

Full Council, 12 December 2017

Administration Motion in the name of Cllr Shimon Ryde

Protect Barnet's family homes

Council recognises there is continued and strong demand for family sized homes in the London Borough of Barnet.

However the conversion of small and medium sized family homes into flats, defined as 130 m² or less in original built size, is already beginning to threaten character of many neighbourhoods in the borough. One of the environmental impacts of this is the loss of front garden space to accommodate forecourt parking. Further, the conversion of small to medium sized family houses which are usually terraced and semi-detached properties can often lead to problems of noise disturbance to neighbouring properties, particularly those adjoins. For instance, a living-room or kitchen may be introduced at first-floor level which adjoins a bedroom in an attached house. For this reason, we should not normally favour the conversion of terraced or semi-detached houses.

Such conversions are often difficult to resist in planning terms. Council therefore believes that, as a Local Planning Authority, Barnet requires powers enabling it to take decisions mindful of the impact of the conversion. Council therefore instructs Officers to produce an evidence-led amendment in our Local Plan to retain adequate stock of family sized housing.

[Under the relevant FCPR I request that my motion is voted on at the meeting.]