

Minutes

OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET
held at The Town Hall, Hendon, NW4, on Tuesday, 27 June, 2006.

PRESENT:

- *The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Eva Greenspan BA LL.B (Hons))
- *The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Terry Burton)

Councillors:

*Maureen Braun	*Christopher Harris BA BSc	*Sachin Rajput BA (Hons)
*Fiona Bulmer	MPhil	PgD Law
*Anita Campbell	*Helena Hart	*Robert Rams
*Wayne Casey BA (Hons)	*John Hart BA MA	*Barry Rawlings
MIIA	*Lynne Hillan	*Hugh Rayner
*Danish Chopra	*Ross Houston	*Colin Rogers
*Dean Cohen BSc (Hons)	*Anne Hutton	*Lisa Rutter
*Jack Cohen	*Julie Johnson	*Brian Salinger
*Melvin Cohen LLB	*Duncan Macdonald	Kate Salinger BEd (Hons)
*Brian Coleman, AM, FRSA	*Caroline Margo	*Gill Sargeant
*Geof Cooke	*John Marshall	*Joan Scannell
*Richard Cornelius	*Linda McFadyen	*Alan Schneiderman
*Jeremy Davies BA (Hons),	*Kath McGuirk	*Agnes Slocombe SRN RM
CPFA	*Andrew McNeil	*Ansuya Sodha MBA (Middx)
*Mukesh Depala	*Alison Moore	Cert Ed, DipM (CIM), AMBA
*Jane Ellison	*Jazmin Naghar	*Andreas Tambourides
Olwen Evans ACIS	*Matthew Offord	*Daniel Thomas
*Claire Farrier	*Charlie O-Macauley	*Jim Tierney
*Anthony Finn BSc (Econ)	*Monroe Palmer OBE, BA,	*Daniel Webb
FCA	FCA	*Richard Weider
*Mike Freer	*Susette Palmer MA	*Marina Yannoudakis MA BSc
*Brian Gordon, LL.B	*Bridget Perry	*Zakia Zubairi
*Andrew Harper	*Wendy Prentice	

*denotes Member present

22. PRAYER (Agenda Item 1):

The Mayor's Chaplain offered prayer.

23. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 2):

Apologies were received from Councillor Olwen Evans who was unwell, and Councillor Kate Salinger, and for lateness from Councillors Jazmin Naghar, Christopher Harris and Claire Farrier.

24. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16 MAY 2006 (Agenda Item 3):**
RESOLVED –That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2006 be approved, subject to the omission of Councillor Gerard Silverstone from the list of Councillors present.
25. **OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS (Agenda Item 4):**
None.
26. **DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS (Agenda Item 5):**
The following Members declared personal and non – prejudicial interests in the items indicated, and remained in the room during the discussion and participated in the decision – making process:
- Councillor Monroe Palmer in Questions 30 and 38 under Agenda Item 7, as he was a director of Barnet Homes.
 - Councillor Claire Farrier in Agenda Item 9.1 as she worked for the Commission for Social Care and Inspection who were mentioned in an amendment to the motion.
- The following Members declared personal and prejudicial interests in the following items, left the Chamber during the discussion and did not participate in the decision – making process in the items indicated:
- Councillor Richard Weider in Motion 8.4 as he was employed by the Department of Transport.
 - Councillor Christopher Harris in Agenda Item 9.2 as the charity he worked for received sponsorship from the Fairtrade organisation.
27. **BUSINESS REMAINING FROM LAST MEETING**
None.
28. **QUESTION TIME FOR MEMBERS (Agenda Item 7):**
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 an Appendix to these minutes.
29. **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 8.1, 8.3 and 8.4 be heard first and in that order.
Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried.
RESOLVED – That the order of business be varied to allow Motions 8.1, 8.3 and 8.4 to be heard first and in that order.
30. **MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR JACK COHEN (Agenda Item 8.1):**
Motion 8.1 in the name of Councillor Jack Cohen was moved. An amendment in the name of Councillor Anthony Finn was also moved orally at the meeting.
Debate ensued. Upon being put to the vote the amendment in the name of Councillor Anthony Finn was declared carried. The substantive motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED – Council confirms its commitment to the regeneration of Cricklewood. Council applauds the hard work of successive Administrations. In particular Council welcomes the opportunity to secure a new passenger rail station in the heart of the proposed redevelopment.

Council believes that, as with any successful regeneration scheme, transport infrastructure must be in place at an appropriate stage in the regeneration process.

Council therefore calls on Cabinet to engage with our regeneration partners and ensure an effective transport strategy is in place that will ensure all Cricklewood residents can access local train services easily and quickly.

31. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR BRIAN COLEMAN (Agenda Items 8.3 and 13.1.7 (ii)):

Motion 8.3 in the name of Councillor Brian Coleman was moved. Amendments in the names of Councillor Ross Houston and Councillor Monroe Palmer were moved. Debate ensued.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment in the name of Councillor Ross Houston was declared lost. The amendment in the name of Councillor Monroe Palmer was accepted by Councillor Brian Coleman.

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

RESOLVED – Council notes that Chief Superintendent Mark Ricketts has moved to a new role in the Metropolitan Police. Council notes that Chief Superintendent Ricketts strived to improve the relationship between the community and the police, reduced many of the key crime indicators and was instrumental in delivering an improved resource formula for the Safer Neighbourhood teams. Council requests that the Chief Executive be instructed to write to the Borough Commander expressing our appreciation.

Council further notes the contrast between Chief Superintendent Ricketts diligent work on behalf of the Borough with that of Mr Peter Herbert, MPA link Member for Barnet.

Council believes Mr Herbert has failed to engage the community or its leaders in any meaningful way since his appointment.

Council further believes that Mr Herbert has failed to reassure residents of Golders Green as to efforts he is making to ensure that either Golders Green Police Station is kept open or that if it closed it is replaced by another police premises in the Golders Green/Temple Fortune Area.

Council notes that at the AGM of Barnet Community Police Consultative Group on 6th June 2006, Mr Herbert once again failed to attend. Council notes that the BCPCG will themselves be

requesting from the Chair of the MPA the replacement of Mr Peter Herbert.

Council joins the BPCCG in that view and instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Chair of the MPA advising him that this Council has no confidence in Mr Herbert.

32. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR MATTHEW OFFORD (Agenda Items 8.4 and 13.1.7 (iii)).

Motion 8.4 in the name of Councillor Matthew Offord was moved. An amendment in the name of Councillor Kath McGuirk was moved. Debate ensued.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment in the name of Councillor Kath McGuirk was declared lost and the substantive motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED – Council notes Henly’s Corner, an extremely ill-designed road junction that has been a blackspot for delays, accidents and congestion in this Borough for many years.

Council further notes plans, mooted by the Secretary of State in the 1990s, which would have worked to solve this by constructing flyovers and underpasses.

Council notes these have, however, been delayed by Transport for London (TfL) (as has the work to widen the A406 at Bounds Green), since 2004.

Council is dismayed that, should the Transport for London Bill be successful in Parliament, TfL may then decide to drop the scheme because of a clause that would allow any work sanctioned by the Department of Transport to be jettisoned without a Public Inquiry.

Council notes that this Council passed a Motion in December 2005 opposing this very clause, and has subsequently petitioned TfL against the move.

Council calls on the Chief Executive to write to Transport for London, and ask them to make their intentions clear with regards to Henly’s Corner, Bounds Green, and other major schemes in and around Barnet. Council further instructs the Chief Executive to again assert that no major road plans (including Henly’s Corner and Bounds Green) must be dropped without a proper Public Inquiry that would allow this Council and local residents to have their say.

33. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR MONROE PALMER (Agenda Items 8.2, 13.1.1 and 13.1.7 (i)):

Motion 8.2 in the name of Councillor Monroe Palmer and amendments in the names of Councillors John Marshall, Kath McGuirk and Susette Palmer were put to the vote without debate. The amendments in the names of Councillors Kath McGuirk and Susette Palmer were declared lost and the amendment in the name of Councillor John Marshall was declared carried.

Upon being to the vote, the substantive motion, was declared carried.
RESOLVED – Council notes that Post office Ltd. had planned to close and relocate Golders Green Post Office, a much-used facility for the local community, and lifeline for many people in the area.

Council further notes that Post Office Ltd's decision spurred immense opposition from residents who facilitated a public meeting, set up their own action group, organised cross party petitions, carried out a comprehensive business survey and even organised a public show of support for the Post Office.

Council wholeheartedly welcomes the news that the planned closure has now been jettisoned.

Council congratulates the Save Golders Green Post Office Action Group and local residents on this fantastic result, and calls on Cabinet to ensure that any similar plans to close or downgrade Post offices in this Borough are resisted with the same vigorous determination as shown at Golders Green.

34. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

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

The meeting reconvened at 9.05pm

35. ADMINISTRATION POLICY ITEM: SUPPORTING THE VULNERABLE (Agenda Items 9.1 and 13.1.7 (iv))

Councillor Fiona Bulmer proposed the item and moved that it be adopted. An amendment in the name of Councillor Linda McFadyen was moved. Debate ensued. Upon being to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Linda McFadyen was declared lost. Upon being put to the vote the substantive motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED - Council notes both the challenges presented by increasing demands on social services, especially from an ageing population, and the progress that has been made in meeting these challenges and in delivering on the council's key priority of supporting the vulnerable.

Council understands that the number of people receiving direct payments, which allow them more choice and control over the care they receive, has almost doubled in the past four years. Council supports the work being carried out by Adult Social Services to increase this number further and to explore innovative ways of extending the choices available to those who receive care from social services.

Council further notes the growing role of technology in helping vulnerable people to remain in their own homes. It welcomes the start of the *Telecare* project in Barnet that is providing a range of equipment to more than 1800 households in Barnet with a projected increase of 145 within the next year.

Council believes that there is now an increasing range of options for older people in Barnet need of care ranging from support in their own homes, extra care sheltered housing schemes and the modernised residential homes for those in greatest need.

Council calls for work to continue to increase choice, promote independent living and greater use of technology to support the most vulnerable in our community.

Council therefore urges Cabinet to develop a pilot scheme for individualised budgets in Barnet that will devolve budgets to care recipients so that they can take full control of their care and maximise their independence and choice over their own lives.

36. OPPOSITION POLICY ITEM: BARNET FAIRTRADE CAMPAIGN (Agenda Items 9.2, and 13.1.7 (v)).

Councillor Charlie O-Macauley proposed the item and moved that it be adopted. Amendments in the names of Councillors Mike Freer and Jeremy Davies were moved. Debate ensued. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Mike Freer was declared carried and the amendment in the name of Councillor Jeremy Davies was declared lost. The substantive motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED - Barnet believes the Fairtrade campaign is a laudable one, one that seeks to help disadvantaged producers from poor countries to receive a better deal, through encouraging support for the Fairtrade Mark.

However Council understands that, in order to become a “Fairtrade” Borough, large amounts of taxpayers’ money need to be diverted from frontline services.

Council believes that, given the continued, chronic underfunding of this Council by the Labour government, the authority has to prioritise its spending towards its five key Corporate Priorities.

Council is dismayed that, thanks to a lack of external support, Barnet Council is unable to immediately take the necessary moves to achieve Fairtrade status, or actively support other such worthwhile causes.

Council resolves that it will campaign to be awarded Fairtrade status when the necessary resources are available. Council accordingly instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Department for Communities and Local Government, explaining that worthwhile projects such as Fairtrade cannot receive support until Barnet receives fair funding from central Government.

37. REPORT OF CABINET 12 JUNE, 2006 (Agenda Items 10 and 13.1.6)

Councillor Mike Freer moved reception and adoption of the Report of Cabinet dated 12 June, 2006, with the following recommendations:

BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN (Report of the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Policy and Performance – Agenda Item 4)

Cabinet received and approved the report of the Cabinet Members submitting the Corporate Plan, as recorded in their decisions of this date. As previously the Corporate Plan enclosed a technical appendix of Best Value performance indicators (circulated separately to all Members of the Council) which would constitute the Council's Best Value Performance Plan.

As approval of the BVPP was a function reserved to full Council, and for the reasons set out in the Cabinet Member's report, Cabinet

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND – That the draft technical appendix of Best Value Performance Indicators be approved.

Debate ensued. Upon being put to the vote, it was
RESOLVED – That the Report of Cabinet dated 12 June, 2006, be approved and adopted, and that the revised technical appendix to the Best Value Performance Plan as set out in Appendix A to the Supplemental Report of the Democratic Services Manager be approved and adopted.

38. REPORT OF THE GENERAL FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE DATED 21 JUNE 2006 (Agenda Item 12):

Councillor Joan Scannell moved reception and adoption of the Report of the General Functions Committee dated 21 June, 2006, with the following recommendations:

APPOINTMENTS TO SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES AND OUTSIDE BODIES (Report of the Democratic Services Manager – Agenda Item 8)

The Democratic Services Manager circulated the Schedule of Nominations in respect of the Lists of Vacancies previously circulated in Appendices A, B, C and D and the Addendum to the report.

The Conservative's nomination in respect of vacancy reference P.10.1 at Brunswick Park Primary School was changed to Mr Sam Banthan Jeyapalan. The Conservative's nomination in respect of vacancy reference FS1.1 Ashmole Foundation was changed to Councillor Lisa Rutter. The Conservative's nomination in respect of 1080 Member Nicholl & Daniel Homes Charity was changed to Dr Vanessa Gearson.

The Committee considered the report of the Democratic Services Manager.

In accordance with Paragraph 5.3 of Part 3 of the Constitution three members of the Committee required that the following appointments made by the Committee be referred to Council:

Ref	School	Appointment
P.27.5	Wessex Gardens Primary School	Mr F Dannenburg (Mr Jonathan Davies was unsuccessful)
VS8.1	St Michael's Catholic Grammar	Dr Vanessa Gearson

	School	(Councillor Kath McGuirk was unsuccessful)
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Debate ensued. During the debate the Worshipful The Mayor, duly seconded, moved that Councillor Jack Cohen be not further heard. On being put to the vote, the Motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Jack Cohen be not further heard.

Upon being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED – That the Report of the General Functions Committee dated 21 June, 2006, and the appointments made by the Committee, be approved and adopted.

39. REQUEST FROM TRAINING SHIP BROADSWORD, HENDON UNIT TO USE THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET CREST (Report of the Democratic Services Manager - Agenda Items 13.1.2 and 13.1.7 (vi)):

An amendment to the recommendation in item 2 of the Democratic Services Manager's report was moved by Councillor Wayne Casey. Upon being put to the vote the amendment in the name of Councillor Wayne Casey was declared carried and the substantive motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED – That:

1. permission be granted to the Training Ship Broadsword, Hendon Unit to use the London Borough of Barnet Coat of Arms on their headed papers, subject to :

(1) this Coat of Arms being used in conjunction with that of the Unit;

(2) the words “Arms of the London Borough of Barnet” being clearly printed beneath the London Borough of Barnet coat of arms;

2. the Democratic Services Manager be instructed to advise the Commander of the Training Ship Broadsword, Hendon Unit, of the Council's decision.

40. DECISIONS EXEMPTED FROM THE CALL – IN PROCESS (Agenda Item 13.1.3):

In accordance with Constitutional requirements the Democratic Services Manager reported on the following decisions. The Chairman of the of the Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that the decisions were reasonable in all the circumstances, that they should be treated as matters of urgency and consequently exempted from the call – in process

(i) Report of the Leader of the Council which agreed to the acceptance by the Council by 23 June, 2006, of the surrender of a lease by tenants of land adjoining the Darlands Lake, provided the surrender of the lease was completed by that date; officers endeavouring to compete a proposed agreement regarding the right of way and the contractors' compound if the surrender of the lease was not completed by 23 June, 2006; and amending the capital programme to reflect previously unplanned expenditure on the surrender of the existing lease, as risks to the start and completion of the Darlands Lake dam project during summer 2006 (works were due to commence in June) would be mitigated by the provision of unhindered access to the site through taking the surrender of the lease.

(ii) Report of the Leader of the Council which agreed to the issue of Landlord's consent to the Barnet Club Ltd for various works to be carried out to implement proposed access and parking improvements for ground safety reasons; the council deferring for up to 12 months the grant of a formal licence for vehicular access over Priory Grove to The Barnet Club Ltd and Barnet Football Club to give the parties time to resolve an issue relating to claimed existing rights. Should this be resolved in favour of the Council, the Leader agreed to the Council seeking retrospective payment from the date of the issue of the Landlord's Consent. In the meantime no action would be taken to curtail claimed existing rights; the officers pursuing the outstanding issues raised in the report and reporting back to a future meeting of the Cabinet Resources Committee. Urgent agreement was required to enable The Barnet Club Ltd to carry out these works in the "closed season" when Underhill Stadium was not in use because they needed to be completed by the first major match of the 2006/07 season, which was scheduled for 15 July. To achieve this, the works had to be started well before the Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 19 June.

(iii) The decision of the Chipping Barnet Area Environment Sub – Committee of 8 June 2006, to note the action being taken to advertise the Council's intention of granting to the Barnet Club Limited and Barnet Football Club access rights over land at the south end of Priory Grove, in connection with the formation of a hard surfaced area to provide emergency access and egress improvements and an enlarged parking area on the northern part of the cricket ground. The reasons for the exemption from the call – in process were as set out for (ii) above.

41. LEADER'S SCHEME OF DELEGATION (Agenda Item 13.1.4)

The Democratic Services Manager submitted changes made by the Leader to Cabinet portfolios, as set out in an Appendix to these Minutes.

The Democratic Services Manager reported that the relevant changes would be made to Part 3 of the Council's Constitution, Responsibility for Functions.

42. REPORT OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR (Agenda Item 13.3)

RESOLVED –

(1) That the Council delegate the consideration of QuickSilver's application to allow the amusements premises at Quicksilver to open between 9am and 12 midnight Monday to Saturday and between 9am to 10am on Sundays to the Planning and Environment Committee for consideration as a request for consent under the Byelaws relating to Amusement Premises 1992 at their next meeting on the grounds that the application be considered as a consent under the Byelaws rather than a variation of the Byelaws.

(2) The Applicants be given the opportunity to speak at the Committee hearing so that they can deal with any concerns that Members of the Committee may have.

(3) That the Borough Solicitor in conjunction with the Head of Planning and Environment Protection be instructed to take the appropriate action and advise QuickSilver accordingly.

43. COMMENTS RELATING TO THE WORK OF CABINET (Agenda Items 13.1.5 and 14)

Councillor Zakia Zubairi commented

Today is the first annual National Veterans Day in Britain. This has been established to mark the dedication and commitment of Britain's armed services veterans. I believe that we should honour those still with us who have fought for freedom and democracy, as we also remember on Remembrance Day each year those who died. Personally, for me, it is about honouring British and Commonwealth soldiers. I am very proud of my sister's brother-in-law, Mateen Ahmed Ansari, who was a Captain in the Indian army. A very brave man in service. He endured two years in the Japanese prisoner of war camp at Hong Kong, was tortured and then beheaded in October 1943. He was posthumously awarded the George Cross in 1946. His story is recorded in the book *One Step Further*. I understand the Council is not marking National Veterans Day this year but I would like to ask that the Council agree to mark National Veterans Day in future years. Perhaps Councillor Burton, who runs the Association for Veterans of Foreign Wars, could be asked to take the lead on organising events for National Veterans Day in future on behalf of the Council. Thank you.

Councillor Brian Coleman responded

I'm grateful to Councillor Zubairi for raising the matter. Today is, of course, National Veterans Day and I think probably our thoughts are drawn to the two soldiers sadly killed in Afghanistan whilst on active duty yesterday, and we must remember that there are many thousands of veterans of the Second World War and later conflicts in our community here in Barnet. But there are many service families also resident in our borough, a number of our wards have army and other service properties in them and we think of all those troops serving overseas in the name of our country. Councillor Zubairi has indeed raised Veterans Day and it hasn't been marked. It's a new event as she says. There was a service, I believe, today in Westminster Abbey and Councillor Burton who, of course, does take a great interest in these matters was telling me earlier he'd attended the Veterans celebration, I think on Monday, at the RAF Museum in Hendon. I'm quite happy to lead the work on this to make sure that next year it is marked appropriately in Barnet by the Council in conjunction with the Royal British Legion and those other veterans organisations within our borough. I shall be consulting Councillor Burton and Members from opposition parties on how we should mark the occasion. But I am grateful to Councillor Zubairi to remind the Council that today is National Veterans Day. This borough is very proud of its links with the various service units, many of which are detailed on the board behind us. I think it will be a sad day when the Army finally move out of the Inglis Barracks site at Mill Hill and end a long tradition of association with this borough. So, Madam Mayor, we will move forward on that basis and I shall ensure that next year Veterans Day is marked in an appropriate manner in the London Borough of Barnet.

The meeting finished at 10. 47pm

Minute 28

Council Questions to Cabinet Members
27 June 2006
Questions and Responses

Question No. 1

Councillor Brian Gordon

Would the Leader not agree that the excellent Conservative achievement in Hale and other wards in Barnet with seats previously held by Labour or Liberal Democrat Councillors will bode well for even better government of this Borough over the next four years?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

I agree with Councillor Gordon. The fact that we were able to win seats underlines that the achievements of the Conservative Administration appealed to a wide audience. A strong Conservative council will continue to pursue improved quality of services in conjunction with offering value for money.

Supplementary Question No. 1

Councillor Brian Gordon

Leader, would you personally accept the good wishes of all Members of this Council for a successful term as Leader of what we are sure will be a united and loyal administration, as always, and would you also please join me in paying tribute to your predecessor Councillor Brian Salinger for all his dedicated work and achievements?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

Thank you Madam Mayor, I'm happy to accept those good wishes and, of course, congratulate Councillor Brian Salinger on the work he did on behalf of the borough.

Question No. 2

Councillor Jack Cohen

When will the Auditors' report on the "sale of land at Underhill" be published?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

PriceWaterhouseCoopers believe they will be ready to report before the end of July 2006.

Supplementary Question No. 2**Councillor Jack Cohen**

Thank you, Madam Mayor. In relation to the ongoing inquiry by PriceWaterhouseCoopers into the sale of land at Underhill the Cabinet received a letter from PriceWaterhouseCoopers dated 8 April 2006. Councillor Freer, on the final page of that letter PriceWaterhouseCoopers set out their timetable and they say "issue of preliminary decision before the end of June 2006". Councillor Freer, there are three days left in June, has that decision been issued?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

Madam Mayor, I thought my answer was actually fairly explicit. PriceWaterhouse have advised that the report will not be available by the end of June but the end of July.

Question No. 3**Councillor Ansuya Sodha**

War memorials, including the Hendon memorial in Watford Way, are in memory of those who gave their lives, for which we ought to be forever grateful. I have received concerns from a resident about why the Hendon Memorial appears to be neglected and not maintained; what is the Council doing to put this right following the reductions in the war memorials' maintenance budget?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

I too received the e-mail but the writer was not specific in the points raised.

The grounds around the memorial have recently received maintenance but there remain some issues around the built structures that surround the memorial – not the memorial itself. These involve the condition of retaining walls and the entrances and ramps to the subway and are within the remit of Transport for London to maintain and repair. We are actively pursuing TfL to carry out the necessary work to improve the appearance of this sensitive area.

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

Madam Mayor, I am pleased to see that the maintenance has now been carried out following my question so I've got no supplementary.

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

I'm not quite sure what the Member is referring to because, having walked past the memorial at Hendon twice a day and looking at it quite often, especially after receiving the e-mail, I don't understand what she's referring to. As I point out in my answer there are works that need to be completed at the location, we are pressing TfL for that and we hope to see some improvement in the general area.

Question No. 4**Councillor Brian Gordon**

Please would you give an update on the success and effectiveness of the security mirrors installed at Stoneyfields Park.

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

Prior to the installation of the mirrors, occasional complaints were recorded by the Greenspaces Division due to individuals reaching the end of a rather long alleyway restricted on both sides by tall palisade fencing only to find the gate locked and having to retrace their steps. Following the installation of the mirrors and a notice informing people that the gates at the far end were locked at dusk no further complaints or correspondence on the matter have been received.

Supplementary Question No. 4**Councillor Brian Gordon**

Councillor Offord, would you please re-affirm this Council's strong commitment to having parks which are well maintained, peaceful and user friendly?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

Yes, of course, Councillor Gordon, I will do that, but I will just take this opportunity to pay tribute to the former Councillor of Hale, Councillor Blomer, who actually worked very hard with yourself on the improvements in the park. I am pleased to see that the new Councillors in Hale have certainly taken up that challenge and I know they are looking forward to working with yourself, Councillor Gordon.

Question No. 5**Councillor Jack Cohen**

Congratulations on your appointment of Leader, how will your leadership be different, please provide me with six examples of how your leadership will be different to Councillor Salinger.

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

I would hate to prejudge my Leadership. I will let you judge any differences.

Supplementary Question No. 5**Councillor Jack Cohen**

Thank you. Councillor Freer, I asked you how your leadership would be different from former Leader, Councillor Salinger, and I asked you to give six examples. Well an astonishing response is that you can't give any examples whatsoever, yet we hear in question number 1 from Brian Gordon, and your response, that you praise the achievements of Councillor Salinger. I can't deny that you got an increased majority. Councillor Salinger increased his own vote substantially. Well why did you get rid of him?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

Thank you, Madam Mayor. The internal workings of the Conservative Group are internal to the Conservative Group and not subject to a question by Councillor Cohen.

Question No. 6

Councillor Geof Cooke

What are the principles applied by Barnet Council in determining the rental payable under leasing agreements with amateur sports clubs for the use of Council-owned land?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

The principles the Council follow for determining a market rent are in accordance with our duties under the Local Government Act 1972 to achieve best consideration in the "disposal" of any interest in Council owned land. The Council will achieve best consideration by charging a market rent, which is informed by knowledge of local supply and demand and through equivalent comparables using standard valuation practices for the type of interest being marketed. Clearly assets with a restricted marketability due to usage/restrictions on usage will drive down the 'market rent'. There should be no hidden subsidies to clubs through reduced rents and this has been the policy of this Administration and the previous Lib/Lab Administration. Should the Council wish to support such clubs, it will do so transparently through the grants process.

Supplementary Question No. 6

Councillor Geof Cooke

If agreement is not reached, when do you intend to start proceedings to repossess Arden Field in your ward from the long established Finchley Cricket Club?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

Thank you. As a former member of the cricket club you should know that it's a valued resource. I don't anticipate an agreement not being reached.

Question No. 7

Councillor Brian Gordon

It is being reported that more schools are being encouraged to develop direct working relationships with the Police as the Government expands its Safer School Partnership Scheme. The programme in certain cases include a dedicated police officer being allocated to one school or a group of schools. Is such an arrangement being envisaged for this Borough?

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

Barnet currently has 7 Safer School Officers. Since January 2005 both East Barnet and St James have had a full time dedicated officer along the lines of the Safer Schools Partnership.

In Friern Barnet, St Mary's and Bishop Douglass there are 3 officers each of whom works for 2 days a week at these schools.

There are 2 further officers who work across the other secondary schools.

The remaining time is dedicated to our primary schools.

Supplementary Question No. 7

Councillor Brian Gordon

Councillor Marshall, has there been any increase in the police presence around schools in the light of the appalling stabbing outside the London Academy School in Edgware, as well as some other reported incidents of violence in the region of schools, as far as you know?

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

I think that the police are taking this matter very seriously. I'm sure the whole Council, Madam Mayor, would like to express its sympathy with the family of the unfortunate young man who was murdered outside the London Academy and the Council would like to know that the authority was actually represented at his funeral the other day. But this is an important issue and it is one we are under constant liaison with the police. Unfortunately, violence is not confined to schools and there was a very nasty incident in the Garden Suburb Ward last weekend, which may be known to Councillor Gordon, and the police are also taking action there.

Question No. 8

Councillor Monroe Palmer

Could the Cabinet Member comment on the vast wood pile that hovers over the Staples Corner junction. This is the site of a large fire in July last year.

This site could be described as the biggest potential health hazard and public safety danger in the Borough. The fire last July brought chaos to Barnet and shut the M1, A406 and the main line; this caused fear and the risk to health to those living on and near the Edgware Road such as The Terraces NW2. It shut down businesses and leisure facilities. Can Barnet Council coordinate a plan of action with the Fire Brigade, Network Rail and any other regulatory authority to deal with this hazard?

Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman

I share Councillor Palmer's concern over this site. I have convened an officer/member working party (including the London Fire Brigade) to consider what needs to be done to ensure there are no further problems with this site and I will keep Councillor Palmer informed of progress.

Supplementary Question No. 8**Councillor Monroe Palmer**

Madam Mayor, I'd like to thank Councillor Coleman for his continued efforts with regard to this problem. Would he not agree the problem is that the small fines that can be issued for such offences and the cautions that have been given are no answer, and would he be working towards getting rid of this large wood pile, which anyone can see near Staples Corner, which should not be on this site at all?

Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman

Madam Mayor, I think Councillor Palmer is full of good common sense on this issue, because any resident of the borough who goes past that site and who witnessed the events that happened last summer will know that history is going to repeat itself if we're not careful. So to those ends I look forward to working with Ward Members, other Members, particularly Councillor Helena Hart with her public health portfolio, officers and the London Fire Brigade to resolve this issue once and for all, and I don't disagree with Councillor Palmer on the matter of fines.

Question No. 9**Councillor Alison Moore**

What progress has the Council made with the Council policy, agreed at the April Council meeting, to work with Barnet Football Club to implement the *Working Together* document?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

I met with the Chairman of BFC in May for a general discussion about the club and its future. Their immediate priority was the completion of landlord's consent for improved access and parking arrangements for both themselves and Barnet Cricket Club. The negotiations had proved protracted, however, they were successfully concluded and work commenced during the second week of June. In terms of the *Working Together* proposals I have had an initial discussion about these with the club Chairman and will be meeting him again shortly. I will then bring a report to Cabinet setting out a formal response to the proposals.

Supplementary Question No. 9**Councillor Alison Moore**

Thank you. Could the Leader of the Council tell us specifically what issues within the *Working Together* document remain a concern for the Council?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

Thank you, Madam Mayor. If Councillor Moore refers to the, I think, the penultimate page of the *Working Together* document there are a number of issues which are marked “subject to contract” which are still subject to some detailed negotiations with both the club, but also to deal with some concerns that residents will have. I’ll mention just three. There are some issues regarding the previously offered terms on the cricket club and Stationers sites. That needs to be resolved. There is also the issue whereby every Member of Council is being urged to vote in full support of the football club and the proposals. Now that may cause difficulty for those members of the Planning Committee because of the predetermination rules. And also if you look at the compromised South Underhill compensation offer that, of course, is now out date because that dates back to very long and protracted discussions over the original sale contract with former Councillor Lyon and the club. So there are elements of the document that are slightly out of date and there are some elements of the document that actually would come contrary to good governance, but I’m sure that the dialogue that has been established with Mr Kleanthous does mean that we’ll be able to move forward on the document as a whole.

Question No. 10

Councillor Brian Gordon

What is the result so far of the tougher line this Council has been taking against the parents of children in the Borough playing truant?

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

Councillor Gordon will welcome, as I do, the steady improvement in attendance at both primary and secondary schools. Secondary school attendance is well above the national average. In primary schools attendance is marginally below the national average. However we are introducing first day of absence calls to parents at primary schools which we believe will be effective in increasing attendance further.

Supplementary Question No. 10

Councillor Brian Gordon

Councillor Marshall, it’s good to note that as far as secondary schools are concerned attendance levels are higher than the average, but is there any particular reason why, as far as we know, it’s not so good when it comes to the primary schools. Obviously truancy is a very serious situation. Is it a matter of truancy or do we feel it’s when children are absent with their parents’ knowledge? Do we have more information about this?

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

I think, Madam Mayor, that one of the issues in primary schools is that children are taken away for educational holidays, shall we say, to other parts of the world without always the approval of the school. So that is clearly a problem and parents should be more responsible. However, parents will note that this authority can take them to court and ensure that they get fined and we will not hesitate to do so.

Question No. 11

Councillor Duncan Macdonald

Can the relevant cabinet member please advise on any proposed improvements for cyclists in Barnet with particular reference to improved cycle routes?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

With the exception of the M1 motorway, all public highways in the borough are routes that may be used by cyclists. The Council's approach has been to seek improvements to the whole road network in the borough, rather than providing specific 'cycle only' measures.

The Council's programme of road resurfacing has led to significant improvements in the condition of borough roads. Poor road surfaces affect cyclists far more than other road users, so the Council considers a good road surface, free from potholes, to be a major improvement for cyclists.

Supplementary Question No. 11

Councillor Duncan Macdonald

Can I thank Councillor Offord for his answer, I would like to know though, I am sure that roads are not the be all and end all of cycling and does Councillor Offord think that my 6 year old daughter, for example, should be riding her bike on the public highway?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

Councillor Macdonald, Madam Mayor, I actually don't think that cycle lanes are the be all and end all either. I suggest that if your 6 year old daughter wishes to cycle that you take her to an appropriate location where it's sensible, where you would allow any 6 year old to cycle or to play in any way. But one point I will make is that all cyclists, particularly children, do need to feel comfortable, especially in regards to their safety. That's why this Council has funded 475 places to enable young people to engage in the cycling network.

Question No. 12**Councillor Agnes Slocombe**

Please provide a breakdown of the children currently using the Pavilion Centre by ethnicity and gender; and when will they be returning to mainstream education?

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

I should like to thank the Councillor for allowing me to point out the tremendous progress made during the past year when the exclusion rate has fallen.

Of the children at the Pavilion PRU, White British account for 31 - 20 boys, 11 girls. Mixed Race-White/Caribbean is 3, all boys. Mixed Race White & African - one (a boy). Mixed race-White & Asian - one boy. Black African heritage - 2 boys. Black- other 7 boys, 2 girls. Other - 2 Turkish boys and 1 Iranian boy. Thus there is a predominance of boys rather than girls. 40% of the pupils there are white British boys. Of the 50 pupils there, 20 are in Year 11 who will be leaving shortly. Of the 30 remaining we have integration plans for 7, reducing the number of pupils to 23. I do hope that the Councillor will welcome this movement.

It is clear that we have a problem with a small minority of boys. That is why I am determined that the quality of vocational education should improve. We are putting additional resources into some schools to help those who are struggling at Key Stage 3.

I visited the PRU some months ago and was much impressed with the commitment of the staff.

This progress reflects well on the Authority and this administration.

Supplementary Question No. 12**Councillor Agnes Slocombe**

Councillor Marshall, thank you for your answer, however the commitment of the staff in the PRU was never in question, nor was it what I asked you. We are all aware of the fact that these pupils need continuing support and guidance if they are to improve their life chances as indicated in *Every Child Matters*. I would, however, be interested to know if any packages of care and support have been put in place to assist the 20 pupils in year 11 who are shortly to leave the unit, and could I also have a breakdown of how many of these pupils go on to gain successful employment or further education, as it is the outcome of these measures that would indeed reflect on the authority and this administration currently in situ. Thank you very much.

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

Madam Mayor, that question, of course, goes somewhat wider than the initial question. It clearly is premature to ask how many of the 20 will, in fact, be in employment when they leave the PRU because not everyone, as the Councillor knows, gets employment before they leave school, but we will certainly monitor the situation.

Question No. 13

Councillor Brian Salinger

Will the Leader of the Council make a statement detailing the outcome of any discussions that he or officers have had with Barnet Football Club since 16 May 2006?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

Following an informal meeting I had with Mr Kleanthous a working relationship has been established and to date progress has been made on resolving the issues relating to both Priory Grove access and the Landlord's Consent for the drainage, car park and turning area works.

Supplementary Question No. 13

Councillor Brian Salinger

Thank you, Madam Mayor. The Conservative manifesto was clear that this Council will support the club. Can we now expect that all Members, and in particular all Members of the Cabinet, will be supporting the club this coming season, even if they don't turn up at games, and that we won't have Members actively supporting opponents of the club in the hope that they will be relegated?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

Thank you, Madam Mayor. Members of the Cabinet can hold their personal views but in their Cabinet positions they will support the Administration's view in that we support the Barnet Football Club and their remaining in the borough and in fact, in that level of support, whether they want to go to football matches is entirely down to them. I look forward to being invited to a football match, and even the Deputy Leader did actually travel all the way to Carlisle to see Barnet Football Club, so we are committed to supporting the club.

Question No. 14

Councillor Barry Rawlings

Will the Administration be keeping its election promise to rebuild Foulds school on the same site against the wishes of the Head and Governors of that school?

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

I asked the officers to consider and cost this option. My instructions are, as Councillor Rawlings would expect, being carried out

Supplementary Question No. 14

Councillor Barry Rawlings

Thank you. I'll start mine the same way as Councillor Brian Salinger. The Conservative election manifesto and promises in High Barnet made it very clear that the Foulds School would be rebuilt on the same site. Now you managed to avoid answering the question so in fairness I'll give you one more chance. Are you keeping to your election promise or, as in your answer, the election promise should have actually read "I am asking officers to consider and cost the different options". So do you intend to keep to your promise or do you intend to support the wishes of the school?

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

Madam Mayor, the situation is very clear in the answer that I have given. In April, before the elections I asked officers to do what I said in the answer I asked them to do. We will consider their report and determine accordingly.

Question No. 15

Councillor Brian Salinger

Will the Leader please set out what he sees as the timetable for the regeneration of the Cricklewood/Brent Cross area detailing any milestones that he expects to be reached during the next 12 months?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

Brief Overview

- **Preparation of the outline planning application**

The Development Partnership is currently preparing a Development Specification which defines the principal components of the development that are the subject of the outline planning application.

Current Work Priorities/Milestones

- **Land Evaluation and Disposal**

CB Richard Ellis was successful in tendering for work around the evaluation and disposal of the Council's land. Approval of the requested fee has now been received from the developers (as required under the Collaboration Agreement). Work has commenced and is expected to be complete by **end August 2006**.

- **Legal Matters**

The preparation of the Principal Development Agreement (PDA) is progressing. The next meeting with the Development Partnership has been scheduled for late June and thereafter meetings will be held on a fortnightly basis. The Development Partnership have confirmed that they would like the PDA to be ready for presentation to Cabinet **in November 2006**.

- **UDP**

The UDP has now been adopted by the Council and notice to this effect has been published in the London Gazette and local press. The Council has received letters from Tesco and Toys R Us asking the Council not to adopt the UDP. Tesco's objection is centred around the positioning of the Town Centre boundary and the position of its store within that boundary. The Toys R Us objection focuses on the process of adopting the SPG for the Eastern Lands and the fact that the store would be faced with a CPO in the course of scheme delivery. It is the opinion of the Head of Planning that the objection from Toys R Us poses the greater problem (albeit mainly one of delay) for the Council since it is challenging procedure whereas the Tesco objection is a matter of commercial positioning. The Head of Planning has confirmed that discussions will take place with both organisations.

- **Cricklewood Brent Cross Delivery Plan**

The first draft of the Delivery Strategy (prepared by EDAW) has been completed and is with Council officers for comment. The Strategy sets out the principles for the implementation of the Development Framework and will cover areas such as land ownership and viability, phasing and delivery, necessary physical and social infrastructure required to support development. The Delivery Strategy will be subject to consultation with key stakeholders and finalised by **end January 2007**.

- **Pre-Application Consultation**

A communications strategy for the regeneration scheme is currently being prepared by London Communications, consultants working on behalf of the Development Partnership. Consultants working on the pre-application consultation strategy envisage that consultation will begin in **September 2006**. The Development Partnership have been asked to present the full Communications Strategy to the Leader, Member for Strategic Development and Council officers alongside their presentation of the scheme Development Specification/parameter plans at a meeting to be arranged in July.

Key Dates

- May 2006 – UDP adopted (subject to 6-week legal challenge period)
- September 2006 – proposed start for pre-application consultation
- November 2006 – Principal Development Agreement ready for presentation to Cabinet
- January/February 2007 – Outline planning application submitted by developers

Supplementary Question No. 15

Councillor Brian Salinger

Can I thank the Leader for this timetable and for what I have read as his commitment to the regeneration programme in Barnet First, which came through my door today. Can I assume that all Members of the Cabinet support this position and the regeneration programme?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

Yes.

Question No. 16

Councillor Colin Rogers

Why is the Council stealing park keepers from, and as a result running down, some of the so-called 'premier' parks and sending them as additional help to the five hoped for 'green flag' status parks?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

While individual Park Keepers may spend a greater proportion of their time at one given site, this has to be balanced by the needs of the total premier parks and all grounds staff are and will continue to carry out operations across all premier parks as required by seasonality, special events and the operational peaks and troughs associated with the provision of the Council's comprehensive and large scale grounds maintenance service.

All premier parks are maintained and measured against the green flag criteria and no premier parks are being run down. All premier parks have management plans and improvement/development programmes. The improvement/development programmes of premier parks are programmed over time and accordingly some are earlier in the programme than others. This approach is reflected in the current round of site improvements and green flag applications/inspections.

I recall that before the elections the Labour Group were proposing that they would have withdrawn from the Premier Parks policy – these erroneous comments are just another step in that direction and would ensure mediocre parks for all in Barnet.

Supplementary Question No. 16

Councillor Colin Rogers

Thank you, Madam Mayor. How are green flag status parks going to keep up their standard all year round when the standards have only been achieved by bussing in park keepers from other parks only for the inspections?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

Madam Mayor, I do have to disagree with Councillor Rogers. As I've set out in the answer to his question, all premier parks have different management plans, all run at different times being reflected in the diversity in those particular parks. Nothing is being run-down and no park keepers are being "stolen" and placed anywhere else.

Question No. 17

Councillor Caroline Margo

What progress is being made in the programme to provide new residential care homes for older people?

Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer

To date, three homes have been built and opened - Dellfield with 40 places, Apthorpe Lodge with 108 places and Meadowside with 68 places. Apthorpe Lodge and Meadowside include purpose built day centres, with specialist day provision for people with dementia. Planning for the final two homes is well underway.

The homes are being built to the highest modern standards and provide a very wide range of facilities for residents, underlining this administration's commitment to investing in high quality care for Barnet's most vulnerable residents.

Supplementary Question No. 17

Councillor Caroline Margo

Thank you, Madam Mayor. Can I thank Councillor Bulmer for her answer and please could the Cabinet Member advise Council how many residential homes for the elderly have been opened by this administration since 2002.

Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer

Thank you, Councillor Margo. We have opened three new residential homes and, as you know, Madam Mayor, from when you came to Meadowside a couple of weeks ago, these homes are being built to the highest standards, they're really excellent modern provision. They underline this administration's commitment to supporting the vulnerable and I look forward to the remaining two homes in the programme being opened, and I think they are a real endorsement of the approach we are taking to improving our services and improving choice for older people in this borough.

Question No. 18**Councillor Zakia Zubairi**

Given the still appalling state of the pavements in Varley Parade, which I first reported to the Council in April 2005, why is the work to rectify this being delayed until 2007/8 when Council taxpayers' money is being wasted on resurfacing other pavements which are in perfectly good condition?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

The relaying of pavements in Varley Parade (adjacent to the shops) has been included in the current Planned Maintenance Programme, approved by the Hendon Area Environment Sub Committee in March 2006, as part of a scheme in The Hyde NW9 between Hyde Estate Road and Hillfield Avenue. Unfortunately, there has been a mistake in reporting this scheme and the wrong limits have been reported. The correct limits of this scheme should be between Hyde Estate Road and Sheaveshill Avenue, instead of Hyde Estate Road and Hillfield Ave. This mistake will be corrected and the correct limits of the scheme inserted at the next meeting of the Hendon Area Environment Sub Committee in September 2006. The work is planned to start in August 2006.

Perhaps you would like to identify, in your qualified opinion, where the Council is wasting money on pavements – particularly in your ward, in order that I can convey that opinion to residents in those locations and explain how you do not want their local environment improved?

Supplementary Question No. 18**Councillor Zakia Zubairi**

Thank you, Madam Mayor. I am pleased that following my question Varley Parade has been included in the pavement programme this year, so there is no supplementary.

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

I think there was a supplementary there, Madam Mayor. The successful administration that this Council has run in the last four years has enabled us to resurface many roads across the borough through our very popular resurfacing programme, which I know that Members opposite have been very much against. I can assure the Councillor, following its success in her own ward, that we shall be looking to engage in that programme in other parts of the borough for the pavements. So I look forward to the pavements being of the same high quality as the roads in this borough and I'm sure she will look forward to congratulating this Conservative administration.

Question No. 19**Councillor Robert Rams**

Please could the Cabinet member for Education give this Council an indication of how healthy school meals are in Barnet?

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

The Council has been improving the quality of school meals. We spend more than government guidelines. The healthy menu has been rolled out since June 2005 and will cover ALL primary schools by the end of this term. The emphasis on fresh foods has been widely welcomed and has, I am told by heads, led to even better behaviour. Many more teachers are now eating school lunches which is a testament to these meals. I have also enjoyed several. When Councillor Rams visits schools in his ward he will be equally impressed by the standard of the meals.

Supplementary Question No. 19

Councillor Robert Rams

Thank you, Madam Mayor. I'd like to thank Councillor Marshall as well for his answer, but could the Cabinet Member please explain how these excellent and reassuring steps forward in nutrition have been achieved?

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

Madam Mayor, they've been achieved because this Council is concerned about the health of its school children. The meals are excellent. I know that Councillor Coleman went to Ravenscroft and had the opportunity to eat a healthy meal. He ate chips. I can assure Councillor Rams, however, that when I go to schools I'm very pleased to eat the very healthy meals that are on offer and it is a testament to the quality of those meals that many more teachers are now eating school lunches than was the case 2 or 3 years ago. And it's also the case that the behaviour of the children after these healthy lunches is much better than it was 2 or 3 years ago. So it's a win win situation for the children of the borough and also for their education.

Question No. 20

Councillor Alan Schneiderman

Why is the Council so complacent about tackling anti-social behaviour that no progress has been made to implement the Council policy to establish a *Respect for Barnet* campaign?

Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman

Respect for Barnet was the theme of the Labour Party manifesto in the recent Council elections. The electorate overwhelmingly rejected Labour in this Borough and across London. This Administration does not do pointless and expensive PR campaigns, instead it works with the Police and our other partners to tackle real problems.

Supplementary Question No. 20**Councillor Alan Schneiderman**

As usual Councillor Coleman just resorts to petty party politics in his answers. The Respect for Barnet campaign is about the police, the community and the Council working together to tackle anti-social behaviour. Does he not agree with that or does he still think it's not the Council's responsibility to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour?

Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman

If you are on a losing wicket then give it up. Councillor Schneiderman, you moved a motion, your group moved a motion at the March Council meeting based on your manifesto. Your manifesto, I'm sad to remind you, was overwhelmingly rejected by the people of this borough who preferred the policies put forward by this administration and the Conservative party and they include our strong support for the police, our close working relationship with the police, our full hearted support of neighbourhood policing and our commitment to tackle anti-social behaviour across this borough. We don't need any PR stunts from Labour Members.

Question No. 21**Councillor Daniel Thomas**

Please could the Cabinet Member for Community Safety advise Council about how he will tackle street drinking in hot spots in the Borough such as outside Tesco at Finchley Central?

Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman

Council will be aware of this Administration's introduction of alcohol free zones in a number of areas in the Borough including Finchley Central. They have had limited success. In my view they require stronger Police enforcement and I have had discussions with the Police on this and will be taking it further with the new Borough Police Commander. Whilst keen to role out further zones in hot spots across the Borough (including Burnt Oak) a few notices on lamp posts do not solve a problem. It may well be that we need to look at a full range of anti social behaviour measures including the use of ASBOs against hardened street drinkers .The installation of CCTV in Finchley Central (due to become operational within the next few weeks) should help considerably.

Supplementary Question No. 21**Councillor Daniel Thomas**

Thank you, Madam Mayor. Madam Mayor, I'd like to ask the Cabinet Member for Community Safety whether he has specific plans for further alcohol free zones across the borough.

Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman

Madam Mayor, I am currently exploring with officers and the police rolling out alcohol free zones. I am mindful of Councillor McFadyen's request for Burnt Oak which I've asked officers to bring me the facts on, so that we can work with the police. I am quite content that if Members across the Council chamber bring matters of street drinking to the attention of me and the relevant officers we will explore the need for alcohol free zones. I'm quite happy to roll them out but I am even happier that the police will enforce them rigorously because there is no point in having alcohol free zones if they are not properly enforced and I have made my views quite plain to the former Borough Police Commander. I shall be seeing the new Borough Police Commander on Monday when I shall make my views equally forceful that the current zones must be rigorously enforced because, along with Councillor Thomas, I am sure none of us like witnessing some of the scenes we see outside Tesco's in Finchley Central on a regular basis.

Question No. 22

Councillor Anne Hutton

Does the Administration intend to keep its promise to replace South Friern Library with a new one of the same size and on the same site?

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

Yes. I should like to thank Councillor Hutton for providing me with an opportunity to reiterate this commitment.

Question No. 23

Councillor Daniel Webb

Please could the Cabinet Member for Community Services and Housing give this Council an update on the Court Case forcing us to house jobless EU Nationals?

Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer

After the court case, which would have forced Barnet and other councils to provide housing to any unemployed EU citizen, the Government changed the regulations, overturning the court's judgement. This means we can now put Barnet's residents first instead of having to give priority to people with no connection with Barnet.

Supplementary Question No. 23

Councillor Daniel Webb

Thank you, Madam Mayor. I'd like to thank Councillor Bulmer for her response but also ask her does she think this change in the law has been brought about as a direct result of the Council's determination to bring this matter and pursue it in court?

Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer

Absolutely. It was quite clear that had this Council not challenged this decision and been prepared to take this through the courts, the government would not have acted and I think this case underlines this Council's absolute determination to put Barnet residents first, and to constantly challenge absurd rulings which would have required us to house people with absolutely no connection with Barnet. We put Barnet residents first and if we are constrained by government legislation then we will continue to fight that legislation in order to allow us to give priority to local people.

Question No 24

Councillor Kath McGuirk

Although the Council just reached the 27% statutory recycling target; why did the Council fail to achieve its Local Public Service Agreement 30% recycling target and how much money has the Council failed to receive from the Government as a result?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

I think your question is very disingenuous to the people of Barnet who responded well to the recycling challenge and increased the amount collected from 30,372 tonnes in 2004/05 to 38,846 in 2005/06.

We did not achieve the 30% because we needed to collect a greater tonnage of recyclables. I am surprised you do not know that we would have received £629,227 in performance reward grant as this has been published in many Council documents.

Supplementary Question No. 24

Councillor Kath McGuirk

Thank you. It's not often that the Cabinet Member does anything which deserves praise but let me congratulate him on setting a 40% recycling target by 2009. But can he tell this council chamber how he will actually achieve the new target when he failed to reach the last one?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

I'm not quite sure that has anything to do with the question that you asked. I found the whole question pretty disingenuous to the people of Barnet and I find your persistent will to see the initiative fail disappointing. We will continue with our successful compulsory recycling initiative in Barnet. I now understand that four other boroughs have followed our lead, so we are leading the way in the recycling agenda. If we'd taken the views of the Liberal Democrats and abolished the green waste collection service back in their previous budget, or taken the example of the Labour Group, which was to collect plastics and cardboard without the additional resources, we would have been nowhere near the 27% target. I make no apology for not reaching 30%. It was disappointing but we did very well. It's a pity that the Labour Group is so down on the people of Barnet.

Question No. 25

Councillor Richard Weider

Please could the Cabinet Member for Education outline how many, if any, Secondary Schools in this Borough are in Special Measures?

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

I am pleased to say that there are NO secondary schools in special measures.

Supplementary Question No. 25

Councillor Richard Weider

Thank you, Madam Mayor. Could the Cabinet Member please tell me how he achieved these excellent results in Barnet so that there are no longer any secondary schools in special measures?

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

Can I first of all congratulate Councillor Weider on his election. I knew his grandfather well and I am sure that he will be a chip off the old block and will no doubt raise many points of order as his grandfather frequently did. The success in getting all our secondary schools out of special measures is due to the work of the Local Education Authority, its staff, its leadership and the work of my predecessors. They did the work, I have the pleasure of announcing the results of their work.

Question No. 26

Councillor Geof Cooke

What does the Administration intend to do with the cricket ground at Arden Field, East End Road, Finchley N3 if a financially viable agreement is not reached with Finchley Cricket Club?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

Should a financially viable agreement not be forthcoming, it is assumed that this would involve Finchley CC surrendering the lease that they are currently "holding over" on. Should this be the case, the Council would seek to secure best consideration by advertising the ground for leasing to other cricket or sports clubs. However, Officers are involved in ongoing discussions with the Club to find a mutually satisfactory resolution.

Supplementary Question No. 26

Councillor Geof Cooke

Councillor Freer, your previous answer was evasive. Will you now take this opportunity to give your constituents an unequivocal assurance that as land owner the Council will not allow Arden Field to be built on?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

Madam Mayor, let me make it absolutely unequivocal, and I'm very grateful for Councillor Cooke to take an interest in my ward, but actually I think that the people of my ward are perfectly satisfied with my performance as a ward councillor considering that my majority was massively increased.

Now turning to this particular cricket club, Councillor Cooke may wish to avail himself of a private briefing because I realise he's been out of office as a councillor for some time, but I do believe that the Local Government Finance Acts actually applied when he was in the last administration as a Cabinet Member. Now, I do not foresee an agreement not being reached, but we still have to acquire the good will of the cricket club and we're working towards that. If an agreement cannot be reached I've made it absolutely plain that the ground is restricted as I've set out in my answer. There will be no building on Arden Field, thank you very much.

Question No. 27

Councillor Richard Weider

Please could the Cabinet member for Environment and Transport outline the latest accident figures for Barnet's roads?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

The most recent accident data available is for the period ending December 2005. This shows that there were a total of 1365 road accident casualties in the borough during 2005. Of these, 146 casualties received serious injuries or died as a result of the accident (Killed or Seriously Injured = KSI).

Comparing the totals for 2005 to 2004, the figures show a reduction of -13.6% in the total number of casualties and a reduction of -15.1% in KSI's.

The Government has set a national target of reducing KSI casualties by 40%, over a baseline figure taken between 1994 and 1998, and to achieve this reduction by 2010. By 2005, the number of KSI casualties in Barnet has reduced by -45.7%. This exceeds the national target and is five years before the target date.

Supplementary Question No. 27**Councillor Richard Weider**

Thank you, Madam Mayor. Does the Cabinet Member agree with me that these figures show that Barnet has some of the best figures for road safety in London, not only in London but also in the UK and Europe, with its 45% reduction in KSI casualties since its programme of removing road humps was introduced, and does he agree with me that critics such as the Mayor of London should apologise for his stance, and finally how will the Council be sharing best practice with other parts of Britain?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

I'd like to thank Councillor Weider for that particular comment. Yes, I think it is pretty disingenuous of the Mayor of London not to acknowledge the wonderful work that we've done in this borough but, as we've seen tonight, being disingenuous is something of the Labour party, isn't it? We've also seen the opposition groups who should take their place in the queue to apologise, I think, often referring to myself, and Councillor Coleman, as having blood on our hands. I've had many e-mails citing that. So perhaps they'd also like to take their turn in the queue.

How will we spread our best practice? Well, we're always willing and able to speak to any local authority that comes to see us. I understand there is a local authority very nearby, but I won't reveal who they are, who are looking to implement our particular policies - queuing up Councillor Coleman says. We intend to see this policy not only remaining in Barnet but also across all the Conservative councils here in London.

Question No. 28**Councillor Alison Moore**

If the Leader of the Council would set out the achievements of - and congratulate - the previous Council leader, Councillor Brian Salinger?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

Yes.

Councillor Salinger was committed to extending housing in the Borough, was an ardent supporter of the ALMO decision and Barnet Homes; was successful in pursuing the many regeneration schemes; was forceful in his drive to reduce the number of homeless and families in temporary accommodation and was innovative in his suggestion of Montrose Park as a home for Barnet FC.

Supplementary Question No. 28**Councillor Alison Moore**

Thank you, Madam Mayor. Councillor Freer, you gave somewhat lukewarm support earlier in response to a question about Councillor Brian Salinger. That's interesting, having given him such a real Thatcherite handbagging in taking the Leadership from him. It's also interesting that you've chosen to focus on his so called socialist housing policies which were so much derided by members of the Tory group. But to get to a supplementary, if the Council does well in its CPA report, will the Council Leader be man enough to give Brian the credit?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

Madam Mayor, the CPA results will be due in due course and, of course, I will pay fulsome tribute to Councillor Salinger and all of the administration who have played a part in the result that we will be getting.

Question No. 29**Councillor Dean Cohen**

Please could the Cabinet Member for Education tell Council how many, if any, Primary Schools in Barnet are in Special Measures?

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

I am pleased to say that there are no primary schools in special measures.

Supplementary Question No. 29**Councillor Dean Cohen**

Thank you, Madam Mayor. Councillor Marshall, I believe this means we have no schools in the borough, both primary and secondary, under special measures. Please could the Cabinet Member state how such a wonderful turnaround has been achieved in under two years?

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

Can I thank Councillor Cohen for that very difficult supplementary question. Can I also congratulate him for being sufficiently numerate to realise that $0 + 0 = 0$. He's obviously been well educated. The turnaround has been due to a lot of hard work by officers of this Council, and I think we should thank them for what they have achieved. When we gained control of this Council in 2002, the Education Department was in sheer chaos and there was a threat to take it over by central government. Now Barnet's Education Department is very well regarded throughout the country and I am convinced that when the CPA report is published later this year it will give us a glowing bill of health. Councillor Cohen might also like to know that Clitterhouse Junior and Infants School will be re-opening in September as Claremont School and I think the new Claremont School will thrive because it's going to have a very good new head teacher from another school in the borough.

Question No. 30**Councillor Agnes Slocombe**

Who is responsible for the garages on Layfield Road, NW4 and what can be done to resolve the problem of garage number 10 which has been vacant for months with the door broken off completely and dumped rubbish inside?

Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer

Barnet Homes are responsible for these garages and they are taking action to repair the garage door and remove the rubbish.

Supplementary Question No. 30**Councillor Agnes Slocombe**

Next time I hope to get a proper answer and when I arrive next week I hope the problem will have gone.

Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer

Clearly I'm sorry that the garage was left in such a state, but I do have to point out that the most efficient way of dealing with these issues is to contact Barnet Homes directly and they will respond, rather than raising it at Council Questions.

Question No. 31**Councillor Marina Yannakoudakis**

Would the Cabinet member for Public Health agree with me that urgent work needs to be done to tackle health problems in our ethnic communities?

Answer by Councillor Helena Hart

Indeed I would, even though variations in health problems attributable to ethnicity should be seen against a background of generally positive headlines, e.g. premature deaths from the main disease groups being low in Barnet (mostly in the best quartile nationally) and low infant mortality. As elsewhere, we don't always have local data, but quite a lot is known about how black and minority ethnic communities are differentially affected. However, it is less clear to what extent the information is acted upon.

We are fortunate that here in Barnet we have one of the most ethnically diverse communities of any London Borough. Of course, each has its own particular health needs and health outcomes vary between communities. Inequalities in access to health services also arise, brought about as much by cultural differences as by difficulties with language. The only way to combat these is by directly getting into the communities themselves. That is why I was so concerned to hear that the Primary Care Trust had cut its Ethnic Outreach nurse and immediately contacted the Chief Executive to take this up with him. His response is detailed below:

“The work of the Ethnic Out Reach Nurse has been valued by Barnet Primary Care Trust during a time when nursing services were struggling to meet the needs of Black and Ethnic minority communities. Our nursing teams have improved their understanding and skills in developing targeted services to BME groups. The model of community nursing in the future is built on the premise that the teams will deliver locally based health care services aimed at addressing key public health issues in their specific locality, including the BME diversity this brings for BME communities. Services are to be mainstreamed. We believe that the whole population of Barnet of which 25% are from BME groups are entitled to the full range of nursing services provided by our teams. It is the responsibility of all nurses to reach out to BME communities. The danger of investing this responsibility in one individual is that other services fail to mainstream services to the whole population. Approximately 200 nurses are affected by the Community Nursing Workforce Plan and all of these nurses have a responsibility for engaging and out reaching with the BME community.”

Personally, I have yet to be convinced that this is the right way forward and after further discussion, the Chief Executive undertook to keep the matter under review.

Indeed, it is generally accepted that there are specific problems in reaching out to the ethnic communities and the PCT does have a “Health Promotion Intervention Programme with BME Communities” written this year, covering diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, obesity, respiratory disease and mental health. This and the Health Improvement & Modernisation Plan recognises variations by ethnicity in terms of disease patterns, different lifestyles, different rates of take-up, the need to record patients by ethnicity, the need to target BME groups, the need to tailor some services (including provision of interpreting), perceptions of health and expectations and experiences of health services. However, neither report is a commitment to action and resources have not yet been committed to the intervention programme. These much needed health promotion interactions with the ethnic communities will be actively pushed and promoted through all our partnership boards and a very watchful eye kept on the PCT’s assurances in this respect.

Having said that there has already been some BME-targeted work, e.g.

The PCT equalities adviser helps frontline staff access BME communities and recently took a team to Tesco, Finchley, to meet south Asians in particular about smoking and diabetes

Work done with BME communities on raising awareness about diseases such as sickle-cell anaemia / thalassaemia, stroke prevention and coronary heart disease.

Work with local African businesses is effective in preventing HIV infection and improving awareness and has been linked to promoting smoking cessation.

The new mental health strategy will apparently have a focus on ethnic minorities
Promotion of smoking cessation at Finchley Mosque.

However much more needs to be done and, as a result of the importance we have put on this:-

The LSP agreed on 13th June to look at options for improving joint PCT / Council delivery arrangements for health improvement. Addressing health inequalities needs to be written into the process and governance will need to be considered at the same time.

The new Corporate Plan includes a target to reduce obesity and diabetes in the local population (over 4 years) and gives scope to work with BME communities.

The Sustainable Community Strategy includes a project to identify further vulnerable groups (including BME groups) whose needs could be better met and to deliver against a small number of them in years 2-3 of the Strategy.

Supplementary Question No. 31

Councillor Marina Yannakoudakis

Thank you, Madam Mayor. Would the Cabinet Member for Public Health agree with me that urgent work needs to be done to tackle health problems in our ethnic communities? Thank you.

Answer by Councillor Helena Hart

Thank you, Madam Mayor, and I thank the Member for the question. Far more does need to be done with regard to getting into our ethnic communities and I have taken the matter up with the Chief Executive of the PCT and we will be continuing our work with them and leading from the front. Thank you.

Question No. 32

Councillor Barry Rawlings

The original cost for the Primary School Capital Strategy was £213m. That was a few months ago - what is the estimate now?

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

I should like to thank Councillor Rawlings for letting me underline this administration's commitment to modernising our primary schools - an area where the Labour/Liberal administration failed completely. We are not yet at the stage of costing individual projects. When this process starts we will be able to revise, if necessary, the £218m estimate which was of course at 2007/08 prices. We are on track for the 2009 start date.

Question No. 33

Councillor Hugh Rayner

How many Barnet schools were inspected by OFSTED between September 05 and April 06? How many were graded as 'Outstanding'. How many were graded as 'Good'? How do these figures compare with national outcomes?

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

Eighteen Barnet schools were inspected between September 2005 and April 2006. Of these 22% were described as 'Outstanding' and 61% as 'Good'. This is far in excess of the national trends and reflects great credit on the officers of the LEA and the dedication of our teachers. It also reflects the determination of this administration to ensure that all our pupils have a first class start in life.

Supplementary Question No. 33

Councillor Hugh Rayner

Thank you, Madam Mayor. Thank you, Councillor Marshall, for the answer to my question. Councillor Marshall, will you please accept the congratulations of this Council on the very good results achieved in all our schools, and can I ask you to make it the ambition of our administration to achieve the outstanding category, perhaps, in all our schools.

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

Can I thank Councillor Rayner for that kind supplementary. Yes, of course, we will accept congratulations from any part of this Council chamber. I think we're more likely to get them from this side than the rather biased side further to my left. It is certainly the objective of this authority that all our schools should be excellent because education is, as I've said on many occasions, the escalator of opportunity which gives everyone the chance to use their skills to the full and that is why as an authority we should try and ensure that every school gives a full opportunity to all the children going to it.

Question No. 34

Councillor Zakia Zubairi

What action is the Council taking to repair broken pavements and remove the graffiti in Colin Crescent?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

Colin Crescent is not included in the current year's planned footway programme for the Hendon Area as the overall condition of the pavements is fair.

Colin Crescent will be reassessed when formulating the 2007/2008 Footway Works programme for the Hendon Area in accordance with the prioritisation criteria approved by the Cabinet.

There has only been one request recently from a Colin Crescent resident to assist with graffiti removal. The resident was issued with a graffiti removal kit and some paint to cover graffiti on a wall at the side of their property.

The majority of graffiti in the area of Colin Crescent is on private property but the graffiti in the pedestrian foot tunnel has been reported to the Highways Agency for removal.

Question No. 35

Councillor Anne Hutton

The announcement of the opening of a youth club at Church Farm was made a year ago in a blaze of publicity - a year later it is still not open - what excuses do you have for your failure?

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

I should like to thank Councillor Evans and Councillor Hillan for their commitment to this project. I can assure Councillor Hutton that it will proceed. The lease has been finalised and the YMCA appointed a project co-ordinator in March. There was a delay caused by leaks in the roof in May. I am sure that this project will be a major success.

Supplementary Question No. 35

Councillor Anne Hutton

Thank you, Madam Mayor. I wonder if the Cabinet Member is now in a position to give a more precise timescale for the opening of the youth club.

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

I think the answer, Madam Mayor, is that it will open soon. It is an objective of this Council that it should open and I should like to pay great tribute to the work of Councillor Olwen Evans and Councillor Lynne Hillan who have been the driving forces behind this. It is unfortunate that due to leaks in the roof there has been a delay. The leaks have been dealt with and I am sure that it will be opening shortly and I would like Councillor Hutton to associate herself with my remarks about Councillor Olwen Evans and Councillor Lynne Hillan.

Question No. 36

Councillor Kath McGuirk

In what year will the Administration achieve its target to recycle 40% of all domestic waste produced in Barnet, and how does the Cabinet Member envisage doing this?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

Barnet Council has set itself a target to recycle and compost 40% of household waste in 2009/10.

To achieve this recycling and composting target more residents will need to take part in the services that we provide and residents will need to recycle or compost more materials.

Supplementary Question No. 36**Councillor Kath McGuirk**

Thank you, Madam Mayor. What I'd like to know, Councillor Offord, is how will you ensure that more residents will participate, other than your compulsory recycling scheme. Will you stick to your manifesto commitment of bringing in cardboard and plastic recycling to the kerbside and ensure that all residents of this borough who live in flats can recycle on their doorstep? You said you do it 100% in the BPPR but it's certainly untrue.

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

Madam Mayor, we will strive to achieve all our manifesto targets and agreements that we have with the members and members of the public here in Barnet. Councillor McGuirk knows the success we've had with recycling but one thing she doesn't take into account is the Waste Strategy we also agreed at Cabinet. We will be successful with that and we will reduce the amount of waste that we produce in Barnet. So our strategy isn't just based on recycling, it's also about prevention of waste, so that is how we will achieve the target.

Question No. 37**Councillor Alison Moore**

In December 2002 the former Council leader, Mr Victor Lyon, promised that the Conservative administration would achieve an "excellent" rating in the next Comprehensive Performance Assessment that has recently taken place; has the current Council leader ditched this commitment?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

No. I am sure all of us would wish this Council to receive the official recognition it deserves.

Question No. 38**Councillor Agnes Slocombe**

What arrangements have been made since Barnet Homes has taken over the housing stock for the Council tenants on Layfield Road who were promised replacement windows before the ALMO took over?

Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer

Barnet Homes plans to invest almost £100 million in the period to 2010 to bring its properties up to the decent homes standard. Work at Layfield Road is scheduled for 2007/08. The precise extent of the works will be identified when the properties are surveyed nearer the time.

Question No. 39**Councillor Kath McGuirk**

Will the Cabinet Member rule out any change from weekly refuse collection to fortnightly collection of refuse during the current administration?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

A Waste Strategy for Barnet was agreed at the meeting of the Cabinet on 3 April 2006. We are now in the early stages of putting together the operational action plan that will set out how we will achieve local and national targets over the coming fourteen years. It is far too early to say what will be or will not be in the operational action plan and I will not be bounced into making Council policy in the forum of Council Questions.

Supplementary Question No. 39**Councillor Kath McGuirk**

Yes, it's interesting the answer from Councillor Offord that he will not be bounced into making any Council policy announcements in Council questions. One does recall a very long speech of his on highways, so I'll ask him once and for all, can you rule out now that we'll go to a fortnightly collection and when we are going through the review of the refuse collection through the waste strategy that you will engage with members of the Scrutiny Committee as the former administration did before?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

Madam Mayor, I'm very happy to take that second part, I've no problem with that. I have repeatedly said and I will say it again, I will not make Council policy on the hoof. You think you can embarrass me or ask difficult questions. Please go ahead. I won't engage in those kinds of silly tactics.

Question No. 40**Councillor Alison Moore**

Will the Council Leader give a commitment that full Council meetings will continue to be held in the Council chamber at Hendon Town Hall for the lifetime of the current administration and not moved elsewhere?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

I cannot foresee any reason why we would not use the Council Chamber at Hendon (subject to acts of God and force majeure). However as you will know there have been unsuccessful initiatives to provide more modern facilities on the Town Hall complex. I am pleased that progress has been made and fruitful discussions have been had with Middlesex University on a joint initiative to further develop Hendon as the University's teaching and administrative campus. The Town Hall will benefit and will remain the Civic focus for the Borough. It is a sign of confidence in the Borough and the Council that the University should seek to consolidate further in Barnet.

I plan to bring a detailed paper to Cabinet in the Autumn.

Supplementary Question No. 40

Councillor Alison Moore

Councillor Freer, precisely what does "the civic focus for the borough" mean?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

Well, I'm sorry if Councillor Moore doesn't understand what the civic focus of the borough is. It's the very room that we're sitting in tonight. It is the Mayoral Chambers, the Committee rooms. It is the civic heart of the borough.

Question No. 41

Councillor Agnes Slocombe

Could the Council please give the highest possible priority to promoting adoption by ensuring that Adoption Panel members are provided with keys to the Council car park so that hearings – often all day - are not begun late whilst panel members hunt for a parking space and that hearings do not have to be suspended every two hours for panel members to feed the meters?

Answer by Councillor Christopher Harris

The First Contact reception have a supply of car park keys which they will loan to Panel Members to give them access to the staff car parks at the rear of the Town Hall and in Egerton Gardens.

Council Officers will notify First Contact of the names of the Panel Members who should be issued with keys on their arrival at the Town Hall. These Members will be asked to sign for the keys and return them to reception when they leave the building.

Question No. 42

Councillor Alison Moore

With regards to the Local Public Service Agreement, which targets have and have not been achieved; what was the total sum of money the Council could have received if it had achieved all the targets; and how much money has the Council received or is to receive as a result of those targets met?

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan

Of the 12 targets, we are on track to meet three (3, 4 and 11) and to miss four (5, 6, 7 and 9). The other targets were divided into sub-targets, some of which we have met and some not. On each of those we expect to get some money.

We expect to gain £3,076,223 out of a possible maximum reward grant of £7,550,730. This is still provisional as the final figures have not yet been confirmed.

LEADER'S SCHEME OF DELEGATION (EXTRACT)**(a) Cabinet Members and Portfolios (AMENDED)**

NB: AMENDED TO INCLUDE REGENERATION & DEVELOPMENT CABINET PORTFOLIO

The List of Cabinet Members and their portfolio responsibilities is set out below:

Executive Member and Portfolio	Responsibilities	Delegation
<p>Cllr Mike Freer 23 Claverley Grove Finchley London N3 2DG</p> <p>Finchley Church End Ward</p> <p>LEADER</p> <p>RESOURCES</p>	<p>The Leadership of the Council.</p> <p>Specific individual responsibilities:</p> <p>To lead on budget and policy formulation and implementation in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • resources (including billing, collection and recovery of local taxation) • financial forward planning and budgeting • risk management • asset management • major corporate contracts • communications and marketing <p>The monitoring of the Council's budget and to instigate such interventions as necessary to ensure spending is kept within limits determined by council.</p> <p>Also to be involved in and promote discussions in relation to any matters within the portfolio.</p>	<p>The Leader may discharge any function of the Executive.</p>

<p>Cllr. Fiona Bulmer 14 Sellwood Drive Barnet Herts EN5 2RL</p> <p>Underhill Ward</p> <p>COMMUNITY SERVICES</p>	<p>To lead on budget and policy formulation and implementation in relation to social care and housing (including housing and council tax benefit).</p> <p>In particular, promoting the best possible adult social services and seamless care in the community by working with and optimising all opportunities offered by other providers to further these aims.</p> <p>In particular working with Barnet Homes, Housing Associations and other providers, to secure the optimum provision and associated environmental, neighbourhood development and social facilities for all those members of the community not living in private accommodation, or for those who require public sector housing.</p> <p>All matters related to public sector housing including the administration of Housing Benefits.</p>	

ADDENDUM TO MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27 JUNE 2006

1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16 MAY 2006

MINUTE 24 OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL DATED 27 JUNE, 2006

Post meetings note and correction

In addition to the correction noted in Minute 24, the minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2006 also omitted to show that Councillor Hugh Rayner and Councillor Eva Greenspan were in attendance and incorrectly stated that Councillor Victor Lyon was in attendance in the role of The Deputy Mayor.

2. REPORT OF THE GENERAL FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE: 21 JUNE 2006

MINUTE 38 OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL DATED 27 JUNE, 2006

Post meetings note and correction

APPOINTMENTS TO SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES: WESSEX GARDENS SCHOOL

The report to the General Functions Committee, which gave rise to the Report of that Committee to Council, amongst other things referred to Councillor Monroe Palmer's resignation from the Wessex Gardens School Governing Body as being 13 September, 2005. This was incorrect.

Councillor Monroe Palmer, in fact, resigned from that body on 9 May, 2006.