

Chipping Barnet Resident Forum

13 January 2016

Members Present:-

Councillor Lisa Rutter (Chairman)
Councillor Caroline Stock (Vice-Chairman)

1. Environment Consultations

Jamie Cooke, Strategic Lead for Effective Borough Travel, gave a short presentation on two environment consultation which were launching on 18 January 2016. These consultations were for the Draft Parks and Open Spaces strategy and Draft Recycling and Waste Strategy. Barnet is now the most populous London borough and is set to grow further in the coming years. Along with a booming population, the council faces financial challenges. Members of the public were requested to get involved and give us their views about how we could manage those services in the future.

Draft Parks and Open Spaces Strategy

Residents were advised that Barnet has a collection of over 200 green spaces which are widely loved by residents. At the heart of the new strategy is a vision that the borough's parks and open spaces will:

- i) continue to make Barnet a desirable place to live and do business;
- ii) that parks can improve the health of residents; and
- iii) that they help reduce pollution in the borough. The strategy also supported the council's commitment to ensuring the borough's parks and green spaces were "amongst the best in London".

The draft strategy set out five alternative options to the current Parks and Green Spaces service structure for how the borough's parks and open spaces could be managed. These include shared public services, third party contract management, social enterprises and partnerships, trusts and foundations and area based precepts and levies.

Responding to questions from residents, Mr Cooke advised the Forum that the proposals were not linked to budget savings, but were seeking to make the best use of the council's 200 parks and open spaces. It was noted that an aspiration of the strategy was that funding could be leveraged in from other sources

Recycling and Strategy

Residents were advised that key to the draft strategy was encouraging residents to take more responsibility over the waste they produced and to encouraging them to recycle more. The four key aims were:

- To provide services that help Barnet manage its environmental impact

- To encourage residents to re-use more to manage costs of waste collection and disposal
- To encourage residents, businesses and visitors to recycle the waste they produce, using enforcement where necessary
- To embrace new technologies and ways of working that help improve the council's waste and recycling service

The draft strategy outlined the council's plans to provide every household in the borough, including people who lived in flats and above shops, with easy access to the mixed recycling service. It stressed the importance of the council working in partnership with property developers, landlords and joint organisations such as North London Waste Authority to help find new ways to communicate and engage with residents to help improve recycling rates within the borough. The draft strategy would set a goal of a 50% recycling rate by 2020.

Consultation Documents

Residents were advised that the consultation will be on the councils web site from 18 January (<https://engage.barnet.gov.uk/>) or as paper copies at council buildings including libraries.

2. General Budget Consultation 2016/17

At the invitation of the Chairman, John Hooton, the Chief Operating Officer, advised residents that the council were currently consulting on the General Budget 2016/17 details of which could be accessed via the councils website (https://engage.barnet.gov.uk/commissioning-group/barnet-budget-consultation-2016-2017/consult_view) or as paper copies at council buildings including libraries.

3. Junction of Woodside Avenue, Woodside Park Road and Gainsborough Road (submitted by A M Poppy)

The Forum considered the written responses that had been included in the Issues List with Responses circulated at the meeting. The Forum heard an oral representation from A M Poppy.

In relation to the design work for the junction, A M Poppy expressed disappointment at the delay in the design work and suggested that this should be raised at contract supervision meetings. She also requested that residents have an opportunity input into the scheme design. Officers confirmed that A M Poppy was already been keep informed regarding the scheme design.

In relation to the easing the pressure on Chipping Barnet's roads, A M Poppy drew the Forum's attention to the report 'How to solve Barnet's car crisis?' which had recently been published (<http://www.barnetcarcrisis.org.uk>) and requested that officers give consideration to how this could be included in their thinking on transport.

Following consideration of the issues, the Chairman reported that the responses in the Issues List be noted.

4. Pavement on Beaconsfield Road

Councillor Reema Patel highlighted safety issues on Carlton Road and the other 'ladder roads' between Holly Park Road and Friern Barnet Road.

Following the consideration of the issue and the response provided by the Council, the Chairman:

- **Suggested that a Members Item be submitted to the 30 March 2016 Chipping Barnet Area Committee on safety issues in the area;**
- **That residents who were concerned should raise the issues with Ward Members at their surgeries**
(details at <http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1>)
- **That the response in the Issues List be noted**

5. Safety on Victoria Road

Officers reported that the Victoria Road scheme would be completed before the end of the financial year.

Following consideration of the issue, the Chairman reported that the responses in the Issues List be noted.

6. Lighting and Fly-Tipping in Swan Lane

Following consideration of the issue, the Chairman reported that the responses in the Issues List be noted.

7. Libraries

The Forum heard an oral representation from Mrs Barbara Jacobsen. Mrs Jacobsen was advised that due to the council receiving a pre-action letter in relation to the Libraries Review that no further questions would be answered as this may prejudice the councils position.

Following consideration of the issue, the Chairman reported that the responses in the Issues List be noted.

8. Date of the Next Meeting

The Forum noted the following meeting dates:

Date	Venue
30 March 2016 at 6.30pm	Chipping Barnet Library 3 Stapylton Road, Barnet EN5 4QT

The Forum were advised that the deadline for submitting issues was **21st March 2016** and not 23rd March as set out in the published issues list with responses.

The meeting finished at 7.07pm