

Council: Tuesday, 28 July 2015

Administration Motion: Cllr Gabriel Rozenberg

Extending Sunday trading hours

Council welcomes the recent publication by HM Treasury of “Fixing the Foundations: Creating a more prosperous nation”, which aims to make Britain a more productive and enterprising country, and supports in particular its plans for the reform of Sunday trading rules. These are set out as follows:

The government will ... consult on devolving powers on Sunday trading to city mayors and local authorities. This will look at allowing mayors and local authorities to extend Sunday trading for additional hours within parameters that they would determine.

Council notes the following:

- Most shops in Barnet are only able to open for sales on six hours on Sundays. However, small shops and specifically Jewish shops are exempt from these restrictions.
- Sunday trading rules are increasingly out of step with modern life. No equivalent restrictions apply to online retail stores. No such restrictions apply to employers who are not retailers. In Scotland, no such restrictions apply at all.
- Current restrictions contribute to traffic problems in Barnet around opening and closing times.

Council is proud of Barnet's status as a tolerant, diverse and harmonious borough. Council notes that attendance at Barnet's mosques and synagogues has never been undermined by shops being open on Fridays and Saturdays. Council is therefore confident that reform of Sunday trading laws would have no impact on Sunday attendance at Barnet's network of churches.

Council therefore will look positively at extending trading Sunday hours on request. Council believes that extending opening hours on Sundays will be widely popular with residents across Barnet.

Under Full Council Procedure Rule 23.5: If my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.