

Council, Tuesday, 14 September 2010

Motion 3.2: Councillor Richard Cornelius

Garden Grabbing

Council regrets the practice of “Garden Grabbing” that occurred because front and rear gardens were classified as Brownfield under the planning rules, making it far easier to obtain planning permission to build on them.

Council notes that between 2006 and 2009, 34% of dwellings in Barnet were built on previously developed land (including gardens). This was the 10th highest rate in London, and a large jump from the 12% recorded in the three years to 1997.

Council also regrets that the old Labour Government made few changes to curtail this practice despite constant representations from this Council and local MP Theresa Villiers.

However, Council is extremely pleased that the new Coalition Government has listened and has reclassified front and rear gardens away from Brownfield land, which Council believes will serve to control building upon them.

Accordingly Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Communities Minister Greg Clark MP welcoming this move.

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.