

Chairs Briefing – Environment Consultations **Area Committees & Residents Forum, January 2015**

On 18 January 2016 Barnet will be launching two consultations related to how we manage parts of our environment and environmental impact in the future. These consultations are for our 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. So we are asking members of the public to get involved and give us their views, about how we can manage these services in the future.

Draft Parks and Open Spaces strategy

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 supports the council's commitment to ensuring the borough's parks and green spaces are "amongst the best in London."

The draft strategy sets 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, Area based precepts and levies.

Recycling and Strategy

Key to the draft strategy is encouraging residents to take more responsibility over the waste they produce and to encourage them to recycle more. The four key aims are:

- 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 outlines the council's plans to provide every household in the borough, including people who live in flats and above shops, with easy access to the mixed recycling service. It stresses 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 sets a goal of 50% recycling rate by 2020.

How to get involved

The consultation will be on the councils web site from 18 January, or as paper copies at council buildings including libraries.

Fliers will be available at the meeting with details on how people can get involved.