 in the name of Councillor Phil Yeoman and an amendment in the name of Councillor Brian Salinger were put to the vote without debate. The amendment in the name of Councillor Brian Salinger and the substantive motion were declared carried.

RESOLVED - Council is delighted that London will host the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012.

Council congratulates the London 2012 team led by Lord Coe, supported by the Mayor of London, Greater London Authority, the Government and all three main political parties, on bringing the 2012 Olympics to London.

Council believes the Olympics could bring huge benefits to Barnet and the whole of London, encouraging a legacy of regeneration and jobs, improvements to public transport, and world-class sports facilities for our children's future.

This Council further believes that Barnet could benefit yet more from the prosperity that the games will hopefully create, as our sports centres and sites could be used as training centres in the run up to the Olympics

Council asks the Cabinet to write to the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and the Olympic Delivery Authority to pledge the London Borough of Barnet's support to work in partnership for a successful Olympics. Council also calls on Cabinet to press the Government, Transport for London (TfL), the London Mayor, and other London-wide committees to provide funding for much needed infrastructure improvements, not least to ensure improvements to the A406 (North Circular Road).

63. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR KATH MCGUIRK (Agenda Items 8.3 and 15.1.12A(c))

Motion 8.3 in the name of Councillor Kath McGuirk and an amendment in the name of Councillor Matthew Offord were put to the vote without debate. The amendment was declared carried. The substantive motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED - Council notes that a report is due to be sent to Cabinet outlining plans for a new, in-house, service to deal with a range of pests in the Borough.

Council resolves to wholeheartedly welcome plans to introduce such a comprehensive Pest Control Service at a competitive price to Barnet residents, and calls on Cabinet to approve this excellent initiative.

64. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

In accordance with the Agenda, the Mayor adjourned the meeting for 15 minutes.

The meeting reconvened at 9.04pm

65. EMERGENCY AT NORTH LONDON BUSINESS PARK.

The Chief Executive briefed Council on the effects of a major power failure at North London Business Park which necessitated his leaving the Council meeting. The Chief Executive assured the Council that there were no terrorist activities involved, that business resilience plans were in operation

and that he expected activities to resume at the Business Park by midday on 14 September.

66. ADMINISTRATION POLICY ITEM (Agenda Items 9.1 and 15.1.12B,)

Councillor Matthew Offord proposed the item and moved that it be adopted. An amendment in the name of Councillor Danish Chopra was moved. Debate ensued. Upon being to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Danish Chopra was declared lost. Upon being put to the vote, the substantive motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED - Council notes with dismay the ALG meeting that decided to push ahead with decriminalised traffic enforcement through CCTV only.

Council notes that this move meant the ALG abandoned pilots investigating manual traffic enforcement, which is regarded by many as a fairer and more effective method.

Council believes that this decision, pushed through by Labour and Liberal representatives, will lead to a rash of “Cash Cameras” across London, designed to squeeze money out of motorists at “easy” sites.

Council conversely believes that traffic enforcement must be designed to cut congestion and manage road use; it should not be used as a tool to make money.

Council welcomes the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport’s statement that he will be proposing that Barnet will not be part of this scheme to squeeze cash out of motorists using CCTV.

Council calls on Cabinet to continue to oppose these cash cameras. Council also asks Cabinet to work with the ALG to find a fairer and more effective means of traffic enforcement, including manual enforcement, one that would be acceptable to all residents of this Borough and of London.

67. OPPOSITION POLICY ITEM (Agenda Item 9.2,)

Councillor Anita Campbell proposed the item and moved that it be adopted. Debate ensued. Upon being put to the vote, the item was lost.

68. COMMENTS ON THE WORK OF THE CABINET (Agenda item 10adn 15.1.11)

Councillor Steve Blomer commented

Notwithstanding the bout of self-gratification on this issue, Stoneyfields Park, earlier tonight. The fact remains that there has been and still is a serious problem with anti-social behaviour associated with Stoneyfields Park. The improvements made over the last year are very welcome and much appreciated but it should be noted that these were carried after pressure from local residents ably supported by the local councillors.

Most cyclists still use the park until late. At the most recent Edgware Forum it was admitted by the Council that gates are not locked until after 11pm at night. Even Councillor Gordon seemed concerned at this late hour. Many residents in the area, including those in the care facility at Fairmead Crescent, are constantly disturbed at night, still feel threatened.

I would ask what is the current situation regards to the portacabin/hall at the back of Fairmead Crescent. I will add that the latest complaints I have received are regarding under age drinking in the park. The residents feel that the Council don't care and don't listen, and I should add that these complaints come from people who voted for you lot in May and not for us.

Finally, does the Cabinet Member agree with the comments attributed to Councillor Gordon in the Barnet Press that it's not the Council's responsibility to police the parks, and if you do, pray tell me whose responsibility it is?

Councillor Matthew Offord responded

Councillor Blomer's done this issue to death. Not only has he brought it here to Cabinet, he had a question on it tonight and he's also taken it to the Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee. So I think he's getting his flesh off the pound with this.

I have to say that the park is locked each night and we haven't actually received any complaints from the Council. I'm in some confusion because I'm getting one story from Councillor Gordon, I'm getting one story from the officers and the Street Enforcement Service and I'm getting a contradictory version from yourself. Based on the evidence before me I am going to go with majority of that.

In regard to your comments about motor cycles, there is a problem across many pieces of open land in the Borough. In, perhaps, in the place that you also describe. The Street Enforcement Service are working with local Police Officers. We are looking at putting things like signs telling people they shouldn't be riding motor cycles there. There is an eyeball as well also including measures that prevent motor cycles going into the area but I suggest that if you know of these issues and these problems you keep a note of it and you can email myself, you can email any of the officers, and perhaps we can look into, but at the minute I have no factual evidence that this is actually occurring.

Councillor Alan Schneiderman commented

Thank you Mr Mayor, I'm pleased to have this short opportunity to comment on the youth service in Barnet and the two scrutiny committee reports which did come to Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny yesterday. Seven of the amendments that I've put forward to the Culture Scrutiny Committee's youth service report were actually agreed and incorporated into the majority of the report.

The main issue of contention and the reason for minority report was the £300,000 cut to this year's youth service budget. Now Councillor Marshall

claimed yesterday, and I believe he said the same at Cabinet, that that didn't matter as the Council had won another £280,000 in grants to cover this Tory cut. I do want to congratulate the hard working staff in the youth service who've managed to win this money for Barnet. But if the Tories hadn't cut the £300,000 in the first place we'd have actually been able to increase the youth provision in the Borough rather than almost replacing what was cut. The clear finding that came out of those scrutiny reports, as what most Members apart from, it seems the Cabinet knows, is that there is a need for more youth facilities in Barnet, not less, and on top of that £300,000 cut, the Tories also rejected out plans that the budget put on nearly £700,000 back into the youth service to help tackle anti-social behaviour. And this is from a Council that already invests only £50 per resident in the youth service compared with the London average of over £100. Councillor Marshall may talk about the extra grants that the youth service hopes to get next year but he's got a long way to go to make up for the money he's already cut, the youth centres he's closed and the plans for extra funds which he and his colleagues rejected.

Councillor John Marshall responded

Well, can I thank Councillor Schneiderman for allowing me to speak on this subject again and pointing out how the officers have succeeded in getting grants of £280,000. To talk of the youth service being starved of cash when in fact the amount of cash going into the youth service this year is approximately the same as last year, makes good reading from this side of the Chamber. We don't need to spend as much as some other London boroughs because the problem of youth in this Borough is not the same as it in paradises such as Lambeth, Hackney and Islington.

We are producing new facilities for youth. I would like to the point out, for example, that there will be a new website next month called Directme, which will have all the services for young people on it and I think that nowadays we have to get to young people by using websites rather than adverts in the Barnet Press.

We are progressing the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Schemes and I would like to congratulate Ravenscroft School under the inspired leadership of the Headteacher and governors of the School like Councillor Coleman. We believe in detached youth workers and for Councillor Schneiderman to come along yet again and talk about youth centres that were closed, let us be quite frank that the Herbert Willmott Centre would have cost a quarter of a million pounds to bring back into use. Are there not better ways of spending that money than reopening a centre when in fact the work that was done there has been relocated? Those who were using it are being able to carry on with the work they were doing before. That is surely much better.

Councillor Gill Sargeant commented

Thank you very much Mr Mayor. I understand I have 1.7 minutes and I will talk in that brief space of time about my concern that despite planning permission being given for Grahame Park in September 2004 the overall agreement has not yet been signed.

The first phase will include housing being built on the open space and this is one of the most controversial aspects of the whole of the redevelopment. It's the part that residents are least interested in. I know the Opposition talk a great deal about their concern about open space but at the moment they are cutting into the open space in Grahame Park. There is no overall agreement yet planned and I'm very concerned that the whole of the Grahame Park needs to be planned otherwise we will have a very partial development which will not satisfy the needs, and I just wanted to know when we can have an assurance of when the whole agreement will be signed.

Councillor Anthony Finn responded

Councillor Sargeant will recall the recent withdrawal by Notting Hill Housing Group with future involvement with the project and allowed Genesis Housing Group take the leading role. While Notting Hill Housing Group have made significant contribution to the project, to date this change has allowed considerable progress, considerable progress I repeat, to be made between Choices for Grahame Park backed by Genesis and the Council in an agreement proposed heads of terms that will form the basis of the PDA, the Developer's Principle Agreement. The regeneration team now anticipates being able to report shortly to Cabinet seeking approval to the heads of terms and to the in principle disposal of a first open space site. If approved, this will allow Choices for Grahame Park to proceed with the detailed design work for the first phase with the expectation that construction work will commence within twelve months of that date.

**69. QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES
(Agenda items 11 and 15, 1.16)**

As Councillor Olwen Evans had given her apologies for the meeting, the answer to Councillor Coleman's Question at Agenda Item 11.2 was set out in Agenda item 15.1.16.

As Councillor Hope had also submitted apologies, the answer to Councillor Coleman's Question at Agenda item 11.4 would be circulated, in writing, in accordance with the Constitution.

Councillor Matthew Offord asked the following Question:

Can the member(s) please advise how much revenue surplus there was from the NLWA's budget at 31 March 2005

Councillor Brian Coleman responded.

Thank you Mr Mayor, as you know, I'm one of this Authority's two representatives on the North London Waste Authority. The North London Waste Authority's revenue balances at 31 March 2005 stood at £6.4million equating to over 14% of the Waste Authority's net expenditure in 2004/5.

By way of comparison, the revenue balances for £6.1million at 31 March 2004 and £3.9million at 31 March 2003. Therefore, the revenue balance of £6.4million at March 2005 represents an increase of 61% over two years.

In estimating its levy each year on the seven constituent boroughs, the Waste Authority does set off estimated balances against its net expenditure. However, the Authority has consistently over a number of years delivered and

underspent and this year the Conservative Opposition Group moved an alternative budget which would have resulted in less balances and less precept charged to this Council and Council Tax payers in this Borough. That was voted down by the Labour majority on the North London Waste Authority, the Labour controlled boroughs. This Borough has therefore paid considerable amount of money to the Waste Authority which is just sitting in the bank.

Councillor Maureen Braun asked the following Question:

Will Cllr Evans please tell the Council what role the Barnet link member of the Metropolitan Police Authority (Mr Peter Herbert) played at the June 29 Annual Meeting of the Barnet Police Consultative Group? How often, to her knowledge, has Mr Herbert attended meetings during the last 5 years?

Councillor Evans has responded in writing:

I have only been appointed to the Barnet Police Consultative Committee a short while. Mr Herbert was not present at this year's AGM and personally I have not seen him at any meeting. I made enquiries and was advised that Mr Herbert has only attended 3 meetings since he was appointed in October 2000 - not a very good record.

In view of the universal cry for more police officers for Barnet, I would have expected him to attend and lead the campaign. As Link Member of the Metropolitan Police Authority, I would have expected him to take a prominent role in helping the Borough Commander

Councillor Brian Coleman asked the following Question:

Will Councillor David list the Community organisations (other than Barnet Council) that have hired either of the two theatres at the ArtsDepot since it opened?

Councillor Katia David responded.

Thank you Mr Mayor. Yes, I've got a list here for Councillor Coleman but for the benefit of Members that are here, the local groups that have used the Arts Depot are Barnet Folk Club, Mill Hill Music Club, Essential Theatre Company, Community Focus, Barnet College, North London Chorus, Alexander Dance Studio, Suzi Earnshaw Theatre School, Impact Theatre, Showstoppers, Performing Arts School, Full Circle Children's Theatre, Horn of Africa Women's Association, Finchley Arts Society, Barnet Collection, Barnet Photographic Society, Friern Barnet County School, Woodside Park International School, Barnet Homes, Albany College, National Federation of Greeks in London, London Main Jewish Choir, almost every primary school in the Borough have performed at Arts Depot as part of the Barnet Schools Music Festival. Also charity events, Oxfam, Sudan Appeal, Tsunami Appeal, NSPCC Valentine Variety Show, New Horizons Charity, Grief Encounter, Breakaway Charity, the Poetry Society, Lester Miller Bollywood Competition, and commercial hires were the BBC Concert Orchestra, X-Factor, Fig Leaves, the Philharmonia Orchestra, Sony Television, North London Chamber of Commerce, the Labour Party, The Outlook Trade Organisation, David Rubin and here's a list for Councillor Coleman.

Councillor Brian Coleman asked the following Question:

Will Councillor Hope tell the Council what discussion about advertising and publicity by the ArtsDepot has taken place at Board meetings?

Councillor Daniel Hope will be responding in writing.

Councillor Brian Coleman asked the following Question:

Does Councillor Davis consider that the Arts Depot is operating at a profit?

Councillor Peter Davis responded.

Thank you Mr Mayor.

I find it particularly welcome that Councillor Coleman is taking an interest in the Arts Depot, which is an organisation with charitable status and as such operates on a not-for-profit basis! Well you asked the question, I'm giving you the answer!

The Arts Depot has achieved its box office targets and exceeded its targets for hiring of these spaces by outside bodies. Over 80,000 people have come to the Centre in the first six months and there have been 1600 events including performances, workshops, meetings, rehearsals and exhibitions. The Centre is currently achieving its targets and in 2006 to 7 will bring in an additional £350,000 per year in funding towards arts activities in the Borough from Arts Council England and the ALG. The Arts Depot continues to be a great profit to the community in Barnet. Thank you.

70. STATUTORY COUNCIL BUSINESS (Agenda Items 12 and 15)

In accordance with Procedure Rule 43, the Worshipful the Mayor allocated 25 minutes for Agenda Item 12, and 15 minutes for Agenda Item 15.

71. REPORT OF CABINET 4 JULY 2005 (Agenda Item 12.1)

Councillor Brian Salinger moved reception and adoption of the Report of Cabinet dated 4 July 2005 with the following recommendations:

1. YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN (Report of the Cabinet Member for Children – Agenda Item 9):

Cabinet considered the attached report of the Cabinet Member enclosing the draft Youth Justice Plan 2005/06.

Because the Youth Justice Plan was a statutory plan reserved for approval by full Council, Cabinet, for the reasons set out in the Cabinet Member's report

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND – That the attached annual Youth Justice Plan 2005/06 be approved for submission to the Youth Justice Board.

Debate ensued.

Upon being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED – That the Report of Cabinet dated 4 July 2005 be approved and adopted.

72. CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS (Report of the Democratic Services Manager – Agenda Item 15.1.1 and 13)

RESOLVED – That the following changes be made to the memberships of the Committees indicated:

- **Corporate Joint Negotiation and Consultation Committee (Health, Safety and Welfare) - remove Councillor Brian Salinger**
- **Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Healthy Start Healthy Futures – replace Councillor Kevin Edson with Councillor Maureen Braun, and replace Councillor Maureen Braun as substitute with Councillor Andrew Harper.**
- **Special Committee to deal with the Constitution – Councillor Mike Freer to replace Councillor Kanti Patel as Chairman**
- **General Functions Committee – Councilor Lynne Hillan to replace Councilor Kanti Patel as a Member.**
- **Appeals Committee 1 – Councillor Malcolm Lester to replace Councillor Joan Scannell as Substitute**
- **Appeals Committee 3 – Councillor Malcolm Lester to replace Councillor Joan Scannell as a Member.**
- **Chief Officers’ Appointments Panel – Appointment of Head of Environmental Services – Councillor Wendy Prentice to replace Councillor Robert Newton as a Member**
- **Cleaner, Greener, Transport and Development overview and Scrutiny Committee –**
 - **Councillor Olwen Evans to replace Councillor Lynne Hillan as Chairman**
 - **Councilor Andrew Harper to replace Councillor Olwen Evans as Vice – Chairman**
- **Councillor Claire Farrier becomes a full Member of the Planning and Environment Committee, with Councillor Turner as a Substitute Member.**

73. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS EXEMPTED FROM THE CALL – IN PROCESS (Report of the Democratic Services Manager – Agenda Item 15.1 .2 and 13):

In accordance with Paragraph 16 (1) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules of the Council’s Constitution, the Council were informed that the following decisions had been exempted from the call- in process as the Chairman of the Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee had agreed that the decisions proposed were reasonable in all the circumstances and that they should be treated as matters of urgency:

- **Decision of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport : Consultation on Draft Local Implementation Plan – Approval of Final Version**
- **Decisions of the Cabinet Member for Policy and Performance and Leader of the Council under Delegated Powers: Disposal of Deansbrook Day Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware.**

74. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION (Report of the Democratic Services Manager - Agenda item 15.1.3, 14 and 18).

RESOLVED – That the Democratic Services Manager be instructed to make the necessary changes to the Constitution arising from

(i) the changes to the Leader’s Scheme of Delegation, namely:

- **Powers delegated to the former Director of Economic and Community Development to transfer to the Director of Resources.**

- The address of Councillor Christopher Harris to be updated.
 - Councillor Freer as Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources together with portfolio work.
 - Councillor Lynne Hillan as Cabinet Member for Policy and Performance, together with the portfolio.
 - Councillor Freer Chairman of the Cabinet Resources Committee, and Councillor Hillan as a Member of that Committee.
 - The Leader as a Member of the Cabinet Equalities and Social Inclusion Committee.
- (ii) staffing changes namely:
- references to the Head of Committee to be replaced by Democratic Services Manager;
 - references in Contract Procedure Rules to the Assistant Chief Executive to be replaced by Director of Resources and the reference to Head of Committee being replaced by Deputy Borough Solicitor in paragraph 10.7
- (iii) the Council's decisions relating to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

75. VACANCIES ON SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES (Report of the Democratic Services Manager – Agenda Item 15.1.4):

The Democratic Services Manager's report set out details of the appointments or nominations to be made.

Nominations in the names of Councillors Joan Scannell, Alison Moore and Jeremy Davies were moved.

RESOLVED –

That the following persons be appointed or nominated as the case may require to fill the vacancies referred to for the period indicated:

VACANCY REFERENCE	PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT OR NOMINATION	PERSON APPOINTED OR NOMINATED
VP33.1	Beis Yaacov Primary School	Councillor Aba Dunner
P.23.1	Brookland Infant and Brookland Junior Schools	Defer
P.10.3	Brunswick Park Primary School	Defer
P.25.3	Chalgrove Primary School	Councillor Helena Hart
P.11.1	Church Hill School	Defer
P.39.1	Courtland JMI School	Defer
P.07.2	Danegrove Primary School	Defer
S.04.1	East Barnet School	Mrs Lisa Rutter
P.45.2	Grasvenor Avenue Infant School	Mrs Bridget Perry
P.48.2	Hampden Way Nursery School	Defer
VP.06.2	Holy Trinity CE School	Mr Roderick Tella
P.21.1	Manorside JMI School	Ms I Westbrook
P.21.3	Manorside JMI School	Mr K Turner
P.17.2	Northside Primary School	Mrs M Lawson
SP.02.2	Northway School	Defer

SP.03.2 S11.1	Oakleigh School Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School	Defer Councillor Katia David
VP.12.1 VP.32.2 VP.21a.1 VP.16.1 P.16.1	Sacred Heart RC School St Johns CE Primary School St Johns NW4 St Joseph's RC Junior School Summerside Primary School	Mr Michael Hegarty Defer Defer Defer Defer (Mr Geoff Cooke was unsuccessful)
P.50.4	The Orion Primary and Goldbeaters Primary Schools	Defer
P.27.4	Wessex Gardens Primary School	Councillor Monroe Palmer

76. VACANCIES ARISING FROM RECONSTITUTION OF SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES (Report of the Democratic Services Manager - Agenda Item 15.1.5 and 15.1.10):

The Democratic Services Manager's report set out details of the appointments or nominations to be made.

Nominations in the names of Councillors Joan Scannell, Alison Moore and Jeremy Davies were moved.

RESOLVED –

(1) That the following persons be appointed or nominated as the case may require to fill the vacancies referred to for the period indicated:

VACANCY REFERENCE	PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT OR NOMINATION	PERSON APPOINTED OR NOMINATED
P.2.1	Barnet Hill JMI and Nursery School	Mr Gordon Massey
P.29.3 P.32.1	Childs Hill School Colindale JMI School	Mr Simon Kovar Councillor Danish Chopra
P.32.3 P.32.4	Colindale JMI School Colindale JMI School	Mr Nitin Parekh Mr Christopher Randall
P.05.3 P.05.4 S.04.1 S.04.3	Cromer Road Primary School Cromer Road Primary School East Barnet School East Barnet School	Mr J Draper Mr Antonakis Vourou Mrs Lisa Rutter Defer (Ms Cathy Glasman was unsuccessful)
P.06.4	Livingstone Primary School	Mrs Elizabeth Pearson
SP.03.1 SP.03.2	Oakleigh School Oakleigh School	Mr John Tiplady Defer
P.16.1	Summerside Primary School	Defer

P.16.2	Summerside Primary School	Mr T Renouf (Mr Geoff Cooke was unsuccessful)
SP.12.1	Ravenscroft School	Mr A Hardy
S.12.4	Ravenscroft School	Councillor Brian Coleman
P.1a.1	Underhill Infant School	Councillor Anita Campbell
P.12.2	Underhill Infant School	Mr Duncan Macdonald

77. REPRESENTATION OF THE COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE BODIES (Report of the Democratic Services Manager - Agenda Item 15.1.6, 17 and 19):

The Democratic Services Manager's report set out details of the appointments or nominations to be made.

Nominations in the names of Councillor Joan Scannell and Councillor Alison Moore were moved.

RESOLVED – That the following persons be appointed or nominated as the case may be to fill the vacancies referred to for the period indicated:

VACANCY REFERENCE	PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT OR NOMINATION	PERSON APPOINTED OR NOMINATED
1002	Almshouse Charities of Samuel Atkinson and Others	Defer
0050	Barnet Housing Associations Liaison Group	Housing Strategy and Development Manager (Ms Nicky Bird)
0125	London Youth Games Limited	Acting Leisure Partnership Manager (Mr Andy Hatvani)
0132b	National Society for Clean Air and Environmental Protection	Group Manager, Scientific Services Environmental Health(Commercial) (Mr Ralph Haynes)
1109	Poors Allotment Trust for Chipping Barnet and East Barnet	Mr Don Goodman (Mrs Pauline Coakley – Webb was unsuccessful)
0198a	Association of London Government – S101 Leader's Committee - Deputy	Councillor Mike Freer
0216	Local Government Association	Councillor Mike Freer
1106	National Housing and Town Planning Council – London Regional Executive Committee - Substitute	Councillor Anthony Finn

9806	School Organisation Committee	Councillor Monroe Palmer
0109	Association of London Government – Grants Committee	Councillor Lynne Hillan

78. REPRESENTATION OF THE COUNCIL ON STONEGROVE AND SPUR ROAD PARTNERSHIP BOARD (Report of the Democratic Services Manager - Agenda item 15.1.7).

RESOLVED – That Council approve the replacement of Councillor Brian Salinger with Councillor Anthony Finn as the Council’s representative on the Stonegrove and Spur Road Partnership Board.

79. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2005/2006 (Report of the Democratic Services Manager - Agenda item 15.1.8).

RESOLVED – That the proposed work programmes for 2005/06 identified by the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committees, with the exception of the Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be approved.

80. REPRESENTATION OF THE COUNCIL ON THE ALMSHOUSE CHARITIES OF SAMUEL ATKINSON AND OTHERS (Report of the Democratic Services Manager – Agenda item 15.1.9)

RESOLVED – That the Council reduce its representatives on Almshouse Charities of Samuel Atkinson and Others to two.

The meeting finished at 10.34 pm

**Council Questions to Cabinet Members
13 September 2005
Questions and Responses**

Question No. 1

Councillor Brian Coleman

Could the Cabinet Member tell us what discussions he has had and with whom on the future of Christchurch Secondary School site, and was the LDBS involved in these discussions?

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

I should like to thank Councillor Coleman for his continued interest in the future of this site. As a former governor of the school he knows it well. One of my first actions when I was appointed to this portfolio was to meet with the Bishop of Edmonton to discuss this and other matters. I have had subsequent meetings with him, the Director of the London Diocesan Board and the DfES. I have also been lobbied by various individuals. I can assure those who live near the school that the Council has no intention of selling the school playing fields which we own for development. As Councillor Coleman knows the school site is not ours. However I have made it clear in the past, as he also knows, that the Authority could not support a Christ Church Mark Two

Supplementary Question No. 1

Councillor Brian Coleman

Thank you Mr Mayor. I'm grateful to Councillor Marshall for his answer but of course the London Borough of Barnet does own the playing fields site abutting Woodhouse Road. Has he got any plans for that site?

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

Well if Councillor Coleman looks at the answer I gave, I can assure those who live near the school that the Council has no intention of selling the school playing fields which we own for development. I think that is quite clear and I'm surprised that Councillor Coleman, who is assiduous at reading these answers felt it necessary to ask the question.

Question No. 2

Councillor Jack Cohen

In relation to the proposed sale of Parks Golf Courses, Paragraph 8.2 of your report to the 21 July 2005 Cabinet Resources Committee, you mention some staff working at the courses were made redundant. How many staff were made redundant and what was the cost of the redundancies to the Council?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer

All seven members of staff working on golf courses took voluntary redundancy and left the councils' service on 2nd October 2004. The majority of the cost was capitalised through the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (£28,788). The balance of the cost, relating to "payments-in-lieu" (£13,978), was met by the council.

Question No. 3

Councillor Colin Rogers

Why is there no service agreement between Barnet Homes and the Council's Corporate Anti-Fraud Team, and how does Barnet Homes deal with allegations of fraud as a result?"

Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer

This really is a question for Barnet Homes Ltd. However Barnet Homes has an anti-fraud policy and response plan, which sets out clearly how it will deal with allegations of fraud. A whistle-blowing policy is also in place. Further, the Management Agreement between LBB and BHL requires the Council's lead officer (the Head of Housing) to be advised of any allegation of fraud against BHL.

Supplementary Question No. 3

Councillor Colin Rogers

Thank you Mr Mayor. Anti-fraud procedures are only as good as their implementation. Anti-fraud and internal audit are strategic issues, not about the management of housing. What is the Council going to do to ensure that Barnet Homes supports its approach to fraud and internal audit?

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

Mr Mayor, it really is time that Members of this Council came to accept that Barnet Homes is a separate organisation from the Council. Dealing with fraud is a strategic issue, but it's a strategic issue for Barnet Homes. We do monitor such activities as fraud and as it says, in answer to the questions, that where there are serious issues of fraud they have to be brought to the attention of the Head of Housing.

Question No. 4

Councillor Brian Coleman

Is the Cabinet Member satisfied with the progress at Bishop Douglas School in coming out of Special measures

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

Since the school went into special measures HMI have carried out four inspections. The Inspectors have recognised that the school has made a steady improvement. They have reported reasonable progress which should mean that the school comes out of special measures by December 2005, the target date. I do hope that local Catholic parents and local Catholic Primary Schools will recognise the progress which has been made.

Supplementary Question No. 4

Councillor Brian Coleman

Mr Mayor, could Councillor Marshall tell us if he were a practising Roman Catholic and if he were of child bearing age, would he send his children to Bishop Douglas School, and if the answer is 'no' then why should any other resident of this Borough?

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

Well obviously Councillor Coleman wasn't well instructed by his parents as to what child bearing age is for men. I'm still of child bearing possibility.

Can I refer Councillor Coleman to some comments I made in the Hendon Times some weeks ago where I did say that in the case of my two sons, so far the only two sons I've produced, that they had both gone to a denominational primary school and had then gone to a non-denominational secondary schools? I actually think that is better than spending your whole life cocooned in one denominational school, and that is why I would continue to send any son or indeed any daughter of mine to a non-denominational secondary school.

Question No. 5

Councillor Monroe Palmer

Can the Cabinet Member tell Council when Barnet is going to promote the use of electric vehicles in Barnet, following the lead of Islington Council which won London Borough of the Year Award for sustainable transport? An easy first step being public electric sockets for electric cars as Government will largely cover the cost of installation of the sockets.

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

It is unclear what "lead" is referred to in the question - Islington parking officers have confirmed that there have been no on-street charging points installed for electric vehicles.

With regard to funding, the Department has noted a recent press release on grants for charging points and have enquired on the matter to the Energy Saving Trust who is involved. Though they have not yet encountered requests for charging points on the highway they have said that they would give consideration to the possibility of this.

As you know, I am interested in this idea and very grateful to your constituent, Mr John-Paul Flintoff, who brought the issue to both of our attentions. I have instructed officers to investigate the matter further and report back to me.

In addition as you will recall from the last Council meeting, I am also determining proposals for further reductions in the discount available for owners of electric vehicles who apply for controlled parking zone permits.

Supplementary Question No. 5

Councillor Monroe Palmer

Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you Councillor Offord for his answer.

He queries in the answer what I actually meant. "Lead" refers to the fact that Islington Council received an award and Barnet did not, and that Islington Council does use electric vehicles, which you obviously misunderstood my question. My thanks also to my constituent, who he thanks, who I put in touch with Councillor Offord, which is why we were both consulted. I hope you will be able to report back to Members as to progress made and the question is, will the Cabinet Member outline his measures to reduce the pollution impact of the Council's fleet and does this include the use of more electric vehicles?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

Thank you Councillor Palmer. As you know I'm very interested in this area and I did recently write to you about fuel efficiencies that we're conducting within the Borough, and I think that letter actually stated what we are doing in relation to that. I haven't actually considered that we would use electric vehicles ourselves. It's obviously something that we can consider. I realise there are implications about their range, for example. I know there's a problem with that. So they may not be suitable for the Council. But I can assure you and I can assure the Council that's its something that I will be looking at. I can bring back the proposals, if we can make any, in the near future.

Question No. 6

Councillor Agnes Slocombe

How many people have **so** far been identified for not recycling under the compulsory recycling scheme?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

In the first phase of the scheme a number of collection rounds were monitored. Initial monitoring showed that 80% of households were taking part in the scheme, meaning that approximately 250 households per round were not taking part.

More recently detailed monitoring work has been undertaken on one round that had a relatively low initial participation level of around 50%. The participation on this round has increased and it is hoped that with further work over the coming weeks this will improve.

Supplementary Question No. 6**Councillor Agnes Slocombe**

Councillor Offord I would like to thank you for your answers, but I have a supplementary for you.

The initial monitoring appears to have only been undertaken in one or two rounds. Is the monitoring of the scheme now borough wide and if not which areas are being targeted please?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

The monitoring of the scheme is now borough wide. Obviously we have a finite amount of recycling assistance so we are going around one area at a time. I don't think its appropriate that I said which areas that we are actually looking at because that perhaps enable people to know that we're coming and put out things on the day that we were and on the days that we weren't they wouldn't bother. All I can say is the recycling scheme has been a great success which we all know. Currently we have a 40% increase on the amount of tonnage that we were collecting last year and we are looking to be on track to achieve our 30% recycling target.

Question No. 7**Councillor Brian Coleman**

Is the Cabinet member satisfied with progress at St Mary's CE Secondary School in coming out of Special measures?

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

Progress has been slower than expected. However, as the Councillor knows there have been changes in the Senior Management Team. Peter Blenkinsop, who is now assisting St Mary's, is a good choice. I have known him for some time and am much impressed by the progress at Whitefield since he became Head. I look forward to similar progress at St. Mary's. I hope that the school might come out of special measures by next Easter. That would mean that there would be NO secondary schools in special measures.

Supplementary Question No. 7**Councillor Brian Coleman**

Mr Mayor, does the Cabinet Member agree with the Secretary of State that the amount of time given to schools in special measures to come out of special measures should be reduced and how long does he propose to give St. Mary's?

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

I do agree with the Secretary of State. Even the devil can sometimes quote scripture to good effect and she would not be liked to be called the devil because of her religious affiliations. Again if Councillor Coleman looks at my answer, I do say that we expect the School to come out of special measures by next Easter and he will also have read the very good news that if that happens there will no secondary school in special measures in this Borough by Easter of next year. I think that is very real progress and we should pay particular credit to the officers of the Authority who have over some considerable time worked to bring that situation about and I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor, who was responsible for some of the restructuring that took place. She inherited a very poor local education authority and she helped to transform it.

Question No. 8

Councillor Susette Palmer

In view of the excellent pilot study carried out on the Westcroft Estate in Cricklewood by the "Local Solutions" project to provide other activities for young people at risk from drugs, what plans do the Administration have to follow up the street work done with permanent outreach youth workers?

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

As Councillor Palmer knows the Westcroft Estate is a Camden Estate situated in Barnet. That is why both Camden and Barnet will be providing services there. I should like to point out that Whitefield School offers a whole raft of activities for young people - from football to basketball, drama to chess, cine club to taekwondo. Some of these activities are targeted at particular minorities such as the Somali homework club and the sport, chess and cultural sessions for Pashto and Dari speakers.

Supplementary Question No. 8

Councillor Susette Palmer

Thank you for your answer Councillor Marshall. The Liberal Democrat Group actually know quite well what Whitefield School is supposed to be doing but in fact its actually providing very little for the children of the Westcroft Estate. You don't have to take my word for it. In an email the Head of Education, Gillian Palmer, tells me and I quote, "it appears few activities for the local community may actually be offered by Whitefields". So I can please ask you to look at this again?

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

Well I'm very sorry that Councillor Palmer felt so miserable. I don't know when she had that email from the Chief Education Officer. Well, she will know that there are a large number of activities provided at Whitefield School.

I thought she might ask this question so I've actually got a little list with me. There is a thing called Tae Kwon Do on Mondays and Thursdays, football coaching, junior and senior games Tuesday and Wednesday, football club run by the Barnet Refugee Service on a Friday, One Small Step – Sport for Young People with Disabilities, the Academy, sports, chess and cultural sessions for Pashto and Dari speakers run by the Maiwand Afghan Association. Sunday morning basketball and holiday scheme for the 11-14 year olds.

How she can say that's very little I just do not know. This is a very considerable amount of work.

POSTSCRIPT : Councillor Palmer subsequently stated that she had wrongly attributed the quotation and apologised to the Head of Education and Council.

Question No. 9

Councillor Ansuya Sodha

If the Cabinet Member responsible for equalities could please inform Council how many members of the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership Board are members of an ethnic minority?

Answer by Councillor Katia David

I have no idea because it is not an issue.

Supplementary Question No. 9

Councillor Ansuya Sodha

Mr Mayor, I have got another typical answer from a do-nothing Cabinet Member for Equalities. Does she not know that one in four persons in Barnet is from the BME community and this is an insult to thousands of residents whose voice deserves to be heard in the Safety Forum. Do you think that you are showing this total ignorance and absolutely not the slightest knowledge as far as equality issues are concerned. Is it because you are bloody minded? Is it because you've not got the slightest knowledge of issues regarding equality in which case Councillor Katia David, you should resign, resign now because there are people in your Group who have got more sense when it comes to equality issues to do with BME, to do with gender, to do with disability issues and let them do the job. Don't you think you should resign now absolutely?

Answer by Councillor Katia David

Mr Mayor, can I remind Councillor Sodha that the Members of this association are there because of their positions and not because of their ethnic background, for God's sake. In other words, are you asking us to exclude people that don't belong to an ethnic background then Councillor Sodha? Now that is discrimination of the purist form.

Question No. 10

Councillor Brian Coleman

How many looked after children does Barnet currently care for?

Answer by Councillor Christopher Harris

We have around 400 LAC - the number varies from day to day as you appreciate.

Supplementary Question No. 10

Councillor Brian Coleman

Mr Mayor, I wonder what the Cabinet Member will consider is his target figure for looked after children to achieve by the end of the financial year?

Answer by Councillor Christopher Harris

Councillor Coleman, we are doing extremely well in terms of our targets. I believe its approximately 375, but you will appreciate that the numbers do fluctuate on a daily basis as to how many we have coming in and out of care anyway. At the minute, we've got about 400. We are doing extremely well in terms of our target, and you will note that compared to other authorities throughout the country, we are one of the very few authorities that actually are holding stable and managing to reduce the amount of children that we have in care. This is both excellent for the young people, excellent for the budget and also in fact its been such an unusual trajectory that we've had in London Borough of Barnet compared to other boroughs that our Director for Children's Social Services is being asked to frequently talk by the Commission for Social Care Inspectorate to other boroughs about how we're doing it. Thank you very much.

Question No. 11

Councillor Monroe Palmer

In 1995/96 when Cllr Susette Palmer was Mayor, Barnet Council planted a tree outside the Town Hall to commemorate the tragic death of Israeli Prime Minister Rabin. This November is ten years since that killing. Will Barnet Council mark the anniversary by a cross-Party ceremony outside the Town Hall at the same time as Israel marks this sad loss of an important Statesman?

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

There are no plans at present but I will discuss the suggestion with The Mayor.

Supplementary Question No. 11

Councillor Monroe Palmer

In early November it is the tenth anniversary of Prime Minister Rabin's murder which will be commemorated at a very high level in Israel. I would ask whether Councillor Salinger, whether you're going to show leadership by agreeing to mark the anniversary by a cross-party ceremony by the tree planted outside this Town Hall and have you discussed it with the Mayor so we can get this organised as soon as possible?

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

I haven't yet but if we do decide to do any it will be on a cross-party basis and he will be kept informed.

Question No. 12

Councillor Soon – Hoe Teh

If the Cabinet Member would confirm the comments of the Whetstone Area Forum Chair Councillor Silverstone who, at the meeting on 26 July, admitted that the sale of Friary House is one of the options the Administration is considering for the future of the House, despite the opposition of local residents who were gifted Friary House and Friary Park?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer

Cllr Silverstone has confirmed that he said no such thing. There are no plans to sell off Friary House and active negotiations are ongoing to use the building as a centre for community use.

I refer the Councillor to the meeting of Cabinet Resources Committee of 28 July 2004 which considered a report on Friary House.

It was stated several times in the report that there were not proposals to sell Friary House. There has been no change in that position since.

The report also noted that Friary House was not gifted to the people of the Borough – instead the property was purchased by a predecessor authority.

Supplementary Question No. 12

Councillor Soon – Hoe Teh

Friary House will not be sold, in which case I do apologise to Councillor Silverstone, but myself, and 40 more Members in that forum must have misheard Councillor Silverstone.

Maybe' as Councillor Freer's not here, so Councillor Salinger will probably make it clear once and for all what Councillor Freer has said, and he said that there's no plans to sell Friary House. But that gives him a clause, that gives him a get-out clause, to sell the Friary House in future. Now, will you give a commitment tonight that Friary House will not be sold and the answer is a simple yes or no, Councillor Salinger?

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

This Administration has no plans to sell Friary House now or at any time.

Question No. 13

Councillor Brian Coleman

How many looked after children does the Borough have placed in Kent and specifically how many in Thanet?

Answer by Councillor Christopher Harris

- We have been very successful in reducing the number of LAC placed at a distance from home mainly as a result of the recent success of our fostering recruitment - i.e. an increase of 50% in LBB foster care beds over the last two years from 120 to 180 (in line with our LPSA target to have achieved 210 by the end of 2005/6)
- We do however still have 32 children placed in Kent or whom only 5 live in Thanet (the area which Kent says it would like other council's to avoid due to intolerable pressure on their local schools, health services and the police)
- The 5 children in Thanet represent 2 sibling groups who have been there since 1999 and 2001 respectively. The Director of Children's Services has now placed an embargo on further placements in Thanet but clearly it would be quite wrong to move these 5 children who are very settled with their foster carers.
- Barnet council has been very keen to respond to the concerns of Kent CC about the over concentration of LAC in the Thanet area
- The Head of Children and Families visited Thanet personally in April and has as a result placed an embargo on the placement of further children in this small area
- It is important to note that the recent publicity applies to the Thanet district and not to the whole of Kent

Question No. 14

Councillor Monroe Palmer

Would the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport provide the monthly figures for take-up of green waste composters and outline future plans to promote their use to Barnet residents

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

Composter Sales Record 2005/06

	Blackwall Compost Tumbler	Linpac Machine	Thermo Ecobin	Mini Bin	Junior Worm Bin	Midi Worm Bin	Large Green Cone	MONTHLY TOTAL	Kitchen Bins
Apr-05	1	7	12	28	7	8	1	64	63
May-05	46	9	24	21	10	6	0	116	70
Jun-05	31	4	36	31	6	15	3	126	95
Jul-05	15	4	13	26	5	5	3	71	56
Aug-05	15	3	25	20	11	5	5	84	69
<u>TOTAL</u>	108	27	110	126	39	39	12	461	

Figures for purchases made by residents are reported on a monthly basis as a local performance indicator to the Cleaner, Greener, Transport and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Work is currently underway to produce an overarching Waste Prevention Strategy for Barnet. Whilst the detail of the strategy is still to be presented to Cabinet, the draft includes the following proposals in relation to the home composting scheme:

- Review compost bin subsidy programme (in progress), and implement recommendations of review. (*The review considers the merits of using external composter manufacturing companies to handle orders and deliveries. It is envisaged that a subsidy will continue so that residents can continue to buy units at prices below normal retail prices*).
- Promote Home Composting through garden centres and other additional means.
- Provide educational material with subsidised bins.
- Establish Master Composter programme building on the work of WRAP and LCRN.

The promotion of Home Composting will continue to be an important part of the council's work to minimise waste entering the waste stream.

Supplementary Question No. 14

Councillor Monroe Palmer

Will the Cabinet Member agree that Barnet Council should call upon the Government to include home composting within the Council's collecting, recycling tonnage and therefore making it more worthwhile than under the current environmentally inefficient financial regime, which also excludes business waste from those tonnages? And secondly, if you allow me, when are we going to recycle cardboard?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

You are anticipating my answer. It's exactly what I've written down here myself. I've already been lobbying the Government, I've already been lobbying the Minister who said he wasn't aware of Barnet's compulsory recycling scheme until recently, which rather surprised me.

In regards to cardboard, this is an issue that has been brought up time and time again, both cardboard and plastics and I have explained before in the Chamber, plastics is lightweight and cardboard is bulky. Under the contract signed by the previous Administration, of which I believe you were a Member, it was decided not to include these items and as I said, once before, we are chasing a 30% recycling target and to do so at this time would mean that we'd miss that target.

Upon achievement, I will be looking at such proposals not only for plastic but also for cardboard as well.

Question No. 15

Councillor Zakia Zubairi

What is the Cabinet Member able to do to alleviate the offence to the Muslim Community caused by the delay in signing the contract for the sale of the former Deansbrook Day Centre by the Council to the Edgware Muslim Community Centre group?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer

Subsequent to the Cabinet Resources Committee agreeing to accept the offer from the Edgware Muslim Community Centre and before officers could reasonably have prepared and sent out a contract, an unsolicited and higher offer was received. The Council is legally obliged to consider higher offers and it could have faced a legal challenge had it continued with the sale to the Edgware Muslim Community Centre.

The Council had no choice in the matter.

Officers are now looking into how a short list of interested parties, including the Edgware Muslim Community Centre, can be given an equal opportunity of re-bidding for the property but in a manner which will reduce the chance of further unsolicited bids being received.

In addition, the Leader, myself and several other Administration Councillors have visited the Mosque on several occasions to explain and discuss the issue. The Community Leaders are aware and understand the difficult situation the Local Government Act 1972 has left the Council in. I will be writing to the ODPM pointing out this "flaw" in the legal requirements of the Act.

Supplementary Question No. 15**Councillor Zakia Zubairi**

Thank you. I know that the delegated powers report was agreed on Friday to ask the top four bidders to bid again but the process has left the Muslim community feeling very let down. If the Edgware Muslim Community Group do not win the bidding round, will the Cabinet Member give a commitment to working with them to find alternative premises which they can use for their community centre?

Have the Committee of Edgware Community Centre asked to bid again, because I have called them fifteen minutes ago and they said they haven't heard anything about it? Thank you.

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

Mr Mayor, I think that's Councillor Zubairi's first contribution to our debate and I thank her for that.

Can I say firstly, that I and fellow Cabinet Members are as frustrated by what has happened over this sale, as are the members of the Muslim community, but the legal advice that we have had is that we have to consider the late offer that came in, which was substantially in excess of the informal tender bid that we had received, and that is why we've gone down the line that we have. I am not in a position to say exactly what letters have gone out or when or indeed exactly to whom so I can't say why or if they should have received the letter by now, and it would be wrong of me to predict the outcome of the results of that tendering process. But, we are in fairly constant contact with the Muslim community in West Hendon and are doing our best to help them and will continue to do so whatever the outcome of this process.

Question No. 16**Councillor Brian Coleman**

Is the Stonegrove Masterplan dead or alive?

Answer by Councillor Anthony Finn

The position on the Masterplan is as it has been since last September, when Planning and Environment Committee resolved to grant outline planning permission for the development of the estates, subject to Section 106 and 278 Agreements and other reserved matters being approved. These matters have not been concluded and the consent has not yet been issued. There are no plans to change the housing mix and numbers and outputs that were the principal objectives of the Masterplan.

For reasons that were explained in the report to the Committee, Cabinet Resources Committee agreed on 29 March 2005 to dispose of the garage site, Site C, to Family Housing Association for the construction of 62 dwellings to provide new homes for the residents of Powis, Collinson and Goldsmith Courts. Site C will be the subject of a separate free standing detailed planning application for consideration by the Planning and Environment Committee. I would expect that all future planning decisions will be made in accordance with the current outline approval, or to put it another way in the context of the Masterplan. This site was always anticipated as the first to be re-developed under the Masterplan.

Agreement has been reached on the acquisition of the land at Spur Road which is being developed as playing fields for the new Academy. This will lead to the Borough acquiring approximately 10 acres of land occupied by the present Academy.

Officers are preparing a report for Cabinet on the options for the future regeneration of the estates. I expect that to be ready for consideration later this year when Cabinet will be able to determine how it wants to move forward.

Supplementary Question No. 16

Councillor Brian Coleman

Mr Mayor, always trying to be helpful to Cabinet Members, I gave Councillor Finn an easy question to which he could have responded yes or no. But, I've assumed he's responded yes but no but. Mr Mayor, could Councillor Finn tell us the involvement of Multiplex in this project and could he explain to us the deal that Multiplex have apparently done with, I quote a local paper, 'a group of Saudi Arabian businessmen' to take an interest in this project?

Answer by Councillor Anthony Finn

Councillor Coleman. I think has mixed up the various projects. Multiplex are involved in the Cricklewood Regeneration and not in Stonegrove..

Question No. 17

Councillor Paul Rogers

What measures have been put in place to issue licenses under the Housing Act 2004 for houses in multiple occupation?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

Environmental Health Officers are already participating in training provided by the ODPM to ensure they are ready for the demands of the new legislation when they are introduced. The Council is duty bound to introduce the mandatory aspects of the licensing of houses in multiple occupation and officers are currently drafting the appropriate application forms, documentation and advisory leaflets that will be necessary to introduce the scheme. There will also be a need to consult local landlords on the scheme and officers are designing consultation questionnaires which will be circulated to landlords. The results of the consultation will then be reported to Cabinet with recommendations in respect of the level of fee to be charged and the discretionary provisions to be adopted.

Supplementary Question No. 17

Councillor Paul Rogers

First of all, are we going to publish the register with the names and the company names and the directors of the properties that are actually registered, and secondly, mandatory licensing scheme applies to larger and higher risk HMO's of three stories and above or with more than five occupancies. The discretionary element is about tackling anti-social behaviour where unscrupulous landlords rent out to anybody and don't care what the tenants are doing. Before any decision is taken on whether or not to adopt discretionary powers, can we have a commitment that the Fire Service, Police and Barnet Homes will be consulted to identify any problem areas and will Ward Members also be advised about the amount of properties that are rented in their areas?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

Regarding to the publication of the landlords, I imagine under the Freedom of Information Act, you could probably get that anyway, so the answer seems to be in principle, yes. In regards to the consultation with the Fire, the Police and the other emergency services that would be a very good idea. I'd be happy to take that on board. I was recently asked for my opinions and directions for officers on the Act and part of the discretionary act was that landlords would be responsible or at least would, again in principle, address the issue of anti-social behaviour of their tenants and they would be part of that process. How successful we are with that I remain to be convinced, but yes it will be something that I would like, I will see as part of the Act. If Ward Members want to find that information out themselves I'm sure we can do that but not as a matter of course, no.

Question No. 18

Councillor Brian Gordon

In the wake of the murderous London bombings which affected the lives of numerous people in this Borough, would the Leader consider writing to the Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, asking him to apologise for his association with extremists such as Sheikh Qaradawi, which in my opinion has merely given encouragement to terrorists in pursuit of their evil aims?

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

Yes.

Supplementary Question No. 18

Councillor Brian Gordon

Leader, it's nice to be informed that you'll be writing to Ken Livingstone in order to criticise his association with extremists. Now when you receive the apology from the Mayor, please let us know. I'm sure none of us here are going to be holding our breath because apologies are something that the Mayor of London does not seem to be capable of producing. Would you also join me in condemning the Labour Party for its failure to boot out Ken Livingstone or at least to suspend him whilst the Standards Board is in the process of investigating his disgraceful jibe about concentration camps and about German war criminals?

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

I don't think Ken Livingstone does local government any favours with his antics and the sooner he's removed, preferably by the electorate, the better.

Question No. 19

Councillor Phil Yeoman

Has the Council Leader discussed the privatisation of the refuse collection service with the Cabinet Member for Environment, and will the Council Leader give a firm commitment that the refuse collection service will not be privatised?

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

The only discussion that I have had with the Cabinet Member for the Environment on the future of the refuse service, followed the frankly mischievous leaking of a draft of a Best Value review in to the future of the service. Cllr Offord confirmed, quite rightly, that in accordance with best practice every option was being considered

To give a firm commitment that the refuse collection service would or would not be privatised would seriously prejudice that process.

Supplementary Question No. 19

Councillor Phil Yeoman

I love Ken! Anyway, I don't know what you got to be down on him for.

I'm interested by your response Brian, because I know the residents' survey says that the best service the Council provides is the refuse service. So why on earth is it that we are currently going through a best value review that does not explicitly say we support those guys that work for the Council that are doing such a good job and will ensure that they have job security in the future? I can assure you, as the Leader of the Labour Group, that we have every intention of honouring and continuing to honour their contract when we regain control of this Administration. Thank you. I want to hear some commitment that you are committed to those staff, Councillor Salinger.

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

Mr Mayor, I think the residents of this Borough, might have to wait for a very, very long time before Councillor Yeoman becomes the Leader of this Council.

The fact of the matter and this is a best value review that's in process. We are required to carry out best value reviews and in doing so we have to look at every option. Now, if under an Administration that was under Labour control, they chose to carry out best value reviews without including all the options then they would be doing a disservice to all the people of this Borough. I'm not going to predict the outcome of this best value review but I am aware of how well our refuse service does and how well it is appreciated by the people of Barnet.

Question No. 20

Councillor Brian Gordon

Would Councillor Offord like to join me for a stroll in Stoneyfields Park so that we can together savour the delights of all the improvements the Council has carried out to the facilities in that park?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

Is your intention to allow us to look at the play area which has been refurbished, the picnic tables and additional litter bins that have been installed, the five-a-side goals that have been installed to allow informal games of football on the site or the improved gates that have been installed to reduce out of hours access?

I understand that you have been very active since June 2004 working alongside officers and consulting with local residents to put in place a programme of improvements in the Park and not only should local residents, but also the Council, be grateful to you for this.

Supplementary Question No. 20**Councillor Brian Gordon**

Councillor Offord, it's nice to be asked the question by you for a change. You to me. It breaks up the monotony a bit. Yes, it would be my intention to look at all those improvements in Stoneyfields Park. Is not the effort and expense this Council has invested in looking after Stoneyfields Park just another example of our concern for the environment, for the preservation of the green belt and provision of quality leisure facilities for citizens of all ages in this Borough.

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

I think it is Councillor Gordon, but what I'm quite perturbed about tonight is not only a question from yourself but also from one of your Ward colleagues about the same location, and also now a question of the work of the Cabinet, which I'm informed that there's much anti-social behaviour in the local area. I think I will take you up on that offer to stroll around the park with yourself.

Question No. 21**Councillor Alison Moore**

When considering efforts to divert young people from becoming involved in anti-social behaviour, does the Council Leader agree that if you ask youngsters what they want it is not the youth clubs that many of our generation enjoyed?

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

I do not believe that there is a simple answer to this question. Firstly the answer that you will get may be determined by the age of young people that are asked. It might also depend on how the question is phrased.

Supplementary Question No. 21**Councillor Alison Moore**

Thank you Mr Mayor. I'm surprised the Council Leader doesn't agree because those actually aren't my words. The line "if you ask youngsters what they want and it is not these clubs that many of us of our generation enjoyed," was in fact said by his Tory colleague Councillor Susan Steinberg in a Tory leaflet in East Barnet, just months before the Tories u-turned to reopen a youth club they had just closed. In the light of that, perhaps the Council Leader could explain why the Council is doing all it can to stall the progress on the skate park residents are proposing for Oakhill Park.

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

Thank you. Councillor Moore's question talks about young people. Her supplementary bore no relationship and she did not at any time attempt to clarify the age of the people, of the young people or what's on offer. The situation in East Barnet is that we have a problem with young people which is being addressed. Councillors Hillan and Evans and the other Ward Councillors for the two Wards involved there, Brunswick Park and East Barnet, did a lot of work to survey and to find out actually what it was the young people wanted. There is undoubtedly a number, a sizable number of young people who said to us that they wanted to have a youth club and negotiations took place with the YMCA to see that it opened, or will open, and I hope it will open very soon. But those same discussions that they had with young people showed that there wasn't anywhere near as much support for the skate park as there was indeed for the youth club. But can I say that across the Borough, we forget that there are facilities for young people in a number of places and indeed only last week I was at the opening of the cadet centre in her Ward, in East Finchley, and it was real pleasure to see so many young people, indeed so many young people in uniform, getting the benefits out of organisations like that.

Question No. 22

Councillor Brian Gordon

In view of the current threat from potential terrorists, some of whom could be living within our Borough, is it not time to consider whether there should be a little more security to monitor people entering this Town Hall?

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

There has not been any indication that the risk to local authority public buildings has particularly increased because of the current threat. The recent bombings and attempted bombings have been aimed at the transport infrastructure. Whilst that could change, there have been no indications that Town Halls will be a target.

The Town Hall has CCTV cameras covering all the entrance/exit doors, the driveway, the foyer area, reception area, the first floor landing and back corridor at the rear of Town Hall with monitoring screens located on the First Contact reception desk and in the First Contact Manager's office. The reception desk is staffed throughout the day and evening when the building is open to the public.

At present, from 9am – 4.30pm a security guard is stationed in the foyer area. During these times an increased number of residents are attending the Town Hall to visit the Council Tax and Housing Benefit public counter which has been temporarily moved to the Town Hall whilst refurbishments are being carried out in Fenella.

Other entrances to the building are protected by having keypad entry systems which means that the public can only enter the Town Hall through the main entrance.

Health and Safety issued security advice to all staff on 27 July 2005 to remind them of the importance of wearing name badges, remaining vigilant at all times and advice as to what to look out for from a security point of view.

The security arrangements at all of the Council's buildings are kept under regular review and the relevant staff have met since 7 July to specifically discuss the arrangements for the Town Hall. A number of options to strengthen the existing security for the building, not exclusively for anti-terrorist purposes, are being considered.

Question No. 23

Councillor Steve Blomer

If the Cabinet Member could inform Council how many and which Members have participated in Licensing Sub-Committee meetings who have not beforehand undertaken licensing training?

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

There have been three Licensing Committee development events. Two focusing directly on preparing Members to fulfil their duties in relation to the new licensing regime and one session for Licensing Sub-Committee Chairman.

The two general sessions were held on 28 Jan 2005 and 8 August 2005. The August session was designed to offer training for those who were new to the Licensing Committee, or had been unable to attend the January session. However, those who attended had all been trained before so the August session focused on issues that had arisen from their experiences so far. Our records show that Councillors Coleman, Prentice, and Burton did not attend either session: In January Cllr Coleman was not a member of the Licensing Committee and Cllr Prentice was busy as Mayor of Barnet.

The session for Licensing Sub-Committee Chairman was held on 5 Sept 2005. Of the six Chairman, Councillors Evans, Blomer, and Susette Palmer attended. Whilst Councillors Coleman, Braun and Prentice did not.

All Licensing Committee members have participated in Licensing Sub-Committee meetings.

I am assured that all members of the licensing committee are fully aware of the contents of the Council's licensing policy and to date the decisions taken have been in accordance with that policy, whether they have been formally trained or not.

Question No 24

Councillor Brian Gordon

Is there a possibility of extending the hours of Police or Street Enforcement Officer patrols around the more sensitive danger spots around the Borough, including public parks?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

The issue of police patrols is a matter for the police but Street Enforcement staff already carry out patrols outside of core hours where circumstances warrant it. These patrols are targeted at specific areas and times.

Question No. 25

Councillor Linda McFadyen

What consultation has been undertaken with local residents - and how has the Council made decisions - on the allocation of finance, prioritisation of works and design for the improvements at Watling Park?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

When alterations or developments are being undertaken in a park that are felt to constitute a material change, then consultation will be undertaken. The extent of the consultation will be in proportion to the scale of the change, in the opinion of the responsible officer. For routine work this would normally consist of putting up notices on site and writing to adjacent homes. For major changes the opinion of interest groups would also be sought and perhaps a staff presence on site provided to gauge opinion.

The majority of the work both undertaken and planned in Watling Park constitutes no material change and therefore has not been the subject of public consultation. The minor exceptions to this have been in response to the call from the public and local police who requested the installation of the goal posts over the summer and the defensive planting. The CCTV was installed as a natural extension of the wider Burnt Oak scheme and its installation was supported by the consultation regarding public safety during the 2003 Best Value Review.

Question No. 26

Councillor Brian Gordon

Have you any comment to make on the scaremongering rumours emanating from the Opposition about alleged proposals to sell off the Town Hall?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer

It is disappointing that Opposition Councillors of both hues continue to peddle untruths about the redevelopment of Hendon Town Hall site.

There are no plans to sell off the Town Hall nor are there any plans to build on the allotments.

Question No. 27

Councillor Colin Rogers

Does the Council's internal Audit Service perform the internal audit function for Barnet Homes or does Barnet Homes undertake this itself (and if so how is this human resourced)?"

Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer

The Council currently provides an internal audit service for BHL under a service level agreement which will end on 30 September 2005. The Company is presently seeking alternative arrangements for this service and the Head of Housing will be monitoring this since it is important that the Company has adequate internal audit arrangements in place.

Question No. 28

Councillor Brian Gordon

As it is some time since the matter was raised, could you please reiterate the maximum length of time in which Council Officers are supposed to answer letters from (a) members of the Council and (b) members of the public?

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

It is expected that all letters will be responded to in 10 working days.

Question No. 29

Councillor Agnes Slocombe

Who is the leaseholder of the youth club on 4a Park Rd, NW9, and why is it so difficult to have the area around this centre cleaned and made environmentally safe and sound?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer

There is currently no leasehold interest in the Council premises at 4a Park Road.

The youth club which did formerly lease the premises vacated it a few years ago. Since then the building has been used by the Youth Service for local youth activities but the building is no longer suited to that purpose. In August the Youth Service declared the premises surplus to their requirements.

In accordance with usual procedures, officers will be investigating whether the premises are suitable for other Council uses and will present a report to a future meeting of the Cabinet Resources Committee. In the meantime they will be looking at the condition of the exterior of the building and taking appropriate action to get the Council's land cleaned up.

Question No. 30

Councillor Brian Gordon

I have received a number of representations from residents who are physically unable to push their wheelie bins or move their recycling bins to the front boundaries of their properties. What facility is available – and how quickly is it activated – for such residents to request that the refuse collectors do this for them, and also return their bins or boxes to their original positions with their lids on?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

For those residents who are unable to move their refuse wheeled bin, green wheeled bin or black recycling box to the boundary of their property special arrangements can be made, known as assisted collections. In an assisted collection a designated collection point is arranged between the resident and the collector - for example by the front door. In most cases arrangements can be made over the phone, occasionally a supervisor will visit a resident to make an assessment and collections should be put in place within ten working days of the original call.

All wheeled bins should be returned to their collection point with the lids closed. Black recycling boxes should be returned to their collection point with the lid neatly placed inside the box, to the side of the box or underneath. The lid is not replaced on the box as the placement of the lid is used as a marker to distinguish which boxes have been emptied, and which have not.

Question No. 31

Councillor Ansuya Sodha

Can the Cabinet Member tell me how regularly dog poo and litter bins are emptied in West Hendon and who carries out the checks to make sure they are emptied? I understand that there are going to be new contractors dealing with this. Will there be penalties if these bins are not emptied as stated in the contract?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

The contract is for the dog bins to be emptied once a week. This is monitored by greenspace officers and a colour bag system has recently been introduced to facilitate monitoring (2 colours are used and changed week on week). The system for emptying bins is being reviewed at present and any new contract will have penalty clauses.

Litter bins are emptied 3 times a week in the summer and monitored and emptied as required in the winter. This is maybe 1-3 times a week depending on the site.

Question No. 32

Councillor Brian Coleman

What communications has Councillor Finn and his Officers had with Members and Officers of the London Borough of Camden in the last six months concerning the proposed Cricklewood regeneration scheme?

Answer by Councillor Anthony Finn

All of Barnet's neighbours (including Camden), the GLA and GOL have been consulted as part of the final modifications to the UDP and the draft addendum to the Cricklewood Supplementary Planning Guidance.

Once this consultation is complete and we have assessed the findings, specific meetings will be organised with appropriate boroughs. This is likely to be Brent and Camden in the first instance given that they are directly affected by potential future proposals for the Cricklewood town centre.

Question No. 33

Councillor Soon – Hoe Teh

Will the Cabinet Member guarantee that South Friern library will be retained/rebuilt including at least the same or better services, floor space, staffing and opening hours on the current site of the existing library?

Answer by Councillor Katia David

The specification issued to potential developers of the South Friern site included the requirement for the submission of plans to include an allowance for the equivalent space to the current library, accessible to meet DDA requirements, including accessible public toilet provision. The base budget for the Library Service includes provision for staffing the existing library at its current advertised opening hours and there are no plans to alter these.

You may wish to add or not set hares running for supplementary questions: It is intended that a new library would be laid out and presented in a way that makes it fully accessible to all the community in line with modern library provision

Question No. 34

Councillor Brian Coleman

Will Councillor Freer update the Council on the disposal of the former Friern Barnet Sewage works and will he outline the consequences to Barnet residents if Labour controlled Haringey Council get their way and turn it into a travellers/gypsy site?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer

At its meeting on 21 July 2005 the Cabinet Resources Committee considered a report on the change of circumstances relating to the former sewage works site.

The committee noted that Haringey had amended its draft UDP proposal so that only part of the former sewage works site is proposed to be designated for a travellers' site. Officers had made due representations at the UDP public inquiry objecting to any part of the land being used for a travellers' site. In particular officers pointed out that the proposed site does not meet all the guidelines criteria proposed by Government in that the nearest housing (Alexandra Road/Sydney Road area) includes area of high deprivation.

The public inquiry was due to end by the beginning of September. We now have to wait for the Inspector to make his decisions and recommendations.

Question No. 35**Councillor Zakia Zubairi**

What progress has been made with regards to the promise made by the Cabinet Member at the council meeting on 28 June to assist the Muslim Community who pray every Friday at Grahame Park community centre and Watling Community Centre find access to premises when bank holidays fall on a Friday?

Answer by Councillor Katia David

Please refer to the answer to question 43.

Question No. 36**Councillor Brian Coleman**

Will Councillor Freer confirm the Administration's Policy with regard to Long Lane Pastures site?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer

Fruitful and ongoing discussions are taking place with the Long Lane Pastures Action Group to identify a mutually beneficial solution. A draft lease of for the land has been issued and fine-tuning is now taking place. In addition we are taking steps to repair the fence to the site to ensure the site remains secure for the benefit of the Council's interest and the LLPAG. I am pleased that we have been able to deliver on our promise to pursue the area being used as a nature reserve.

Question No. 37**Councillor Paul Rogers**

Does the cabinet member believe that the 302 new social housing units planned for the next three years (of which 65 do not have identified locations) is sufficient to meet the current and future needs of Barnet residents living in temporary and unsuitable accommodation?

Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer

I am not sure where Cllr Rogers gets his figures from. In 2004/5 alone the Council awarded planning permission on a total of 924 additional affordable homes, of which 437 were for social renting.

Our programme for 2005/06 projects 261 affordable housing starts in the borough during the year. The Housing Association programme for the next 3 years includes a further 317 affordable homes where the number of units and the bed-sizes have been finalised. This projection does not include sites where the numbers or the mix of property have not been finalised but where partners are firmly planning to develop affordable housing. Nor does it take into account the thousands of new homes, including affordable homes that will begin to come on stream during the period on the major sites at Beaufort Park (RAF East Camp), the Ingliss Barracks and in the Cricklewood regeneration area.

We continue to work with our development partners to identify new opportunities for developing affordable homes for Barnet people.

It is of course the case that this is not sufficient to build our way out of homelessness and housing need in the borough, which is why we are developing our options first approach to assisting people in housing need and preventing homelessness.

Question No. 38

Councillor Brian Coleman

Will Councillor Matthew Offord ensure the users of Alyth Gardens Synagogue especially the elderly and disabled members are catered for should the Temple Fortune Controlled Parking zone be implemented?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

Officers along with Councillor Harris held a constructive and productive meeting on Friday 26th August with representatives of the Synagogue in order to address their concerns and any specific issues that may be affected by the proposed CPZ, including that of access to the Synagogue particularly for the vulnerable i.e. elderly, disabled and young children.

The meeting was useful in that it gave the Council more detailed awareness of local issues and will serve to better inform any final decision on the CPZ.

It is intended to hold another similar meeting to include the residents association by the end of September, by which time it is anticipated that a clearer view on the extent and structure of the CPZ will be known.

Question No. 39

Councillor Agnes Slocombe

Will Cabinet Members and senior management offer to meet ward councillors to visit sites of concerns in their wards so that local problems can be witnessed first hand and action can be taken?

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

Yes and as far as I know, at least since May 2002, subject to diary commitments and finance being available to effect changes, they always have.

Question No. 40

Councillor Brian Coleman

Will the Leader of the Council write to the Minister for London to insist that the Government funds increased Met Police costs due to the recent anti terrorist operations and that the London Council tax payer does not pick up the cost in a rise in the precept?

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

I have already written to The Mayor and on your suggestion I am now copying the letter to the Minister

Question No. 41

Councillor Ansuya Sodha

As the Cabinet Member knows, there have been several complaints regarding anti-social behaviour in the Welsh Harp after 6pm. How often do street enforcement officers patrol Welsh Harp? Is the Member going to do anything about it so that people can lead normal lives? Are there plans to have patrols after 6pm?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

From my own regular visits, and information gained from people who are at the Welsh Harp on a daily basis, I am not convinced that there is such an anti-social behaviour problem as you suggest.

From my own regular visits, and information gained from people who are at the Welsh Harp on a daily basis, I am not convinced that there is such an anti-social behaviour problem as you suggest.

However, to ensure that the site is used in the correct manner, the following actions have and are being taken. Street Enforcement Officers regularly patrol the area during normal working hours in order to:

- prevent people using BBQs outside of the designated area;
- issue Fixed Penalty Notices to people found dropping litter (including excessive feeding of the birds);
- deal with any abandoned vehicles;
- to provide a presence to deter any anti-social behaviour.

Working in partnership with the police, additional patrols were organised for the weekend to cover the summer months (7 May 2005 - 24 September 2005 - 21 weekends) when there are more visitors to the Welsh Harp. These patrols cover the hours of 1pm – 6pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

Street Enforcement Officers and police have found that by speaking to people they complied with requests and behaved in a reasonable manner. No alcohol was evident during patrols. Over the summer there has been an improvement in behaviour as people have been informed of how they should behave on the site by the Street Enforcement Officers on patrol.

The work of the Street Enforcement Officers has been supported by additional work on the Site:

1. The car park off Cool Oak Lane has been closed except for use by organised groups.
2. Signs prohibiting barbecues, swimming, dumping and fishing have been installed
3. Tree debris suitable for camp fires was removed from the site in May to reduce the misuse of the site.
4. Rubbish and litter clearing has been increased to ensure the site remains clean to show that the site is cared for and discourage misuse.

Question No. 42

Councillor Soon-Hoe Teh

Will the Cabinet Member give a commitment that Friary House, which was gifted to the residents of the borough, will not be sold?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer

Firstly, I will reiterate for Members that Friary House was not gifted to the Borough but purchased by a predecessor Authority.

The Administration is not considering selling Friary House and so the Councillor's question is irrelevant.

Question No. 43

Councillor Zakia Zubairi

What progress has been made to assist the Muslim Community who pray every Friday at Grahame Park community centre and Watling Community Centre find access to premises to pray on Sundays during the month of Ramadan?

Answer by Councillor Katia David

At present, community centres managed by the Council are not available for hire on Sundays and bank holidays and this is unlikely to change in the immediate future. However, this will be considered along with the availability of multifunctional space which many voluntary and community sector organisations have raised with the Council, through the Best Value Review on working with the Voluntary and Community Sector.

Question No. 44**Councillor Colin Rogers**

The Cabinet Member's reply to question 24 at the June council meeting revealed she had been misinformed. The reply related views to have come from tenants was which only extracted after a Barnet Homes housing officer informed the tenants that the fence was staying irrespective of tenants' views. What efforts is the Cabinet Member taking to ensure that contractors are not being given work/there is no perception by tenants that contractors are being given work simply to tide their business over, rather than work being agreed solely for the benefit of tenants?

Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer

As explained previously the request for a fence came from 2 tenants living adjacent to it who were experiencing particular difficulties with privacy and security. It is accepted that there was no prior consultation with other tenants who were less directly affected. When subsequently asked their views the majority of tenants said they approved of the fence. As part of its everyday estate management Barnet Homes has to balance the needs of individual tenants, good estate management and the views of the wider community.

Barnet Homes is managing a capital improvement programme of some £150 million over 5 years and a repairs and maintenance budget of £8.5m per annum. This is a massive body of work that places considerable pressure on the capacity of its contractors. In this context it is stretching credibility to suggest a fence costing £2000 would be built just to keep a contractor happy or 'tide them over'."

Question No. 45**Councillor Ansuya Sodha**

Can the member please tell me how many consultants are currently employed and what is their cost?

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

Consultants are used by the Council in differing ways. It is not possible to state how many are 'employed' currently. Many are used for specific pieces of work, and on any particular day they may or may not be working for the Borough. The alternative to using consultants in this way would be to employ people with specialist expertise which clearly would be neither practicable or cost effective.

Question No. 46**Councillor Soon-Hoe Teh**

If the Administration continues to consider the sale of Friary House as one of the options, will the Cabinet Member guarantee that alternative community uses and options for Friary House are considered first and given priority?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer

There are no plans to sell Friary House and so the question does not arise.

Question No. 47

Councillor Zakia Zubairi

What progress has been made to assist the Muslim Community who pray every Friday at Grahame Park community centre and Watling Community Centre find access to premises for Taraveeh on the day of the sighting of Ramadan's New Moon, as it is not currently possible to immediately book premises on the same date? How is the Council able to assist the community access premises for the entire month of Ramadan for Taraveeh?

Answer by Councillor Katia David

We appreciate that booking community centres at short notice will always be difficult, as they are used by a variety of groups, and availability cannot be guaranteed. We would expect that the hiring group will have explored mutually convenient possibilities with the Centre Manager

Question No. 48

Councillor Soon-Hoe Teh

Will the Cabinet Member now give a commitment that the Council will not proceed with the proposed car park next to Friary House and traffic through Friary Park?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer

The Councillor's question is inaccurate.

There is no proposal for a public car park at Friary House; it was proposed that the existing hardstanding would be reinstated for the use of the community groups using Friary House.

There never has been a proposal to allow through traffic

Question No. 49

Councillor Zakia Zubairi

If the Cabinet Member will agree to pursue the five goals to achieve Fairtrade status for Barnet Council?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer

Whilst sympathising with the objectives of the campaign, it is not a priority at this time, whilst the Borough has pressing issues of its own. Given that the Fairtrade website itself admits the campaign is time consuming, this would divert much needed resources away from the Council's five key priorities. Perhaps when the Council is in a position of being fully funded by this Government for the activities it expects us to undertake, then we may have the resources available to take on such a campaign.

Question No. 50

Councillor Soon-Hoe Teh

What consultation is being/will be undertaken with local residents on the future of Friary House BEFORE any decision is taken?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer

The public have made their views that they would wish the house to remain in community use and that is the policy we are pursuing. Any decisions will be publicised through the normal committee and scrutiny process.