

# HENDON RESIDENTS' FORUM

27 JULY 2010

Barnet Multicultural Centre, Algernon Road, West Hendon, London, NW4 3TA,

## Action/Update Note

Chairman: Councillor John Hart\*

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Sury Khatri\*

\*Denotes Councillor Present

	Issue Raised	Response	Update
1	<p>Petition Received – Road Safety Campaign</p> <p>Increase road safety at Hendon School</p> <p>788 signatures</p> <p>Due to the information provided the petition can not be verified.</p> <p>Pervious reported issue – 23 June 2010 - <a href="http://committeepapers.barnet.gov.uk/democracy/meetings/meetingdetail.asp?meetingID=6168">http://committeepapers.barnet.gov.uk/democracy/meetings/meetingdetail.asp?meetingID=6168</a></p> <p><b>Additional Questions:</b></p>		
a	<p>Did you receive the 788 person petition?</p>	<p>Yes. This was received and notification was sent to the lead petitioners on Thursday 22 July 2010.</p> <p><b>Paul Frost</b> <a href="mailto:Paul.frost@barnet.gov.uk">Paul.frost@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>No further response required.</p> <p><b>Paul Frost</b> <a href="mailto:Paul.frost@barnet.gov.uk">Paul.frost@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>
b	<p>Can a breakdown of the £2,600 now quoted for a change in sign and the painting of</p>	<p>As advised previously, changes to the hours of control of the School Keep Clear markings</p>	<p>The school has since requested a breakdown of the estimated costs under a Freedom of</p>

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<p>enforceable double yellow lines be provided? We have already asked for this but have had no response.</p>	<p>requires carrying out a consultation that costs money to advertise and also for officers of the Council to deal with – including the amendment of the Traffic Management Order (TMO) that legally supports the markings. Additionally, there is a cost to manufacture and replace the old signs with new ones. However, money needed to do this would not normally be more than around £1500. It is understood that the request for restrictions has extended to include double yellow lines. There is a similar separate TMO that is required to be written for this and extra yellow lines to be costed – hence the increase in estimated costs.</p>	<p>Information Request which has been supplied.  <b>Neil Richardson</b>  <a href="mailto:Neil.Richardson@barnet.gov.uk">Neil.Richardson@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>c</b> Why have the Council said it's not a lot of money and could be done quickly if the school paid for it. How do we get the Council to consider the request that they pay for the necessary changes - they have all agreed it needs to be done.</p>	<p>Whilst the Council is happy to investigate and support road safety actions, schools are encouraged to identify these types of issues as part of their School Travel Plan (STP) , which also addresses other issues such as encouraging alternative forms of transport being used to travel to and from school and reducing the amount of car usage. Submission of a STP then triggers a process that can produce funding from Transport for London to apply for a number of traffic related measures and it is via this process that the Council normally addresses concerns such as the above. It is therefore considered appropriate to consider these measures through the STP process although if the school are prepared to pay for measures that the council agree are necessary then the introduction of the measures, subject to all legal obligations being met, can be speeded up if the school are prepared to fund them.</p>	<p>No further update.</p>

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d	There is no signage to warn people that it is a school - can this be done?	The signage can be reviewed and presumably has been identified as a concern as part of the STP process detailed above.	No further update.
e	How do the Council respond to the fact that Barnet now has the second highest number of road casualties, a rise in 2009, compared to 2008.	<p>Casualty figures in the borough each year are higher in terms of absolute numbers this is the case for most boroughs because of the particular characteristics of the borough. The borough has the highest population in London and a large road network which includes significant lengths of major roads such as the A1, A41 and A406 North Circular Road that are managed by Transport for London, and the M1 motorway.</p> <p>The casualty data for 2009 show significant increases in casualties compared with 2008. A large increase in slightly injured casualties has had a big impact on the overall figures. This has been particularly evident on the Transport for London road network, where the borough has less influence, and seems to be a common issue for a number of boroughs in North London.</p> <p>We continue to analyse the data to help identify locations and types of accidents where we can make improvements. The council carries out road safety improvements at locations which have been identified using previous accident data - based on the number and type of accidents and also provides road safety education and training particularly in schools</p> <p><b>Neil Richardson</b>  <a href="mailto:Neil.Richardson@barnet.gov.uk">Neil.Richardson@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>No further update.</p> <p>No further update.</p> <p>No further update.</p> <p>No further update.  <b>Neil Richardson</b>  <a href="mailto:Neil.Richardson@barnet.gov.uk">Neil.Richardson@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>

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<b>f</b>	<p>Why have Members of the Council had such big pay rises, including the Cabinet Member for Environment and Operations, the pay rise of just 1 person could have paid for our road safety project 10 times over possibly saving some lives!</p> <p><b>Hendon Citizen Schools Team</b></p>	<p>The decision to amend the Member Allowances Scheme was taken by Councillors at the Council meeting on 13 July 2010.</p> <p>Any resident wishing to put their views, ask questions etc, should contact their Ward Councillors either at their respective surgeries or via e mails.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<p>Is it possible as a standard condition of Planning Permission that a developer be prohibited from removing TOP SOIL <b>on areas to be retained for garden use?</b> This is generally believed to be "perks" and top soil is eventually sold to garden centres and other sources. This practice destroys the Biodiversity of the land, leaving just clay.</p> <p><b>Clive S. M. Cohen</b> <b>LWT (Barnet Group)</b></p>	<p>Planning conditions imposed on planning consents ensure existing landscaping is retained and proposed landscaping is planted and remained healthy thereafter. This would necessitate that sufficient amounts of top soil are retained on site, therefore protecting the biodiversity of a site or locality.</p> <p>A condition therefore specifically concerning the removal of top soil is considered not necessary and would furthermore be difficult to enforce.</p> <p><b>Martin Cowie</b> <a href="mailto:Martin.cowie@barnet.gov.uk">Martin.cowie@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>The matter raised is under consideration</p> <p><b>Martin Cowie</b> <a href="mailto:Martin.cowie@barnet.gov.uk">Martin.cowie@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>a</b> Has the Council made any major financial savings, since transferring its in house services to arms length contractors?</p>	<p>Please refer to the attached for Efficiencies/Budget Reductions</p> <p><b>Karen Balam</b> <a href="mailto:Karen.balam@barnet.gov.uk">Karen.balam@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>No further response at this time.</p> <p><b>Jahangir Mannan</b> <a href="mailto:Jahangir.mannan@barnet.gov.uk">Jahangir.mannan@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>
<b>b</b>	<p>What is the Councils position of £M's placed in the Icelandic bank?</p>	<p>9.2.1 The Icelandic Government has stated its intention to honour all its commitments as a result of their banks being placed into receivership. The U.K. Government is working with the Icelandic Government to help bring this about. At the current time, the process of recovering assets is still</p>	<p>No further response at this time.</p> <p><b>Karen Balam</b> <a href="mailto:Karen.balam@barnet.gov.uk">Karen.balam@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>

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	<p>ongoing with the Administrators. The Local Government Association is coordinating the efforts of all UK authorities with Icelandic investments. Members will be periodically updated on the latest developments on these efforts.</p> <p>9.2.2 On 9 December 2009, Bevan Brittan, the solicitors acting on behalf of the LGA, received notification from the Glitnir Winding-up Board that they had accepted all local authority claims as general unsecured claims, rather than priority claims.</p> <p>9.2.3 Bevan Brittan actively challenged this decision prior to the Creditor's meeting on 17 December 2009, but, it was not possible to reach an agreement. A mediation process has taken place and there has been no change to the general unsecured position. Therefore it is now a matter for the Icelandic judicial system.</p> <p>9.2.4 Without priority status local authorities are likely to get in the region of 25-30 per cent of their deposits back rather than 95% to 100% as previously assumed.</p> <p>9.2.5 The 2009/10 accounts, which assume local authorities have priority status, include impairments adjustments to the General Fund as prescribed by Financial Reporting Standards and LAPP updates. The risk is managed through the Risk Reserve.</p>	

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<p><b>c</b> What is the position of the Brent Cross Cricklewood regeneration project?</p>	<p>This was reported to the Cabinet Resources Committee on 17 June 2010 and can be found at:  <a href="http://committeepapers.barnet.gov.uk/democracy/meetings/meetingdetail.asp?meetingid=6138">http://committeepapers.barnet.gov.uk/democracy/meetings/meetingdetail.asp?meetingid=6138</a></p> <p><b>Karen Bannister</b>  <a href="mailto:Karen.bannister@barnet.gov.uk">Karen.bannister@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>The Planning and Environment Committee on the 29 July 2010 approved an extension of time to complete the Section 106 Agreement and issue planning consent.</p> <p><b>Martin Cowie</b>  <a href="mailto:Martin.cowie@barnet.gov.uk">Martin.cowie@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>d</b> The Council sends out documents and offers these to be transcribed into other languages, is there a great demand for this and what are the cost implications?</p>	<p>A verbal update was given</p> <p><b>Martin Cowie</b>  <a href="mailto:Martin.cowie@barnet.gov.uk">Martin.cowie@barnet.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Documents and other translation services are not undertaken as a matter of course - i.e documents are only translated if someone asks for a translation.</p> <p>The most recent figures available are for the year ending April 2009.</p> <p>That year saw 332 documents translated and 491 face to face or telephone translations. The total cost was £164,323.13, or roughly £200 per translation.</p> <p>Preliminary figures for the most recent financial year show a slight reduction on the overall cost. (£159,000).</p> <p><b>Chris Palmer</b>  <a href="mailto:Chris.palmer@barnet.gov.uk">Chris.palmer@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>No further response required</p> <p><b>Chris Palmer</b>  <a href="mailto:Chris.palmer@barnet.gov.uk">Chris.palmer@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>

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e	Following the build of 10,000 new homes in Colindale why are Barnet residents finding it so hard to find social housing?	<p>The Council has planned to deliver thousands of new homes across its strategic regeneration areas including at Brent Cross Cricklewood, Colindale and its priority housing estates. Despite the economic downturn substantial development is taking place at Colindale where new housing is being provided at Beaufort Park, Grahame Park and at the former Colindale Hospital site.</p> <p>These schemes are delivering a range housing types and tenures including affordable rent and shared ownership properties which will assist in establishing balanced and sustainable communities.</p> <p><b>Martin Cowie</b>  <a href="mailto:Martin.cowie@hotmail.co.uk">Martin.cowie@hotmail.co.uk</a></p>	<p>No further update  <b>Martin Cowie</b>  <a href="mailto:Martin.cowie@hotmail.co.uk">Martin.cowie@hotmail.co.uk</a></p>
f	Considering the Local and National reports of server cuts LBB Councillors voted to award themselves pay rises. How does this square with the austere times ahead?	<p>The decision to amend the Member Allowances Scheme was taken by Councillors at the Council meeting on 13 July 2010.</p> <p>Any resident wishing to put their views, ask questions etc, should contact their Ward Councillors either at their respective surgeries or via e mails.</p>	
g	<p><b>Future Shape Programme</b></p> <p>When is the No Frills Council to be introduced?</p> <p>Is the process being reviewed?</p> <p><b>Mr Dan</b></p>	<p>The council will be examining options as to how high quality, and in some cases, better quality services can be provided to its service users given the financial pressures it is facing. A programme (One Barnet) has been established to look at which areas can be delivered in a way which ensures resources are directed appropriately, that there is clear value for money and that the quality of services is not negatively</p>	<p>No further response required  <b>Claire Johnston</b>  <a href="mailto:Claire.johnson@barnet.gov.uk">Claire.johnson@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>

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		<p>affected.</p> <p>A number of projects have been set up, within the programme, to examine options. Whilst some are nearing the end of this phase, no decisions have been made to date. This means that any large scale changes, if agreed, are likely to be approximately 18 months away. In the meantime, there are also projects looking at improving how we currently provide services and the customer experience with the council. This should result in positive changes by the end of the year.</p> <p>There has been engagement throughout with the Trade Unions.</p> <p>A scrutiny panel has been set up to review the programme. Panel meetings are open to the public (unless restricted information is being considered) and papers for meeting can be accessed via the following link:  <a href="http://committeepapers.barnet.gov.uk/democracy/meetings/meetinglist1mth.asp?intSubSectionID=3&amp;intSectionID=2&amp;meetingType=Overview%20and%20Scrutiny&amp;intComID=322">http://committeepapers.barnet.gov.uk/democracy/meetings/meetinglist1mth.asp?intSubSectionID=3&amp;intSectionID=2&amp;meetingType=Overview%20and%20Scrutiny&amp;intComID=322</a></p> <p><b>Claire Johnston</b>  <a href="mailto:Claire.johnson@barnet.gov.uk">Claire.johnson@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>	
4 a	<p>At a time when the Government is cutting its financial support to Barnet and local government staff are facing pay freezes, how can the leadership of the Council justify the pay increases they have awarded themselves; and how can it be lawful for the Council to take the decision without proper</p>	<p>The decision to review the Member Allowances Scheme was taken by Councillors.</p> <p>Any resident wishing to put their views, ask questions etc, should contact their Ward Councillors either at their respective surgeries or via e mails.</p>	<p>No Further update  <b>Val White</b>  <a href="mailto:Val.white@barnet.gov.uk">Val.white@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>



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<p><b>b</b> notice to councillors or the public? As the Government has cancelled the building schools for the future programme, what does the council propose to do to rebuild St Mary's High School, and Copthall School, as was planned under the BSF programme? How much has the council and have the schools spent on the preparatory work for the rebuilds?</p>	<p>We are awaiting the outcome of the Government's review of capital investment in schools. Until this review is complete and has reported, we will not know how future capital funding will be allocated. Meanwhile, we are updating condition surveys of schools to inform the prioritisation of any funds that may be available.</p> <p>The estimated indicative cost to the LA of preparing for BSF in Barnet is approximately £757k. This includes a contribution to the costs incurred by schools.</p> <p><b>Val White</b> <a href="mailto:Val.white@barnet.gov.uk">Val.white@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>	
<p><b>c</b> As the government has cancelled housing schemes, what does the council now propose to do for West Hendon estate, in terms of either regeneration or bringing the existing properties up to decent home standards? When does the agreement with the proposed developer partners expire? How much has the council spent on the scheme so far in terms of planning, design, negotiations, legal advice and other professional fees?</p> <p><b>Andrew Dismore</b> <b>Pavilion Way resident</b></p>	<p>The government has closed the Kickstart funding stream for which West Hendon was short listed. This programme provided a small element of the required project finance. More substantial tranches of funding from the National Affordable Housing Programme and monies contributed by the Council from its Growth Area Fund are secure.</p> <p>The Council has been in discussions with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) on alternative sources of funding to replace the Kickstart monies and expects to hear the HCA's decision in the coming weeks. The Council remains committed to the regeneration.</p> <p>The date for satisfying the pre-start conditions of the Principal Development Agreement with the Council's Development Partners has been</p>	<p>The HCA have now formally awarded funding to the first phase of the West Hendon regeneration. We now expect the project to start on site in October 2010.</p> <p><b>Colin Ross</b> <a href="mailto:Colin.ross@barnet.gov.uk">Colin.ross@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>

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		<p>extended a number of times whilst funding solutions have been sought. The current extension extends the agreement to December 2010. The council will decide nearer the time whether further extensions are merited.</p> <p>The agreement with the Development Partners requires the developer to cover the Council's reasonable agreed costs including negotiations, legal advice and other professional fees. Planning and design costs were paid by the development partners. The precise sums involved are, therefore, commercially confidential between the Council and the Development Partners.</p> <p><b>Colin Ross</b>  <a href="mailto:Colin.ross@barnet.gov.uk">Colin.ross@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>	
5	<p>Do the cabinet members who are elected representatives of Barnet Council feel morally obliged to vote for an unwarranted pay rise for themselves when many of their constituents are forced by the present Tory government to accept a pay freeze or a pay cut?</p> <p>Did Barnet Council follow the democratic process of giving the required notice of the agenda of the meeting which voted for this unacceptable pay rise?</p> <p><b>Nagus Narenthira Colindale</b></p>	<p>The decision to amend the Member Allowances Scheme was taken by Councillors at the Council meeting on 13 July 2010.</p> <p>Any resident wishing to put their views, ask questions etc, should contact their Ward Councillors either at their respective surgeries or via e mails.</p> <p>The agenda of the meeting was published on Monday 5 July, meeting the statutory deadline.</p>	No further response
6 a	<p><b>Eaton Road &amp; West View NW4</b></p> <p>There is a playground which has been neglected, the shrubs are over grown and</p>	<p>This is a Barnet Homes managed site. We cut the shrubs there but only on an annual basis and are next due to do so this winter. However, this concern has been passed to Barnet Homes</p>	<p>All 3 roads were swept and monitored during week 2 of August. Future sweeps of these roads will be checked for quality.</p> <p><b>Dave Ward</b></p>

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b  c	<p>the litter bins have been full for a long time? Can the Council pay this site some attention?</p> <p>Both Sydney Road and Heriot Road NW4 are both in need of a street clean. Can this take place?</p> <p>New Brent Street also needs a street clean, the pavement slabs are all broken, can they be improved and replaced?</p>	<p>requesting that they look into the concern as a priority</p> <p>Sidney Rd, Heriot Rd &amp; New Brent St are all due to be swept during week commencing 2nd August.</p> <p>Investigation will take place regarding the state of the footway and remedial action taken where necessary</p> <p><b>Neil Richardson</b> <a href="mailto:Neil.Richardson@barnet.gov.uk">Neil.Richardson@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>	<p><a href="mailto:Dave.ward@barnet.gov.uk">Dave.ward@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>
7	<p><b>No Ball Game Sign – Orange Hill Road</b></p> <p>I have previously reported of a dangerous sign which had been damaged and left on the green. This has now been removed but the sign hasn't been replaced. Can a new sign be installed?</p> <p><b>Mrs Fielder</b></p>	<p>A housing visited the area today (26/7/10) and found that there are already 2 other "no ball games" signs within the vicinity of 26 Orangehill Road ( on the corner of Littlefield Rd &amp; Colchester Rd). These signs are seen as a polite notice and we have no powers to enforce them. The Watling is a conservation area and we feel that too many signs will look unsightly.</p> <p><b>Michelle Davies</b> Barnet Homes <a href="mailto:Michelle.Davies@barnethomes.org">Michelle.Davies@barnethomes.org</a></p>	<p>No further response required</p> <p><b>Michelle Davies</b> <b>Barnet Homes</b> <a href="mailto:Michelle.Davies@barnethomes.org">Michelle.Davies@barnethomes.org</a></p>
8	<p>Could we have an update on the undertaking that the London Borough of Barnet have already given last year to maintain the Boroughs War memorials fundamentally neglected for so long.</p> <p>What is the timing to enable the projected to be complete?</p> <p><b>Clive Cohen</b></p>	<p>The council takes its responsibilities over the upkeep of War Memorials seriously, however there is a limited budget and so we have to take care to prioritise the works that are undertaken.</p> <p>In addition to the regular maintenance given to all the memorials which includes rubbish removal, grass cutting and light cleaning we have recently undertaken more major maintenance at both Mill Hill and Hendon war memorials to remove verdigris staining and to re-wax the bronze elements against further</p>	<p>No further update</p> <p><b>Sue Taylor</b> <a href="mailto:Sue.taylor@barnet.gov.uk">Sue.taylor@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>

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		<p>staining. The removal of verdigris is a long process which has to be undertaken by specialists but it is now almost complete on both these memorials.</p> <p>Works have been ordered to the La Deliverence memorial to clean and protect the bronze figure, these should commence in the next month. We are also drawing up proposals for some works to the New Barnet Memorial though we do not have a timescale for these.</p> <p>All the memorials that the council are responsible for have been visited recently to update our condition survey; this will inform the next works to be prioritised.</p> <p><b>Sue Taylor</b> <a href="mailto:Sue.taylor@barnet.gov.uk">Sue.taylor@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>	
<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>a</b></p> <p><b>b</b></p> <p><b>c</b></p>	<p>During the meeting residents asked:</p> <p>What representations are Barnet making regarding the future of Barnet schools?</p> <p>What is the cost of the regeneration of Edgware School?</p> <p>Can details be given regarding the relevant part of the Councils constitution which a Forum is governed?</p>	<p>Barnet is preparing a written submission to inform the review that the Government is undertaking into the future of capital investment in schools.</p> <p>The cost of providing the new shared kitchen and dining facilities for Edgware Infant and Junior schools was approximately £3m.</p> <p>The Councils constitution is a public document and can be found on the Councils website and can be accessed in all Barnet libraries. <a href="http://www.barnet.gov.uk/article10.pdf">http://www.barnet.gov.uk/article10.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Paul Frost</b> <a href="mailto:Paul.frost@barnet.gov.uk">Paul.frost@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>	

The Forum which commenced at 6.30pm ended at 8:05pm

**Officers Present:**

Martin Cowie – Head of Planning and Development

Neil Richardson – Highways manager, Environment and Operations

Paul Frost – Democratic Services

**Committee Contact:** Paul Frost, Forum Administrator, Corporate Governance Directorate, Building 4, Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1NP. Tel: 020 8359 2205, Email: [paul.frost@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:paul.frost@barnet.gov.uk)