

Meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Barnet

TO BE HELD ON

Tuesday, 31 January, 2006 at 7.00pm

A G E N D A

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Council Meeting

31 January, 2006
Agenda and Timetable

Item	Subject	Time for Debate	Page Nos.
	<u>Part 1 - Statutory formalities/ Announcements (15 minutes)</u>	7.00pm – 7.15pm	
1.	Prayer		
2.	Apologies for absence		
3.	Minutes of last meeting held on 20 December 2005		1- 49
4.	Official announcements		
5.	Declarations of interest		
6.	Any business remaining from last meeting		
	<u>Part 2 – Question Time (30 minutes or until 7.45pm, whichever is the longer)</u>	7.15pm – 7.45pm	
7.	Questions to the Leader and Cabinet		To be circulated separately
	<u>Part 3 – Members' Motions (60 minutes)</u>	7.45pm – 8.45pm	
8.	Motions in the order in which notice has been given.		
8.1	From Councillor Wayne Casey		
	The Council notes the intention of the Post Office to enter into a franchise with Supertex Trading Ltd for the management of the Post Office at 35 The Broadway. Council affirms its belief that the intention of the Post Office is not primarily concerned with customer service but with addressing ongoing running costs, including staffing and property.		

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	<p>The Council believes that the current facilities are an invaluable resource, particularly to the elderly in the Mill Hill area, and that this decision will have a detrimental impact upon business in the Broadway. The Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Post Office on behalf of the Council opposing their plans. The Chief Executive should note in his letter, if it proves to be the case, that this motion has unanimous support.</p>		
8.2	<p>From Councillor Alison Moore</p>		
	<p>Council officially recognises 2006 as the 350th anniversary of the Resettlement of Jews in England, following the expulsion in 1290 when England became the first European country to expel Jews after a long period of persecution.</p> <p>Council notes that in 1656, after the efforts of Rabbi Menasseh Ben Israel and a small group of Spanish and Portuguese Jewish families in London, representations resulted in permission to reside and practise their religious rites.</p> <p>Council celebrates that fact that today the London Borough of Barnet is home to largest Jewish community in the UK.</p> <p>Council acknowledges the Jewish community's contribution to life in Barnet, to science, the arts, business, cuisine and charity, for the commitment to family, values of the culture, and to the enrichment of life in the Borough.</p>		

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	<p>Council notes that the 350th anniversary serves as an example of how an immigrant community contributes to Britain, and is British in every sense of the word, yet remains true to its heritage.</p> <p>Council encourages the Mayor and Cabinet to use the anniversary to reach out to all of Barnet's communities and promote connection, co-operation and friendship, sharing the Jewish communal experience with others; and that the Cabinet should initiate and participate in events celebrating the 350th anniversary.</p> <p>Councillor Alison Moore has requested, under Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, Section 1, 31.5, that if the item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting, it be voted upon at the council meeting.</p>		
8.3	From Councillor Paul Rogers]		
	<p>Council notes that the Cabinet proposes to close Hollickwood Primary School in Sydney Road, along with the closure of other primary schools in the borough.</p> <p>Council congratulates the staff and pupils of Hollickwood School on their continuing improvement as shown in the most recent OFSTED monitoring reports.</p>		

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	<p>Council regrets that if the closure of Hollickwood School goes ahead then the local community will lose its neighbourhood school, forcing parents and children into a 25 minute walk across the busy B550 Colney Hatch Lane and inevitably adding to 'school-run' congestion as parents choose to take the car instead.</p> <p>Council believes that the proposed closure of Hollickwood School also ignores the fact that new housing for local families will require more school places. Council also believes that a new build school at Coppetts Wood Primary School will undoubtedly attract parents from over the Haringey border adding more pressure on local Barnet families for primary school places, and that if the Council builds flats on the Hollickwood site this will only make matters worse.</p> <p>Council supports the plans to rebuild Coppetts Wood, but does not believe that the pupils and families of Hollickwood School should have to pay the price by losing their community school.</p> <p>Council opposes the closure of Hollickwood Primary School. Council asks the Cabinet to consult parents and residents on the closure, and then for Cabinet to reconsider the closure of Hollickwood School.</p> <p>Councillor Paul Rogers has requested, under Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, Section 1, 31.5, that if the item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting, it be voted upon at the council meeting.</p>		

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8.4	<p>From Councillor Jim Tierney</p> <p>Council notes that there are over 17,000 local Barnet families living in unsuitable or temporary accommodation in the London Borough of Barnet.</p> <p>Council therefore supports the Cabinet in not challenging the intervention of the Secretary of State that the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) threshold for the number of homes on a site before a developer must build affordable housing is reduced from 15 to 10 homes. Council also supports the Cabinet's UDP target that 50% of all new homes should be affordable.</p> <p>Council asks the Cabinet to continue with its programme for affordable housing, social housing for rent and the regeneration of the borough's four major estates.</p> <p>Councillor Jim Tierney has requested, under Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, Section 1, 31.5, that if the item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting, it be voted upon at the council meeting.</p>		

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8.5	<p>From Councillor Matthew Offord</p> <p>Council notes that every year in the UK, the nation produces 28 million tonnes of household rubbish every year, with enough thrown away every hour to fill the Albert Hall.</p> <p>Council further notes that traditional means of disposing of this waste, through landfill, are almost full.</p> <p>Council believes that groundbreaking projects are necessary in order to encourage households to recycle their waste.</p> <p>Council applauds the unique Compulsory Recycling Scheme in Barnet that has led to our recycling rate jumping from 12 per cent to 29 per cent in 4 years, with 3 out of 4 residents actively taking part in the Black Box collection scheme.</p> <p>Council notes that this initiative led to the Council being awarded the prestigious <i>Let's Recycle</i> Award for Excellence.</p> <p>Council welcomes the news that this Borough has not only broken the government target of 27 per cent, but also looks set to smash its 30 per cent target of waste recycled this year, meaning that this authority would be awarded a LPSA grant of £629,000 to spend on services for our residents.</p> <p>Council calls on Cabinet to ensure we do indeed break our target, and further asks Cabinet to continue its work encouraging other local authorities to adopt Compulsory Recycling.</p>		

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	Councillor Matthew Offord has requested, under Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, Section 1, 31.5, that if the item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting, it be voted upon at the council meeting.		

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8.6	<p>From Councillor Lynne Hillan</p> <p>Council notes the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA), which forms part of an Inspection regime that costs £100 million a year.</p> <p>Council believes that Councils should be accountable to the people they serve, rather than being forced into a “top down” model of accountability to central government.</p> <p>Council welcomes the fact that Barnet Council embarks on an Annual Residents’ Survey, and that in the last such survey 71% of local people said this authority does a Good Job, the highest rating in London.</p> <p>Council notes the speech on 18 January by the Minister of Communities and Local Government, which promised a greater role for local people in holding Councils to account and a diminished role for Government.</p> <p>Council further notes this statement looked to <i>“the development of the world beyond the current CPA from 2008”</i>.</p> <p>Council believes that, to build such a regime, removal of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA), a classic example of “Top-Down” regulation, is necessary.</p> <p>Council calls on Cabinet to seek to persuade the ODPM that, in light of the Minister’s statement about local accountability, the wasteful and ineffective CPA regime should be abolished.</p>		

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	Councillor Lynne Hillan has requested, under Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, Section 1, 31.5, that if the item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting, it be voted upon at the council meeting.		

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8.7	<p>From Councillor Brian Coleman</p> <p>This Council notes recent media reports that the illegal regime in the occupied areas of Cyprus is driving forward a development plan in the occupied municipality of Morphou, which is twinned with the London Borough of Barnet. The plans indicate that a designated ‘tourism area’ of 1,000 square meters and a 17-kilometre road are amongst the features now destined for the beautiful and unspoilt countryside of Morphou.</p> <p>Bearing in mind the special relationship between the London Borough of Barnet and the Municipality of Morphou, this Council calls upon the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the three MPs for the Borough urging them to protest this blatant attempt to consolidate an illegal occupation and the violation of property rights it entails, and to appeal to UK residents not to purchase illegally built properties in the occupied zone.</p> <p>Councillor Brian Coleman has requested, under Part 4 of the Council’s Constitution, Section 1, 31.5, that if the item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting, it be voted upon at the council meeting.</p>		
	Break	8.45pm – 9.00pm	
9.	Part 4 – Policy Development (60 minutes)	9.00pm – 10.00pm	

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9.1	Administration Item: Safer Neighbourhood Teams		50
9.2	Opposition Item: Youth Services and Facilities		51
	Part 5 – Accountability (20minutes)	10.00 pm- 10.20pm	
10	Comments on the work of the Cabinet (10 minutes) –		
10.1	From Councillor Anne Hutton		
	To comment on the work of the Cabinet with regard to the pollarding of trees and general tree management in Woodhouse ward.		
10.2	From Councillor Jack Cohen		
	To comment on the policy of the Council to Charge residents for replacement wheelie Bins. In particular to seek an explanation why residents on benefit especially the elderly and disabled are charged to replace a lost wheelie bin and what alternative do they have if they can not afford the to pay the charge.		
10.3	From Councillor Steve Blomer		
	To comment on the work of the Cabinet with regard to parking in The Meads, Burnt Oak.		

10.4	From Councillor Anita Campbell		
	To comment on the work of the Cabinet with regard to the need for support and regeneration of High Barnet town centre.		
11.	Questions to council representatives on outside bodies (10 minutes)		
	Part 6 – Statutory Council Business (40 minutes)	10.20pm – 11.00pm	
12.	Report from Cabinet		
13.	Reports from Overview and Scrutiny committees		
14.	Reports from Other Committees		52 - 53
14.1	Licensing Committee, 5 January 2006: Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005 : Enforcement regime		
14.2	General Functions Committee, 19 January 2006: 1. Restructure of the Benefits Service 2. Budget 2006/07		TO FOLLOW
15.	Reports of Officers		
15.2	Democratic Services Manager		54 - 77
1.	Vacancies on School Governing Bodies		
2.	Vacancies arising from Reconstitution of School Governing Bodies		
3.	Representation of the Council on Outside Bodies		
4.	Amendments to Items on the Agenda		
5.	Leader's Scheme of Delegation		

6.	Transport for London Bill		
15.3	Monitoring Officer		

John Marr, Democratic Services Manager
Town Hall,
The Burroughs,
Hendon, NW4 4BG