HENDON RESIDENTS FORUM

Thursday 21 October 2010

Barnet Multicultural Community Centre, Algernon Road, Hendon NW4

Action/Update Note

Chairman: Councillor John Hart* Vice-Chairman: Councillor Sury Khatri

*Denotes Councillor Present

	Issue Raised	Response	Update
1.	Presentation: 'Core Strategy – Publication Stage and Develoment Management Policies – Preferred Approach' Nick Lynch Planning Policy (LDF) Manager - Planning, Housing and Regeneration	We are in the process of developing a set of planning documents, known as the Local Development Framework (LDF). Together these documents form the overarching local policy framework for planning the future of Barnet. The LDF is a 'folder' of separate documents and two of the most important documents are the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies. We are therefore seeking the views of residents on these documents during a consultation period that lasts until November 25 2010 www.barnet.gov.uk/planning-consultations	Brent Cross – Cricklewood - the planning permission was issued on 28 October 2010. It is envisaged that the scheme will commence on site by 2015. Proposals include a new town centre, new commercial district and 7,500 new homes of which, subject to viability, 2,250 are targeted to be affordable. A 20 year build out time is expected. Development partners will be developing a Relocation Strategy to help support all residents on re-housing issues. Mill Hill East and Colindale - Housing led development continues at Mill Hill East and Colindale in accordance with adopted area action plans. Nick Lynch Nick.lynch@barnet.gov.uk Grahame Park - First homes of first major phase 319 new homes (155 of which are private sale and 164 affordable) are under construction and due for occupation early 2011. Detailed planning application for rest of first phase

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		expected by Council in late 2010. This includes up to 572 new homes which are expected to be completed in 2013.
		Stonegrove – Phase 2 will deliver 98 new homes (45 for social rent, 17 intermediate and 36 for private sale) and is under construction, due for completion in 2011. Supported with funding from the Homes and Community Agency (HCA) under the Kick-Start programme. Phase 3 is due to commence by the end of 2010 and will delivery 67 new homes for private sale. Barratt Homes and Family Mosaic will need to attract further funding from the HCA in order to progress future phases.
		West Hendon - The Initial phase has been recently awarded £1.5 million from the HCA Kick-Start 2 funding programme, in addition to the £400,000 from the National Affordable Housing Programme. The Council has also earmarked £2.8 million of Growth Area Funding for this phase.
		This funding has enabled development partners to start works before end of 2010 on the Initial Phase of 186 new homes (35 affordable and 151 private). Development partners and the Council are reviewing the masterplan for the scheme. A new indicative phasing plan will be made available to residents in Spring 2011. This will be followed by consultation with the residents on the estate.
		Dollis Valley – Development partner should be identified by Spring 2011.
		Jodie Yandall Jodie.yandall@barnet.gov.uk
		Where will people be housed? The impact of the changes to housing benefit will be monitored and enable the Council to respond

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			appropriately. The council will continue to work with private landlords and agents to procure properties for clients who come to the Council for housing help. The Council has a key role in communicating changes to housing benefits to landlords and will work through a communication plan recommended by the Department for Work and Pensions.
			Will landlords lower there rents? Through the Council's own engagement mechanisms (landlord forum and business club) the impacts of the changes and how landlords respond will be monitored so that they do not adversely affect the Council's ability to procure properties on the private sector.
			What are the support mechanisms for people with low incomes? While the housing benefit will be capped under the changes there will still be further funding for discretionary additional housing benefit payments for households in the most vulnerable circumstances. Government has pledged to increase the funding available for this.
			Chloe Horner Chloe.horner@barnet.gov.uk
2.	Petition Received	The issues identified in the petition have previously been raised by residents and	Sergeant Ken Mather gave a verbal update on the key issues on the anti social behaviour
	Market Lane / Watling Avenue	raised/confirmed by SNT/PIT patrols. In response both LB Barnet and Barnet police have	within Market Lane.
	Anti Social Behaviour	prioritised resources for the area.	He discussed positively some of the methods that are used to tackle the anti social behaviour
	46 Signatures	Waste Issue PIT have been monitoring / patrolling 2- 3 times per week for a number of weeks.	within this area. This was well received and very welcome,
		Residents and businesses have been written to regarding waste and follow up action has	

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		included warning notices for duty of care / FPN's and unauthorised bins removed where traders do not hold a trade waste agreement. PIT are liaising with street cleansing to manage/improve the area, however this requires constant monitoring.	
		Crime/ASB/Substance Misuse The SNT have been leading on the crime issues and have been carrying out daily patrols in the area and implementing stop and search powers as appropriate. A number of individuals have been taken into custody and items, including drug and alcohol litter, have been found. Despite the daily patrols and arrests both police and LB Barnet are not satisfied that the problems have been fully resolved and a partnership meeting has been arranged for 22 October 2010 to consider wider locational issues and long-term solutions. A drug and alcohol outreach team has also visited the location several times over the last 4-5 weeks offering access to specialist substance misuse services and the drug and alcohol arrest referral team have linked with police colleagues at custody suites to offer similar access (and consider other options around enforcement such as DRRs/ATRs – Drug Rehabilitation Requirements/ Alcohol Treatment Requirements).	
		Michael Kelly Michael.kelly@barnet.gov.uk	
3.	The leaves in the first field of York Park Cool Oak Lane end have not been cleared. Last years crop is still laying on the grass and this years are starting to drop. Because they have been down so long they end up burning the	The leaves were dealt with last year on a number of occasions and a final clearance undertaken following requests via the resident forum. Leaf clearance will be undertaken	No further response required Jenny Warren parks@barnet.gov.uk

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	grass off and we end up with large mud patches. Geoff Johnson Chairman of the Woolmead Residents Association.	throughout November and December and any further visits required in January. Jenny Warren parks@barnet.gov.uk	
4. a)	New Parkfield School Following 2 years of inclusion on Hendon Residents Forum documents I still have no privacy the rear of my property. Can the Council please comment?	The project manager has logged the issue of the yellow lines and the view from Mr Danns Property as defects and will be addressed by the building contractor once the year's defects liability has lapsed- this is November 2010 Omar Villalba Omar.vilalba@barnet.gov.uk	There is no current update. Omar Villalba Omar.vilalba@barnet.gov.uk
b)	The Sturgess Road entrance has poor road safety including poor signage and no yellow lines. Can this be reviewed?	We will shortly be commencing surveys in this and some nearby roads as part of an exercise to investigate safety and the se issues will be incorporated as part of the study. Additionally, the school will also be expected to raise concerns such as those noted as part of the	No further update required Neil Richardson Neil.richardson@barnet.gov.uk
c) d)	Parking in Stugess Road and Dallas Road is very difficult considering that local business from West Hendon Broadway use these roads to park in Free Bays. Can this be reviewed?	School Travel Plan process aimed at encouraging safety in the vicinity of schools and encouraging alternative modes of travel Although yet to be confirmed it is anticipated that the council will be reviewing borough wide the most appropriate use for bays that currently provide free parking and this area will therefore	
	Is it possible that the attendees of the Mosque in Brent View Road use this road to queue in prior to entering? Mr Dann	form part of that review. Neil Richardson Neil.richardson@barnet.gov.uk This has been handed over to the local Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) who will assess	
		any issues arising from queuing to gain entrance to the Mosque. The local SNT have a long established and very positive community	

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		relationship with the Mosque and will work with them to address any issues identified. Michael Kelly Michael.kelly@barnet.gov.uk	
5.	The Edgware War Memorial and what is going to be done to add the names of the fallen from Burnt Oak and Edgware from WW2 and subsequent conflicts President of new Edgware Branch, British Legion	We will ensure that this issue will be put to the Barnet War Memorials Initiative which is currently being led by the Deputy Lieutenant. Mark Armstrong Mark.armstrong@barnet.gov.uk	We have already carried out priority works which included the cleaning of the worst of the Verdi-gris staining to the monument and the bronze direct. More work is planned to the remainder of monument but due to the need to prioritize elsewhere we will have to delay this work until next year. In the meantime the monument will be brushed and cleaned off up to head height in preparation for Remembrance Sunday. We have been advised that the monument will not deteriorate significantly over the next year. Mark Armstrong Mark.armstrong@barnet.gov.uk
6. a)	Parking and other problems in Montagu Road West Hendon linked to the new school	Officers are currenty arranging for new surveys to be carried out to ascertain the exact levels of congestion etc that may be caused through increased numbers visiting the area. Once the survey findings have been analysed a decision will then be taken as to whether or what appropriate action might be taken. Neil Richardson Neil.richardson@barnet.gov.uk	There is no update currently available. Concerns were raised by residents regarding the difficulties they face in Montagu Road.

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b)	What is happening to the Welsh Harp boating base	As part of the approved masterplan there are provisions for the Youth Sailing Base to be replaced to the south of Cool Oak Lane with a	This issue was reported to the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee on 04 November 2010.
		multi use facility however there are no formal details at this stage. Both Barratts Metropolitan and the Council are currently reviewing the	The Committee raised concerns regarding the location of the boating base and agreed that

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с)	The increase in burglary in West Hendon	viability of the Master plan and several options being considered. The Council endeavours to be in a position to update all parties in April 2011. The land is on a Long lease to the Council and for a period of 48 Months the site will be used by Barratts as their marketing suite as well as depot facilities for the construction of the initial phase of the regeneration of the estate which is due to start late October. Martin Cowie Martin.cowie@barnet.gov.uk Please see the attached for further information.	the ideal location was the unused sheltered housing area. The Assistant Director of Planning and Regeneration will be written to by Democratic Services expressing the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committees concerns of the location of the Boating Base and the proposed location.
d) e)	The new Councillors' allowances scheme: why will some conservative Councillors get a full chairman's allowance when they will chair only 3 meetings a year: and what does this equate to as their hourly rate? What assessment has the Council made of the impact of Housing Benefit cuts on local residents' ability to remain in the Borough? Andrew Dismore	The Members' Allowances Scheme, approved by Council, is based on the office that a Member holds and not on the number of meetings or an hourly rate. Aysen Giritli Aysen.Giritli@barnet.gov.uk Regrettably there are too many variables to give an answer because it depends upon landlord's decisions as to the rent charged, the wording of the legislation from the DWP, the local housing allowance rates in April and October and the behaviour of tenants who may be displaced from Central London.	West Hendon Safer Neighbourhood Sgt will attend the next meeting which will take place on 30 November at St Joseph's Pastoral Centre, St Joseph's Grove, The Burroughs, Hendon, London NW4 4TY No further update required Jon Barnett Housing Benefits Jon.barnett@barnet.gov.uk

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		We have modelled the number and extent of the cuts to Housing Benefit based upon the April and October changes compared to January and June 2010 LHA rates	
		Jon Barnett Housing Benefits Jon.barnett@barnet.gov.uk	
7.	As you will be aware, a number of changes to Housing Benefit planned from next summer onwards will have a disproportionate impact on Barnet. Obviously it would be most desirable if landlords reduced to their rents to the lower levels set by the cap and the move to the 30 th percentile, but given the scale of the reduction in London, and the relatively small size of the total private rental market accounted for locally by HB recipients, this cannot necessarily be counted upon. I would, therefore, be grateful if you can let me know the following:		
a)	Has Barnet Council plans to advise all current and new LHA claimants of the new rules and if so, when?	Yes in conjunction with the DWP who will be supplying publicity materials once the legislation is laid before Parliament	
b)	Will claimants be advised of their rights in respect of making applications as homeless, and if not, why not?	Claimants approaching Barnet Council will first be assisted in attempts to prevent them from becoming homeless in their present accommodation.	No further update required
c)	Have any discussions been had with landlords and letting agents in Barnet regarding their willingness to lower rents to	Preliminary discussions have been held although there are no positive indications yet. We intend to discuss this with landlords at a forthcoming Landlords Business Club meeting.	c) When is the Landlords Business Club meeting? The Business Club will meet in early

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	within the new limits? If yes, what indications have you received that rents will fall?		December.
d)	Can you confirm that any household assisted into a private sector leased flat under the provisions of Homelessness relief and prevention will be entitled under the existing legislation to make a claim as homeless to Barnet Council if their landlord does not renew their lease or they are unable to pay their rent due to a shortfall between Local Housing Allowance and rent payable?	We accept that any tenants made homeless as a result of national benefit changes cannot be found intentionally homeless and are entitled to approach the council for assistance.	No further update required
e)	Has any assessment been made of the numbers of households in this category?	Yes. The DWP has provided estimates of the number of households affected.	e) what is the DWP estimate of the number of households affected? 440 households affected by the caps introduced in April and 7120 households affected by the October changes.
f)	Is Barnet Council continuing to advice families applying as homeless to take private accommodation (including PSL schemes with and without landlord incentives) and will this practice continue a) until or b) after new LHA limits are put in place next year?	Yes, although the supply of accommodation has fallen considerably over the past 6 months. We continue to assess the situation and look to provide as many viable accommodation options as possible to meet housing demand.	f) by what number and percentage has the supply of accommodation fallen over the last 6 months? The supply of private accommodation frequently fluctuates. Recent research indicated that the % of properties available in Barnet at LHA rates or less is now between 19-25%.
g)	Has any assessment been made of the numbers of households overall who are likely to make a valid homelessness application to Barnet Council in 2011/12?	Yes, although there are a number of factors to be taken into account making forecasts difficult. Whilst we can estimate the projected shortfalls, we do not know how the changes will affect the market and the proportion of landlords willing to let to HB claimants post reforms. Projections are	g) What is the assessment which has been made of the overall number of households likely to make a valid homelessness application in 2011/12? Whilst there has been no assessment of individual cases, we do anticipate the largest

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		made against current LHA rates. We do not know what the rates will be in April 2011 and October nor the effect of any phasing.	households being disproportionately affected (in particular 5 bed households) and these are most likely to approach the council.
h)	If not, when will such an assessment be made?	Yes. Members have been briefed and a letter was sent to the Secretary of State which included concerns raised.	h) please provide a copy of this letter to the secretary of state A copy of this letter can be found at the following link: (complete pack, page 108) http://committeepapers.barnet.gov.uk/democracy/meetings/meetingdetail.asp?meetingid=614 8
1)	Have any discussions taken place between Councillors or officers of Barnet Council and Ministers or officials, or any representations be made, regarding changes to homelessness legislation, and if so, what were they?	Supply of accommodation is currently low and therefore steps are being taken to ensure an increase in supply both in the short-term and long-term.	i) what steps are being taken to increase supply, short and long term? We have established a new acquisitions team, focusing solely on procuring accommodation as part of a lean systems review.
J)	Is Barnet Council currently seeking to procure additional units of Temporary Accommodation to meet the needs of homeless households above present levels in, or after, 2011?	Target areas are yet to be identified. Out of borough and out of London moves are being considered.	J) what out of borough moves are being considered? And for how many units? Areas have yet to be identified. The number of units required is dependent on existing supply within Barnet (claims will be affected on
k)	If so, where and how many units in each case? (specifying the borough or local authority area?)	See above	anniversary, and not all at once) and the % increase in numbers of households approaching the council for assistance.
l)	If 'not yet', when will a decision be made on the procurement of additional units of TA?		
m)	What estimates have been made of the financial impact on the council of the application of reduced LHA levels to	There is no direct financial impact anticipated for TA in 2011/12. Leased and licensed TA subsidy	

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	Temporary Accommodation in each year from 2011/12 If none, when do you anticipate such estimates being made?	is calculated using the January LHA rate of the preceding year. The DWP have declared that the January 2011 LHA rate used for TA will then apply for two years. The issue facing TA is future supply. However there will still be an issue of Housing Benefit subsidy loss on some existing contracts from April 2011.	
n)	Is Barnet Council currently seeking to procure additional units of Temporary Accommodation to meet the needs of homeless households above present levels in, or after, 2011?	See j)	
0)	If so, where and how many units in each case? (specifying the borough or local authority area?)	See k)	
p)	If 'not yet', when will a decision be made on the procurement of additional units of TA?	See I)	
q)	Has any assessment been made of the number of children in families in privately rented accommodation (including that secured by the Council) who are:	No. There are data protection issues for Housing and Housing Benefits. Social Services would undertake these assessments.	No further update required
	 On the Child Protection Register Have Statements of Special Education needs Are otherwise deemed to be vulnerable or at risk? 		
r)	What estimate has been made of the extra resources that will be required to ensure the Council is able to fulfil its statutory	We do not know the full impact because, as above, there are a number of unknown factors	r)What steps are being taken to priorities the procurement of PSL accommodation?

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	duties to those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness and its duties under the Children's Act? What assumptions are these estimates based on? Is this fully reflected in the Council's budget planning for 2011/12?	that will determine the number of households approaching the Council. Steps have been taken to prioritise the procurement of PSL accommodation to enable the council to meet increases in demand. Nick Lowther Housing	As above, a new acquisitions team has been established and requirement for PSL accommodation has been advertised in the local press. Nick Lowther Housing
	Andrew Dismore	nick.lowther@barnet.gov.uk Jon Barnett Housing Benefits Jon.barnett@barnet.gov.uk	nick.lowther@barnet.gov.uk
8	Controlled Parking Zone – Ravenshurst Avenue, London, NW4 Mr P Mistry has raised 6 points of concern regarding Ravenshurst Avenue, Egerton Road and Somerset Road Officers of the Council have had the opportunity of considering Mr P Mistry's written representations.	Officers have been aware of the concerns regarding parking for some time and had intended that they would be addressed as part of the Hendon Controlled Parking Zone review. Although questionnaires relating to the review have been distributed and a significant number returned, no further action has been taken as at this time no schemes of this nature are being progressed due to the considerable pressure on available funding.	No update is available. Neil Richardson Neil.richardson@barnet.gov.uk Dave Ward Dave.ward@barnet.gov.uk
	Mr P Mistry	The 3 roads mentioned by Mr Mistry are all residential roads, as such they are swept every four weeks. The sweeping operation includes mechanical & manual sweeping. We are aware of the the large numbers of students in the area and in addition to the cyclic sweeping 3 times per week litter patrols are carried out. Residents can also report accumulated litter via customer services and we will respond within 24hrs of reciept of these requests. Neil Richardson Neil.richardson@barnet.gov.uk	
		Dave.ward@barnet.gov.uk	

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9. a)	Once again I have to ask for an extension of the WH3 CPZ particularly for the lower half of Montagu Road. The ACE school has been running for a year now and the volume of traffic is enormous and is making our lives intolerable. We need parking ideally from 10am to 9pm seven days a week. The school is operating a 12 hour day and is also open on Saturdays and Sundays. The evening school comes out between 6.30pm and 7pm just when residents are coming home from work and the whole area can be gridlocked. We need CPZ extension and a traffic management plan from the school.	This issue will be addressed as part of the investigations to be carried out as referred to in question 6a above:- Officers are currently arranging for new surveys to be carried out to ascertain the exact levels of congestion etc that may be caused through increased numbers visiting the area. Once the survey findings have been analysed a decision will then be taken as to whether or what appropriate action might be taken.	
b)	Is there anything the Council can do to make absentee landlords improve their properties? Judy Shepherd	When an Environmental Health Officer inspects a property where serious issues are identified under certain legislation there is a statutory duty to take action regardless of whether the landlord is an absentee landlord for example under the Housing Act 2004 where a category 1 hazard exists the Council has a statutory duty to take action and under the Environmental protection act once a statutory nuisance has been identified the Council has a statutory duty to require the abatement of the nuisance. Once these issues have been identified the Council will take all steps known to them to identify the owner and/or the landlord of the property e.g. checking the details registered with Land Registry. If notices are served which are subsequently not complied with the Council may	No further response Belinda Livesey Belinda.Livesey@barnet.gov.uk

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		undertake the work in default of the owner. The cost of doing so is registered as a charge against the property. If the charge is significant this could result in the enforced sale of the property to pay off the debt. Belinda Livesey Belinda.Livesey@barnet.gov.uk	
10	Glendor Gardens I would like to raise the difficulties of parking in Glendor Gardens. Can the Council please help? Mr Somers	The council do not have any plans to carry out investigations regarding parking in this road, but the petition will be held on file for future reference should any investigation be agreed in the future. The council does have measures in place across the borough to deter vehicles over	Officers of the Council have made arrangements to meet with Mr Somers on 25 November 2010. Neil Richardson Neil.richardson@barnet.gov.uk Karen Grinter
		5tonnes gross weight from parking in residential roads between 6.30pm and 8am and it is considered that the current arrangements are sufficient for deterring vehicles of unacceptable weight parking overnight on the boroughs roads. Karen Grinter Karen.grinter@barnet.gov.uk	Karen.grinter@barnet.gov.uk
11 a)	Potholes need further repairing at the junction of: Vivian Road with – Audley Road and Servington Road	Officers of the Council will investigate the site with a view to carryout the repairs withinseveral Days if required. A further sweep of the borough is to be organised to check all roads by December 2010 and if required, we may be able to fix other problems	Resurfacing repairs in Vivian Avenue are currently in progress and expected to be completed by 29/10/2010 Brian Francis Brian.francis@barnet.gov.uk
	Dr Ghosh	not identified as part of the current pothole elimination programme. Brian Francis Brian.francis@barnet.gov.uk	
12	Due to the lateness of receipt of the following issues a written response could not be provided.	A recent planning application (ref: H/03315/10) was application sought permission for a three storey reto create 9 self contained flats with ground and bath	ear extension and conversion of the upper floors

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a)	Prince of Wales Pub The Prince of Wales public house on Burnt Oak Broadway is boarded up again. As a listed building, has the Council any information what is happening to it?	to various concerns raised by Council officers the agent on 27 October 2010. It is anticipated that an to the Council in due course. The Prince of Wales Public house is not a listed by area. Heidi.Euzger@barnet.gov.uk	amended planning application will be submitted
Mill Hill Fire Station In a possible firemans strike we are being told that there will be 27 fire engines to cover the whole of London. I recall that some 30 years ago that this was the same As many residents will know, London firefighters have voted in favour of strike acceptable to the second during the same hours on Monday, 1 November. The London Fire British days to a long duty to provide a fire and recover particle of the second during the same hours on Monday.		10am until 6pm this Saturday, 23 October, and November.	
	number that turned up to deal with the Boosey and Hawkes factory fire in Edgware, ending in one dead and seven people injured.	The London Fire Brigade has a legal duty to provide a fire and rescue service at all times and contingency arrangements have been put in place to provide a service. However, this will not be a full service as the 27 fire appliances and crews providing cover across London are equivalent to 16% of the LFB's normal capacity.	
	Obviously 27 engines is inadequate. Is there any proposal to reduce the cover from Mill-Hill fire stations?	Councils across the capital, including Barnet, are pand information available to residents. Information website.	
		The key points to remember are:	
		If you have a fire, still call 999	
		Know what to do if you have a fire – get out	t, stay out and call 999.
		Council staff will also be prioritising a range of tasl Officers will be checking 'hotspot' sites to minimise other fire risks, abandoned cars and unsafe struct arrangements to ensure that anyone trapped in lift	e the likelihood of accumulations of rubbish and ures, and will be making contingency

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		days of the strike.	
		Please check this website for any update to the advice being issued. www.barnet.gov.uk	
c)	Shop Cages		
	With reference to item 2F on the Hendon Residents Forum of 13 September 2010.	There is no response currently available	
	I notice that several shop-cages on the pavements in Watling Avenue are sub-let to other retailers. How many are paying a licence to the Council as required?	Michael Kelly Michael.Kelly@barnet.gov.uk	
d)	The Drive – Edgware	There is no response currently available	
	The junction of 'the Drive' with Station Road in Edgware is extremely hazardous both to predestines and vehicles, caused by vehicles parking on the junction.	Neil Richardson Neil.richardson@barnet.gov.uk	
	Could the Council please put down double yellow lines on both sides of the junction, especially to make it easier for residents?		

The Forum which commenced at 6.30pm ended at 9:05pm

Officers Present:

Neil Richardson – Acting Highway Manager

Joe Henry – Planning Regulations and Enforcement Manager

Nick Lynch – Planning Policy Manager, Present for the Core Strategy – Publication Stage and Development Management Policies – Preferred Approach' presentation

Jon Barnet – Housing and Benefits Training and Standards Manager

Paul Frost - Democratic Services Officer

Hendon Residents Forum Contact – Paul Frost, Democratic Services Officer, Corporate Governance Directorate, Building 4, Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1NP. Tel: 020 8359 2205, Email: paul.frost@barnet.gov.uk