

## Minutes

OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET  
held at The Town Hall, Hendon, NW4, on Tuesday, 20 December, 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, BA, FCA
* Fiona Bulmer	MSFAM, MAPHV, MRSM	*Susette Palmer MA
*Terry Burton	*Brian Gordon, LL.B	*Wendy Prentice
*Anita Campbell	*Eva Greenspan BA, LL.B	*Barry Rawlings
* Wayne Casey BA (Hons)	(Hons)	*Colin Rogers
MIIA	*Andrew Harper	*Paul Rogers
*Danish Chopra	*Christopher Harris BA BSc	*Brian Salinger
*Jack Cohen	MPhil	*Gill Sargeant
*Melvin Cohen LLB	*Helena Hart	*Joan Scannell
*Brian Coleman, AM, FRSA	*Lynne Hillan	*Alan Schneiderman
*Katia David BSc, MBA, JP	*Sean Hooker, BA (Hons)	*Gerard Silverstone
*Jeremy Davies BA (Hons), CPFA	* Daniel Hope	*Agnes Slocombe SRN RM
*Peter Davis Ctext, FTI, FCFI	*Anne Hutton	*Ansuya Sodha MBA (Middx) Cert Ed, DipM (CIM), AMBA
*Aba Dunner MCIJ	*Mark Langton	*Susan Steinberg
Olwen Evans ACIS	*Malcolm Lester FCCA	*Leslie Sussman, MBE
*Claire Farrier	*Kitty Lyons	*Soon-Hoe Teh
*Anthony Finn BSc (Econ)	*John Marshall	*Jim Tierney
FCA	*Linda McFadyen	* Allan Turner
* Mike Freer	*Kath McGuirk	*Phil Yeoman
	* Duncan Macdonald	Zakia Zubairi
	*David Mencer	Vacancy
	*Alison Moore	
	*Jazmin Naghar	
	*Robert Newton	

\*denotes Member present

### 112. PRAYER (Agenda Item 1):

The Mayor's Chaplain offered prayer.

### 113. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 2):

Apologies were received from Councillor Zakia Zubairi.

**114. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8 NOVEMBER 2005 (Agenda Item 3):  
RESOLVED –That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 November, 2005  
be approved.**

**115. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS (Agenda Item 4):**

The Worshipful the Mayor reported that Major Patrick O'Brien, the Representative Deputy Lieutenant, would be retiring from that position at the end of December 2005 after 10 years of sterling service.

The Worshipful the Mayor referred to Major O'Brien's many and varied achievements during his distinguished career, including his active and relentless support of successive Mayor's charities, raising many thousands of pounds for many very worthy causes.

The Worshipful the Mayor presented Major O'Brien with a vase, engraved with the borough crest, as a small reminder of his successful time as Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Barnet and also presented a bouquet to Mrs Una O'Brien as a token of the Council's thanks for all her work in supporting Major O'Brien during his time in office.

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

Councillor Soon – Hoe Teh declared a personal but non – pecuniary interest in Motion 8.1 in that he was a Non –Executive Director of Barnet PCT. Councillor Teh remained in the Chamber and participated in the vote on the Motion.

The members listed below declared personal but non – prejudicial interests in Motion 8.5. The members indicated remained in the Chamber during the debate and participated in the votes:

- Councillor Jack Cohen who attends football matches
- Councillor Mike Freer who attends football matches
- Councillor Wayne Casey, who had received hospitality from the Football Club
- Councillor Phil Yeoman, who had received hospitality from the Football Club

The members listed below declared personal and prejudicial interests in Motion 8.5. The members indicated left the Chamber during the debate and did not participate in the votes.

- Councillor Lynne Hillan, because her business had business contact with the Football Club.
- Councillor Danish Chopra, because he had a personal/prejudicial interest
- Councillor Anita Campbell, because she had a personal/prejudicial interest.

(Note: The Chief Executive, Borough Solicitor and Chief Finance Officer also left the Chamber during the debate and vote on the Motion 8.5).

**117. BUSINESS REMAINING FROM LAST MEETING: COMMENTS RELATING TO THE WORK OF CABINET (Agenda item 6):**

**Councillor Anita Campbell commented:**

Now that the Registry Office in Wood Street has been closed by this Council in spite of opposition and petitions, and making people go all the way over to

Burnt which is a very long journey and in spite of all the pressure put on this Council, they have closed it at last, we would like the Council to approach Barnet and Chase Farm Hospital, the NHS Trust and discuss whether it would be possible to reopen the Barnet Registry Office within an office in the Hospital. The trust and the Council could work together on this.

Obviously no one would want to get married at the Hospital and it's unlikely that anyone would want to register a marriage but it would be very useful for the local people to be able to register births and deaths at the Hospital. The office need not be opened full-time. It could operate as a satellite office to the Burnt Oak Registry Office but at least it would be worth approaching the Trust to see if the Council and Hospital would work together to bring back this important service, and I think that would be the least we could do by this Council to put back what they have taken away from High Barnet. Thank you.

**Councillor Lynne Hillan responded:**

Thank you. I do agree with some of the sentiments that Councillor Campbell's made. We made the decision to close the Register Office because after the Government's decision to allow marriages to take place in other settings the Register Office was losing about £71,000 a year. Obviously we have to make decisions that will be beneficial to the tax payers.

However, I do appreciate, although we're one of the only boroughs that did have two Register Offices, I do appreciate it's quite a large borough and we have approached Barnet Hospital with a view to allowing us to use one of the rooms to register births and deaths.

However, they haven't really got the space, so what we've decided is that we're going to open the Register Office on temporary basis in the reception at Barnet House whilst we secure some more accommodation in High Barnet, but that is the plan eventually.

**Councillor Steve Blomer commented:**

As somebody who has lived very close to Woodcroft Park for 45 years and played there as a youngster, I have to say that having got the report back from Hendon Area Environment Committee on 6 December, it was interesting to read the comments there that the Council's committed to maintaining play areas that provide a benefit to local children and local communities and that as a last resort the Council consider removing the playground.

Well I would have thought that part of making that decision must be consultation. There was no consultation at all with the local residents about whether to remove that playground as a permanent gesture. Also there was no consultation with the local councillors as I'm sure Councillor Gordon would also tell you that an email which tells you they will removing play area quickly in seven days is not really consultation, it's a statement of fact.

**Councillor Matthew Offord responded**

I would Mr Mayor. All I would say is that where there are play areas that are an asset to the local community we will continue to maintain them. I make no defence of the fact that we have removed three where they've caused a nuisance to the local community. Where they have been vandalised and

people have been generally disruptive. We've also installed an additional three play areas and refurbished those as well. The provision of play equipment doesn't really apply to the Youth Service as the question implies.

I suggest if Councillor Blomer has any further issues perhaps he'd like to deal with me direct.

**Councillor Linda McFadyen commented:**

Thank you. Yes Mr Mayor. You may think that because the lights are on in Burnt Oak this question has become irrelevant. Unfortunately the illumination has not penetrated this Council. The lights are up but still no consultation with traders and no meeting with the traders. This illustrates this Tory Council's lack of interest in our local town centres.

What can the Cabinet Member say to reassure traders that the town centres and their interests are at the heart of this Tory Administration?

**Councillor Matthew Offord responded:**

Councillor McFadyen unfortunately incorrect within that. Only last year a £40,000 deficit was identified within the budget. All the traders within the borough were consulted and the letter was sent out which they had signed and they agreed to pay a contribution, as they had done of previously, of a £1000 per year. This was paid by the Burnt Oak traders last year.

This year a letter was sent around by the representative of the Burnt Oak traders and unfortunately he found that there was no interest in actually sending forward any money. But we did work with the traders, not only in Burnt Oak, across the whole of the Borough and we have found that contributions were forthcoming when they realised they weren't going to get any lights. And I can reveal that only one area has not provided any money tonight and to have given them lights when no one else had any would have been unfair to those who had made the contributions, but that's not Burnt Oak. Burnt Oak got their lights, as did West Hendon, as did East Finchley, as did many other parts of the Borough.

We make no doubt about it, we control this budget as it was not controlled under the last Administration. We don't stop and start. We have a budget. We stick to it and the traders were happy to contribute towards it.

**Councillor Wayne Casey commented:**

Thank you Mr Mayor. Last year a 73 year old resident in my Ward asked for a bath rail because she suffers from arthritis. A telephone assessment was conducted and a request was refused on the grounds that she can still wash, dress and cook for herself and was therefore entitled to no assistance. Out of frustration this lady was forced into considering the desperate expedient of requesting a complete bathroom refit as she was entitled to under the terms of her tenancy. With admirable restraint she decided she wouldn't do this. She, after all, only wanted a hand rail. This time she requested another assessment. An assessment was given. This time in person and she was told that she was not only entitled to the hand rail, she was also entitled to other aids and adaptations. These were delivered within three weeks but still no hand rail. It was twelve months before the hand rail was actually delivered.

Could the Cabinet Member give me an assurance that this extended period of time, this ridiculous period of time is only an isolated incident? Would she investigate it before she actually gives us an assurance and will she offer this lady an apology.

**Councillor Fiona Bulmer responded:**

I really do wish that Opposition Members would raise individual cases with me directly. You've waited six weeks because this wasn't dealt with at the previous meeting. I could have investigated it and given you a proper answer which clearly I can't now. But obviously I'm happy to look into this. But in general, provision of equipment works very well. There is no waiting list for adaptations such as hand rails and to date this year we've provided 11,300 items of equipment to vulnerable people across the Borough. But of course I'm happy to apologise to this lady and to look into the particular circumstances if Councillor Casey would write to me, and perhaps next time he could write to me directly rather than raising it in a completely inappropriate setting such as tonight.

**118. QUESTION TIME FOR MEMBERS (Agenda Item 7 and 15.2. 11):**

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.

With the agreement of the Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Freer gave an oral answer to Councillor Brian Coleman in response to question nine.

**119. 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 8.5, 8.2 and 8.6 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 8.5, 8.2 and 8.6 to be heard first.**

**120. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR BRIAN SALINGER (Agenda item 8.5 and 15.2.8 (iv)):**

Motion 8.5 in the name of Councillor Brian Salinger was moved. With the consent of the Worshipful the Mayor in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 17B.1, Councillor Alison Moore corrected the text of her amendment. An amendment in the name of Councillor Duncan Macdonald was also moved orally at the meeting.

Debate ensued. Upon being put to the vote, the amendments in the names of Councillor Alison Moore and Duncan Macdonald were declared lost and the substantive motion was declared carried.

**RESOLVED - Council supports the work undertaken by the Leader of Barnet Council to find a new home for Barnet FC within the Borough.**

**Council notes this has led to his offer for the Club to use part of Montrose Park.**

**Council recognises that planning permission will still be required, and that should an application be made it will be decided on planning merits.**

**Council further recognises that there will need to be ongoing discussions with the Club on the terms on which they would be able to lease the land.**

**Council believes that Barnet Football Club has a valuable role to play in the Borough and will do their best to work with the club to fulfil their potential.**

**Council further calls on the Directors of Barnet FC Ltd and its associated companies to recognise the constraints imposed on the Council by various acts of Parliament, not least in relation to the disposal of property or land.**

**121. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR KATH MCGUIRK (Agenda Item 8.2 and 15.2.8 (ii) and 12 (ii)):**

Motion 8.2 in the name of Councillor Kath McGuirk was moved. Amendments in the names of Councillors Matthew Offord and Steve Blomer were moved; the amendment in the name of Councillor Offord being moved orally at the meeting. Debate ensued. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Offord was declared carried and that in the name of Councillor Blomer, lost. Ten members demanded a Division on the voting on the amendment in the name of Councillor Blomer. Upon being taken, the results of the Division were declared as follows:

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Absent when vote taken</b>
<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Councillors</b>
Blomer	Tambourides	Zubairi
Campbell	Lyon	
Casey	Braun	
Chopra	Bulmer	
Jack Cohen	Burton	
Davies	Melvin Cohen	
Farrier	Coleman	
Ghosh	David	
Hooker	Davis	
Hutton	Dunner	
Langton	Evans	
Lyons	Finn	
Macdonald	Freer	
McFadyen	Gordon	
McGuirk	Greenspan	
Mencer	Harper	
Moore	Harris	
Monroe Palmer	Hart	
Susette Palmer	Hillan	
Rawlings	Hope	
Colin Rogers	Lester	
Paul Rogers	Marshall	
Sargeant	Naghar	

Schneiderman	Newton	
Slocombe	Offord	
Sodha	Prentice	
Teh	Salinger	
Tierney	Scannell	
Turner	Silverstone	
Yeoman	Steinberg	
	Sussman	

For 30  
Against 31  
Absent 1  
Vacancy 1

The amendment was declared lost.

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

**RESOLVED – Council condemns graffiti vandals who continue to blight Barnet and whose criminal behaviour costs both residents and the Council thousands of pounds each year to remove.**

**Council believes that graffiti can result in other forms of anti-social behaviour that leads to community degradation and neglect.**

**Council notes the Conservative administration’s continued war against graffiti vandals and welcomes the most recent initiatives taken to continually reduce the problem.**

**Council further notes the most recent local graffiti policy performance data that shows that:**

- 99% of racist graffiti was removed within 24 hours
- 97% of graffiti was removed from Town Centres by the end of the next working day
- 100% of graffiti reported on ‘A’ roads was removed in 48 hours

**Council rejects the view that ‘Graffiti Walls’ should be introduced across the borough.**

**Council calls on Cabinet to keep up our excellent fight against graffiti and vandalism in the Borough.**

**122. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR MATTHEW OFFORD (Agenda items 8.6).**

Councillor Kath McGuirk moved that the Motion now be put, which was duly seconded. Upon being put to the vote, the Motion was lost.

Motion 8.6 in the name of Councillor Matthew Offord was moved. Debate ensued. Upon being put to the vote the substantive motion was declared carried.

**RESOLVED – Council notes that Transport for London have deposited a Private Bill in Parliament which aims to confer further powers upon TfL in a range of transport related matters.**

**Council is aware that Transport for London inherited several road schemes from the Secretary of State when trunk roads in London were transferred to the Greater London Authority and arrangements were made for the continuity of scheme orders made by the Secretary of State.**

**Council notes that such orders were made for improvements to the North Circular Road at Henlys Corner and Golders Green Road, following lengthy public consultation and examination of the proposals at public inquiries. The Council and other stakeholders invested significant effort in the consultation process and public inquiries to ensure that Barnet residents and road users were protected and gained maximum benefit from the schemes.**

**Council is aware Transport for London have been unable to secure funding for the inherited schemes on the North Circular Road, but have confirmed the need for major improvements to reduce congestion, pollution, delays to road users and to improve safety. TfL have been unable to produce alternative proposals to resolve the current problems and to ensure that additional traffic resulting from the growth in North London, as predicted in the London Plan, will be accommodated on the North Circular Road rather than diverting onto borough roads.**

**Council notes that the draft Bill contains a clause which allows Transport for London to revoke orders made by the Secretary of State, but does not specify the process required to do so. Council also notes that orders made by the Secretary of State normally can only be revoked following consultation and if unresolved objections to the revocation are received, a public inquiry must be held.**

**Council believes the Bill may allow Transport for London to revoke the orders without consultation or public inquiry and this could deny the Council, residents, road users and other interested parties, the opportunity to have their views heard and considered.**

**Council also believes that when funding for the major schemes becomes available, the need to remake scheme orders would add to the delay and cost of finally resolving the problems with the unimproved sections of the North Circular Road.**

**Council notes that other clauses in the Bill may have an adverse effect on the Council or the Borough's residents.**

**Council resolves that-**



**1) The Chief Executive be instructed to take all necessary steps to oppose those clauses in the Transport for London Bill which, if enacted, would have an adverse effect on the borough or be against the interests of the Council or the Borough's residents.**

**2) The Chief Executive be asked to write to the Members of Parliament for the borough explaining the Council's position and seeking their support.**

**123. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR FIONA BULMER (Agenda Items 8.1 AND 15.2 .8(i) a\and 12(i)):**

Motion 8.1 in the name of Councillor Fiona Bulmer and amendments in the names of Councillors Linda McFadyen and Sean Hooker were put to the vote without debate. The amendments were declared carried. The substantive motion was declared carried.

**RESOLVED - Council notes plans to alter services at Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals.**

**Council further notes these could mean Barnet General stops performing routine operations.**

**Council understands that many ill and infirm people will find it very difficult to travel over to Chase Farm to receive the treatment they desperately need.**

**Council believes that, instead of this rationalisation, the Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust should be investing in Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals to ensure they continue to provide and improve the services they do at present.**

**Council welcomes the all – Party and Barnet Press newspaper campaign to ensure the Trust and Government listens to our concerns.**

**Council calls on Cabinet to support the campaign to keep routine operations at Barnet Hospital, and asks Cabinet to write to the Chief Executive of Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust informing her of our opposition to the current proposals.**

**124. MOTION 8.3 IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR CLAIRE FARRIER (Agenda item 8.3 and 15.2. 8(iii) and 12 (iii))**

Motion 8.3 in the name of Councillor Claire Farrier and amendments in the names of Councillors Anita Campbell and Matthew Offord were put to the vote without debate. The amendment in the name of Councillor Campbell was declared lost and that in the name of Councillor Offord, carried.

**RESOLVED – Council welcomes the Alcohol Free Zones that have been established in the Borough.**

**Council believes these ensure there is no place in our town centres for drunkenness and lawlessness.**

**Council notes with dismay the former Leader of the Labour Group's attempt to sabotage the initiative when the schemes were first mooted.**

**Council further notes that the Council is working with the Police to look at extending Alcohol Free zones into areas where they are needed.**

**Council urges Cabinet to continue to support the Alcohol Free Zones, and to investigate extending them into other areas subject to the advice of the Police and other partners, and the constraints of the Budget.**

**125. MOTION 8.4 IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR ANSUYA SODHA (Agenda Items 8.3 and 15. 2.:**

Motion 8.4 in the name of Councillor Ansuya Sodha and an amendment in the name of Councillor Fiona Bulmer, were put to the vote without debate. The amendment was declared carried. The substantive motion was declared carried.

**RESOLVED – Council welcomes the significant progress that has been made since 2002 in helping help more elderly and disabled people to remain in their own homes.**

**Council notes that, despite the pressure on Council resources, increased funding has been made available to meet growing demand for aids and adaptations.**

**Council further notes that Barnet Homes' budget for adaptations has increased from £600,000 to £930,000 this year and that 150 major works and 400 minor works have already been carried out.**

**Council also welcomes the progress that has been made in clearing a significant backlog of demand for wheelchair accessible properties.**

**Council calls on Cabinet to continue to maintain its commitment to supporting the vulnerable in Barnet through the effective management of available resources.**

**126. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

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

The meeting reconvened at 9.05pm

**127. ADMINISTRATION POLICY ITEM: BUDGET 2006/07(Agenda Items 9.1 and 15.2.8 (v)):**

The Budget Headlines relating to this item were circulated to all Members and Councillor Brian Salinger 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 Chopra was declared lost. Upon being put to the vote, the substantive motion was declared carried.

**RESOLVED - Council notes the components of the budget 2006/07.**

**Council further notes the Budget will be set after careful consideration.**

**Council believes this authority continues to be under-funded by government, again receiving a Formula Grant increase lower than the London and England averages.**

**Council calls on Cabinet to work to produce the Budget for 2006/07 within the constraints imposed by government.**

**128. OPPOSITION POLICY ITEM: LIBRARIES (Agenda Item 9.2, and 15.2.12 (v))**

Councillor Alan Schneiderman proposed the item and moved that it be adopted. An amendment in the name of Councillor Brian Salinger was moved. Debate ensued. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was declared lost. Ten members demanded a Division on the voting on the amendment. On being taken, the results of the Division were declared as being as follows:

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Absent when vote taken</b>
<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Councillors</b>
Blomer	Tambourides	Zubairi
Campbell	Lyon	
Casey	Braun	
Chopra	Bulmer	
Jack Cohen	Burton	
Davies	Melvin Cohen	
Farrier	Coleman	
Ghosh	David	
Hooker	Davis	
Hutton	Dunner	
Langton	Evans	
Lyons	Finn	
Macdonald	Freer	
McFadyen	Gordon	
McGuirk	Greenspan	
Mencer	Harper	
Moore	Harris	
Monroe Palmer	Hart	
Susette Palmer	Hillan	
Rawlings	Hope	
Colin Rogers	Lester	
Paul Rogers	Marshall	
Sargeant	Naghar	
Schneiderman	Newton	
Slocombe	Offord	
Sodha	Prentice	
Teh	Salinger	
Tierney	Scannell	
Turner	Silverstone	
Yeoman	Steinberg	
	Sussman	

For 30  
 Against 31  
 Absent 1  
 Vacancy 1

The amendment was declared lost.

Upon being put to the vote the substantive motion was declared carried. Ten members demanded a Division on the voting on the substantive motion. On being taken, the results of the Division were declared as being as follows:

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Absent when vote taken</b>
<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Councillors</b>
Tambourides	Blomer	Zubairi
Lyon	Campbell	
Braun	Casey	
Bulmer	Chopra	
Burton	Jack Cohen	
Melvin Cohen	Davies	
Coleman	Farrier	
David	Ghosh	
Davis	Hooker	
Dunner	Hutton	
Evans	Langton	
Finn	Lyons	
Freer	Macdonald	
Gordon	McFadyen	
Greenspan	McGuirk	
Harper	Mencer	
Harris	Moore	
Hart	Monroe Palmer	
Hillan	Susette Palmer	
Hope	Rawlings	
Lester	Colin Rogers	
Marshall	Paul Rogers	
Naghar	Sargeant	
Newton	Schneiderman	
Offord	Slocombe	
Prentice	Sodha	
Salinger	Teh	
Scannell	Tierney	
Silverstone	Turner	
Steinberg	Yeoman	
Sussman		

For 31  
 Against 30  
 Absent 1

. The substantive motion was declared carried.

**RESOLVED – Council welcomes the Audit Commission Inspection of Barnet in November 2004, which found our Library Services had user satisfaction ratings above those for London, and rated our service “good”.**

**Council is extremely proud we have been able to maintain our library numbers in Barnet at a similar level to 1965, despite a national backdrop of falling demand.**

**Council notes our preservation of Libraries contrasts sharply with other Boroughs. For example, in Southwark, there were around 25 Libraries in 1965, but there are only 12 now. Hackney had nearly 30, but is now down to just 10.**

**Council welcomes the re-provision of the South Friern Library, pressed for by the then Cabinet Member for Culture, and actioned by the Cabinet Resources Committee decision in March 2004 which requires developers to build a new facility there as a condition of sale.**

**Council urges Cabinet to keep up the successes it has achieved in keeping libraries open and thriving in Barnet, despite the national problem of falling demand for such services.**

**129. VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Councillor Daniel Hope, duly seconded, moved that the order of business be varied so that Part 6 Statutory Business be dealt with before Part 5, Accountability. Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried.

**RESOLVED – That the order of business be varied to allow Part 6, Statutory Business to be heard before Part 5, Accountability.**

**130. HIGH BARNET WARD BY – ELECTION (Report of the Chief Executive – Agenda Item 15.1):**

The Council were informed that Duncan Colin Macdonald was elected as Councillor for the High Barnet Ward.

**131. VACANCIES ON SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES (Report of the Democratic Services Manager – Agenda Item 15.2.1):**

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, and Danish Chopra were moved. Councillor Scannell withdrew the proposal in her name for appointment P.50.4.

**RESOLVED –**

**That the following persons be appointed or nominated as the case may require filling the vacancies referred to for the period indicated in the report of the Democratic Services Manager:**

VACANCY REFERENCE	PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT OR NOMINATION	PERSON APPOINTED OR NOMINATED
P.11.1	Church Hill School	Defer
P.38.a.1	Deansbrook Infant School	Defer
P.40.2	Fairway Primary School	Defer
SP.02.2	Northway School	Mr Matt Dreisin
SP.03.2	Oakleigh School	Defer
VP.29a	Pardes House Primary School	Councillor Anthony Finn
VP.21a.1	St Johns NW4	Mrs Dorothy Hubbard
VP.16.1	St Joseph's RC Junior School	Defer
P.50.4	The Orion Primary and Goldbeaters Primary Schools	Councillor Claire Farrier

**132. VACANCIES ARISING FROM RECONSTITUTION OF SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES (Report of the Democratic Services Manager - Agenda Item 15.2.2):**

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, and Danish Chopra 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
P.14.1	Coppetts Wood Primary School	Mrs V Tyas
P.14.2	Coppetts Wood Primary School	Mr G Old
P.14.3	Coppetts Wood Primary School	Councillor Mark Langton
S.03.1	Copthall School	Mr J Howard
S.03.4	Copthall School	Mr Richard Weider
P.38a.1	Deansbrook Infant School	Defer
P.38a.2	Deansbrook Infant School	Ms M Goodman
P.38a.3	Deansbrook Infant School	Councillor Brian Gordon
P.38b.2	Deansbrook Junior School	Ms M Goodman
P.38b.3	Deansbrook Junior School	Councillor Brian Gordon
P.42.1	Frith Manor Junior and Infant School	Mr Richard Cornelius
P.42.2	Frith Manor Junior and Infant School	Mr Martin Butcher
P.45.1	Grasvenor Avenue Infant School	Mrs Pat Dunton
P.45.2	Grasvenor Avenue Infant School	Mrs Bridget Perry
P.45.3	Grasvenor Avenue Infant School	Defer
VP.30.1	Mathilda Marks Kennedy School	Ms Ruth Nyman
SP.04.1	Oak Lodge School	Mr G Kirby

<b>SP.04.2</b>	<b>Oak Lodge School</b>	<b>Councillor Alison Moore</b>
<b>VS.05.1</b>	<b>The Henrietta Barnett School</b>	<b>Councillor Andrew Harper</b>

**133. REPRESENTATION OF THE COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE BODIES (Report of the Democratic Services Manager - Agenda Item 15.2.3):**

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 Jeremy Davies 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 in the report of the Democratic Services Manager:**

<b>VACANCY REFERENCE</b>	<b>PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT OR NOMINATION</b>	<b>PERSON APPOINTED OR NOMINATED</b>
<b>0111</b>	<b>Adoption and Permanency Panel</b>	<b>Councillor Maureen Braun</b>
<b>1113</b>	<b>Poors Allotment Trust for Chipping Barnet and East Barnet</b>	<b>Councillor Katia David ( Mr David Nowell was unsuccessful)</b>
<b>1137</b>	<b>Valentine Poole Charity</b>	<b>Councillor Olwen Evans</b>

**134. REPORTS EXEMPTED FROM THE CALL – IN PROCESS (Report of the Democratic Services Manager – Agenda Item 15.2.4)**

The Council were informed that the following item had been exempted from the call – in process because the Chairman of the Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee had agreed that the action proposed was reasonable in the circumstances and that the matter could be treated as urgent.

**Report of the Cabinet Members for Regeneration, Resources and the Leader: Hawfinch, 1 and 3 Harriett and adjacent garages, Grahame Park Estate.**

The Cabinet Members approved a further variant of the terms of the freehold disposal of the above properties and the adjacent garages to Choices for Grahame Park (Choices) for a first phase redevelopment project to ensure that the scheme proceeded at the earliest opportunity.

There was an urgent need to complete the transfer of the Premises to Choices so that demolition and clearance of the existing vacant buildings could be undertaken at the earliest opportunity. On occasions the property had been used by squatters and it had taken time and expense to remove them. The demolition of the property would remove the constant risk of squatters.

**135. JOINT HEALTH AND OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: HEALTHY HOSPITALS (Report of the Democratic Services Manager – Agenda Item 15.2.5):**

Nominations for Substitute Members were moved in the names of Councillor Joan Scannell and Councillor Danish Chopra

**RESOLVED -**

**(1) That the Council's minuted decision of 16 July, 2004, be corrected to refer to the Council's appointments to the Joint Healthy Hospital Overview and Scrutiny Committee, being three members which reflect the proportionality arrangements, namely, two members from the Conservative group and one from the Labour group.**

**(2) That Council note that their current appointments to this Overview and Scrutiny Committee are Councillors Helena Hart, Maureen Braun and Gill Sergeant.**

**(3) That the Council appoint Councillors Andrew Harper and Councillor Anne Hutton to serve as their substitutes, which will become operational once the Joint Committee adopt their amended terms of reference.**

**136. REPRESENTATION OF THE COUNCIL ON THE TOTTERIDGE MANOR ASSOCIATION (Report of the Democratic Services Manager – Agenda Item 15.2.6):**

**RESOLVED - That Council approve the replacement of Mr Kevin Edson and Mr Gordon Dixon with Councillor Brian Coleman and Mr Richard Cornelius as the Council's representatives on Totteridge Manor Association.**

**137. APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND A CHAIRMAN AND VICE – CHAIRMAN FOR EACH STANDING COMMITTEE (Report of the Democratic Services Manager – Agenda Item 15.2.7 and 10):**

Councillor Joan Scannell moved an amendment which proposed an alternative model. On being put to the vote the amendment was carried.

**RESOLVED –**

**(1) That on the basis that the Council is made up of 62 members comprising three political groups (Conservative 31 members, Labour 24 members, Liberal Democrat 7 members) the Council, the Council achieve political balance on the basis set out in Appendix A to these Decisions.**

**(2) That the membership of the Committees referred to in (1) above be as set out in Appendix B to these Decisions.**

**(3) That the Licensing Committee comprise 14 seats (7 Conservative), 6 Labour and Liberal Democrat) and the membership be as set out in Appendices to these Decisions.**

**(4) That the Special Committee to deal with the Constitution comprise 8 seats (4 Conservative, 3 Labour and 1 Liberal Democrat) and the membership be as set out in Appendix D to these decisions.**

**138. COMMENTS RELATING TO THE WORK OF CABINET (Agenda item 10 and 15.2.8):**

**Councillor Wayne Casey Commented**



.....yes, very close to a Parking Control Officer, they were wrong, they were mistaken, they thought they could park properly, they were parking properly, but they weren't. They were parked close to a Parking Control Officer. Under none of those circumstances did the Parking Control Officer approach them and say, actually you're parked illegally, you'll have to move on. They didn't, they let the motorist park, they let the motorist go away and then they issued a fine.

Mr Mayor, do you think that the Cabinet Member would agree with me that actually it might be better to explain to our Parking Control Officers that where they can, and its not always practically possible, but where they can, they should advise motorists when they're parking illegally. I don't expect them to be obliged to do that on every occasion. I don't expect that to be, you know, sort of, an absolute rule but only in those circumstances where its possible. Thank you Mr Mayor.

**(NOTE : Due to a technical hitch the first part of Councillor Casey's comment was not picked up by the tape recorder.)**

#### **Councillor Matthew Offord Responded**

Thank you Councillor Casey. This is a very sensible question and I thank you for that.

Parking attendants do actually do that. Obviously you've given us an example and I'm sure there are other situations where parking attendants could give their examples of where they've done that, but we do that as I said. We do run a service where we ask for people, members of the public, not to congest the roads and also not to park in a dangerous way, and that is the basis of our parking policy.

I think its been made very clear through our revised parking policy which recently went through Cabinet and which I do hasten to add wasn't called into the Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee as I could see there was so much support for those proposals, but one of the roles and responsibilities of the parking attendants is to do exactly as he says. If he has any particular examples, I'd be happy if he wants to send them to me, out of the confines of the political chamber and I can forward them from there.

#### **Councillor Steven Blomer Commented**

Quite straightforward this one. Hopefully it won't be difficult at all.

We all know there are problems, hope we all know there are real problems of anti-social behaviour at Moat Mountain Scratchwood Open Space. Its not just one type of anti-social behaviour. There's three or four different types up there which are quite unpleasant for families going up there during the summer months.

I know its difficult to sort this problem out but can we somehow get some sort of response as to what we're going to do about it because at the moment for families its turned into a no go area in certain parts. The picnic area, families this summer in particular were really concerned about going up there with the

young children. Is there anything we can do to try and ease the problem during daylight hours at least?

**Councillor Matthew Offord Responded**

No it's actually mine Mr Mayor.

Councillor Blomer, your Ward colleague, both of your Ward colleagues have actually asked me this question in the past and I respond in the same way as I will do tonight.

One of the options we have open to us will be to lock the car park for example. Now a visit for each time that occurred would be about £15, about £30 a day, which would be about £10,000 a year. People visiting that particular car park late night to engage in activities which, once again, you haven't actually specified what is occurring there. You mentioned four types of activity. I don't know what they are? So I don't believe locking the car park...well obviously people have been up there, I haven't, but locking the car park won't work. Secondly, we have actually cut back the hedges up there so there are site lines from the A1, and finally we are looking at reducing the size of the car park. So there's at least two positive measures which I hope you can take back.

**Councillor Ansuya Sodha**

My comment on this is the full dog poo bins that we find in West Hendon parks all time. I had so many complaints in the summer and I was given an undertaking that they would be emptied on a regular basis. Well I was given an assurance that those bins would be emptied every week and this is not happening, they are not. You still see them all the time and what people in my Ward come and ask me is that when they walk down Hampstead Garden Suburb and places like that they don't actually see the mess in the park. This is a hazard to children playing in the park, to adults who go for a walk and it is very very unhygienic and I want this Tory Administration to do something about West Hendon. Please recognise that the people in West Hendon pay the same kind of Council Tax as anybody else and I want to see everything cleared up in West Hendon, Also in the contracts do you have penalties when the contractors don't clean up the mess that there is, that they're supposed to clean every week? Because every time we are told, oh well we've given the contracts, you know, what more do you expect us to do. Well we expect you to follow all that up and put some kind of penalties if they don't empty the bins. They were there two weeks ago, all those bins bulging and full of all the rubbish and everything else. Very dangerous, you know. They cause all kinds of disease that's not suitable for a country like this. I think it's about time that Administration cleared it up and people, you know, ask me that this borough is like a tale of two cities. You walk in Hampstead Garden Suburb, you see it all clean. You go to West Hendon and you see all this mess. We're not prepared to tolerate this kind of thing anymore.

**Councillor Matthew Offord Responded**

I think it's only appropriate tonight Mr Mayor that Councillor Sodha's performance ends upon this issue.

She's asked me this question on two previous occasions. On Full Council on 13 September 2005 and 8 November 2005, and I've clearly answered the points that she has raised. I refer her back to those answers.

**Councillor Duncan Macdonald Commented**

The Conservative candidate in the recent by-election claimed that The Bull had been saved for 'community use'. The text to the article which one Conservative Councillor has described as amateurish states, and I quote, "the Conservative Council is looking at the possibility of renting the site to the current user while a more permanent community use is explored". What is the current position on the lease on The Bull? Why can't Suzie Earnshaw be granted a lease now? And above all, if The Bull has been saved for community use, what community use is that precisely? If you cannot answer the last question, was the assertion The Bull had been saved for community use no more than a deliberate attempt to deceive the Electorate?

**Councillor Anthony Finn Responded**

I know it's late Leader, sorry Mr Mayor.

Councillor Macdonald I'm afraid is a bit out of date. The Suzie Earnshaw Theatre School has a tenancy at will and the officers have been instructed to grant her a lease. They will need to follow various procedures and processes but that is already in hand.

The meeting finished at 10:45pm

## Appendix A

<b>Committee</b>	<b>No of members</b>	<b>Cons</b>	<b>Lab</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>
<b>Cab O and S Members</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Resources, Performance and Partnerships O and S Cttee Members</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>First Class Education and Children O and S Cttee Members</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Cleaner, Greener O and S Cttee Members</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Supporting the Vulnerable in our Community O and S Cttee Members</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Tackling Crime and Housing O and S Cttee Members</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>General Functions Cttee Members</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>P and E Cttee Members</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Appeal Cttee<sup>1</sup> Members</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Audit</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Political balance</b>		<b>40 (40)</b>	<b>31 (30.96)</b>	<b>9 (9.03)</b>

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2005/2006**

**Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee (10 seats)**

(Note: membership to consist of 10 non-Cabinet Councillors)

Chairman Wendy Prentice  
Vice - Helena Hart  
Chairman  
3 Andrew Harper  
4 Daniel Hope  
5 Maureen Braun  
6 Alan Schneiderman  
7 Alison Moore  
8 Danish Chopra  
9 Barry Rawlings  
10 Jack Cohen

**Substitutes**

(Note: 2 for each political group)

Peter Davis	Jim Tierney	Monroe Palmer
Leslie Sussman	Kath McGuirk	Wayne Casey

**Resources, Performance and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

(Note: membership to consist of 6\*\* Non-Cabinet Councillors)

Chairman Peter Davis  
Vice - Leslie Sussman  
Chairman  
3. Susan Steinberg  
4. David Mencer  
5. Ansuya Sodha  
6. Wayne Casey

**Substitutes**

(Note: 2 for each political group)

Andrew Harper	Soon-Hoe Teh	Jeremy Davies
Brian Coleman	Danish Chopra	Monroe Palmer

**First Class Education and Children Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

(Note: membership to consist of 6\*\* Non-Cabinet Councillors)

Chairman Andrew Harper  
Vice - Jazmin Naghar  
Chairman

3. Gerard Silverstone
4. Anne Hutton
5. Agnes Slocombe
6. Duncan Macdonald

3 voting voluntary-aided school representatives

2 voting parent governor representatives

Substitutes

(Note: 2 for each political group)

Susan Steinberg	Barry Rawlings	Jack Cohen
Vacancy	Alan Schneiderman	Susette Palmer

**Cleaner, Greener, Transport and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

(Note: membership to consist of 6\*Non-Cabinet Councillors)

- Chairman Olwen Evans  
 Vice - Andrew Harper  
 Chairman  
 3. Wendy Prentice  
 4. Jim Tierney  
 5. Colin Rogers  
 6. Jeremy Davies

Substitutes

(Note: 2 for each political group)

Maureen Braun	Agnes Slocombe	Jack Cohen
Malcolm Lester	Kath McGuirk	Duncan Macdonald

**Supporting the Vulnerable in our Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee (6 seats)**

(Note: membership to consist of 6\*\* Non-Cabinet Councillors)

- Chairman Helena Hart  
 Vice - Maureen Braun  
 Chairman  
 3. Wendy Prentice  
 4. Linda McFadyen  
 5. Zakia Zubairi  
 6. Paul Rogers

Substitutes

(Note: 2 for each political group)

Jazmin Naghar	Arun Ghosh
Robert Newton	Mark Langton

**Tackling Crime and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

(Note: membership to consist of 6\*\* Non-Cabinet Councillors)

- Chairman Brian Gordon  
 Vice - Terry Burton

Chairman

- 3 Malcolm Lester
- 4 Anita Campbell
- 5 Gill Sargeant
- 6 Sean Hooker

Substitutes

(Note: 1 for each political group)

Jazmin Naghar                      Alan Schneiderman      Susette Palmer  
Daniel Hope                      Allan Turner              Jack Cohen

2 non – voting co-opted tenant representatives appointed by Barnet Housing

**Audit Committee (7 seats)**

(Note: membership to consist of 7 Non-Cabinet Councillors)

Chairman      Wayne Casey

Vice -          Brian Coleman

Chairman

- 3. Daniel Hope
- 4. Leslie Sussman
- 5. Claire Farrier
- 6. Mark Langton
- 7. Agnes Slocombe

Substitutes

(Note: 2 for each political group)

Malcolm Lester                      Ansuya Sodha                      Monroe Palmer  
Terry Burton                      Danish Chopra                      Jeremy Davies

**General Functions Committee (6 seats)**

Chairman      Joan Scannell

Vice -          Brian Salinger

Chairman

- 3 Lynne Hillan
- 4 Steve Blomer
- 5 Soon – Hoe Teh
- 6 Jeremy Davies

Substitutes

(Note: 2 for each political group)

Wendy Prentice                      Kath McGuirk                      Jack Cohen  
Robert Newton                      Kitty Lyons                      Monroe Palmer

**Planning and Environment Committee (21 seats)**

(Note: 21 Members of the Council) –

Chairman      Conservative (11)

Vice -          Peter Davis

Chairman

- Eva Greenspan
- 3 Olwen Evans
- 4 Victor Lyon
- 5 Daniel Hope
- 6 Gerard Silverstone
- 7 Melvin Cohen

8 Maureen Braun  
 9 Malcolm Lester  
 10 Wendy Prentice  
 11 John Marshall  
 12 Jim Tierney  
 13 Agnes Slocombe  
 14 Claire Farrier  
 15 Gill Sargeant  
 16 Barry Rawlings  
 17 Phil Yeoman  
 18 Steve Blomer  
 19 Mark Langton  
 20 Jack Cohen  
 21 Jeremy Davies

Substitutes

(Note: One for each ward)

1	Fiona Bulmer	Allan Turner	Monroe Palmer
2	Leslie Sussman	Zakia Zubairi	Sean Hooker
3	Terry Burton	Paul Rogers	
4	Brian Coleman	Colin Rogers	
5	Andreas Tambourides	David Mencer	
6	Robert Newton	Kitty Lyons	
7	Chris Harris	Ansuya Sodha	
8	Matthew Offord	Alan Schneiderman	
9	Helena Hart		
10	Katia David		
11	Andrew Harper		

**Appeals Committee 1 (6 seats)**

Chairman Terry Burton  
 Vice - Wendy Prentice  
 Chairman  
 3 Victor Lyon  
 4 - 6 No Nominations  
 submitted

Substitutes (2 for each political group)

Maureen Braun Leslie Sussman 2 vacancies



## Appendix C

### Licensing Committee (14 Members of the Council)

Chairman	Brian Coleman
Vice - Chairman	Eva Greenspan
3	Maureen Braun
4	Wendy Prentice
5	Olwen Evans
6	Terry Burton
7	Joan Scannell
8	Steve Blomer
9	Claire Farrier
10	Agnes Slocombe
11	Soon – Hoe Teh
12	Jim Tierney
13	Ansuya Sodha
14	Susette Palmer

## Appendix D

### Special Committee to deal with Constitution (8 seats)

Chairman Mike Freer  
Vice - Brian Salinger  
Chairman  
3 Joan Scannell  
4 Daniel Hope  
5. NO nominations  
submitted  
6 NO nominations  
submitted  
7 NO nominations  
submitted  
8 Jack Cohen

#### Substitutes

(Note: 2 for each political group)

Melvin Cohen	Monroe Palmer	2 vacancies
Eva Greenspan	Jeremy Davies	

**Council Questions to Cabinet Members  
20 December 2005  
Questions and Responses**

**Question No. 1**

**Councillor Brian Gordon**

As you are aware, a number of Opposition Members of this Council recently voted against CCTV cameras in key areas of the Borough. How should members of the public interpret this as an indication of the policy of those Opposition Members towards CCTV if they were to regain control of this Council?

**Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord**

As has been identified from the recent resident survey results - crime is once again at the top of the list of residents concerns – and this Administration is listening by installing measures that can assist in reducing crime and the fear of crime in the borough – such as CCTV cameras.

I can't say how other people should interpret the actions of councillors who say one thing but then vote another way in the council chamber. From my own point of view that simply perpetuates increasing cynicism in the public. Fundamentally, if councillors vote against something then do they not want it and in that recent vote it showed that both the Liberal Democrats and Labour do not place any emphasis or priority on CCTV or crime reduction in the borough.

**Supplementary Question No. 1**

**Councillor Brian Gordon**

Councillor Offord, could you please confirm that the Council will continue to install CCTV cameras in all those parts of the Borough which are considered to be dangerous from the point of view of crime and vandalism? All areas.

**Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord**

Of course Councillor Gordon. You know that I would do that. As you can see in our recent performance over the last three and a half years of being in this Administration, we have had a programme of CCTV implementation. We have exceeded our quota of what we intended to produce and, unlike some of the Members from different political parties, whom I'm not going to embarrass, who said that they wanted CCTV in their areas and then when it came to this Council Chamber they voted against. We know who they are and I'm sure come May we can tell everyone else who they are as well.

**Question No. 2****Councillor Sean Hooker**

In respect of the Stonegrove/Spur Road Regeneration project, how much of the Council Taxpayers' money has hitherto been incurred by way of Officers' time and external costs, and in addition committed by way of underwriting agreements, since December 2001; and how much further is budgeted or expected to be incurred before final decisions and agreements are reached for a scheme or schemes to commence?

**Answer by Councillor Anthony Finn**

Funding for internal (officer) and external costs is from the Housing Revenue Account, and from a small housing capital programme allocation. Work on the regeneration of Stonegrove & Spur Road estates does not come from the General Fund or from Council Taxpayers' money. The total spent to date and projected to the end of the financial year is £808,000. Budget-planning for the coming financial year is currently underway.

Cabinet Resources Committee has authorised the purchase of a limited number of leasehold properties on the estates where the owners are experiencing hardship and are unable to sell, and for the purchase of leasehold homes to enable decanting of the first blocks to be reprovided. These costs will again be met by housing capital funds, or if required through Prudential Borrowing, and would subsequently be recovered from the regeneration project as it proceeds.

The Council entered into an underwriting agreement which could result in the payment of up to £1.28 million were the project not to go ahead. In such circumstances this cost would be met from the land assets available on the site, or from the Housing Revenue Account.

**Supplementary Question No. 2****Councillor Sean Hooker**

Thank you Mr Mayor. Is the Member satisfied that this is an appropriate use of public funds and could it not have been done at a much lesser cost to the Council?

**Answer by Councillor Anthony Finn**

The answer to the first question is yes. The answer to the second question is no.

**Question No. 3****Councillor Ansuya Sodha**

What is the current waiting time for elderly and disabled people needing adaptations to their homes?

**Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer**

Waiting times vary according to the nature of the property and the adaptation required. Significant additional resources have been provided to Barnet Homes to meet increasing demand for adaptations. They expect to spend £930,000 in 2005/6 on adaptations and to date have carried out 150 major works and 400 minor works. Private sector tenants and home owners may be entitled to disabled facilities grant. As a result of a reduction in the funding provided by the office of the deputy prime minister it has been necessary to defer some grant payments.

**Supplementary Question No. 3****Councillor Ansuya Sodha**

Thank you Mr Mayor. The waiting time is at least three months because the Administration refuses to invest any more money. How is it acceptable for my residents to be told, he may have to wait until July before getting the adaptation to his home that he so desperately needs? He cannot have a shower as and when he needs and he has to wait till July to get that fitted. Do you think this is acceptable? Would you like to be in that situation?

**Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer**

Yet again I can't comment on the individual case but the reality is that Barnet Homes is spending almost a million pounds this year on adaptations to people's homes. The budget is not and never can be infinite and therefore there can sometimes be a waiting list, but I think by any standards a million pounds investment on aids and adaptations is a significant investment and is making a huge difference to vulnerable people across this Borough.

**Question No. 4****Councillor Brian Coleman**

When does Cllr Finn expect any of the following to happen with regard to the Stonegrove/Spur Road Regeneration scheme, a) any further planning applications are heard, b) signing or agreeing any 106 agreements or other legal agreements, c) allowing or agreeing to the demolition of the Spur Road Community centre and garages in Green Lane, Edgware and d) signing or agreeing to the sale of any land in the area of the regeneration site?

**Answer by Councillor Anthony Finn**

a) The next planning application - a detailed application for the first phase - has been lodged with the planning authority. It will be considered by the Planning and Environment Committee early in the new year.

b) It is not known when any Section 106 agreements will be signed. The consent for the outline application approved by Members in September 2004 has not yet been issued as the applicants have not yet agreed the Section 106 that will be required.

c) Cabinet Resources Committee agreed on 29th March 2005 to the sale of the garage and community hall site to Family Housing Association for the construction of 62 new affordable homes. Steps have been taken to acquire a temporary community hall pending the development of a new permanent hall in the regeneration of the estates.

d) Cabinet Resources Committee agreed to the sale of land to Family Housing Association, see answer above, on March 29th 2005. On the conclusion of satisfactory terms this sale will be completed in the new year. With the exception of some right -to buy applications, no further sales are planned at this stage in the regeneration area.

**Supplementary Question No. 4**

**Councillor Brian Coleman**

Mr Mayor, will Councillor Finn accept that even the limited development which has been given permission for 65 units, 62 units on the site of the community centre is overdense, and he will take steps at this stage to go back and address this whole scheme which is desperately unpopular with Edgware residents?

**Answer by Councillor Anthony Finn**

Thank you Councillor Coleman and a happy new year to you too. May I take this opportunity of congratulating you on your campaign for waste paper baskets in City Hall. I've heard a rumour said that Ken Livingstone will give you special dispensation to have a waste paper basket provided you make good use of it.

The point is, Councillor Coleman, the scheme is good, and the scheme will be even better when we complete the process which is going on. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised by the developments which are taking place and I think if you view this with an open mind you'll find that people will like it and think that it is a good thing.

**Question No. 5**

**Councillor Wayne Casey**

Further to my question (no 23) which was answered at the November meeting of the Council has the Land Registry search now been undertaken and if so what further action has been taken/is proposed?

**Answer by Councillor John Marshall**

The Land Registry search confirms that the alleyway belongs to property numbers 159-177. It is proposed that a letter is sent to the occupiers of these properties to explain that the responsibility of the alleyway lies with the owners of the same.

**Question No. 6**

**Councillor Mark Langton**

Does the Administration believe there is a need for more youth and community centres around the borough to provide services particularly to lower income communities, and if so, how is the Council going to achieve this?

**Answer by Councillor John Marshall**

Barnet foreshadowed the Green Paper by amalgamating the Youth Service with connexions. I am glad that the government has indicated that it will learn from the Barnet experiment and is thinking along the same lines. We now have 34 youth workers working directly with young people including 6.5 detached youth workers. We have revamped specialist projects such as the Finchley Youth Theatre, the Rithmik Project. I am pleased to be able to confirm that Watling football engages more young people than any other youth provision in the borough. Although we had to close the Herbert Wilmott Centre because it was unsafe and had been neglected when Labour and the Liberals ran the Council other youth centres are thriving. In addition the work done at Herbert Wilmott is being undertaken elsewhere. One of the keys to the future is to use Council assets more effectively for example through extended schools.

**Supplementary Question No. 6**

**Councillor Mark Langton**

The Cabinet Member's written answer refers to the extension of school hours. Will he undertake to look at the need for a youth club or youth centre in the Woodhouse and Compton School area to help tackle anti-social behaviour.

**Answer by Councillor John Marshall**

Mr Mayor, I know that there are a number of functions held at the Compton School out of school hours and of course I'm sure that the Headteacher will look at any positive proposals coming from Councillor Langton or either of his Ward colleagues. But can I say, as one who lives in the Woodhouse Ward, I'm very impressed indeed by the behaviour of the children who go to the Compton School. They're a tribute to the School and a tribute to this Borough.

**Question No. 7**

**Councillor Brian Coleman**

Can Councillor Offord tell the Council of what progress Transport for London have made in improving the environment around New Southgate Station and in particular the desperate need for CCTV and better lighting to enhance passenger safety?

**Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord**

Not a great deal of improvement but TfL have now approved funding to appoint consultants to identify an initial list of station access schemes within the North London Transport forum area and to work up scheme justifications based on guidance they themselves have issued including identifying priorities.

**Supplementary Question No. 7**

**Councillor Brian Coleman**

Can Councillor Offord tell us what efforts he will be making to bring pressure on Transport for London to do something about the disgrace that is New Southgate station?

**Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord**

I am more than happy to write to them myself. I feel that Transport for London are not only bureaucracy mad but as has already been quoted in the paper today, they really don't take into consideration the people that pay their bills. But also I would call upon his good offices to see what pressure he can bear upon TfL.

**Question No. 8**

**Councillor Kathy McGuirk**

What tonnage of paving stones/slabs has been removed - as part of the road and pavement resurfacing and repairs - from the Borough's roads in 2004/5 and so far in 2005/6; how much of this has been re-used/recycled and how much has gone to landfill?

**Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord**

All recyclable materials taken from Barnet footways are taken to Camden Plant Ltd for recycling. Recycled materials is return as Type 1 crushed concrete, throughout London. As the operations involved in planned maintenance involve very little general excavation there is little contamination with clay, hence the great majority of both the concrete slabs and asphalt footpaths is recycled.

The high figure of recycled concrete slabs this financial year is the result of replacing some 8000 m2 of existing modular slabs with new 63mm slabs at North Finchley/Tally Ho.



<b>Areas of material recycled</b>	<b>2004/05</b>	<b>2005/06</b>
Asphalt (Average thickness 85mm)	9240 sq.m (1700tns)	5256 sq.m (967tns)
ASP (Concrete slabs) (1670tns)	3208 sq.m (442tns)	12143 sq.m

All planings from carriageway maintenance are recycled by the industry and the typical use for this material is as secondary aggregates and mixed with virgin stone to provide Type 1 specified sub-bases. It is used in road construction for lower levels of road construction capping layers.

<b>Volume of material recycled</b>	<b>2004/05</b>	<b>2005/06</b>
Asphalt (planings)	70,167 tonnes	45,920 tonnes
Area of road surface involved	754,286 sq.m	492,000 sq.m

**Supplementary Question No. 8**

**Councillor Kathy McGuirk**

Thank you for your answer. Your answer gives the impression that none of the slabs or asphalt goes to landfill. Could you confirm that this is the case but if some does go to landfill could you also write to me with the tonnage of last year and this year?

**Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord**

I will be happy to do so.

**Question No. 9**

**Councillor Brian Coleman**

Has Councillor Freer considered how exempt information from the Cabinet Resources Committee meeting concerning South Friern Library has appeared in the Finchley & Hendon Times?

**Comment by Councillor Mike Freer ( Reply given orally at the meeting with the agreement of the Mayor)**

Thank you Mr Mayor. There was no written answer because at the very last stages I was still talking to the Borough Solicitor as to what I could and couldn't say. All I could advise Councillor Coleman is that the Borough Solicitor has investigated, what I perceive to be, a leak of confidential information published in the exempt report to Cabinet Resources Committee, and I am assured that it was a coincidence that there was a quote of exempt information alongside the picture of a serving councillor, I am reassured it was a simply a coincidence.

**Question No. 10**

**Councillor Colin Rogers**

According to the local newspapers, the Council has employed consultants to value six hectares of playing fields at between £35million and £50million for a potential sale value. Why has the Council not likewise carried out a public consultation exercise to ask the views of the residents living in the vicinity of the fields who will be most affected by such a sale - particularly those living in already high population density areas, suffering from a lack of recreational facilities and heavy pressure on roads, parking and public transport infrastructure?

**Answer by Councillor John Marshall**

The use of outside consultants was necessary to ensure that our proposals were soundly based. However, there will be considerable consultation . There is initial informal consultation. The Chief Education Officer has already consulted individually with heads. I have visited three of the Phase One schools and will be visiting others. The feedback I have received from heads is almost uniformly VERY FAVOURABLE. Following this informal consultation there will be statutory consultation with governors, staff teachers and the wider community.

Finally there will be consultation with the affected communities when planning applications are received.

Meanwhile Councillor Rogers might consult with his Ward colleague Councillor Moore and ask her why the previous administration had no proposals to improve the state of our primary schools despite her having been the education supremo. I am seeking to correct her neglect of our schools.”

**Supplementary Question No. 10**

**Councillor Colin Rogers**

I have a supplementary for you then Mr Marshall, somewhere. I think this should be looked into. I think apart from a lack of meaningful consultation, what really annoys residents of the the Borough is when a Member of the Council try to mislead residents. Such as when the Leader insists that East Finchley is underdeveloped for housing purposes because in his misleading calculations he included the land of some of East Finchley’s quieter residents. The inhabitants of our three cemeteries.

**Answer by Councillor John Marshall**

I'm amazed that Councillor Rogers can use a question on the magnificent programme for modernising our primary school to introduce an attack upon the Leader of this Council. When he's talking about primary schools, he should go to his Ward colleague and ask her why when she was educational supremo of this Council she ignored the plight of this school.

**Question No. 11****Councillor Brian Coleman**

Is it correct that the Royal British Legion were banned from selling Poppies in our Libraries?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council**

Libraries are approached very frequently to collect for charities. The historic position (over many years) has been that there are no collection boxes in any library, for two reasons. First and foremost, because there seems no objective way to select those causes which are supported and those which are not. To open this facility to all comers would result in library counters with several collection boxes each week. Second, because of concern about the security of the boxes which could not be kept under scrutiny continually and which might, therefore, be stolen. Libraries are pleased to promote charities through displays of posters and leaflets.

**Supplementary Question No. 11****Councillor Brian Coleman**

Mr Mayor, unfortunately I consider the answer given to question eleven is an officer written bureaucratic load of old twaddle, as even the Mayor of London manages to sell poppies in the foyer of City Hall. Will the Leader reconsider the answer?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council**

Mr Mayor, I will reconsider it. I have to admit I was slightly surprised but having had it explained to me I can understand it, but we will look at it again. But I hope that the Member will understand the constraints that the libraries have to work on.

**Question No. 12****Councillor Claire Farrier**

The Council Leader was reported in the local newspapers saying that Montrose Park is the only possible location within the borough to build a new stadium for Barnet Football Club. Could the Council Leader publish in full the review of all possible sites in the borough (conducted for the Inspector's Inquiry) as evidence for the claim that Montrose Park is the only possible site for Barnet Football Club?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council**

<b>SIZE CONSTRAINT</b>	
Allotments adj. Great North Road	Too narrow to accommodate stadium
St. Stephens	Less than 2 Hectares
Hendon Football Club	Less than 2 Hectares
Hendon College, Grahame Park Way	Less than 2 Hectares
Cricklewood Sidings	Constricted/Prohibitive Site Cost
<b>DEVELOPED/UNDER CONTRACT</b>	
Friern Hospital	Developed/Under Contract
RAF East Camp	Developed/Under Contract
Inglis Barracks	Developed/Under contract
Broadfield Avenue	Developed/Under Contract
Mill Hill Gas Works	Developed/Under Contract
Edgware Bus Station	Developed/Under contract
Land South of Tilling Road	Developed/Under contract
Arlington Road Playing Fields	Developed/Under Contract

<b>GREEN BELT / MOL</b>	
Bethune Recreation Ground	MOL
Glebe Lands Open Space	MOL
West Hendon Playing Fields	MOL
Allotments/Tudor Sports Ground	MOL
North Middlesex Golf Club	MOL
Lyttleton Playing Fields	MOL & Article 4 & Cons Area
Sunny Hill Park	MOL
Clitterhouse Recreation Ground	MOL
Hendon Park	MOL
Borehamwood Football Club	Open Land Area (Hertsmere MOL).
Land adj. New Southgate Cemetery	MOL
Oakhill Park	MOL
Wingate & Finchley FC, Summers L	MOL
Memorial Sports Centre	Green Belt
Land Opposite Edgware School	Green Belt
Mill Hill Park	Green Belt
South King Georges Field, Barnet	Green Belt
Land North of Mill Hill Ridge	Green Belt
Finchley Golf Course	Green Belt
Barnet Copthall Golf Course	Green Belt
Land Opposite Edgwarebury Golf	Green Belt

<b>REMAINING SITE COMMENT</b>	
North London Business Park	Comer Group Land Poor public transport links
Woodcroft Park	Site may be too small to fit stadium Large land drain and slopes through centre of site Close to station
Allotments – Squires lane	Would involve loss of probably all the allotments (over 2Ha) at one of the Borough's largest allotment sites
Athletics Ground, Cricklewood	Close to Public transport On Borough boundary next to Hampstead Cemetery (Camden LB) which has planning policy protection. Site sensitive to high buildings No other nearby playing fields (1 mile radius) so loss of athletic ground likely to be strongly resisted
Montrose Playing Field	See Briefing Note
Met Police Ground –Aerodrome	Good Public Transport Few Planning Constraints Owner unwilling to sell land

Watling Park	In area of open space deficiency Criss-crossed with paths and old trees Stadium would use up almost all of park and playing field
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**Supplementary Question No. 12**

**Councillor Claire Farrier**

I'm grateful to the Council Leader for publishing this schedule considering the amount of time and effort that this must have taken to put together as well as a feasibility study on the use of Montrose Park as a site of Barnet Football Club.

Could he also give me details on any consultation that took place to inform this feasibility study, as both a resident and Councillor of Burnt Oak Ward I was not consulted and I'm not aware that any other Burnt Oak residents were consulted on the loss of the largest area of open space in the most densely populated Ward in the Borough.

**Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council**

Mr Mayor, we're coming on to debate Barnet Football Club and I'm sure this will come in at that time but I'll very happily deal with that now.

At the moment it is just an idea. Until the Football Club responds positively and expresses an interest in taking it further there really isn't anything in which we can consult with the residents of Burnt Oak and Colindale. Although I must say I was delighted to read in the paper the report the Burnt Oak Traders Association were enthusiastic about it and I can understand why they should be. I think it's a very good idea and we shall wait and see how the Club respond to it in due course.

**Question No. 13**

**Councillor Maureen Braun**

When is the APA expected?

**Answer by Councillor John Marshall**

I am delighted that the results of the APA have now been published. This demonstrates very real progress by both Children's social services and the education service since 2002 - progress for which she helped to lay the foundations when she was a member of the Cabinet. Education is the escalator of opportunity which should offer all our children chance to maximise their talents. The APA demonstrates that the future for Barnet children is rosy under this Administration.

**Supplementary Question No. 13****Councillor Maureen Braun**

Would the Cabinet Member agree that this demonstrates the huge progress made since 2002?

**Answer by Councillor John Marshall**

Mr Mayor, I'm tempted just to say yes, but then brevity is not always the spice of wit. I think we have to recognise that in 2002 both the Education Service and the Children's Service of this Borough were in a dire straight. We have to thank Councillor Lynn Hillan and Vanessa Gearson for laying the foundations which have allowed those two services to get such a good rating. The children of this Borough are the future of our country and I'm glad that we're able to produce such a good APA as we had this year and I'm pleased that Barnet now has only one school in special measures. One of the best performances of any local education authority in the whole of London.

**Question No. 14****Councillor Ansuya Sodha**

What is the Council doing to ensure there is at least one black or ethnic minority staff member of the Directors' Group or Management Board?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council**

The Council appoints staff on the basis of merit not colour, and whilst I am Leader of the Council that will not change.

**Supplementary Question No. 14****Councillor Ansuya Sodha**

Mr Mayor, can I first thank Councillor David for her work on human resources over the past four years and wish her well in the future.

Now turning to my supplementary. One in four staff and residents in Barnet are from ethnic minorities yet we do not have a single Director or Head of Service despite the fact that there are many highly talented ethnic minority staff who work for this Council and throughout local government. What is the Council doing to promote excellent staff who happen to be from ethnic minority background? My question again following on from this, your Leader, your new Leader, that Leader from Notting Hill, goes around telling everybody he wants his Party to reflect the population of Britain. He wants minority ethnic people in his Party. Do you think he's just doing that to pay lip service and like you, you lot, you have no commitment whatsoever to minority ethnic people.

**Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council**

Mr Mayor, there is a total commitment from this Council to the rights of all people in this Council and I stress again that the members of staff, anyone, is free to apply for jobs. They will all be considered on all equal basis and staff will be appointed on merit and not on colour. That will not change whilst I am Leader of this Council. Can I say that Councillor Sodha took the opportunity at an exceedingly well attended Diwali, the time when we were making some totally apolitical comments to staff ,to voice her views on this, much to the embarrassment of the organisers of the event who apologised for her afterwards.

**Question No. 15**

**Councillor Leslie Sussman**

Can the Cabinet Member for Education comment on the success of Bishop Douglass School coming out of special measures?

**Answer by Councillor John Marshall**

I am delighted that Bishop Douglass has come out of Special Measures. I forecast at a recent Council Meeting that here would be no secondary schools in Special measures by Easter. The fact that this promise was fulfilled earlier is due to the hard work and commitment of the Headteacher and her staff. I am sure that the whole Council would like to join me in thanking them

**Question No. 16**

**Councillor Mark Langton**

Will the Council undertake a review of how best to use and locate community and youth facilities in and around communities that experience higher levels of anti-social behaviour, and how will Scrutiny and Ward councillors be involved in such a review?

**Answer by Councillor John Marshall**

I am always willing to consult with local councillors although I am sorry that there will not be many further opportunities to consult with Councillor Langton. I wish him well as he leaves the Council. I am glad that he talks about 'community and youth facilities' as they will often be quite distinct from 'youth centres'. In his Ward, the Hollywood Bowl complex is a youth facility which the Council gave planning permission despite the opposition of Labour Councillors. It is very popular with young people and demonstrates the fact that not all facilities have to be publicly provided. What a pity that his friends were at best lukewarm supporters of this facility.



**Supplementary Question No. 16****Councillor Mark Langton**

Thank you Mr Mayor. If the Cabinet Member is not going to undertake a review, would he consider adopting an evidence-based approach to planning, youth and community facilities and youth clubs that actually looks at the levels of anti-social behaviour around the Borough? As an example, it would be possible for the council to conduct a comparative study as to the impact of the Burnt Oak Leisure Centre on anti-social behaviour, as stated in your answer.

**Answer by Councillor John Marshall**

Well of course Mr Mayor we are always willing to have consultation and to look at what is going on but I do think and I'm rather tired of the way Opposition Members have been criticising the Youth Service. At the last Council meeting, Councillor Susette Palmer asked me a factual question and the answer which, all councillors would like to know, is that in the year 2005 we have 34 full-time equivalents with 1.5 vacancies, we've got 32.5 full-time equivalent youth workers and in 2002 when the Labour Party were in control of the Council we had 15.5. So we've got twice as many now as we had then so I think that is the sort of progress of which I am proud, this council is proud and I'm sorry that the Opposition continues to criticise us.

**Question No. 17****Councillor Ansuya Sodha**

How is the Council planning to celebrate International Women's Day in March?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council**

The Council has no current plans to mark this event which falls on March 8<sup>th</sup> 2006 and has not done so in previous years. We open to suggestions from other members who would like to contribute to marking International Women's Day.

**Supplementary Question No. 17****Councillor Ansuya Sodha**

I have got a supplementary Mr Mayor please.

There are so many projects that council could support to raise awareness of women issues. There are some very serious issues such as trafficking, domestic violence equal pay, forced marriages and all this could be highlighted by showing proper leadership. For example is it too much to ask to encourage libraries, schools, private companies and community groups to do something about it. How about an event at the Town Hall to show that you are really serious about women issues?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council**

I'm tempted by one of most famous women in the country's phrases in the light of that about u-turns, but then you never recognise the ability of women to succeed in this country on their merits.

Mr Mayor, there are, almost every day of the year, a celebration or activities highlighting one or other groups of something or other, whether its for Aids, whether its breast cancer, whether its women, whether its testicular cancer or whatever. Almost every day of the year there is something, and if the council were to try and use or to celebrate every one of those frankly we wouldn't get on with the business of running this council.

If she has anything positive to discuss that would make a real difference to women in this Borough she's welcome to write to me.

**Question No. 18**

**Councillor Ansuya Sodha**

How much has it cost to re-organise the Human Resources service since 14 May 2002?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council**

The organisational changes made in the Human Resources Service since May 2002 have been self-financing.

**Supplementary Question No. 18**

**Councillor Ansuya Sodha**

My supplementary question to you. Self-financing actually means that the money has been wasted when it could have been invested in other frontline services?

Could the Council Leader explain how devolving HR and then recentralising HR have helped recruitment and retention?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council**

No, I don't accept that Mr Mayor.

**Question No. 19**

**Councillor Ansuya Sodha**

Please provide a detailed breakdown of how many consultants, and at what cost including agency commission, has the Council employed in the current financial year, and for what purpose?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council**

I refer the member to the answer that I gave her to a similar question in September last.

**Supplementary Question No. 19****Councillor Ansuya Sodha**

I've got another question for you, but obviously Brian Salinger has made it absolutely clear he doesn't agree with his leader. His leader goes around telling everybody I want more women, women shortlist. Obviously he doesn't agree with that. Okay, right. I've got a supplementary.

The written answer refers me to the September Council meeting. So I went back and checked what Councillor Salinger said, and he said, consultants are used by the Council in differing ways and on any particular day, they may or may not be working for the Borough. Well that's cleared up then.

Why is the Council Leader being so secretive about millions and millions of pounds spent on consultants? What has he got to hide? If you've got nothing to hide give us the figures, give us the breakdown please?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council**

For someone who wants to save money and professes as she did only a few minutes ago that the reorganisation of the HR service had wasted money, I hesitate to think what it would actually cost if we were actually to try and give her an accurate answer to this question. I think Members really do have to understand the way in which consultants are used in this Authority. They perform in a multitude of different ways tasks that we don't have staff capable of doing. People that we need to call on often, maybe in some cases for only an hour or two hours, it might be half a day or a couple of days, in some cases we might employ them for a few weeks on a task until it finishes, and some people might come and they might go and they do different bits of work for us. Some will work for us and they'll work at other times for other people, but that is the fact. That is the way that local government works today. They found that when they were in control of the Council. Nothing has changed and I'm not prepared to have council officers wasting time trying to draw up exceedingly detailed and costly schedules. If she wants to know what any particular consultant has cost then she's welcome to put down that question.

**Question No. 20****Councillor Ansuya Sodha**

What are the average sickness days in each service area for 2004/5 and so far in 2005/6?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council**

The average days sickness lost in 2004/5 across all the Council's Services was 7.8. In 2005/6 to date, sickness levels have decreased over the previous year. It is, however, likely that these will show some increase over the remaining part of the year which always has higher sickness levels than the spring and summer months. A detailed breakdown by service for both 2004/5 and 2005/6 to date is attached:

**2004/5**

<b>Sickness Absence 2004/2005 (LBB by Service Area)</b>			
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Average No of Employees (Year)</b>	<b>Sickness Days Lost</b>	<b>Average Days Lost (for Year)</b>
Adult Services	532.0	5,002.2	9.4
Borough Treasurers	252.2	2,606.5	10.3
Children and Families Services	281.6	3,246.7	11.5
Corporate Support	22.1	101.0	4.6
Cultural Services	219.7	2,431.2	11.1
Education Service	419.1	3,727.5	8.9
Environment and Neighbourhood Services	928.2	10,091.0	10.9
Highways and Design	261.2	2,293.3	8.8
Housing	174.3	1,694.8	9.7
Human Resources	76.3	569.6	7.5
Information Systems	84.5	386.4	4.6
Law & Probity	108.2	1,076.5	10.0
Planning	66.3	231.5	3.5
Property and Valuation Service	12.4	69.0	5.6
Resources Directorate (CCU)	24.1	232.4	9.6
Resources Directorate (SP)	7.3	11.4	1.6
Strategic Development Unit	5.4	11.5	2.1
Strategic Directors	15.5	24.3	1.6
<b>SUB-TOTALS:</b>	<b>3,490.3</b>	<b>33,806.7</b>	<b>9.7</b>
Schools	4,277.1	26,678.3	6.2
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>7,767.4</b>	<b>60,485.0</b>	<b>7.8</b>

**2005/6**

<b>Sickness Absence - April to September 2005 (LBB by Service Area)</b>				
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Average No of Employees (Year)</b>	<b>Sickness Days Lost</b>	<b>Average Days Lost (for Year)</b>	<b>Annualised</b>
Adult Social Services	397.9	1964.0	4.9	9.9
Borough Treasurer	202.8	595.0	2.9	5.9
Children & Families	254.4	1518.0	6.0	11.9
Corporate Support	36.1	92.3	2.6	5.1
Customer Care	279.2	1001.9	3.6	7.2
Customer Services	22.0	101.0	4.6	9.2
Education	461.3	1814.9	3.9	7.9
Environmental Services	756.3	3263.5	4.3	8.6
Highways And Design	259.2	1372.9	5.3	10.6
Housing Services	165.5	914.3	5.5	11.0
Human Resources	59.9	180.4	3.0	6.0
Information Systems	56.4	138.4	2.5	4.9
Law and Probity	182.0	513.6	2.8	5.6
Modernising Core Systems	23.4	68.0	2.9	5.8
Performance and Strategy Team	4.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Planning	61.6	41.5	0.7	1.3
Property & Valuation Services	10.1	13.5	1.3	2.7
Strategic Development Unit	4.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Strategic Directors	9.0	6.0	0.7	1.3
Strategic Procurement	8.0	23.0	2.9	5.8
<b>SUB-TOTALS:</b>	<b>3254.7</b>	<b>13622.1</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>8.4</b>
Schools	3777.5	6589.0	1.7	3.5
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>7032.2</b>	<b>20211.1</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>5.7</b>

**Question No. 21****Councillor Ansuya Sodha**

Does the Council count the total number of days off taken by staff due to stress and, if so, what are the figures for 2004/5 and so far in 2005/6?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council**

The Council does collect information on the reasons for staff sickness absence, including absence due to stress. The data, however, is not complete as in a significant percentage of absences the reason for absence is given as "other". The information currently available would indicate that absence as a result of stress is at a stable level. Attached is the data available for 2004/5 and 2005/6 to date.

**2004/5**

<b>Reasons for Absence 2004/2005 (LBB)</b>		
<b>Reason for Absence</b>	<b>Number of Absences</b>	<b>%</b>
Back Problems	588	3.6%
Eye, Ear, Throat	605	3.7%
Genito-urinary	153	0.9%
Headache, etc	709	4.3%
Heart/Blood Pressure	132	0.8%
Musculoskeletal	670	4.1%
Operations, etc	682	4.2%
Pregnancy Related	230	1.4%
Respiratory, etc	769	4.7%
Stomach/Liver	1,531	9.4%
<b>Stress, etc</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>3.9%</b>
Viral Infections	3,306	20.2%
Other	6,335	38.7%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>16,349</b>	

**2005/6**

<b>Reasons for Absence - April to Sept 2005 (LBB)</b>		
<b>Reason for Absence</b>	<b>Number of Absences</b>	<b>%</b>
Back Problems	200	4.2%
Eye, Ear, Throat	175	3.6%
Genito-urinary	31	0.6%
Headache, etc	227	4.7%
Heart/Blood Pressure	30	0.6%
Musculoskeletal	200	4.2%
Operations, etc	286	5.9%
Pregnancy Related	55	1.1%
Respiratory, etc	190	3.9%
Stomach/Liver	426	8.8%
<b>Stress, etc</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>4.1%</b>
Viral Infections	645	13.4%
Other	2,154	44.7%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>4,816</b>	

**Supplementary Question No. 21**

**Councillor Ansuya Sodha**

I have a supplementary, thank you very much.

Right, your answer shows me on the sheet of paper the average days lost 10.3, 11.1, 11.5, and the reasons for absence on that page says, other – 38.7%, other reasons. I can think of only one reason and that is the stress that this Administration has created on the staff. That is the reason why we have got such high sickness level. We're above the national average and what are you doing about it? What are you going to do to bring the sickness level down so that we can get value for money?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council**

Mr Mayor, I'm sorry if Councillor Sodha didn't understand the figures but there is clearly an improvement in sickness levels in this Borough and I'm confident that we will continue to see a decrease in sickness, not least, it's one of the Chief Executive's performance requirements to bring it down.



**Question No. 22**

**Councillor Ansuya Sodha**

When is the Council going to make a decision on the future use of the youth club building in Park Rd and what criteria are to be used for the allocation of its use?

**Answer by Councillor Mike Freer**

There are ongoing discussions with regeneration partners. If the building is not required the disposal will be in accordance with legal requirements. I have met community groups to discuss needs and community use would be encouraged.

**Supplementary Question No. 22**

**Councillor Ansuya Sodha**

I've another supplementary.

The Council recently announced during the High Barnet election that the Bull Theatre and Barnet Register Office buildings would both be kept for community use. Will the Council Leader give the people of West Hendon a seasonal present, this is the season of goodwill we call it, a seasonal present, by giving the same commitment to the Park Road Youth Building and make it a youth centre for all to use?

**Answer by Councillor Mike Freer**

Mr Mayor, if Councillor Sodha would like some seasonal goodwill in West Hendon, I'm happy to consider a Santa's Grotto on the site. But in terms of a more sensible answer to a question which I think she's trying to allude to is I've had numerous discussions with various community groups down there and as I've said in the answer, there is a major regeneration scheme going on and once we know whether that site is needed or not by the regeneration partners then we will look at community use. And until we know what the exact plans are we can't give any further commitment. But I have been down and spoken to numerous groups on several occasions and explained that we will be more than favourably inclined to community uses of that particular building.