

Council: Tuesday, 26 January 2016

Administration Motion in the name of Cllr John Hart:

Campaign for a cleaner Barnet

Council notes that the quality of Barnet's environment, its neighbourhoods and open spaces is among our most distinguishing and popular features.

However, Council notes that, despite the best efforts of hard-working council staff and conscientious residents, levels of grime and litter in parts of the borough are greater than they should be.

Council recognises that keeping our borough clean and tidy is the responsibility of the whole community, from individuals and businesses to the council itself. Council believes that Barnet works best when it works together.

Council notes these ideas and values are at the heart of the 'Clean for the Queen' campaign being run in partnership between Country Life and Keep Britain Tidy. The campaign notes the nationwide increases in litter and pledges to give the country a thorough spring-clean ahead of Her Majesty's much anticipated 90th Birthday celebrations.

Council notes the thousands of volunteers across the country who have signed up for the big clean weekend from 4th-6th March and resolves that Barnet should take part in this initiative, in order to improve some of the borough's grot-spots and to show our gratitude for the Queen's committed service to the nation. Council calls on officers to organise Barnet's involvement, including bidding for one of the professional cleaning teams being dispatched to locations around the country.

Council believes, though, that we can go much further – using the impetus of this campaign to launch an on-going and wide-reaching scheme. Council believes we can all do more to look after our neighbourhoods and keep our local areas clean. Council therefore encourages volunteers to get out and make a difference, even if just by looking after the area directly outside their own homes and, moreover, recognises that councillors should lead by example and be among the first out there involved. Council believes that if we all do our little bit we can make a huge difference to the look and feel of the borough.

The council will promote, support and facilitate this where possible. It will also take more direct action. Council notes the work being undertaken to maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of street cleansing activities and calls on officers to continue to think innovatively to deliver the best outcomes for residents. Council also believes it is right to explore how those required to perform community service or community payback can be utilised to help keep the borough clean.

Finally, Council welcomes the forthcoming enforcement policy, initially requested by frontline staff, which sends the message that we are all individually responsible for

the litter and mess we create and which should act as a deterrent to those who cause the untidiness.

Council therefore calls upon officers to progress the suggestions set out in this motion and bring forward proposals for a scheme to give Barnet a spring-clean that engages residents, businesses, the voluntary sector, councillors and anyone else who can work together with us to achieve a cleaner borough.

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.