

Minutes

OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET held at Hendon Town Hall, NW4 4BG on Tuesday, 8 September 2009.

PRESENT:

*The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Brian Coleman, AM FRSA)

*The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Hugh Rayner)

Councillors:

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

*denotes Member present

52. PRAYER (Agenda Item 1.1):

The Mayor's Chaplin offered prayer.

53. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1.2):

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Richard Cornelius, Jeremy Davies, Gill Sargeant, Christopher Harris and Marina Yannakoudakis.

54. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14 JULY 2009 (Agenda Item 1.3)

RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2009 be approved as a correct record.

55. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS (Agenda Item 1.4)

The Worshipful Mayor congratulated Councillor Matthew Offord on his recent engagement and Councillor Jazmin Naghar on her recent engagement.

56. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS (Agenda Item 1.5)

Member:	Subject:	Interest Declared:
Councillor Melvin Cohen	Agenda Item 5.3.3, Report of the Democratic Services Manager – Proposed Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chairman of the Special Committee (Constitution Review)	Personal but non-prejudicial interest as Councillor Melvin Cohen, is the Chairman of the Special Committee (Constitution Review). Councillor Melvin Cohen did not participate in the discussion nor the vote.

57. BUSINESS REMAINING FROM LAST MEETING (Item 1.6)

None.

58. QUESTION TIME FOR MEMBERS (Agenda Item 2.1)

Questions were put to the Leader and Members of the Cabinet. These questions, together with the answers provided and the text of any supplementary questions and answers are set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

59. VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

Councillor Joan Scannell, duly seconded, moved under Council Procedure Rule, Section 1, paragraph 10.2.2, that the order of business relating to Agenda Item 3 be varied so that Motions 3.1, 3.3 and 3.4 be heard first.

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

RESOLVED – That the order of business be varied to allow Motions 3.1, 3.3 and 3.4 to be debated and voted upon in advance of votes being taken on the other Motions on the Agenda.

60. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR KATH McGUIRK AS AMENDED BY COUNCILLOR MONROE PALMER AND COUNCILLOR ANDREW HARPER (Agenda Item 3.1)

Motion 3.1 in the name of Councillor Kath McGuirk was moved. Amendments in the name of Councillors Monroe Palmer, Andrew Harper and Andrew McNeil were moved. Debate ensued. Councillor McGuirk accepted Councillor McNeil's amendment. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Monroe Palmer was declared carried. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Andrew Harper was declared carried.

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

RESOLVED –

That Council believes the local bus services in Barnet are vital to our local community.

That local bus services support the success of the local economy, and London, in a sustainable way by ensuring that people can get to work, businesses can operate and that residents and visitors can shop locally.

That local bus services are crucial orbital transport links, in a borough with no orbital rail links.

That local bus services should be part of an integrated transport system and in that regard deplores the removal of route 102 from Golders Green Station forecourt.

That Council welcomes the two additional afternoon peak journeys on Route 82, long pressed for by local campaigners.

That Council welcomes the extended route C2. Although this does not start in Barnet, many Barnet residents use it from Camden Town.

That Council regrets the failure of TfL to establish a through route between Golders Green and Stamford Hill, linking two of the largest Jewish communities in London.

That Council believes that there is a need for a night bus from Central London to Mill Hill.

That Council believes that there is a need for a bus connection to and from Cophall Stadium.

That Council asks the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport to write to the Mayor of London expressing pleasure in the above improvements and drawing attention to the above suggested needs.

Council notes that the subsidy to London buses rose by 1493% between 1999/2000 and 2007/8 to £653m per annum. In the same period the cost of fares has fallen by 16% in real terms.

Council further notes that cost of running the bus network in the capital is anticipated to considerably outstrip combined income and subsidy over the next nine years.

Council believes that a responsible Mayor would not allow the cost of the bus network to become unsustainable.

Council notes that TfL are studying the report by KPMG and Steer Davies Gleave which looks at a range of options to control expenditure including vehicle procurement costs, for TfL to acquire more bus depots, reducing overheads, raising fares and reducing the scope and/or volume of the network.

Council believes that Ken Livingstone, like his colleagues in the Labour government, for years outspent the resources available to him, therefore leaving a financial mess that Conservatives will be forced to clean up.

Council asks that the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport work with the Mayor of London to ensure that our Borough has the best public transport that the finite resources allow.

61. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR DANIEL WEBB (Agenda Item 3.3)

Motion 3.3 in the name of Councillor Daniel Webb was moved. An amendment in the name of Councillor Ansuya Sodha was moved. Debate ensued.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Sodha was declared lost. Upon being put to the vote, the substantive motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED - Council notes that excellent progress has been made on the Primary School Capital Investment Programme (PSCIP).

Council congratulates the Major Projects Team on their management of the programme which has ensured that the new Whittings Hill School is delivered on time and on budget. The new school has the latest environmentally friendly design, a swimming pool, outstanding educational facilities and has already become a local landmark.

Council welcomes the government's acknowledgment that Barnet has the skills and expertise to deliver major education projects, demonstrated by the recent, if belated, award of some funding for the redevelopment of six secondary schools.

Council calls on Cabinet to continue to develop the PSCIP programme and to continue to explore innovative ways of redeveloping Barnet's primary schools.

Council further asks Cabinet to work with the DCSF (Department for Children, Schools and Families) to ensure that Barnet has the freedom to apply its proven and successful approach to school building to the redevelopment of local secondary schools.

62. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR MATTHEW OFFORD (Agenda Items 3.4)

Motion 3.4 in the name of Councillor Matthew Offord was moved. Debate ensued.

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

RESOLVED - Council notes that the original 2012 London Olympics Road Cycling event route was from Regents Park to Hampstead Heath, including a section in the Borough of Barnet. Council further notes that this route is now under threat after the International Cycling Union asked the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) to re-examine it.

Council believes that the original route is an essential part of bringing the 2012 Olympics to North London. Barnet's taxpayers are contributing an estimated £20 million to fund the Olympics and, if the International Cycling Union's request is met, will not have a single Olympic sport taking place in their Borough.

Council notes that the route was successfully used during the 2006 Tour of Britain and has been upgraded, ready for the 2012 Road Cycling event.

Council calls upon the Chief Executive to write to Lord Coe, Chairman of LOCOG, to demand that they retain the Olympic road cycling event route, including the portion in the Borough of Barnet.

63. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR MIKE FREER (Agenda Item 3.2)

Motion 3.2 in the name of Councillor Mike Freer was moved. An amendment in the name of Councillor Ross Houston was moved. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Houston was declared lost. Upon being put to the vote, the substantive motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED - Council notes the government's decision to cut the level of Growth Area Funding for Barnet in 2010/11 by 43% was made in order to reallocate funds to affordable housing provision.

Council notes that in Barnet, these funds were allocated for use in regeneration schemes that would have provided thousands of affordable homes. The decision to cut Growth Area Funding has caused these plans to be reviewed or delayed.

Council notes significant investment has already been made planning for the use of these resources and believes that the last minute decision to drastically cut them will cause unnecessary waste.

Council believes that this last minute decision will cause a delay in the provision of affordable homes in the Borough of Barnet and is an unnecessary shuffling of resources.

Council believes this is another example of the Labour government's obsession with the failed model of central control and that local authorities are better placed to make decisions concerning local infrastructure and growth.

Council calls upon the Chief Executive to write to the Housing Minister requesting that the level of Growth Area Funding be reinstated in order that much needed new affordable housing is not subject to unnecessary delay.

64. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING.

In accordance with the Agenda, the Mayor adjourned the meeting. The meeting reconvened at 8.39pm.

65. ADMINISTRATION POLICY ITEM: PUBLIC DEBT (Agenda Item 4.1)

Councillor Lynne Hillan proposed the item and moved that it be adopted. Debate ensued on the Policy Item.

Upon being put to the vote, the Policy Item was declared carried.

RESOLVED - Council notes that the British economy faces an unprecedented level of debt which is continuing to grow rapidly as income from taxes fall and public spending rises. The UK government has, in the first seven months of 2009, borrowed an additional £50 billion, with an additional £8 billion borrowed in July alone. Public debt is at its highest rate since 1974 and rising £5,000 every second.

Council further notes that the Labour government ran a deficit in years of economic growth leaving the United Kingdom exposed to the economic downturn with one of the biggest budget deficits in the advanced world.

Council believes that the priority for the incoming government will be to restore responsibility to the public finances and that this will require the reduction of the unsustainable level of public debt, and consequently public expenditure will have to be restrained.

Council notes that Barnet Council has moved ahead faster than most other local authorities in cutting out waste, reducing expenditure and developing the comprehensive future shape programme to address the expected reduction in the government grant.

Council believes the magnitude of the debt crisis facing the United Kingdom requires local authorities to act in order to prevent front-line services being affected. Accordingly, Council requests that Cabinet:

- Commission in-depth reviews into high expenditure areas
- Assess the best way to make use of powers to be devolved from the centre under a Conservative government
- Reviews revenue streams

66. OPPOSITION POLICY ITEM: VIDEOING (WEBCAST) OF COUNCIL MEETINGS AS AMENDED BY COUNCILLOR DANIEL THOMAS (Agenda Item 4.2)

Councillor Jack Cohen proposed the item and moved that it be adopted. Amendments in the names of Councillors Alan Schneiderman and Daniel Thomas were moved. Debate ensued on the Policy Item.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Alan Schneiderman was declared lost.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Daniel Thomas was declared carried. Upon being put to the vote, the substantive policy item as amended was declared carried.

RESOLVED – Council notes that other local authorities have begun webcasting meetings at considerable cost. In way of comparison, for the neighbouring Borough of Camden, the cost is £38,000 per annum with number of live audience viewings ranging from just 15 to 40 per meeting.

Council believes that the democratic process should be as open as possible, but that methods of communication must be justifiable in terms of reach in relation to cost.

Council therefore asks Cabinet to ensure that public attendance at, and participation in, meetings is encouraged through cost effective means.

67. REPORT OF CABINET (Agenda Item 5.1)

None.

68. REPORT FROM OTHER COMMITTEES (Agenda Item 5.2)

None.

69. REPORTS EXEMPTED FROM THE CALL-IN PROCESS BECAUSE THEY ARE URGENT (Report of the Democratic Services Manager – Agenda Item 5.3.1 (1) & (9))

These matters are reported to the Council to meet Constitutional requirements. No action is required by the Council and the decision has been implemented.

RESOLVED – Council notes in the case listed below, the Chairman of the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee agreed that the decisions proposed were reasonable in all the circumstances, were urgent and therefore had consented to the proposed decisions being exempted from call-in:

- (i) Due to the recession and Government funding delays, the West Hendon Regeneration Scheme required an extension of time to the existing commercial agreement between the Council and its development partners. The report of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources authorised a Deed of Variation which extended;**
 - a) the Principal Development Agreement (PDA) for a further six months up to 15 February 2010.**
 - b) the deadline date for finalising the TUPE agreement and the period for the development partners to provide information relating to the above expiry date.**

The PDA is the legal contract between the Council and the development framework for the development and regeneration of the West Hendon Estate and associated areas.

The PDA expired on Monday 10 August 2009 and the next meeting of the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee was not until the 7 September 2009. Delay in sealing the Deed of Variation could cause the agreement to fall and seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interest.

- (ii) The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources authorised the applications to the Department of Culture Media and Sport for revenue funding to implement free swimming for under 16s and for capital funding to rebuild and refurbish suitable pools.
The capital bids recommend has to be submitted by Friday 4 September 2009 and the next meeting of the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee was not until Monday 7 September 2009. The delay involved would clearly have precluded successful bidding for the funds in question.

70. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS AND THE OPERATION OF THE CALL-IN AND URGENCY PROCESS – REVIEW (Report of the Democratic Services Manager – Agenda Item 5.3.1 (2))

RESOLVED – That the report of the Democratic Services Manager relating to Executive Decisions and the operation of the Call-In and Urgency Process - Review be noted.

71. PROPOSED SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE (CONSTITUTION REVIEW) (Report of the Democratic Services Manager – Agenda Item 5.3.1 (3))

RESOLVED - That the 2009/10 Scheme of Members' Allowances be amended by the addition of a Special Responsibility Allowance at Scale 3 to the Chairman of the Special Committee (Constitutional Review).

72. CHIEF OFFICER APPOINTMENT PANELS – Report of the Democratic Services Manager – Agenda Item 5.3.1 (4)

1. COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR AND DIRECTOR FOR ENVIRONMENT AND OPERATION

Nominations in the names of Councillors Joan Scannell, Barry Rawlings and Susette Palmer were moved.

RESOLVED – The Council appointed the following Chief Officers Appointment Panel to carry out the appointments of the Commercial Director and the Director for Environment and Operation.

Chairman: Councillor Mike Freer

Vice-Chairman Councillor Lynne Hillan

Councillors: Wendy Prentice, Andrew Harper, Alan Schneiderman, Kath McGuirk and Susette Palmer.

Substitute Councillors: Richard Cornelius, Joan Scannell, Geof Cooke, Julie Johnson, Jack Cohen and Monroe Palmer.

2. DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

Nominations in the names of Councillors Joan Scannell, Barry Rawlings and Susette Palmer were moved.

RESOLVED – The Council appointed the following Chief Officers Appointment Panel to carry out the appointments of the Deputy Chief Executive and the Director of Corporate Services.

Chairman: Councillor Mike Freer

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Lynne Hillan

Councillors: Wendy Prentice, Joan Scannell, Alison Moore, Barry Rawlings, Jack Cohen.

Substitutes Councillors: Richard Cornelius, Andrew Harper, Claire Farrier, Andrew McNeil, Monroe Palmer, Susette Palmer.

73. COMMENTS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE CABINET (Agenda Item 6.1)

Comment: Councillor Alison Moore

I thank Councillor Cornelius for the briefing he provided previously and raised in this issue last time at Council and I do appreciate the seriousness with which he took the issue. I pursue it further because I did have further questions in response to that briefing so I would be grateful if Councillor Freer could tell me how long it takes to complete a fire assessment, how much that costs, and what the schedule of those assessments for Council housing and other buildings was before and after the Southwark fire and how long that would take to complete. With the recent fire at Stonegrove that has accelerated the programme and weather that has changed the Council's Policy in terms of installation of fire alarms, further I believe there has been advice from the fire brigade and that has been upgraded. I would be grateful if you could tell me what the changes were and what Barnet response is to that. This is very much in terms of concern about fire safety.

Response: Councillor Mike Freer

If Councillor Moore has very detailed questions can of course write direct and get very detailed answers but I will try and give a very broad response. In terms of the change in advice from LFEPA - that has gone from where there was some confusion perhaps on the guidance – but the fundamental change is that Local Authorities have to move away from generic risk assessments to individual risk assessments for every single block. In terms of those 'At Risk' blocks, Barnet Homes has already completed its risk assessments for the 'Most At Risk' blocks and those blocks where people are most vulnerable. In terms of the wider risk assessments and the updating of them, I understand that they will be completed by March 2010 at a cost of £50 000, but if Councillor Moore would like to repeat her detailed question to the Officer, I am sure she will get a very detailed answer.

Comment: Councillor Jazmin Naghar

Can Councillor Harper confirm that the plan improvements encouraged by this Council can be welcomed by the Stakeholders which includes many residents of our ward to much relief as this project has been going on for quite some time and can he say when the work will begin at Henly's Corner? Many Thanks.

Response: Councillor Andrew Harper

Yes. I can confirm that the public engagement process has produced a very positive result. People have been in favour of action being taking at Henly's Corner, perhaps not surprisingly, and indeed have confirmed the position that this Council has adopted since 2002: that there is a need to improve the junction - the greatest need being improvements for vehicle movements to reduce congestion and also to improve things for right turning traffic, as well as to address the difficulties being experienced by pedestrians. TfL have

confirmed that they intend to press ahead with these proposals and the work is due to begin in 2011 and to be completed by the end of that year.

Comment: Councillor Andrew McNeil

At the meeting last week, the Cabinet decided to close the Welfare Rights Unit. This follows years of management neglect which has in turn contributed to the negation of the unit's proven worth and benefit to the vulnerable in the borough. What is particularly shameful about this decision is that it was taken before the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group, examining welfare advice provision in the borough has finished its work. This decision shows contempt for the new Scrutiny process as well as tearing up the pledge of this Council to support the vulnerable.

Response: Councillor Lynne Hillan

Well I wouldn't agree with you at all, I think it shows respect for the budget decision that was taken some time ago. The Scrutiny committee is perfectly at liberty to carry on scrutinising the implementation of all the commissioning and all of the advice centres that we are using but not to reverse the decision that was made in this Council which was a budget decision.

74. QUESTION TO REPRESENTATIVE ON OUTSIDE BODIES (Agenda Item 6.2)

None.

The meeting finished at 9.45pm

**Council Questions to Cabinet Members
8 September 2009
Questions and Responses**

Question 1**Councillor Brian Coleman**

Will the Cabinet Member fall into line with the sensible decision of the Mayor of London to allow motorcycles in bus lanes for an experimental and end the confusion which motorcyclists are suffering?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Transport for London are conducting an experiment to assess the safety and benefits of allowing motorcyclists to use bus lanes on Red Routes in London. The experiment is a long term one and is due to run for 18 months from January 2009. The purpose of the experiment is to monitor usage of the bus lanes, accident rates and bus lane contraventions.

The impact of allowing motorcycles to use bus lanes is likely to vary from site to site, and some of the impacts may be difficult to detect. For this reason TfL have asked boroughs to try to avoid changing the usage of bus lanes on borough roads during the experimental period in order to avoid changes elsewhere masking the impact of the experiment.

With the exception of the A5, the only other bus lane in the borough was located on North End Road in Golders Green. This bus lane has recently been removed with TfL's agreement as it was apparent that it was increasing traffic congestion and not benefiting a significant proportion of buses and coaches.

As the boundary between Barnet and adjoining boroughs is generally down the centre of the A5, it is mostly only the southbound bus lanes for which the council is responsible. We considered whether allowing motorcycles to use our bus lanes was a good idea, but informal discussions with neighbouring boroughs suggested that agreeing consistent changes along the A5 would be difficult to achieve. For example, allowing motorcycles to use the southbound bus lanes, but not the northbound, could lead to confusion and motorcyclists accidentally entering bus lanes where they were not permitted. This would be a particular issue on West Hendon Broadway where the northbound bus lanes are also in Barnet.

Completion of the TfL experiment will provide evidence of the benefits and problems associated with motorcyclists using bus lanes, and would help develop a consistent approach across London.

Therefore we would not recommend changing the A5 bus lanes until the end of the TfL experiment, or until agreement can be reached with the neighbouring boroughs.

Supplementary Question 1**Councillor Brian Coleman**

Due to technical difficulties, the question could not be recorded.

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Due to technical difficulties, the answer could not be recorded.

Question 2**Councillor Wayne Casey**

What influence does the Council have over the residential roads used by DVLC to test learner drivers for their driving licences?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Driving tests are now managed by the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) who operate from several test centres in and near the borough including Barnet, Hendon and Mill Hill. Each centre has a set of standard routes, details of which are published on the internet. In addition to driving tests, many learner drivers are taught on the same routes in order to give them experience of the routes they are likely to be tested on.

The DSA does not consult the borough when planning these routes, nor does the borough have any statutory powers to control the use of public highway by learner drivers. It is important that learner drivers are tested on a variety of roads, including residential streets, and some parts of the practical test need to be carried out in quieter locations for safety reasons and to avoid adversely affecting traffic.

The streets closer to the test centres are more likely to experience higher numbers of learner drivers, but other locations can also experience problems. If Members have specific concerns about individual streets we would be happy to make contact with the relevant test centre to see whether anything can be done to minimise the impact on residents.

Supplementary Question 2**Councillor Wayne Casey**

The residents who were complaining were in Hillside Grove, Cophall Drive, Parkside, Glenmere Avenue and Holmdene. Would the Cabinet Member need any further information?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Due to technical difficulties, the answer could not be recorded.

Question 3**Councillor Geof Cooke**

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee occurs in February 2012, in only two and a half years from now. What arrangements are in hand to mark the occasion, e.g. to consult residents on public works to provide permanent improvements in the borough?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

None at present so far as Environment & Transport are concerned, but consideration will be given in due course.

Supplementary Question 3**Councillor Geof Cooke**

Could the Cabinet Member advise of the lead in time that is needed to deliver projects on time that are appropriate to the occasion?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Due to technical difficulties, the answer could not be recorded.

Question 4**Councillor Brian Gordon**

How has the Council been inconvenienced by the decision of the Government to reduce support funds it had previously earmarked towards our housing regeneration projects?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

Barnet is one of the few growth areas outside of the Olympic zone and this growth, delivered primarily through our regeneration schemes has been put in jeopardy by Government cuts in the Growth Area Fund. Barnet was due to receive in excess of £12million and this has been cut by £2.5million. The Growth Area Fund is intended to assist Councils in providing the necessary infrastructure to allow housing growth. The Government cut means growth in the Colindale/West Hendon area may now be jeopardised as the infrastructure may not now be affordable. Ridiculously the Government has made this cut supposedly to create a fund to boost house building! It is likely to have the reverse effect here in Barnet.

Supplementary Question 4

Councillor Brian Gordon

Is the cut in the Growth Area Fund not just another way in which the Government's discriminating against efficiently run Conservative administrations such as ours? Is there any means whereby Barnet could lobby the Government more strongly against this?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

We continue to lobby the Government directly and through partners. I hope that the Government will see sense and stop taking money from Londoners and invest in London's infrastructure.

Question 5

Councillor Wayne Casey

When will the speed activated signs in Bittacy Rise be reviewed for their effectiveness?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

To clarify, two Vehicle Activated Signs are to go up in Bittacy Rise in the next few weeks. The delay in erecting these signs was to allow the finishing of the PFI street lighting works in the vicinity.

The review of their effectiveness will involve comparing before and after speed surveys. The after scheme survey will happen in late September/early October once the schools are back.

Question 6

Councillor Anne Hutton

What were the attendance figures at both council buildings and other participating buildings for the last 2 years the council bought into the Open House scheme?

Answer by Councillor Melvin Cohen

The organisers of Open House have estimated that about 3500 visits were made over the last 2 years the borough were part of the event.

It is very difficult however to obtain any precise numbers as attendance figures haven't been recorded for many of the participating buildings listed below. The number given is based very much on the size of the borough.

It is known that approximately 2000 copies of the Event Programme were distributed in Barnet in 2007.

Buildings previously opened in 2007-08 include:

- Artsdepot, North Finchley
- Church House Farm Museum, Hendon
- Friends Meeting House, North Sq., HGS
- Golders Green Unitarians, Hoop Lane

- HGS Free Church
- Institute Arts Centre TBA
- Ivy House, North End Road
- Manor house, Sternberg Centre
- Milestones of Flights RAF Hendon
- Phoenix Cinema, E.Finchley
- St John the Evangelist, Friern Barnet Rd.
- St Jude on the Hill HGS
- St Mary's Church Hendon
- Tudor Hall, Barnet College
- University of London Observatory'

Question 7

Councillor Brian Gordon

I have received a number of complaints about dogs being allowed by their owners to roam freely in parks, thus frightening park users, and also dogs fouling park footways and green areas without any prevention or clearing up by their owners. Can more action be taken to promote and enforce dog control in parks and what is the role of park keepers regarding this?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

The Council is empowered to fine individuals under the Dogs (fouling of land act 1996) in the form of fixed penalty notices to individuals who fail to clear up dog faeces under their control. Greenspaces Section can arrange for enforcement officers to monitor the situation. Should you be aware of any particular times that these offences are taking place then we would welcome the feedback.

When incidents are witnessed, park keepers advise dog owners to clean up after their dogs and they have a stock of 'poop ' bags which are issued to encourage owners to clean up after their dogs.

Various events around the borough are organised to coincide with National Poop Scoop week (usually in June each year) to encourage responsible dog ownership.

In relation to the public being frightened by the behaviour of dogs, should anyone feel threatened, they are advised to contact the Police.

There are control orders in relation to dogs, but implementation needs to be proportionate to the problems caused by the dogs and those in charge of them. The Council has to balance the interests of those in charge of dogs against those affected by the activities of dogs. At this time the Council applies the following legislation in the management of the open spaces to achieve this.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 it is an offence to have a dog dangerously out of control in a public place. Dangerously out of control means there is reasonable cause to believe that, whether or not it actually does so, the dog might injure somebody. If this were the case then the police should be called immediately as they have the powers to implement the law and enforcement and fines can be imposed.

Park byelaws 1978

The byelaws for our parks and open spaces state "A person shall not cause or suffer any dog belonging to him or in his charge to enter or remain in the pleasure ground, unless such a dog be and continue to be under proper control, and be effectually restrained from causing annoyance to any person, and from worrying or disturbing any animal, or waterfowl, and from entering any ornamental water". Some of the parks have designated areas where dogs must be kept on the lead. These are

clearly marked with signs or slabs on the footway,

At present the evidence does not suggest that there are widespread problems with the control of dogs within our parks. However, the Council will continue to review the number of dog related issues and determine any further actions required. If there are particular times/periods that you believe there to be evidence of dog control and fouling issues within the parks it would be very helpful if you can advise of these so that we can arrange for monitoring to be undertaken. It would also be beneficial for incidents to be reported to the CCU department on tel no 020 8359 4600 or firstcontact@barnet.gov.uk detailing the date, time and nature of the incident – this would then enable us to gather evidence of any problems.

Supplementary Question 7

Councillor Brian Gordon

Thank you very much for the very comprehensive way in which you have answered the question about dogs and the anti-social way in which many people unfortunately take their dogs to the parks. I wonder whether you would bear in mind the particular parks I was considering were Stoney Fields Park in my own ward and Stonegrove Park in the neighbouring ward in Edgware where I've had a number of complaints from people about people not controlling their dogs properly. Maybe you would like to come along and meet me in the park one day in one of those two parks and we can go and have a look together and we can examine the problem of dogs that are not properly controlled on leads and maybe we can get something done about it.

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

I am very happy to meet Councillor Gordon and indeed any other Ward Councillors in their local parks to investigate any such issues.

Question 8

Councillor Andrew McNeil

Why is the budget for community advice provision stated as £500k in the Cabinet report?

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan

The amount in the Cabinet Report refers to the advice service currently funded via the small grants budget and does not, at this stage, include the grants from Adult Social Services.

Supplementary Question 8

Councillor Andrew McNeil

Adult Social Services are funding Welfare Rights related advice but these contracts will not come up for renewal until next year. If you wanted to avoid duplication, which is the main reason why you claimed you cut the Welfare Rights Unit, why do you not do your needs analysis this year and wait until next year to commission the whole advice budget of 1.07 million?

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan

As part of the contract for the new service, the successful bidder is required to do the needs assessment within the first year. Obviously during the consultation period, we got a lot of information so we are fully aware of the needs of the borough and the advice that has to be given. But the needs assessment will be completed in year one and implemented in years two and three.

Question 9

Councillor Brian Gordon

What progress is being made regarding the review of the CPZ around the old Edgware cinema area and also the improvement of CPZ signage around Edgwarebury Gardens? Both of these issues seem to have been outstanding for an inordinate length of time.

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

At the time of writing, the situation is as follows:

The Edgware Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs) Review took place in October 2008 and entailed questionnaires being delivered to all properties within the CPZs' boundary in order to establish the community's views. Analysis has taken place, and the Highways Manager for Traffic and Development has drafted his intentions based on the information the Council received back from the community and from additional information already on file.

Changes are proposed in Edgwarebury Gardens and as part of the process, officers are discussing the intended actions and issues relating to the Edgware CPZ with Ward Councillors, before agreeing the final intentions with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport and the Chairman of the Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee. The 'cinema zone' ('K' CPZ) is an issue where Officers and the relevant Ward Councillors are discussing the best way forward.

Supplementary Question 9

Councillor Brian Gordon

Many Hale residents are affected by the confusion of Control Parking Zones. I have raised this before and I appreciate what you say; that it's been looked into and reviewed, but with all due respect, this review has been going on for years and still there are very unsatisfactory signage confusion in these areas and the residents are not happy and people are being unfairly fined and I am continually having to try and get people off these fines, often very successfully I am pleased to say, but it should not happen. Can you please give a stronger indication as to when we are going to get these CPZs properly reviewed and changed and I am sure many of my colleagues here would agree it is by far overdue.

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

The Officers are already quite well advanced in terms of proposals to respond to the consultations and reviews. We have been greatly assisted recently by information gathered by Edgware Ward Councillors; Councillor Hart and Councillor Scannell and indeed more recently by the excellent new Councillor Yawitch during his by-election campaign and subsequently. This has been very helpful in terms of adding to what we already have on file about this and I hope that will enable us to move swiftly towards a conclusion

Question 10

Councillor Julie Johnson

How many positions have been cut from the Barnet Police Service since May 2008 (broken down into police officers, PCSOs and administrative staff)? What is the current establishment of the Barnet Police Service?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

The current situation for Barnet Police is that they are over their target strength for both police officers (target = 563, actual = 615) and PCSOs (target = 126, actual = 137). So since the election of Boris Johnson as London's Mayor no positions have been cut in respect of these categories - in fact it's the opposite.

With regard to "administrative" staff, Barnet Police are slightly under strength as of August 21st (target = 116, actual = 111).

Supplementary Question 10

Councillor Julie Johnson

I thank Councillor Offord for his answer. Could I ask what effect does the Cabinet Member think of a ten per cent cut to police numbers and funding would have on crime in Barnet and what has he done to lobby his own party to ensure that their national policy of a ten per cent cut to public services does not fall on the Police?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

I think Cllr Johnson has made the assumption that the Conservative Party has already won the next

General Election but we should wait until the people of Hendon have made that decision.

Question 11

Councillor Kate Salinger

How is the recycling service working now, where are the collected materials going and can the Cabinet Member assure Members that none of the collected waste goes into landfill?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Material destinations - correct as of August 2009		
MATERIAL	COMPANY	ADDRESS
Asbestos	Aherns (Waste Disposal) Ltd.	228 Crow Lane, Romford, Essex, RM7 0HA (via Carterhatch Lane C.A Site, Enfield, EN1 4BJ)
Asbestos	Hales Waste Control Ltd.	Delamare Rd, Cheshunt, Waltham Cross, Herts, EN8 9SL
Batteries	G & P Batteries Ltd.	Crescent Works, Industrial Park, Willenhall Rd, Darlaston, Wednesbury, WS10 8JR 0121 568 3200
Bicycles	Waltham Forest Bicycle Recyc. Scheme	Manor Rd Business Centre, Low Hall Depot, Argau Ave, London E10 7AS
Books	Oxfam	Head Office, Oxfam House, 274 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 7DZ 02380 770 312
Cans and Foil	AMG Resources Ltd	Nevill's Dock Llanelli Carmarthenshire SA15 2HD 01214559191
Cardboard	Chas Storer Ltd.	Coopers Lane, Northaw, Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 4NE 01707 656 261
Computers & Printers	PJD Computing	Flat 4 Bridgehouse Court 109-115 Blackfriars Road London SE1 8HW
Cooking Oil	Greenmiles	Unit A8 Hastingwood Trading Estate HARBET Road Enfield London N18 3HT 01992 717840
Cooking Oil	Living Fuels	Freedon Farm Cowles Dove Hockwold.Nr Thetford Norfolk IP26 4JQ 08708 506 506
Electrics	Sanak Ventures	69 Clitterhouse Rd, Cricklewood, London NW2 1DL
Fluorescent Tubes	WISER Recycling	DHL 0845 602 0019
Fridges/Freezers	EMR	106 Scrubs Lane Wilsedon NW10 6QY 020 8969 1116
Furniture	Restore	Ashley Road, Tottenham Hale, London, N17 9LJJ 020 8493 0900
Gas Bottles	Flo-Gas	Unit 1D, North Crescent, Cody Road, Canning Town, London, E16 4SR 020 7476 9091
Gas Bottles	Brooksight	Unit 3L, Cooper House, 2 Michael Road, London, SW6 2AD 020 7731 1221
Gas Bottles	Edmonton Calor Centre	29 Stacey Ave, Montague Rd Trading Estate, Edmonton, London, N18 3PE
Glass	British Glass Recycling	c/o United Glass, Edinburgh way, Harlow, Essex, CM20 2UG 01923 291 381
Green waste	London Waste Ltd.	Advent Way, Edmonton, London, N18 3AG 020 8884 5563/5522
Green waste	Reviva Composting	Woodcock Hill Farm, Barnet Lane, Elstree, Hertfordshire, EN5 4RA 0800 7311521
Hard Plastics & CDs	Express Recycling & Plastics LTD	Marsh Way Fairview Industrial Estate Rainham Essex RM13 8UH 01708 524100
MDF-Chipboard	Wood Recycling Services LTD	Appospond Lane Potters Crouch Herts AL3 3NL
Mobile Phones	Tree House Charity	Woodside Ave London N10 3JA 020 7631 1677
Oil and Oil Filters	Malory Environmental Services	Unit 1, Brookfields Industrial Estate, Twenty Pence Rd, Cottenham, Cambs, CB4 8PS 01954 250 638
Paint	Summers Lane CA Site	collected by local community groups
Paper	Aylesford Newsprint	Newsprint House, Bellingham Way, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7DL 01622 796 000
Plastic Bottles	JFC Plastics Ltd	Hardwick Road, Astmoor Industrial Estate, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 1PH 01928 583390
Plasterboard	Gypsum recycling Ltd	The Press House Cemex Rochester Works Kent ME2 1AW 01634240261
Records & Tapes	Nature Sounds	Matrix House Lincoln Road High Wycombe HP12 3RB 07721 654 271
Rubble	Camden Plant Ltd	Lower Hall Lane, Chingford, London, E4 8JD 020 8559 3000
Scrap Metal	GD Metals	Albert Works, Kenninghall Road, Edmonton, London, N12 2PD 020 8807 4268
Shoes & Textiles	D Robinson & Company	Woodside, Stoke Albany Road Desborough, Northants, NN14 2SP 01536 761 701
Spectales	Various charities	
Sports Equipment	(via) Sport England	3rd Floor Victoria House, Bloomsbury Square, London, WC1B 4SE
Tetra Pak	Bywaters	Gateway Road Leyton London E10 5BY
Toner Cartridges	Cartridge World	861 High Road, North Finchley, London, N12 8PT
Toner Cartridges	TDS Safeguard	Summers Row, Summers Lane, N12 0ED
Tools	Workaid	Unit 2B, St. Georges Industrial estate, White Lion Road, Amersham, Bucks, HP7 9Jq
Tyres	McGrath	54-58 River Road Barking Essex IG11 0DQ
WEEE	DHL	Various Location
Wool & Knitting Needles		Various Location
Wood	London Waste Ltd.	Advent Way, Edmonton, London, N18 3AG
Wood	Wood Recycling Services LTD	Appospond Lane Potters Crouch Herts AL3 3NL
Wood	Woodwaste	16 Staples Corner Brent X 01727 893444

Yellow Pages	Holmans Paper	Chatham Docks
Updated 19/08/09	James Bradshaw	

The new recycling service has been in operation since November 2008. Our improved kerbside recycling box collection has successfully expanded the range of materials collected to include plastic bottles and cardboard and the collection of these new materials using an additional recycling box (the blue box) is working well. In a snapshot survey in January 2009, 34% of respondents said that their satisfaction with the recycling service improved after the new service was launched, 51% said their satisfaction stayed the same (though 83% of those rated the service as good or excellent in any case). The number of missed collections continues to be very low for the industry, at less than 25 collections missed per 100,000 (the industry standard is 50 per 100,000). The flats and schools recycling services are also being expanded, with a programme to roll out additional bins for the collection of plastic bottles and cardboard underway. The Civic Amenity & Recycling Centre now collects plasterboard, chipboard and MDF in addition to the materials previously collected, as part of the new Recycling Services Contract.

Above is the list of material destinations for all the materials collected for recycling or reuse. This list covers all the services provided by our contractor, May Gurney including kerbside, flats and schools services and the Civic Amenity & Recycling Centre.

The only waste that goes to landfill from recycling collections is the small amount of plastic bag waste where we ask residents to put textiles, mobile phones, batteries and shredded paper in bags to protect them, and wet textiles and shoes. Because the council uses the "kerbside sort" method of collecting recyclables there is a negligible amount of waste collected that is not actually recyclable.

Supplementary Question 11

Councillor Kate Salinger

Thank you Councillor Harper. Could I just ask you if you have any plans to include any other matters in the recycling program?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Currently, the intention is to retain flexibility to enable us to consider other options for the collection service. I am very grateful for the enthusiasm of many residents to do more in terms of recycling and indeed the interests of Members in this Chamber and if I can be sure that additional collections will actually go to recycling at the end of the day, will be collected by contractors who can make proper use of it rather than collecting for the sake of it and then sending on to landfill, then I will be very pleased to expand the service just as soon as those opportunities arise.

Question 12

Councillor Ross Houston

How many Safer Neighbourhood Teams in Barnet do not currently have the full compliment of 9 officers?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

The Safer Neighbourhood Teams are currently down by 1 Police Constable in East Finchley, 1 Police Constable in Mill Hill and 1 Sergeant in Totteridge. However, postings to the Safer Neighbourhood Teams are always a priority and there are currently officers identified for all the roles and it is anticipated posting them within the next month. In relation to PCSO's the overall target strength is 126 and currently there are 137, so over establishment.

Question 13**Councillor John Marshall**

How many applications for mobile phone masts in the Garden Suburb ward have been refused since May 2006? And how many (if any) have been approved?

Answer by Councillor Melvin Cohen

In respect of applications for mobile phone masts in Garden Suburb ward since May 2006, there have been:

- 7 applications refused.
- 1 decision was dismissed on appeal

The local planning authority maintains a robust approach to managing applications for mobile phone installations and provides an effective pre-application advice service for the telecommunications industry.

Supplementary Question 13**Councillor John Marshall**

Can I thank Councillor Cohen for that answer and will he agree with me it is surprising that after the Council has said 'no, no no' people still come forward with proposals for mobile phone masts in this ward? Will he also welcome the proposed merger with Orange and T-Mobile which would hopefully reduce the need for these ghastly excrescences in my Ward and in the rest of the borough?

Answer by Councillor Melvin Cohen

I hear what the Member says but I could not possibly comment.

Question 14**Councillor Julie Johnson**

What progress has been made on cutting bureaucracy and red-tape from the Police in Barnet?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

This question has been put to the police in Barnet and they have responded as follows:

Most of the paperwork requirements are linked to the criminal justice system and this is a national issue, not one linked solely to Barnet. The Home Secretary appointed Jan Berry, as Independent Bureaucracy Advocate, to report on police bureaucracy building upon Sir Ronnie Flanagan's earlier review and recommendations and to take forward proposals in the Policing Green Paper 2008. Updates in relation to that can be found on the Home Office website.

<http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police-reform/reducing-bureaucracy-report?view=Binary>

Some of the recommendations around crime recording are still at a pilot stage with some forces involved but they do not include the Metropolitan Police Service.

Locally, the Police take every opportunity to reduce the administrative burden on officers in order to free up their time to be visible on the streets. An example of this is in the use of volunteers who are utilised in basic data inputting roles which otherwise would need to be undertaken by officers.

Supplementary Question 14**Councillor Julie Johnson**

I thank Councillor Offord for his answer. In the London elections last year, Boris Johnson pledged to cut beaurocracy and red tape from the Police Service in London in order to direct resources to frontline policing and it seems from your answer that so far he has done absolutely nothing to try and achieve this. Last year the Tory Group voted on a motion celebrating this pledge and the benefit it would have for Barnet residents. What precisely have you done as Cabinet Member to make sure he delivers on it?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

Mr Mayor, these really are dismal questions. Though Councillor Johnson thinks that I have operational control over the Police unfortunately, as you know, I do not. Though that would be a responsibility I would be happy to bear. I can also point out that Boris Johnson and Kit Malthouse do not have operational command and the Met Commissioner has made it clear it is he who has operational command over the Metropolitan Police Service here in this borough and across London as a whole.

Question 15

Councillor Tom Davey

Can the Cabinet Member update the Council on the outcome of the kitchen caddy pilot scheme, for collecting food waste that was initiated last autumn?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

The kitchen caddy pilot has now been concluded. The pilot was carried out to see if providing residents with kitchen caddies and a sample roll of biodegradable "Biobag" liners would increase their use of the green garden waste bins to compost their food waste. The pilot started in October 2008 and 8,500 households from a range of areas across the borough were included in the scheme.

To summarise the outcomes of the pilot:

- A questionnaire delivered to 2,639 households in July 2009 showed that:
 - 86% of respondents used their caddy at least once
 - 74% of respondents continue to use the caddy
 - 72% of respondents believe that the caddy has encouraged them to recycle more of their food waste
 - 86% of respondents have used the sample Biobag liners (the vast majority with our caddy)
 - Of the respondents who used the sample Biobag liners, over 50% purchased more BioBag liners
 - 54% of respondents continue to use liners.
- Organic waste tonnages collected on the pilot scheme increased by approximately 10%, and this amounted to approximately 100 tonnes during the six months of the pilot.
- Monitoring work has shown that not all of the kitchen waste available on the pilot scheme was captured. It may be the case that with greater publicity of a wider scheme the amount of kitchen waste collected on the green bin scheme could increase.
- A borough wide kitchen caddy scheme, with the same results as the pilot scheme, could potentially make a positive contribution by improving on the 2008/09 recycling, composting and reuse figures by 0.98%, from 31.18% to 32.16%.

A report will be presented to a future council meeting on the full outcomes of the pilot scheme, requesting a decision on the expansion of the scheme.

Supplementary Question 15

Councillor Tom Davey

Is Barnet participating in the National Love Food Hate Waste Campaign?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Yes, indeed. The borough is participating along with its partners in the North London Waste Authority. This is a very important campaign running across North London until February of next year. I think it is absolutely right that we should encourage the focus not just on what is being thrown away but on encouraging people not to waste food in the first place, because we have to sweep up after it and I think the residents that I have spoken to at some of these Love Food Hate Waste events recently have been very supportive of that so I am encouraged.

Question 16**Councillor Ross Houston**

Has the Cabinet Member managed to agree Barnet's affordable housing target with the Mayor of London yet? And if so what is it?

Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius

We have not agreed the figure formally because of the changing government funding regime

Supplementary Question 16**Councillor Ross Houston**

Can the Cabinet Member tell us what he agreed informally?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

2269 for the three year target.

Question 17**Councillor Tom Davey**

How many residents will benefit from Mayor Boris Johnson's half-price travel scheme for those claiming jobseekers allowance?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

We're talking in thousands – and across London as a whole it'll be more than 150,000 people being helped by this timely measure to help beat the recession.

Supplementary Question 17**Councillor Tom Davey**

I would like to thank Councillor Harper for his response but I would rather have full price travel and half the number of job seekers but seeing as the Labour Government is not going to help us with this, how can our residents find out about this welcome initiative from our Mayor?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

If residents visit the TfL website and click on the ticket section, there is information there or alternatively at local bus and tube stations. I do think that this is another sensible initiative by Mayor Johnson recognising special needs and requirement to help beat the recession.

Question 18**Councillor Alan Schneiderman**

What is the most up-to-date position on Barnet's deposits frozen in Icelandic banks, and what is the latest prognosis on when we will get the money back?

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan

Bevan Brittan, the Solicitors acting on behalf of Local Authorities, are now in the process of lodging official creditor claims. Legal advice received to date indicates that Local Authorities will be classified as preferential creditors although this could be subject to a legal challenge.

The latest information available in relation to Glitnir indicates LB Barnet will receive 100% of principal invested and interest payable up to the 22nd of April 2009. It is expected that the monies will be repaid in full by the 31st of March 2010.

The latest information available in relation to Landsbanki indicates LB Barnet will receive 83% (previously thought to be 95%) of principal and interest payable up to 22 April 2009. Official guidance is expected to be issued by the end of August 2009. The impairment for Landsbanki will be reviewed in light of this guidance. Previous guidance indicated that Landsbanki monies will be received by 31 March 2012.

Supplementary Question 18**Councillor Alan Schneiderman**

I thank Councillor Hillan for her answer but is it not correct that the situation she outlines there is the best possible outcome for the Council and with regard to the Landsbanki deposit means a loss of over two and a half million pounds and while we are waiting for the potential refund of the rest, what effect is the loss of that 27.4 million pounds having on the Council's budget?

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan

No, I wouldn't agree with you, the situation is changing almost on a weekly if not monthly basis. The latest information as you can see is that we will receive 83 per cent, previously it was 95 per cent. It can change at any time. I think we should be cheered by the fact that the Icelandic government have just agreed to recompense all retail depositors so that shows their commitment so there is every chance that things will change and we will get the full amount or as near as possible. It will have absolutely no effect on the budget this year.

Question 19**Councillor Andreas Tambourides**

What positive steps is the Administration taking to provide real work experience for recent graduates living in the Borough?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

The collapse of the economy is causing real difficulty for new graduates, employment prospects have plummeted. To help local graduates the Council is offering internships for Barnet residents who are recent graduates and seeking work. The interns will be able to gain practical experience in one or more departments of the Council, this is expected to boost their CVs and give first hand work experience, this may give them an edge when applying for permanent roles.

Question 20**Councillor Kath McGuirk**

Why is the parking service in such disarray - with residents having to wait up to 5 months to receive a renewed parking permit, and motorists being short-changed by parking meters?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

We introduced a new back office IT system which had some configuration and performance issues – this in turn led to a backlog in the processing of permits. The backlog has since been cleared and apart from a few isolated incidents, we are now operating a normal service.

We are aware that our pay and display machines are not as efficient as they should be and some older machines are more vulnerable to vandalism and interference. We are in the process of reviewing the entire stock and looking at the cost / benefits of a complete overhaul and a new supply and install arrangement. Any contacts regarding a defective machine are responded to on an individual basis and corrective action is taken where necessary.

Supplementary Question 20**Councillor Kath McGuirk**

I thank Councillor Harper's for his answer and also for his public apology in the newspaper for the chaos which is parking in Barnet. I have with me a ticket dated the 27th of July which is purchased in Golders Green at 10:22am, the pound was paid. It expired at 8:45am the following morning. I did not realise that parking was that generous at Golders Green these days. Clearly, there is a problem. You said at the last Council meeting that there is a report coming to Audit. Are we going to get a thorough detailed report on the actual costs both of issuing tickets that last for 24 hours, issuing tickets that are too short for the fee paid, issuing penalty charge notices to people waiting five months for their residents permits which then have had to be withdrawn. I think this is a serious, serious matter. Parking is a major issue as Councillor Brian Gordon quite rightly raised in an earlier question. I would like to have confirmation that this will be a proper and thorough Audit report on parking in this

borough.

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

I do not recall promising that the report would go to the Audit Committee, nevertheless I have got a review going on of the Parking Process Team, which I as have said before has not been recently enjoying its finest hour and I am awaiting currently the outcome of the review before commenting any further.

Question 21

Councillor Andreas Tambourides

Has the Government cut the Growth Area Funding grant Barnet was to receive? If so, what will the impact be?

Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius

The government is proposing to cut the allocation of Growth Area Funding to Barnet by £2,592,244 in 2010/11. This is an overall cut of nearly 20% of the original allocation.

Rt Hon John Healey, Minister for Housing, is being lobbied by all affected London Boroughs to review the government's decision but if this reduction in funding is not reconsidered then the allocations agreed by Cabinet Resources Committee in April 2009 will need to be reviewed and reprofiled.

The substantial reduction in Barnet's Growth Area Funding (GAF) will result in one or more key projects being dropped or scaled back, adversely impacting on unlocking the delivery of new housing and enhancement of local economies. Barnet had provisionally allocated £4m of GAF funding to West Hendon but, combined with delays in HCA funding, the reduction in GAF funding could potentially stall this key project delivering circa 2,000 new homes. Also affected will be Barnet's largest housing regeneration project in Colindale where major transport interchange improvements are required to help unlock a further 6,000 new homes. In addition, progression of opportunities for up to 500 new homes in key town centres may also have to be reviewed in the context of the reduced allocation of GAF.

Question 22

Councillor Alison Moore

How many managers have left the Council in each year since 2006 (broken down into junior, senior and Council Directors Group)?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

1) Managers who have left the council

	Council Directors group	Senior Managers	Junior Managers
2005/6	1 (6%)	6 (5%)	14 (5%)
2006/7	2 (12%)	25 (13%)	33 (11%)
2007/8	1 (7%)	15 (13%)	34 (12%)
2008/9	3 (27%)	9 (7%)	23 (9%)

Please note that 2005/6 only cover the period 1 October 2005 to 31 March 2006.

2) Reasons for leaving

2005/6	Council Directors group	Senior Managers	Junior Managers
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Resignation	0	4	6
Retirement	0	0	3
Redundancy	1	1	3
Termination	0	1	2

2006/7	Council Directors group	Senior Managers	Junior Managers
Resignation	0	7	16
Retirement	0	2	5
Redundancy	2	16	10
Termination	0	0	2

2007/8	Council Directors group	Senior Managers	Junior Managers
Resignation	0	10	23
Retirement	0	1	5
Redundancy	1	4	5
Termination	0	0	1

2008/9	Council Directors group	Senior Managers	Junior Managers
Resignation	2	7	9
Retirement	0	1	2
Redundancy	1	1	9
Termination	0	0	3

Question 23

Councillor Andreas Tambourides

Has the Government cut the Growth Area Funding grant due to North London Strategic Alliance?

Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius

I would also suggest that the answer is simply “No” and that the North London Strategic Alliance was a bidding force in the initial rounds last year. The Government cut Growth Area Funding across all growth areas around the country to shift the money into other housing pots. It was nothing whatsoever to do with the NLSA which is attempting to represent the six North London Boroughs who are Growth Areas or Opportunity Boroughs to assert a coordinated voice for this part of North London to the Government to re-think the cuts in Growth Area Funding.

Question 24

Councillor Barry Rawlings

After 3 years of the Administration rejecting my suggestion that the Council should fund restoring the war memorial at Peter Le Poer Church - why the change of heart?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Some members of the church believed the memorial to be in the Council’s ownership or care. Research through Council’s archives however revealed that ownership remains vested in the church at their specific request. This was agreed by Council at the time of a previous request for financial support for the repair of the memorial. Nevertheless a contribution toward addressing the current condition of the church’s war memorial was considered to be an appropriate gesture.

Question 25**Councillor Andreas Tambourides**

What proactive steps has the Administration taken to ensure the regeneration of the Granville Road Estate in Childs Hill proceeds?

Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius

The council has been successful in bidding to the London Development Agency for funding to improve the three tower blocks on the Granville Rd Estate (7 million pounds). This will then form part of a comprehensive re-development of the estate. Innovative plans for the financing of the rest of the work are being examined.

Question 26**Councillor Alison Moore**

Is the Council going to carry out any public consultation on the developing Future Shape proposals?

Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas

Following the Future Shape report in July, specifications for newly configured services such as streetscene or new processes such as integrated assessment will be developed and we will want to test out some of these new models with members of the public. We will use recognised large group consultation techniques to do this. Specific plans will be put in place for this engagement as we enter the next phase of the programme.

Supplementary Question 26**Councillor Alison Moore**

The Administration seemed quite happy to spend forty thousand pounds writing to all residents in the borough on possible changes to health services which are not a Council responsibility. Why will you not do the same for major changes to services that you are responsible for?

Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas

There is a big difference and that is that the changes are mainly about delivery of services, not where the services are going to be based or anything like that so there is a big difference. I will refer you to the consultation details in the call in questions and responses issued on the 13th of July; paragraphs five, ten and eleven detail what engagements we will be making with the residents and what consultation will happen in the next phase of the program.

Question 27**Councillor Tom Davey**

Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the £400k Dollis Valley Green Walk project funded by Mayor Johnson?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

The grant awarded by Mayor Johnson to Dollis Valley Green Walk, as part of his priority parks scheme, is to be implemented over three years.

An initial scoping of works has been worked up following feedback from residents living close to the Walk, meetings with Friends groups, a walk that I took along the route, when I met interested parties, and analysis by Greenspaces officers.

The volume of work identified to date is in excess of the £400,000 available. This 'wish' list is to be developed into firmer proposals, taking into account partner organisations and other funding streams including the Environment Agency and Walk London as well as volunteer's assistance in undertaking vegetation clearance works. A series of workshops are to be organised to inform these proposals with residents and key stakeholders throughout September and October with a paper being presented to a future Cabinet Resources meeting. Additional staffing resources are being brought in to assist in the delivery of the project which should now begin to gather pace. It is likely that the

majority of works will be carried out in years two and three.

The current wish list comprises a variety of improvements including:

- Selective removal of vegetation along the river bank to improve the river's health and provide a more pleasant experience for users
- Resurfacing and replacement of footpaths
- Improvements to the play areas in Windsor O/S and Riverside Walk
- Stations of outdoor gym equipment
- Re-landscaping of entrances
- New seating and bins

Supplementary Question 27

Councillor Tom Davey

It sounds to me, Councillor Harper, that it will be a long time before we see any improvements on the ground. Is there any way of speeding this up?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

In a sense I agree with Councillor Davey. It is going to be a long time before we see some results here, but the Mayor of London has quite properly set up clear guidelines for how the money might best be spent and not least that it should be done on the basis of the extensive local consultation which we certainly as a borough are following up as swiftly as we can to ensure that Barnet takes the maximum advantage of this excellent offer from the Mayor.

Question 28

Councillor Charlie O-Macauley

What proportion of council funded BME voluntary & community groups currently provide community advice services? Can we have a list of them?

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan

Four out of ten BME organisations in receipt of an annual revenue grant from the voluntary and community sector grants programme offer advice, information and, in some cases, advocacy services as the primary element(s) of their service provision. The four groups are:

African Catholic Refugee Community
African Cultural Association
Horn of Africa Women's & Children's Association
Iranian Community Centre.

Other annually funded BME groups, such as Barnet Asian Women's Association and Barnet Elderly Asians' Group, offer advice and information, mainly restricted to their membership, as part of a range of activities.

Two other organisations involved in the provision of advice, Barnet Refugee Service and the Jain Network, received one-off grants in 2008/09.

Supplementary Question 28

Councillor Charlie O-Macauley

If these organisations are not successful in bidding for funds for the new Community Advice Service that is being commissioned, how will the advice that they provide for these particular communities be continued?

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan

Any specific advice would be part of the new commissioning process so all tenders that we receive

will be asked to deal with a variety of needs, including the communities and anybody with disabilities.

Question 29

Councillor Tom Davey

Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the project funded by Mayor Johnson to plant trees in the west of the Borough?

Answer by Andrew Harper

The Mayor has committed to funding 10,000 new street trees as part of his goal to make London a greener city. Now in its second year, Barnet's priority area has been identified as the A5, Edgware Road from Cricklewood Broadway, right up to Canons Corner in Edgware, over 9km long.

Barnet have been invited to apply for a grant to deliver approx 100 street trees within this area.

Working with Highways and the neighbouring boroughs, locations where trees could actually be planted given the nature of the Edgware Road have been identified and the properties adjacent to the tree pits have been consulted

We are now waiting to hear whether the application was successful. Should the grant application be successful, further works will be required including wider consultation detailing the entire scheme and testing trial pits due to the nature and location of the project.

Question 30

Councillor Julie Johnson

Burglary has increased in Barnet in the last 12 months - what good has the Council's burglary strategy done?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

Unfortunately the operational management of the police is not my direct responsibility, but the Council's Burglary Strategy has allowed me and other members of the Safer Communities Partnership Board to raise issues and seek answers from the police about what actions they are taking to reduce the increase.

Supplementary Question 30

Councillor Julie Johnson

Could I ask Councillor Offord what answers he has had please?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

Myself and other Members of the Partnership Board were able to speak directly to the Borough Commander and his officers about this issue and ask what action they were taking. They said there had been no change to their operational policing plan at that time. Consequently, I gave them an opportunity to come back with further proposals to address the problem which is a London-wide issue but one which is of great concern to people particularly in West Hendon and Cricklewood.

Question 31

Councillor Dean Cohen

What impact has the collapse of the housing market had on the Council's finances?

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan

The effect of the collapse of the housing market has hit particular income streams within the Planning, Housing and Regeneration Directorate. The details are as follows:

Income for the Building Control Service

Comparing the first four months of this financial year with the same period last year, Building

Regulations applications are 13% down, however income is only 7% down. This is because of increased charges this year (a 5% increase) but also because the service has won some major projects, including outside Barnet. However, the service is finding the climate difficult, particularly as it is in competition with a private sector which is also working hard to secure work.

Income for the Planning Service and from Land Charges

Between 2007/08 and 2008/09 planning income (excluding a reduction in grant income) has dropped by 13% while income from land charges dropped by 55%. Projections for this year show a possible further reduction in planning income by 43% and for land charges by 16%.

Planning & Land Charges Income

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Projection for 2010
Planning	1,351,864	1,635,759	2,231,064	1,935,828	1,105,000
Planning Grant	937,560	866,018	685,754	336,563	310,000
Total	2,289,424	2,501,777	2,916,818	2,272,391	1,415,000
Land Charges	1,976,511	2,192,424	1,879,465	844,172	712,000
Total	1,976,511	2,192,424	1,879,465	844,172	712,000
Total	4,265,934	4,694,201	4,796,283	3,116,563	2,127,000

Question 32

Councillor Kath McGuirk

Will the Cabinet Member join us in opposing all cuts to local bus services?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

It would be folly to commit to a complete *stasis* on bus routes and not allow for changing needs over time. A pan-London review of buses and the bus network is being undertaken by TfL and it would be recommended that we wait to see these results. There may well be some efficiencies obtained from less used routes that would benefit overloaded routes.

Supplementary Question 32

Councillor Kath McGuirk

You earlier congratulated Boris Johnson on pushing through Ken Livingstone's scheme on the half price bus travel benefiting one hundred and fifty thousand people. I would hope therefore that there would be buses for these one hundred and fifty thousand people to travel on. Will you be supporting the campaign for a bus to go from East Finchley to Royal Free and secondly agree that there is role for all Members of this Council to look at the needs of the people of this borough when developing bus routes, extending bus routes and looking at the frequency of bus routes in this borough?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

I certainly agree with Councillor McGuirk that there is a role for all of us in considering bus routes. I do think as my written answer indicates, it would be foolish of us to box ourselves in with any particular pledge or commitment at this time and I think actually what she has said in her question is

a sort of eye catching gimmick with no likelihood of follow through. I welcome the review that is being conducted by Mayor Johnson and TfL and I hope we shall all be participating in that

Question 33

Councillor Andreas Tambourides

What part is your department playing in the Council's work to negate the effects of the recession?

Answer by Councillor Melvin Cohen

The planning department has a key role in mitigating the impacts of the recession locally by maintaining development activity and targeting opportunities for new investment across the borough.

In particular the department has lead on the preparation of new interim planning guidance - 'Responding to the Recession', the first of its kind in London to tackle the downturn in the property Market. This outlines ways of enabling development to be brought forward during the recession by providing flexibility in the section 106 planning obligations process, whilst continuing to ensure that schemes remain high quality and sustainable through the delivery of supporting infrastructure.

The guidance also seeks to encourage the procurement of local services by the development industry to promote local employment opportunities. To this end the department will be appointing 'Business Links Officer', funded by section 106 employment and skills contributions, to support small and medium-sized enterprises in the borough and enable them to be more aware of, and bid for, contracts from local developers.

In preparing a robust planning policy position through the LDF, the department is also establishing the conditions necessary to attract investment and stimulate recovery. The work for example currently underway in relation to 5 town centre strategies (North Finchley, Finchley Church End, New Barnet, Edgware and High Barnet) will identify a range of opportunities to improve economic performance in these key locations. Attracting the right balance of uses and development mix are key to ensuring Barnet's main town centres maintain their competitive edge.

The department is also instrumental in delivering the council's regeneration agenda. The rapid progress made in relation to the Colindale Area Action Plan for instance has created the certainty and benign planning environment essential to encourage market investment. The development of the former Colindale Hospital and surrounding sites is testament to this approach.

The support given in attracting external monies is critical and has proved very successful with the recent allocations from the Growth Area Fund and Housing and Communities Agency.

The increasingly rapid turnaround of planning applications; our performance is now amongst the highest authorities in the country, is helping developers of all scales from the householder to the national housebuilders secure funding and building contracts.

More generally the planning department continues to deliver an efficient and customer based service with a constant focus on value for money. It is well positioned to cope with the current economic challenges and fully prepared for any upturn.

Question 34

Councillor Geof Cooke

What is the Council's legal advice on the co-mingling of General Fund and Pension Fund cash?

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan

The two cash areas are accounted for separately so that there is no confusion as to the cash balance on either account. We have had no legal challenge to the Council's Pension Fund cash arrangements. Both the Pension Fund and Council statement of accounts are subject to external audit and again, no issues have been raised regarding these arrangements. The Pension Fund is maintained as separate statutory accounts from the rest of the council in accordance with legal and

accounting requirements.

Supplementary Question 34

Councillor Geof Cooke

If the separation of Pension Fund cash from General Fund cash is so well managed, documented and audited, why have you and Councillor Freer repeatedly refused to say how much Pension Fund cash was originally deposited in Icelandic Banks since that is completely unaffected by any subsequent decisions about liability for losses?

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan

Because we are following the advice from CIPFA and the auditors on how to report all the Icelandic Bank deposits

Question 35

Councillor Alison Moore

When did the Council consult residents about the removal/reinstatement of the speed humps in Station Road N3?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

The residents of Station Road were consulted in April 2008 regarding the resurfacing of their road and sent letters in May 2008 requesting their views on the removal of the traffic calming measures.

Supplementary Question 35

Councillor Alison Moore

Councillor Harper, I would just like to know what the response was from those residents in the section of the road that had the road humps removed but didn't get resurfaced. Is that not contrary to Council Policy?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

I do not really feel that I can comment on this since I do not recall actually seeing the outcome of the consultation but I am very happy to look at that and pass on the details. I think most of this happened before I held this portfolio. I will write to the Member with the information she has requested.

Question 36

Councillor Alison Moore

Will the Cabinet Member look at speed controls in Dollis Park N3 in response to concerns of local parents?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

In order to ensure that resources are directed to those areas where there are known issues, evidenced by for example recorded personal injury accidents and significant speeding, the Council consider the introduction of traffic management measures based on an agreed criteria, heavily influenced by the above situations.

Speeding concerns on Dollis Park N3 are being assessed against the above criteria and serious consideration is being given to the introduction of measures where appropriate.

Supplementary Question 36

Councillor Alison Moore

Councillor Harper, the parents in the school at the bottom of Dollis Park are deeply concerned about this. I think they would find it deeply offensive that you are looking for a personal accident injury case before you take action. Can I ask you publicly that you take their concerns with the utmost seriousness?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Yes.

Question 37**Councillor Barry Rawlings**

The Treasury Management Outturn report says that there has been no actual loss from deposits made in Icelandic Banks. This must mean that either the cash was deposited in an interest-free account or the Cabinet Member is expecting to receive the lost interest on the deposits. Which is it?

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan

The report is correct. We have not suffered any interest loss so far.

Supplementary Question 37**Councillor Barry Rawlings**

I refer to your answer to question eighteen by Councillor Schneiderman. You talk about the Landsbanki return likely to be in the region of eighty three per cent. My question does not mention interest loss but actual loss. In a report it said that there would be no actual loss. In an answer to a question, you are only expecting eighty three per cent of the fifteen million back. How come this seventeen percent of fifteen million has become no money? It just makes no sense. It does not bode well for the future of resources in your hands.

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan

I am afraid that we do not report a loss until it has actually crystallised and as you know, we do not know yet exactly how much we are going to get but it will be reported eventually.

Question 38**Councillor Barry Rawlings**

Can the Cabinet Member advise what the firm opening date is for South Friern Library?

Answer by Councillor Robert Rams

South Friern Library will open to the public on Tuesday 15th September. The new and improved library will be open five days a week, Tuesday to Saturday, including a late-night opening on Wednesday evenings.

There will be RFID self-service kiosks, pc's for the public to use, wireless internet access, a coffee area, community space & and meeting room. The library will also offer IT taster sessions, story time & rhyme time, along as working with local schools, community groups and businesses to meet local needs.

The library will be stocked with Adults, Children's & Teenage fiction & non-fiction, spoken word, large print, dvd's, cd's, newspapers & magazines.

Question 39**Councillor Barry Rawlings**

Can the Cabinet Member confirm that Friern Barnet library will be staying open at its present site?

Answer by Councillor Robert Rams

There are currently no plans to close or relocate Friern Barnet library. The library has recently been repainted, with repairs to the roof undertaken to improve the appearance of the library, and to create a better environment for customers.

Question 40**Councillor Alison Moore**

Does the Cabinet Member welcome the £80m funding to refurbish and rebuild secondary schools in the Borough that the Council has received from the government from Building Schools for the Future?

Answer by Councillor Robert Rams

I do welcome the recognition from the Government, in bringing forward our BSF money, that Barnet has an excellent record in rebuilding its schools. Also, given Barnet has for many years asked for government money for our secondary schools this funding is welcome. The funding will enable us to begin to develop a transformation programme for our secondary estate that mirrors our local primary school investment programme which is delivering a new Whittings Hill school for children this September.

Barnet will initially get about £80m BSF funding from the next tranche of the national BSF programme. The schools included in Barnet's first project are Bishop Douglass Catholic School in East Finchley, St Mary's C of E High in Hendon, Copthall Girls in Mill Hill and The Ravenscroft in Barnet Lane, as well as the Pavilion Pupil Referral Unit, and Oak Lodge Special School. Subject to receiving further funding, Barnet's remaining secondary schools will receive similar investment once the initial project has been completed.

My only concern is that we will have to jump through many very difficult hoops to get the money and even if we do jump through these hoops, the way the treasury has been spending money over recent months, there is no guarantee that this money is still there for us.

Supplementary Question 40

Councillor Alison Moore

Councillor Rams, are you in favour of your party's proposal to cut 4.5 billion pounds from the Building In Schools for the Future programme?

Answer by Councillor Robert Rams

I am not sure there is going to be any money left at all after your government have finished with it.

Question 41

Councillor Anita Campbell

The Council has just awarded a new 5 year lease for the rental of Barnet Hill School. Does this mean that the Dollis Valley regeneration is still at least 5 years away from commencement?

Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius

To date, no lease has been signed and negotiations with the school are at a very early stage. The Dollis Valley Regeneration is dependant on funding arrangements which in turn are dependant upon the property market recovery, the banking crisis and Government priorities.

Question 42

Councillor Anne Hutton

Did the Council meet the security standards for the ContactPoint data-base by 31st March 09, and if not has it done so now?

Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer

All security standards for the ContactPoint system required to date have been met by the council. The deadlines so far have required the council to demonstrate that its ContactPoint team satisfies a number of criteria including security arrangements. Satisfaction of these criteria results in the team achieving 'organisation accreditation'. We are now working towards achieving organisation accreditation for the wider Children's Service and the rest of the council. We are also working with partners (PCT and the Acute Trust initially) to enable them to achieve accreditation and thereby satisfy the required security requirements.

Question 43

Councillor Gill Sargeant

Would the Council provide an update on the permanent changes being made to the road network round the open space in Grahame Park?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Phase 1A of the Grahame Park Regeneration Scheme is due to commence shortly. As part of these works, Lanacre Avenue (Between North Acre and Heywood Avenue) will be widened to incorporate an additional right turn lane for the development. The existing bus lay-by will be relocated towards Heywood Avenue and additional parking bays will be provided in front of the new development. A new access road will be constructed to serve the Phase 1A development off Lanacre Avenue and this will connect existing roads (i.e. Acklington Drive and Clayton Fields). The existing public footpaths within the Open Space have been stopped up and new footpaths will be provided in accordance with planning consent granted.

Prior to the start of the works, public notices will be provided on Lanacre Avenue which is due to commence in October/ November 2009. Existing notices have been erected by the developers indicating alternative routes to footpath closures within phase 1A.

Further phases (currently 7) of Grahame Park regeneration will follow this process for any works on the public highway.

Question 44

Councillor Gill Sargeant

What is the Council doing to ensure that in future when changes are being planned during regeneration that there will be adequate public notices of planned works?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Planning issues will be subject to the planning approval process, however prior to the start of any works on the public highway, public notices will be located on street in the regeneration areas, to convey information on commencement dates and other associated information.

Question 45

Councillor Agnes Slocombe

How many apprenticeship places have been taken up with this authority by adults and by young people to combine studying with practical training?

Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer

Seven young care leavers have taken up apprenticeships with the authority and we are currently recruiting the next six apprentices. As the leader has outlined, to help local graduates the Council is offering internships for Barnet residents who are recent graduates. The interns will have the opportunity to gain practical experience in one or more departments of the Council.

Question 46

Councillor Agnes Slocombe

What time do parking wardens officially finish in the evening?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

10.15 pm. Where there are particular issues, we are able to target enforcement at other times if necessary.

Question 47

Councillor Agnes Slocombe

When and by whom was the decision taken to charge residents' associations and the regeneration committee for the use of the West Hendon Community Centre? (It was agreed in 1996 that they would not be charged for the hire of the Centre)

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan

The Resident's Regeneration Group are charged but MHT cover the cost of this as part of their commitment to the regeneration scheme. The Residents Association receives a 70% discount on the full charge in accordance with Council policy on ~~32~~ fees and charges for the use of community centres,

unless the Barnet Homes have asked to meet with them, in which case Barnet Homes cover the cost.

Question 48

Councillor Anne Hutton

How many children in Barnet are educated at home? And how do their exam results compare with those educated in school?

Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer

There are currently 61 pupils registered with Barnet Council as educated at home. There is currently no legal duty on parents to advise the local authority of children educated at home unless the child has attended a registered school and been withdrawn.

Information on the performance of pupils educated at home in public examinations cannot be collected by the Council so valid comparisons cannot be made.