

Full Council: 30 October 2018

Opposition motion in the name of Cllr Arjun Mittra

Administration amendment in the name of Cllr Brian Gordon

(Changes in bold)

Celebrating Diwali in Barnet schools

Council looks forward to Diwali in November this year, and recognises the importance of the celebration in the lives of the Hindu, Sikh and Jain communities. The Council notes that the teaching of Diwali has happened in Barnet schools for many decades, and is a welcome contribution to community relations, promoting a better understanding of the customs of our friends and neighbours.

Council believes that though we are all different, we are one community, and that our diversity and multiculturalism is a strength. It helps to promote an open and accepting culture, which in turn helps make Barnet a place for trade and business, as well as expanding our cultural horizons. **Council believes schools are best placed to decide how best to teach students about different faiths and their festivals.**