

Council: 13 July 2010

Motion 3.1: Councillor Jack Cohen

Town Centres

Amendment in the name of: Cllr. Joanna Tambourides

Delete all after "Town Centre" (line 4) and insert:

"Council however believes that drunken and rowdy behaviour can be tackled by the Police using existing laws and existing powers.

Council calls on the Cabinet Member to liaise closely with the local Police and Child's Hill Safer Neighbourhood Team to tackle the problem of street drinking in Golders Green so that the attractiveness of the town centre can be preserved for all law-abiding visitors."

Substantive Motion to read:

"Council supports the objective of making our Town Centres a pleasant, attractive and vibrant shopping experience .Council therefore notes with concern the number of street alcohol drinkers in and around Golders Green Town Centre.

Council believes that drunken and rowdy behaviour can be tackled by the Police using existing laws and existing powers.

Council calls on the Cabinet Member to liaise closely with the local Police and Child's Hill Safer Neighbourhood Team to tackle the problem of street drinking in Golders Green so that the attractiveness of the Town Centre can be preserved for all law-abiding visitors.

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

Amendment in the name of: Cllr. Julie Johnson

Delete all and replace with:

"Council supports the objective of making our Town Centres a pleasant, attractive and vibrant shopping experience.

Council therefore notes with concern the number of street alcohol drinkers in and around Golders Green Town Centre.

Council agrees that if this situation is allowed to continue there is a real risk that visitor numbers to the Town Centre will fall, as well as making the area unpleasant for local residents.

Council believes in a two pronged approach to deter and persuade street drinkers to alter their lifestyle. The first is to outlaw 'street' drinking of alcohol in public and the second is for the council to work with the appropriate helping agencies and local liquor stores to deal with causes of alcohol dependency.

Council notes that there are already alcohol free zones designated in North Finchley, Hendon Central, Finchley and Cricklewood, but that there is a lack of monitoring and enforcement that needs to be addressed in these and any future designated zones.

Council believes many of our Town Centres are falling in to urban decay for a number of reasons including lack of care and attention from LB Barnet, and that the long promised Town Centre Strategies are needed urgently to arrest this decline.

Council therefore request the Cabinet to draw up proposals in consultation with the Police, shopkeepers residents and drug and alcohol agencies which will include:

- 1) Designating Golders Green Town Centre and adjoining roads as an alcohol free zone
- 2) Outreach work with problem drinkers across alcohol free zones
- 3) Working with the police to ensure proper monitoring and enforcement of all alcohol free zones
- 4) Completing and implementing Town Centre Strategies as soon as possible

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

Council: 13 July 2010

Motion 3.2: Cllr. Geoff Cooke

Road Safety in Barnet

Amendment in the name of: Cllr. Brian Coleman

Delete all after "year" (line 2) and insert:

"...Council notes Barnet's significant investment in Safer Routes to School, Vehicle Actuated Signs and general road safety improvement measures, as well as schemes to ease the traffic flow and cut congestion.

Council further notes this Administration's innovative traffic management policies that saw the removal of many so-called traffic calming measures.

In addition, Council notes the millions wasted by the Labour-led Administration 1994-2002 on failed road safety initiatives, such as those on the A598 Finchley Road.

However Council welcomes the Conservative Administration's commitment to repair the winter pothole damage to main routes by 31 July and other roads later this year.

Council also welcomes the Mayor of London's initiative regarding traffic flow and traffic lights, and asks the Cabinet Member to lead the liaison with Transport for London regarding this matter."

Substantive Motion to read:

"Council welcomes the fact that fatalities from road traffic accidents have reduced in Barnet over the last year.

Council notes Barnet's significant investment in Safer Routes to School, Vehicle Actuated Signs and general road safety improvement measures, as well as schemes to ease the traffic flow and cut congestion.

Council further notes this Administration's innovative traffic management policies that saw the removal of many so-called traffic calming measures.

In addition, Council notes the millions wasted by the Labour-led administration 1994 – 2002 on failed road safety initiatives, such as those on the A598 Finchley Road.

However, Council welcomes the Conservative Administration's commitment to repair the winter pothole damage to main routes by 31 July and other roads later in the year.

Council also welcomes the Mayor of London's initiative regarding traffic flow and traffic lights, and asks the Cabinet Member to lead the liaison with Transport for London regarding this matter.

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

Amendment in the name of: Cllr. Jim Tierney

Delete all and replace with:

"Council notes that Barnet has the second highest number of casualties from road traffic accidents in London. In 2009 there were 1,403 casualties in Barnet – a rise of 15% since 2008.

Council also notes that Barnet's Cabinet Member for Environment has recently ruled out introducing any new road safety measures to combat the problem – despite saying his focus would be on "roads, roads and roads". Council further notes that Mayor Boris Johnson is proposing to remove 145 traffic light and pedestrian crossings across London including 3 in Barnet, which will aggravate speeding traffic and make crossing the road more dangerous in many locations.

Council asks Cabinet to investigate the recent increase in casualties in Barnet from road traffic accidents, and come up with a plan to ensure our roads are safer for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians alike.

Council recognises that public opinion is divided on the issues of speed humps, but also that there are numerous other low cost options to address the issue of road safety and speeding traffic in residential roads.

Cabinet is aware of many roads in Barnet where residents have asked for this other type of road safety measure, and therefore asks Cabinet to consider what measures could be implemented to improve road safety in these roads:

East Finchley

Church Lane

Golderns Green/Garden Suburb

Finchley Road, Temple Fortune

Church End/ Garden Suburb/Golders Green

Henlys Corner

West Hendon

Cool Oak Lane

Park Road

Sturgess Avenue

Audley Rd

Colindale

Colindeep Lane

Woodhouse

Ashurst Rd

High Road

Summers Lane

Sunny Way

Glenhurst Rd

Squires Lane

Burnt Oak

Watling Avenue

Watling Avenue/Blundell Rd

Montrose Avenue/Cressingham Rd

Coppetts

Friern Barnet Lane

Hillside Avenue

St Johns Avenue

Hollyfield Avenue

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

Council: 13 July 2010

Motion 3.3: Cllr. Daniel Thomas

Housing Benefit Changes

Amendment in the name of: Cllr. Susette Palmer

In the third paragraph, to delete 'Conservative-led' and to replace with 'Coalition' to read:

“Accordingly, Council welcomes the new limits on Housing Benefit payments due in 2011 from the Coalition Government...”

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

Amendment in the name of: Cllr. Ross Houston

Delete all and replace with:

“Council notes that according to Shelter, the majority of people claiming housing benefit are either pensioners, the disabled, residents caring for a relative or hardworking families on low incomes, in other words, those most in need in our community.

Council believes therefore that the Con-Dem government's proposal to cap housing benefit will hit those most in need the hardest.

Council regrets the complete failure of Barnet's Conservative administration to build enough affordable homes for rent and shared ownership that has resulted in a greater call on housing benefit as people are pushed into the private rented sector where rents in Barnet and London are higher.

Council opposes the changes to housing benefit as it will result in more families facing debt, eviction and ultimately homelessness.

Council asks Cabinet to:

- write to the Secretary of State setting out Barnet's opposition to the proposed changes to housing benefit,
- finally commit to building substantially more affordable homes for rent and shared ownership, and
- lobby the government against cutting funds for more affordable housing from the Homes & Communities Agency including those for the re-build of the West Hendon estate, and Beaufort Park

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

Council: 13 July 2010

Motion 3.4: Cllr. Lynne Hillan

The Emergency Budget

Amendment in the name of: Cllr. Monroe Palmer

In the fourth paragraph, to delete 'Conservative-led' and to replace with 'Coalition' to read:

"Accordingly, Council welcomes the Emergency Budget from the Coalition Government..."

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

Amendment in the name of: Cllr Alan Schneiderman

Delete all and replace with:

"Council notes that the increase in VAT from 17.5% to 20% announced in the Government's June Budget will fall hardest on those residents in Barnet least able to afford it.

Council also notes that the increase in VAT will lead to higher prices for goods and services; will have a disproportionate impact on pensioners and other low income groups; and will have a severe impact on businesses, charities and community groups in Barnet.

Council also notes that the effect of the increase in VAT, when taken with other measures in the Budget, will be unfair to pensioners, who have not had a compensatory increase in other benefits and allowances.

Council also notes that the way the VAT increase will affect pensioners and other low income groups runs counter to the Government's Coalition Agreement statement on 20 May 2010 that it would "ensure that fairness is at the heart of those decisions so that all those most in need are protected."

Council also notes that the Institute of Fiscal Studies has stated the VAT increase was not "unavoidable," as the Chancellor of the Exchequer said in his Budget speech.

Council therefore asks the Leader of the Council to write directly to the Chancellor of the Exchequer raising concerns about the impact of the proposed VAT increase on pensioners, other vulnerable groups and businesses in Barnet.

Council also calls on the 3 Members of Parliament representing Hendon, Finchley & Golders Green and Chipping Barnet to stand up for Barnet's pensioners, businesses and wider community, to voice their opposition to this unfair increase in VAT and to vote against it in Parliament.

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

Amendment in the name of: Cllr. Alex Brodtkin

Delete all and replace with:

"Council recalls George Osborne and David Cameron's comment on the economy that "We are all in this together", and is therefore appalled that the cuts being proposed by the new Con-Dem government in their Emergency Budget will hit the poor hardest.

Council notes that this Con-Dem government will slash £1.165 billion from local government, with LB Barnet set to lose at least £6.5 million this year alone. This is in stark comparison to the year-on-year increases in grant funding that LB Barnet had under the last Labour Government and that this Conservative administration so vociferously complained were insufficient.

Council also notes there has been no consultation with local councils on the proposed cuts.

Council believes that the proposed budget cuts will result in the decimation of local services, local job losses, the burden on LB Barnet's services increasing, and far from improving things will put at risk local economic recovery.

Council also laments the profligate way that LB Barnet has managed its finances, including:

- the loss of £27.4 million in failed Icelandic Banks,
- £12 million in overspends on Aerodrome Road bridge,
- the wasted £ millions every year on consultants and agency staff,
- the £2 million from failing to claim a grant from HEFCE,
- the £1.4 million spent on obsolete lap tops,
- the waste on flat screen televisions for council officers,
- and the wastage on various vanity projects and pet vendettas

Council believes this local mismanagement will only add to the probability of savage cuts to frontline services.

Council notes that the cuts announced in the emergency budget are, according to many analysts, running too far, too fast, and risk a double dip recession.

Council asks the Leader of the Council and Cabinet to:

- write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer setting out Barnet's opposition to these budget cuts to local government, and
- work to ensure that whatever local cuts are made are not targeted at those in need

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

Council: 13 July 2010

Administration Policy Item 4.1: Cllr. Andrew Harper

Child Poverty in Barnet

Amendment in the name of: Councillor Monroe Palmer

In the fifth paragraph, to delete 'Conservative-led' and to replace with 'Coalition' to read:

"Welcomes this innovative policy by the Coalition Government..."

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

Amendment in the name of: Councillor Anne Hutton

To delete all and replace with:

Council notes the Con-Dem Government has announced that all schools are being invited to apply for Academy status and that parents and other interested groups will now be able to set up "Free Schools".

Council believes that "fast-tracking" outstanding schools to Academy status, and creating Free Schools, is likely to result in resources being funnelled to those schools that are already achieving excellence, while leaving schools serving disadvantaged areas with less.

Council believes there is no better example of this flawed allocation of resources than the Con-Dem government's decision to stop Building Schools for the Future funding to all of the schools in Barnet's bid – many of which serve some of the poorest areas in Barnet – whilst progressing funding to Academies elsewhere.

Council notes that the Academies Bill removes the requirement of schools to obtain the approval of the Local Authority before becoming an Academy, nor will schools have to undertake any statutory consultation of parents or local people before converting to an Academy. This is a blatant attempt to side-step local democracy and the community.

Council also notes that every parent's wish is for fair access to a good, local school, but does not agree that free schools are the best way to achieve this, given the likelihood that Free Schools will cost more and take money away from existing schools.

Council believes the Academies Bill and policy on Free Schools will create a two-tier education system with the best pupils and teachers leaving to join Free Schools and Academies; the evidence from Sweden is that the free school system is not always beneficial to the least privileged in society.

Council asks the Cabinet Member for Education to write to the Secretary of State opposing these new policies, and the cuts to Barnet's Building Schools for the Future funding.

Council: 13 July 2010

Opposition Policy Item 4.2: Cllr. Anne Hutton

Child Poverty in Barnet

Amendment in the name of: Cllr. Reuben Thompstone

Delete all after "Council"(line 1) and insert:

"...regrets the failure of the outgoing Labour Government to properly tackle the root causes Child Poverty in the UK despite being in Office for 13 years.

Council notes the Labour Government spectacularly missed its own target to halve child poverty by 2010.

Council welcomes LBB's Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) which contains priorities and measures to tackle Child Poverty in Barnet.

Council requests that the Cabinet Member ensures the effective implementation of the CYPP to ensure that Child Poverty is tackled in Barnet."

Substantive Policy Item to read:

"Council regrets the failure of the outgoing Labour Government to properly tackle the root causes Child Poverty in the UK despite being in Office for 13 years.

Council notes the Labour Government spectacularly missed its own target to halve child poverty by 2010.

Council welcomes LBB's Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) which contains priorities and measures to tackle Child Poverty in Barnet.

Council requests that the Cabinet Member ensures the effective implementation of the CYPP to ensure that Child Poverty is tackled in Barnet."

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

Amendment in the name of: Cllr. Ansuya Sodha

Delete all and replace with:

"Council notes that around 25,000 children in Barnet live in or on the brink of poverty, and that in some areas in the borough more than 50% of children live in poverty.

Council also notes that children who grow up in poverty face a greater risk of poor health, of lower educational attainment and of being exposed to crime.

Council further notes that both the previous and the current government have said that they are committed to the goal of ending child poverty by 2020.

Council is therefore appalled at the numerous measures in the Con-Dem government's emergency budget that will take money away from the poorest families in the long term and push hard-working middle income families towards the poverty line by freezing Child Benefit, cutting Child Tax Credits and Child Trust Funds, capping Housing Benefit, fixing future benefit increases to the lower CPI as opposed to the RPI, freezing free school meals, removing some supplemental grants to mothers and increasing VAT to 20%.

Council notes the admission of the Work and Pensions Secretary that the emergency budget puts at risk the goal of ending child poverty by 2020 - even with the proposed increase in the child element of tax credit for the poorest families.

Council therefore asks Cabinet to:

- write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer setting out LB Barnet's opposition to these regressive measures in the emergency budget
- write to Barnet's three MPs urging them to vote against these regressive measures in Parliament
- confirm their commitment to helping eradicate child poverty in Barnet by 2020, and to work with local partners and scrutiny to ensure the council's new duties under the Child Poverty Act 2010 are implemented on time

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