

Council, Tuesday 31 January 2006

Opposition Policy Item to be moved by Councillor Alan Schneiderman

Council supports the views of Barnet's young people concerning the lack of youth services and facilities in the London Borough of Barnet put forward in the Youth Board video presentation at the Civic Network.

Council opposes the Cabinet's cuts and lack of investment in provision for young people, including the recent increase in fees for summer playschemes, and the ongoing destruction of youth services since May 2002. Council believes the youth service cuts, cuts to the noise nuisance service, and failure to tackle graffiti all continue to have a detrimental impact on levels of anti-social behaviour.

Council believes that residents are fed up of anti-social behaviour, particularly tenants living on what the Council Leader has described as the borough's "four crime ridden sink estates".

Council welcomes the petition signed by 1,500 residents calling for youth service investment that was presented to the Area Forums, and Council therefore resolves to listen to the concerns of local residents and to take action.

Council believes that better youth services must go hand in hand with a stronger voice for young people themselves in designing and managing local youth services.

Council urges the Cabinet to bring forward proposals to invest in youth services, and Council believes that tackling anti-social behaviour by providing better youth services could be achieved by:

- establishing new 'youth bases' in secondary schools around the borough as local centres for young people and run by young people,
- launching a summer sailing and canoe programme for local youth;
- supporting our community festivals,
- working with minority ethnic communities to establish community centres to improve engagement with young people, and
- encouraging youth volunteering.