

Council Meeting
11 April 2006

REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

Agenda item

1. REPRESENTATION OF THE COUNCIL ON FRIENDS OF MOAT MOUNT CAMPSITE

At the last Council meeting, Mr Hugh Rayner was appointed by the Council to vacancy 0601 as a Council representative on Friends of Moat Mount Campsite. However, this appointment was made in error, as under the special conditions relating to appointments, appointees should be either a Councillor or a Council Officer.

No action has been taken to implement this decision, and the Council is recommended to rescind the decision and make an appointment to fill the vacancy.

Details of the Council's current representation on this body are as follows

1. Organisation: Friends of Moat Mount Campsite		
Special Conditions:		
<i>Representative should be a Council Officer or a Councillor.</i>		
No. of Representatives: 1		
Current Representatives		Vac Ref
1 - Councillor Steven Blomer (Expired 18/03/2002)		0601
Period of Appointment: 19/03/2002 to 18/03/2006		Member

The group secretaries have been advised of the vacancy.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Council rescind the appointment of Mr Hugh Rayner as a Council representative to Friends of Moat Mount Campsite.

2. That the Council make an appointment to fill the vacancy on Friends of Moat Mount Campsite.

2. AMENDMENTS TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:

Agenda Item, 9.2 : Motion in the name of Councillor Claire Farrier. The following amendment in the name of Councillor Alison Moore:

“Add at end:

“Council welcomes the support of Councillor Terry Burton for Barnet Football Club, reported in the Barnet Times on 16 March, that: “I have never wavered in my support for such a prestigious football club.”

Council supports the *Working Together* proposals (subject to planning) and Council asks the Cabinet and officers to negotiate with the Club to bring forward the necessary arrangements to implement *Working Together*.

Under Standing Order Part 4, Section 1, 31.5: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the council meeting.”

Councillor Moore has requested, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule, Part 4, 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.

Agenda Item, 9.3 : Motion in the name of Councillor Danish Chopra. The following amendment in the name of Councillor Mike Freer

“Delete all after “Council” and Insert:

“...is dismayed at the continued proliferation of large chain stores on our High Streets and the continued closure of small, specialist shops.

Council believes this robs our Town Centres of their character, and leads to cloned, featureless, shopping centres.

Council understands this is part of a Londonwide problem, and is reflected in the fact that the *Evening Standard* newspaper has launched a petition, “Save our Small Shops”, urging the Government to use planning law to stop large chains forcing out small businesses.

Council regrets the loophole in the Labour Government’s new PPS 6 planning guidance, which permits the siting of large superstores on the edge of town centres, providing unfair competition to small firms in the High Street.

Council notes that the Association of Convenience Stores said that the clause would have a “damaging impact on the town centre”. However, the clause has remained in the final version of PPS 6.

Council is grateful that Barnet’s Conservative administration has worked to help small businesses in the Borough by providing easy access to Small Business Rate relief, and with a Business Rates team on hand to provide help.

Council also welcomes the Conservative administration’s investment in our Town Centres. Since 2002, CCTV has been rolled out to 11 more areas (plus a further 6 this year), and the Townkeeper service extended into 4 extra locations. This has served to cut crime and the fear of crime and improve management of our High Streets.

Council also welcomes Barnet’s Planning and Environment Committee’s decision to reject the “Tesco” application on Ballards Lane, West Finchley. One that, if realized, Council believes would have been extremely detrimental to the small businesses in the Finchley area.

Council however believes more needs to be done on a national level to halt the decline in our High Streets and the loss of small shops.

Council welcomes the announcement by Conservative Leader, David Cameron, to bring in policies to improve the infrastructure of London's suburbs, making them more attractive places to do business.

Council resolves to call on the Leader of the Council to sign, on behalf of Barnet Council, in support of the *Evening Standard's* "Save our Small Shops" campaign. Council urges Cabinet to write to the DTI and ODPM explaining our support for this campaign, and calling for urgent changes to planning law so the livelihoods of small businesses and the viability of our High Streets can be protected for generations to come."

Councillor Freer has requested, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule, Part 4, 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.

3. REPORT EXEMPTED FROM THE CALL-IN PROCESS

In accordance with Constitutional requirements, the Council is advised that the decision on 22 February 2006 of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport to approve the final version of the Local Implementation Plan, for submission to the Mayor of London for approval, was exempted from the call – in process.

The Cabinet Member was acting in accordance with his authorisation, by Cabinet, on 23 January, 2006, to approve the final version.

As the final Plan had to be with the Mayor of London by 24 February 2006, and the next meeting of the Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee was not scheduled to meet until 6 March 2006, the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that the decision was reasonable in all the circumstances, that it should be treated as a matter of urgency and consequently exempted from the call – in process.

John Marr
Democratic Services Manager