

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MEETING</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>DATE AND TIME</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">THURSDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2018</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AT 7.00 PM</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>VENUE</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, LONDON NW4 4BQ</p>

Dear Councillors,

Please find enclosed the submitted Public Questions Comments for the above meeting.

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
1.	PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (IF ANY)	3 - 16

governanceservice@barnet.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

Qn No	Item Number	Raised by	Question Raised	Answer
1	Member's Item Cllr Alan Schneiderman – North Finchley CPZ	Maria Byrne	Given the commencement of St Barnabas at Solar House on Sunday 9 September and the requirement by Barnet to implement impact mitigation measures for residents, when will the CPZ changes for the micro zone on Highwood & Limes Avenues and Fredericks Place be notified and consulted on and implemented?	<p>To mitigate any increase in parking related to the commencement of St Barnabas Church at the Solar House site at 913-915 High Road, changes to the Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) were due to commence prior to the first Church service on 9th September 2018. The CPZ changes, which would have been introduced on an experimental basis, sought to extend the hours of operation of the CPZ on Mondays to Saturdays to 9.30pm, and extend the operative days of the CPZ to include Sundays.</p> <p>This measure, along with other complementary measures (double yellow lines, conversion of some parking bays etc) was considered necessary in order to deter the majority of visitors to the Church and to other activities at the site from parking in local roads outside of the current CPZ operational periods of Monday to Saturday 9am to 5pm.</p> <p>In response to the notification of the commencement of the scheme, the Council received a number of objections from members of the community and it was decided, by the Strategic Director for Environment, that its introduction be suspended, pending a future consultation on proposals to control parking in local roads in October 2018.</p> <p>In terms of the “mini zone”, Officers will need to consider whether such a measure should be</p>

Environment Committee Public Questions, Responses and Comments – 13 September 2018

				isolated to the three streets that have been mentioned (Highwood Avenue, Limes Avenue and Fredericks Place) whilst there are also other residential roads in close proximity to the site in question.
2	Member's Item Cllr Alan Schneiderman – North Finchley CPZ	Heron Shamash	Though vigorously opposed to the Church relocation, we as residents have been constructive and forthcoming in finding the best solution to an undesirable situation. Why have we not been treated with the same courtesy by the council?	<p>The Council recognises that some members of the local community are unhappy with both the process and the measures planned to be introduced and so it has accordingly been decided, to reconsider proposals, pending a consultation.</p> <p>The Council wishes apologies for any distress and inconvenience caused to you by this matter.</p>
3	Agenda Item 7/8 – Recycling	Roger Tichborne	Barnet Council is proposing to end the recycling of separate food waste in an environmentally friendly manner. As it is widely accepted that this is not an environmentally sustainable policy and the savings have been demonstrated to be marginal, does this indicate that this is purely a political move, designed to indicate to the anti environmental supporters of the administration that Barnet is not an eco friendly Borough? If this is not the case, can they please provide some scientific evidence to support any contention that the new arrangements are an improvement for the environmental credentials of the Borough	<p>The rationale for the proposal to end the separate food waste collection service is set out within the report to Environment Committee. It is linked to delivering financial savings by ceasing a service that is used by a limited number of residents across the borough despite considerable resources being expended to maximise participation and capture of food waste through this service.</p> <p>The Council will continue to deliver services in the most environmentally sustainable manner where it financially able to do so.</p>
4	Member's Item Cllr Alan Schneiderman – North Finchley CPZ	Dinta and Mark Rawson	What interim measures will you put in place from tomorrow to mitigate the (significant) pressure the church opening will have on the residents on Highwood avenue, Limes avenue and Fredricks place?	In the interim, the status quo will remain, with the existing restrictions and careful monitoring will take place in coming weeks to establish the impact the Church will have on the parking availability in local roads. There will be a period of reviewing the impact of the church being open so that officers are sure about which roads are affected and where the mini CPZ needs to be situated.

Environment Committee Public Questions, Responses and Comments – 13 September 2018

5	Member's Item Cllr Alan Schneiderman – North Finchley CPZ	David Cooper	Why was the local community's request for a zone within a zone so blatantly ignored when it was such an obvious solution	<p>The "separate zone" request was noted. However, the appropriateness of this measure needs to be fully assessed in order to ensure it offers benefits to all residents in the area</p> <p>Officers would then need to consider whether such a measure should be isolated to the three streets that have been mentioned (Highwood Avenue, Limes Avenue and Fredericks Place) when there are also other residential roads in close proximity to the site in question.</p>
6	Agenda Item 7	Karen Kiil	Before the local election this year the conservatives promised to continue bin collections. Four weeks after the elections this committee decided to withdraw food waste collections. Why did you promise your electorate one thing and then break your promise so soon after?	Recycling and waste collections continue to be delivered weekly in line with the Conservative administration's manifesto commitment as voted for by the residents of Barnet. The proposal to stop the separate food waste collection service was developed by officers responding to the need to make significant financial savings across the Environment Directorate. Food waste will still be collected weekly but it will be collected with the general waste.
7	Agenda Item 7	John Dix	If Barnet stops separate food waste collections now, what would be the cost of reinstating this service if, at a later date, legislative change requires separate food waste collections?	The cost of any future reinstatement of a separate food waste collection service has not been explored at this time. Barnet does not currently have the finances to deliver this service in the immediate term.
8	Member's Item Cllr Alan Schneiderman – North Finchley CPZ	Maria Byrne	How quickly can Barnet notify and implement a further experimental order to put into effect the above change which is a simple proposal that residents bays are protected by changing them to a zone within a zone, given that the e-Petition with such proposals was confirmed over a year ago and referred to Jamie Blake to progress?	<p>Please see response to number 1.</p> <p>In addition the Council will consider the appropriateness of this measure and its likely effectiveness as part of the forthcoming consultation.</p>

Environment Committee Public Questions, Responses and Comments – 13 September 2018

9	Member's Item Cllr Alan Schneiderman – North Finchley CPZ	Heron Shamash	Why can't the implementation of the zone within a zone (9AM-9PM) and permanent visitor voucher for each household be implemented immediately. and the current proposals scrapped. This would be in line with the consultation suggestions? This the only agreeable compromise and this was made clear early on in the process so why do we have to endure a calamitous proposal for 6-18 months?	Please see response to number 1. In addition: The Council does not offer a permanent visitor voucher as part of its CPZ permit and voucher service, and there are no plans to offer free permits or vouchers as part of any future scheme.
10	Member's Item Cllr Alan Schneiderman – North Finchley CPZ	Dinta and Mark Rawson	Who in Barnet council is ultimately responsible and accountable for implementing the CPZ changes?	Strategic Director - Environment.
11	Member's Item Cllr Alan Schneiderman – North Finchley CPZ	David Cooper	If we have the zone within a zone then can the single lines also fall within our new zone	Single yellow line restrictions normally follow local CPZ restrictions.
12	Agenda Item 7	Karen Kiil	You state in your summary that you think you will save £300000 per annum by ceasing food waste collections. Mr Reasonable in his blog from 25th June worked the savings out as £32470 per annum, having consulted and checked prices with various waste providers and authorities. Do you think your electorate and the rest of the Barnet residents would rather see the food waste collections continued or the borough spend vast amounts of tax payers money on large agency staff expenditure as is clearly happening at present (see Mr Reasonable blog 05/09/2018).	Full and accurate figures are contained within the report to Environment Committee. As outlined, cessation of separate food waste collections will reduce agency spend within Street Scene supporting the corporate drive to continue to reduce the number of agency staff working across the Council.

Environment Committee Public Questions, Responses and Comments – 13 September 2018

13	Agenda Item 7	John Dix	If Barnet mix food waste with general waste how easy would it be to introduce fortnightly general waste collections in the future if financial pressures required this?	The Council is currently committed to providing weekly residual waste collections to households. A number of authorities across the UK do employ fortnightly residual waste collections without separate food waste collections.
14	Member's Item Cllr Alan Schneiderman – North Finchley CPZ	Maria Byrne	If a further experimental order cannot be implemented next week, can interim measures be put in place? (Extending CPZ hours and to include Sunday restrictions).	Measures will be considered pending a future consultation on proposals to control parking in local roads in October 2018.
15	Member's Item Cllr Alan Schneiderman – North Finchley CPZ	Heron Shamash	Have other mishaps such as the issuing of resident and visitors vouchers to occupants of the Imperial Sq developments been addressed, if not then why not?	These have been addressed and no further permits have been issued.
16	Member's Item Cllr Alan Schneiderman – North Finchley CPZ	Dinta and Mark Rawson	What is the lead time required to implement changes and how quickly can you do this? It's been noticed that within 24 hours the signs on the residential permit boards have been removed once the decision was made to suspend the experimental plan.	In response to the notification of the commencement of the scheme, the Council received a number of objections to the scheme from members of the community and it was decided that its introduction be suspended pending consultation. This subsequently meant that the changes to signage that commenced on Thursday 6th September 2018 was halted and any changes made were revised by the contractor the following day.
17	Member's Item Cllr Alan Schneiderman – North Finchley CPZ	David Cooper	Why should I have, as a pensioner, to pay more for people to visit me – if anything similar to the recent change is introduced	If a similar scheme, in terms of extended CPZ periods, is implemented in the future, residents who would wish to park their vehicle during its operational periods would need to have a valid permit associated with their vehicle, and would need to give their visitors wishing to park their vehicles during these periods, visitor vouchers.

Environment Committee Public Questions, Responses and Comments – 13 September 2018

18	Member's Item Cllr Alan Schneiderman – North Finchley CPZ	Heron Shamash	What measures will be put in place to ensure that this does not happen in the future with other planning applications in the borough?	Process improvements have been made which will seek to ensure that at the point of a development starting the consequential parking actions take place. This will see those involved in the planning and development functions of the Council promptly notifying those involved with parking schemes on becoming aware that a development has started and therefore a planning obligation has been triggered.
19	Agenda Item 7	Karen Kiil	In your letters to the Mayor of London's office you do not accept the help and advice offered to find ways of continuing the food waste collections in a cheaper way in order to be able to continue this vital service. Why is this ?	Barnet officers are in regular contact with officers in other authorities regarding the sharing of best practice in delivering recycling and waste collection services, particularly North London Waste Authority (NLWA) colleagues and wider London Boroughs via networking groups such as London Recycling Officer Group (LROG). Best practice in both the delivery and promotion of the separate food waste collection service have been followed by Barnet officers. The help and advice offered by the Mayor of London's office will involve the Street Scene service incurring supporting costs and will tie up limited officer resource. During meetings with the GLA on 18/6/18 and 2/7/18 on in correspondence to date there has been little evidence in to suggest that intervention by GLA consultants will result in financial efficiencies on the significant scale required.
20	Agenda Item 7	John Dix	Please can you clarify whether the Mayor of London has confirmed that he will not take legal actions against Barnet if food waste collections cease?	All correspondence with the Mayor of London is contained within the appendices of the report to Environment Committee.

21	Agenda Item 7	John Dix	As part of the risk assessment on this decision have you calculated the potential legal cost of any challenge by the Mayor if you do stop food waste collections and if so how much have you estimated this might cost?	<p>If the Mayor of London served a Direction on Barnet then Barnet would consider the content of the Direction and seek legal advice about the options. One option would be to send a letter before action and ultimately to take legal action against the Mayor to quash the Direction.</p> <p>In considering the options legal advice would be sought and the costs of any action or inaction would be assessed.</p>
22	Agenda Item 7	John Dix	In Mr Hooton's letter of 3 September to the Deputy Mayor, he stated that the knock on effects of the decision on food waste collections had prevented the implementation of the new rounds. What evidence is there to support that statement and the demand for compensation given that the biggest driver of round rationalisation was the move from one depot to two, not the cessation of food waste collections?	The reorganisation of the collection rounds and separate food waste collections are fundamentally linked. The report sets out the rationale for this and the Council would not seek to deliver a round reorganisation with this key element retained, as this would reduce productivity and viability of the new rounds. While the situation is unresolved reorganising the rounds would be likely to lead to two lots of disruptive change in short succession for the public due to further changes being needed once the situation was resolved.
23	Agenda Item 7	John Dix	The report makes it clear that £900,000 a year could be saved by retaining weekly food waste collections and moving to fortnightly general waste collections. There is also widespread and consistent evidence that this can be an effective way of boosting recycling rates. Given that 248 out of 326 local authorities (76%) across England with responsibility for waste collections run fortnightly general rubbish rounds for some or all households, what makes Barnet different from the majority of other local councils?	The retention of a weekly residual waste collection service was a Conservative manifesto pledge as voted on by the residents of Barnet.

24	Agenda Item 7	John Dix	Can you confirm that the gate fees for food waste sent to anaerobic digestion are £58 per tonne cheaper than sending food waste for incineration and that the reduced gate fee accrued this year will be credited to Barnet in next year's NLWA levy?	<p>The current food waste gate fee used for the 2018/19 budget is £84.71, this has been factored into the 2018/19 North London Waste Authority levy. A new short term disposal contract is now in place and has seen the gate fee paid by NLWA reduce to £31.39, until December 2019. This change in the disposal will not be reflected in Barnet's budget/levy payment until 2019/20. Even based on the disposal rate of £31.39 cessation of food waste collection services will save an estimated £296,766.</p> <p>Any net surplus or deficit from all of the different activities (including food waste, garden waste, dry recycling and residual waste) from the previous year, which come about as a result of changes price and/or changes in tonnage, is used as the starting point for calculating the levy for the forthcoming year.</p> <p>The current lower gate fee and short-term contract is due to an overcapacity in the current Anaerobic Digestion (AD) market. Given the trend of prices over recent years, (2017/18 £72.81 and 2018/19 £84.71), it is not believed that this is a sustainable long term price. Some AD operators are now struggling to access sufficient feedstock at a level of gate fee which can support ongoing operation. Constriction on the market as such is likely unless there is a significant increase of feedstock, which in itself will change the supply and demand nature of the medium-term pricing.</p>
25	Agenda Item 7	John Dix	At Appendix K the cost savings are stated for the full year 2018-19 at £543,448 yet at Appendix D it states that the savings could be £296,848. Given that the figure in Appendix K appears to take no account of the reduced gate fees for food waste sent to anaerobic digestion it gives an entirely	<p>The £543k figure relates to the in year savings based on the menu price for food waste in February 2018 which was £84.71, and forms the 2018-19 levy payment. This will be the money paid by Barnet in 2018-19. The £20k removed relates to</p>

Environment Committee Public Questions, Responses and Comments – 13 September 2018

			false impression of the potential savings. Can you clarify the basis for this figure and why it differs from the figure provided to me on 22 August?	collection cost savings G.
26	Agenda Item 7	John Dix	£130,000 of the alleged £296,848 savings relates to the withdrawal of food waste collections on “Restrict Access Rounds”. Can you clarify where those rounds serve, why the food waste collection savings would be so high and whether consideration was given to only ceasing food collection on those rounds rather than the borough wide service?	Food waste collections on restricted access roads require the use of a separate fully crewed vehicle collecting only food waste. This is historically due to the width of the road with parking and movability of the vehicles. This can be compared to the collection of food waste on standard rounds using compartment vehicles with the crew also collecting blue bin recycling. We take the suggestion on just stopping this service on board.
27	Agenda Item 7	John Dix	Did Barnet’s legal team review the letter Mr Hooton sent to the Deputy Mayor and did they review the basis of the £265,000 compensation demand made by Mr Hooton?	The Council’s legal advisors were consulted and involved in the review of that letter.
28	Agenda Item 7	John Dix	Can you clarify where anaerobic digestions sits in the DEFRA Waste Hierarchy compared to incineration of food waste and whether that changes if the digestate meets the AD Quality Protocol?	DEFRA Guidance on applying the waste hierarchy (June 2011) classifies “other recovery” as including anaerobic digestion, incineration with energy recovery, gasification and pyrolysis which produce energy (fuels, heat and power) and materials from waste; some backfilling.
29	Agenda Item 7	John Dix	What steps have been taken to identify if the current AD operator meets the AD Quality Protocol and if not, how easy it would be to achieve.	It is conditional in the contracts that the AD facilities used have attained BSI PAS 110 accreditation that meets the AD Quality Protocol.

Environment Committee Public Questions, Responses and Comments – 13 September 2018

30	Agenda Item 7	John Dix	One of the academic studies cited in the report at Appendix Lii was carried out in 2005. In 2005 there were only 2 Anaerobic Digesters operating in the UK outside the water industry (i.e non sewage sludge). In 2018 there are 449 non sewage sludge Anaerobic Digesters in the UK and 106 commercial/ municipal ADs . Given that the industry has changed dramatically since this study was written does it give an accurate representation of the facts?	This paper is valid and is included in the appendices to illustrate that the research and position put forward within the Mayor of London's Environmental Strategy is more nuanced and not as conclusive as made out. The Mayor's office has suggested in correspondence that all research shows separate collection of food waste for AD is environmental better than Energy from Waste, these papers are evidence that there is alternative research to the contrary and is not supported by the waste hierarchy as set out in the LES
31	Agenda Item 7	John Dix	The academic study at Appendix Li is based on one study in Italy. The study appears to have assumed that AD is followed by composting of the digestate which appears to be a different model compared to the UK AD industry. It also appears to ignore the value of the digestate as a direct replacement for artificial fertiliser. As such are you sure that this study is a suitable example on which to base a decision in the UK?	This paper is valid and is included in the appendices to illustrate that the research and position put forward within the Mayor of London's Environmental Strategy is not as conclusive as set out. The Mayor's office has suggested in correspondence that all research shows separate collection of food waste for AD is environmental better than Energy from Waste, these papers are evidence that there is alternative research to the contrary.
32	Agenda Item 7	John Dix	Have the Council taken legal advice as to the likelihood that a revised EU directive on waste (and specifically a revised Article 22 requiring separate food waste collection) might become a condition of a negotiated free trade agreement with the EU?	While there has been no formal notification from DEFRA, waste industry trade press suggests that the need for authorities to provide separate food waste collections will not form part of future strategy updates where not financially practicable.
33	Agenda Item 7	John Dix	The National Infrastructure Commission has recommended that government should establish separate food waste collection for households and businesses (to enable production of biogas) by 2025. How would Barnet respond to such a requirement?	Local Authorities including Barnet do not take direction on the delivery of statutory recycling and waste services from The National Infrastructure Commission. While there has been no formal notification from Defra, waste industry trade press

Environment Committee Public Questions, Responses and Comments – 13 September 2018

				suggests that the need for authorities to provide separate food waste collections will not form part of future strategy updates where not financially practicable.
34	Agenda Item 7	John Dix	Have Capita been involved in any of the discussions regarding the cessation of food waste collections and will any decision taken create a gainshare liability?	No.
35	Agenda Item 8	John Dix	In 2013 Barnet spent a total of £11 million introducing the blue and brown bins, a new fleet of refuse vehicles, advertising and education programme. Before the introduction of this service recycling rates were 33%. If you cease the food waste collections the recycling rate will be 33.6%. What specific initiatives will you implement as a result of ceasing food waste collection that will help Barnet get anywhere close to the target of 50%?	As set out in appendix D the high level area which will be worked on dependant of the outcome of the Environment Committee are: Maximising Performance from Kerbside Services, Flats Recycling, Food Waste Reduction and Waste Prevention and Consolidating Networks and Sharing Knowledge. Work on these areas will commence following any changes approved by Environment Committee. Barnet looks forward working with Mayor of London's office in these areas.
36	Agenda Item 8	John Dix	Since the new recycling service was introduced in 2013 how much has been spent on encouraging Barnet residents to recycle in the form of: advertising; promotions; leaflets; recycling ambassadors; activities in schools; talks to clubs and voluntary organisations; organised trips to the recycling centre and anaerobic digester etc.?	For the financial years 2013/14 to 2017/18, and the financial years 2018/19 to date circa £270,000 has been spent in total on a wide range of communications and publicity items to encourage households to recycle.
37	Agenda Item 8	John Dix	The Action Plan identified at Appendix A seems to lack any tangible activities initiated by Barnet to encourage householders to recycle more. Why has so little emphasis been placed on such an important target group?	The Action Plan 2016 to 2020 includes the following activities which are designed to encourage householders to recycle more: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new set of Household Recycling and Waste Policies, which are being considered at the meeting of the Environment Committee on 13 September, with the recommendation that they are agreed

Environment Committee Public Questions, Responses and Comments – 13 September 2018

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Barnet Homes to optimise recycling provision to enable an increase in recycling • An ongoing Communications Campaign which includes promoting recycling and reducing contamination <p>Once the round reorganisation is complete the service will review options for improving the capture of dry recyclables materials from all households.</p>
38	Agenda Item 10	John Dix	Have Capita been involved in any of the discussions regarding the re-procurement of the advertising contract and will any decision taken create a gainshare liability?	There is no gainshare liability.

Environment Committee – 13 September 2018

Environment Committee Public Questions, Responses and Comments – 13 September 2018

Public Comment and Ward Members (3 minutes per comment)

Item No	Public Comment Request
Item 7 - Separate Food Waste Collection Cessation:	Mr. John Dix
Item 12 – Pesticide free Barnet	Mrs Mankin
Item 9 – Implementation of the Council’s Parks and Open Spaces Strategy	Hasmonean School representative – speaker tbc
Member’s Item Cllr Alan Schneiderman – North Finchley CPZ	Mr Vadgman Maria Byrne Heron Shamash Dinta and Mark Rawson Martin Hurrell

This page is intentionally left blank