

Meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Barnet

TO BE HELD ON

Tuesday, 11 April, 2006 at 7.00pm

A G E N D A

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Council Meeting

11 April, 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 7 March 2006		1 – 11
4.	Official announcements		
5.	Resolution of Appreciation.		
6	Declarations of interest		
7.	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	
8.	Questions to the Leader and Cabinet		To be circulated separately
	<u>Part 3 – Members' Motions (60 minutes)</u>	7.45pm – 8.45pm	
9.	Motions in the order in which notice has been given.		
9.1	From Councillor Wayne Casey Council notes with regret that St Joseph's College, Lawrence Street, the home of the Mill Hill Missionaries since their foundation by Cardinal Vaughan in the 1860s, is to close. Council further notes that the estate includes a landmark Grade II listed building situated in the greenbelt in a Conservation Area.		

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	<p>Council welcomes the sincere efforts of the Mill Hill Missionaries to find a purchaser for the property who will respect both this important piece of the historic built environment and the preservation of the greenbelt. Council considers, however, that the preservation of the estate would be ensured by the attachment of a covenant, binding upon any future owner.</p> <p>Council therefore resolves to instruct the Chief Executive to write to Mill Hill Missionaries advising them of the Council's views and recommending that they seek independent advice on the matter.</p>		
9.2	<p>From Councillor Claire Farrier</p> <p>Council opposes the Council Leader's idea to misuse Montrose Park for a new stadium for Barnet Football Club.</p> <p>Council notes that the Montrose Residents Association and the football club supporters' group Keep Barnet Alive both oppose the misuse of Montrose Park; and that the idea has got nowhere over the past five months.</p> <p>Council notes that Keep Barnet Alive have the following concerns about the misuse of Montrose Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contravention of local and national planning policy, • parking problems and traffic congestion, • a lack of public open space in Burnt Oak and Colindale, • the risk of flooding, and 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the proposed stadium size would be inadequate for the construction of a stadium capable of accommodating a league standard football club. <p>Council asks the Cabinet to withdraw the idea of building a stadium in Montrose Park, and to instead support <i>Working Together</i> with Barnet FC (subject to planning).</p> <p>Councillor Farrier 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.</p>		
9.3	<p>From Councillor Danish Chopra</p> <p>Council regrets that Barnet is the worst place to do business in London because the Conservative administration has cut support to local business and the borough's town centres, and has no strategy for improving the economy of Barnet.</p> <p>Council recognises that the cut in funding and staff support for traders and small business, increased parking charges and attendants, closure of Council facilities in town centres, poor street cleaning, cuts to sustainability funding, and breakdown in Council relations with traders' groups, has contributed to a catalogue of neglect and closures.</p>		

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	<p>Council agrees with the Mayor of London in welcoming the job creation and low unemployment in Barnet since 1997, but believes the Cabinet must take responsibility as a community leader for the rejuvenation of the borough's town centres.</p> <p>Council therefore urges the Cabinet to present proposals for better partnership working and engagement with local business to secure the future of the borough's town centres, and to consult all ward councillors on the particular problems their local town centre faces.</p> <p>Councillor Chopra 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.</p>		
9.4	<p>From Councillor Melvin Cohen</p> <p>Council notes with dismay the current planning system that allows gardens to be treated in the same way as Brownfield sites when determining planning applications.</p> <p>Council further notes that this means developers can treat the garden as part of the footprint for development and acquire permission to build over the garden's plot as well as that occupied by the house.</p> <p>Council believes this permits the development of housing over gardens that can be out of keeping with the neighbouring area and Barnet's pleasant, suburban landscape.</p>		

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	<p>Council welcomes the Bill proposed by Greg Clark MP to close this planning loophole, meaning that Planning Committees could refuse applications for housing development on private gardens that they feel is out of character with the surrounding area.</p> <p>Council supports this initiative that would stop family homes and gardens in Barnet being turned into potentially intrusive developments.</p> <p>Councillor Cohen 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.</p>		
9.5	<p>From Councillor Chris Harris</p> <p>Council notes the Youth Offending Team, which rehabilitates and engages young people involved in disorder and delinquency.</p> <p>Council believes the Youth Offending Team is an essential part of the assault on anti-social behaviour in the Borough, particularly as concerns are being raised that ASBOs may be becoming a “Badge of Honour”. The work of the Council’s Youth Offending Team is intended to keep young people from re-offending; prevention as well as a cure.</p> <p>Council notes that this service has been drastically improved since 2002, from scoring well below average to being rated well above average by 2005.</p>		

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	<p>Council further notes the video of the Youth Offending Team's restorative justice project ("Time to Talk – Time to Listen"), piloted in five Primary Schools, won a prestigious award at the Communicating Youth Justice Awards last year.</p> <p>Council also welcomes the initiatives piloted by the Youth Offending Team in engaging young people in Grahame Park engaged in anti-social behaviour, and the attendant successes seen.</p> <p>Council believes it is due in no small part to the Youth Offending Team's Work that we have seen a drop in Youth Crime in Barnet. The number of youths involved in offences in this Borough fell by 9% between 2003/4 and 2004/5, while, at the same time, the numbers soared in Brent (+22%), Camden (+24%), and Harrow (+17%).</p> <p>Council recognises there is a multiplicity of facilities and activities provided across the Borough for young people both by the Council, voluntary and private sector.</p> <p>Council calls on Cabinet to ensure the work of the Youth Offending Team is strengthened and built upon, so that young people in the Borough can be directed away from crime, and we can finally drive the anti-social elements out of our streets and help young people themselves.</p> <p>Councillor Harris 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.</p>		

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9.6	<p>From Councillor Brian Salinger</p> <p>That the Council of the London Borough of Barnet requests that The Worshipful the Mayor, on behalf of all citizens of Barnet, sends Loyal Greetings to Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of Her Majesty's 80th birthday, and expresses gratitude for Her Majesty's contribution to the life of our Borough and our Nation.</p> <p>Council particularly recalls Her Majesty's many visits to the Borough.</p> <p>Councillor Salinger 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.</p>		
9.7	<p>From Councillor Brian Coleman</p> <p>Council notes the recent comments from the Mayor of London concerning members of the Jewish Community and the American Ambassador. Council believes that the residents of this Borough deserve a Mayor of London that supports all communities and discourages racism of any sort. Council believes that the current Mayor of London fails to behave with the dignity befitting his office and in particular is making comments that appear to be giving rise to anti-Semitic attitudes. Council notes that the Community Security Trust has identified 11 anti-Semitic attacks that it says were triggered by the news story of the Mayor of London's outburst at an "Evening Standard " journalist in February 2005.</p>		

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	<p>Council calls on the Mayor of London to apologise for his recent behaviour and instructs the Chief Executive to write to him requesting such an apology.</p> <p>Councillor Coleman 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.</p>		
9.8	<p>From Councillor Macdonald</p> <p>Council Notes –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Bull Arts Centre has moved from Barnet High Street to be incorporated into artsdepot in North Finchley • That the former Bull building on Barnet High Street is owned by the Council and is now occupied on a short-term lease until July 2007 by the Susi Earnshaw Theatre School (SETS) • That SETS is giving local community arts and drama groups in Chipping Barnet the opportunity to use the Bull building's facilities in the evenings and at weekends • That local residents of all parties and of none have formed the Save the Bull Group to campaign for the Bull to remain a community arts centre • That the Save the Bull Group supports SETS' occupation of the Bull building and has called on Council to grant SETS a longer lease • That Conservative leaflets in High Barnet have, for several months, been claiming that SETS is being offered a long-term lease with immediate effect 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That no such long-term lease has actually been offered • That the previous tender process for marketing the Bull building had to be abandoned after the building had been listed as being in the wrong planning category • That a Planning Brief for the Bull building has been commissioned by Council • That subject to satisfying all necessary legal requirements it would be possible for the Council to immediately commence to negotiate a long-term lease with SETS • That SETS currently pays rent to Council and the Council could seek to negotiate terms for a rental under a long-term lease, so that the Council would not be subsidising the continued use of the Bull building as a community arts centre in the evenings and at weekends <p>Council Believes –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Bull Arts Centre was created by the energy and vision of local people in the 1970s • That there is a great desire in Chipping Barnet for the Bull to remain a community arts centre • That Chipping Barnet residents deserve a fair share of local amenities, having already had their Register Office closed by this Administration • That there is a great desire in Chipping Barnet to preserve community assets like the Bull and Barnet Football Club • That it would be greatly to the advantage of residents for SETS to be offered a 25-year lease immediately 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the current Administration has unacceptably stalled on granting such a lease for no good reason • That if a long-term lease of the Bull building is granted to SETS it is possible that the need for a Planning Brief could be reconsidered • That the previous tender process, which was aborted due to an error in the marketing documents, was a waste of Council resources and achieved nothing • That Chipping Barnet residents have no desire for the Bull building to be converted into flats or a nightclub • That the Bull's continued use as a community arts centre, rented from Council by SETS, will contribute to the diversity and viability of Barnet High Street <p>Council Resolves –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To request the Cabinet to consider authorising negotiations to commence immediately for the grant of a 25-year lease to SETS. 		
	Break	8.45pm – 9.00pm	
10.	Part 4 – Policy Development (60 minutes)	9.00pm – 10.00pm	
10.1	Administration Item: National Health Service (NHS)		12
10.2	Opposition Item: Respect for Barnet Campaign		13 - 14
	Part 5 – Accountability (20minutes)	10.00 pm- 10.20pm	
11	Comments on the work of the Cabinet (10 minutes) –		

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11.1	<p>From Councillor Anita Campbell To comment on the work of the Cabinet with regard to the Barnet Hill School rebuild funding included in the bid for the regeneration of the Dollis Valley estate.</p>		
11.2	<p>From Councillor Steve Blomer To comment on the work of the Cabinet regarding how reductions in the street enforcement service have impacted on the condition of street furniture and removal of fly-tipping.</p>		
11.3	<p>From Councillor Ansuya Sodha To comment on the work of the Cabinet with regard to the Welsh Harp open space.</p>		
11.4	<p>From Councillor Wayne Casey Langstone Way NW7 is currently an unadopted road. The adoption process is being held-up by a dispute between contractors Crest Nicholson and Bovis. In the meantime there is a danger of serious injury to the elderly and disabled residents in the area from cars using this road (to access the rest of the development, visit Waitrose or Holmes Place). It should be noted that Langstone Way houses retirement apartments for senior citizens and a residential setting for the sight impaired. While accepting the Cabinet Member's answer in response to a question tabled under Article 3 of the Constitution (circulated to all Members) the Cabinet Member's opinion on the appropriateness of the immediate implementation of the following measures would be appreciated:</p>		

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="312 241 820 533">1. Erection of warning signs to notify drivers of elderly and disabled pedestrians immediately above or below the signs currently in place on lamp posts in Langstone Way at the junction with Bittacy Hill. <li data-bbox="312 566 820 936">2. Painted "Slow" signs or warning triangles on Langstone Way while making it clear to Crest Nicholson that these measures are taken without prejudice to the Council accepting responsibility for the eventual adoption of the road. <li data-bbox="312 969 820 1294">3. The Cabinet Member using his good offices to assist negotiations between Crest Nicholson and Bovis to secure an agreement between the two parties and an end to the hold up over the eventual adoption of the road. <li data-bbox="312 1328 820 1395">4. A combination of all/some of the above. 		
11.5	<p data-bbox="312 1435 820 1469">From Councillor Jeremy Davies</p> <p data-bbox="312 1503 820 2007">The planning inspector has granted - on appeal - permission for the erection of a 10m Vodafone 3Gmast, in the green belt, in a Conservation Area on The Ridgeway NW7. In addition to completely discounting the health concerns which arise in relation to these masts, the Inspector has failed to appreciate the wider implications of this decision in an area, such as Barnet, where our green belt and Conservation Areas are highly prized.</p>		

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	The Cabinet Member's views in relation to this decision and his opinion on the appropriateness of the Council mounting a legal challenge to the Inspector's decision are sought.		
12.	Questions to council representatives on outside bodies (10 minutes)		None received
	Part 6 – Statutory Council Business (40 minutes)	10.20pm – 11.00pm	
13.	Report from Cabinet		
14.	Reports from Overview and Scrutiny committees		
14.1	Report of The First Class Education and Children Overview and Scrutiny Committee : 9 March 2006 - Appointment of LA (Local Authority) School Governors		15 – 16
15.	Reports from Other Committees		To Follow
15.1	Special Committee (Constitution Review) 22 March, 2006 – various amendments to the Constitution		
15.2	Planning and Environment Committee 29 March, 2006: Byelaws relating to Amusement Premises – Quicksilver, 164 – 166 Cricklewood Broadway, London, NW2		To Follow
16.	Reports of Officers		
16.1	Democratic Services Manager		17 - 19
1.	Representation of the Council on Friends of Moat Mount Camp Site		
2.	Amendments to Items on the Agenda		

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3.	Report exempted from the call-in process		
16.2	Monitoring Officer		

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