

	<h2>Environment Committee</h2> <h3>28 November 2018</h3>
<p style="text-align: right;">Title</p>	<p>Public Realm Forum and Heritage Projects Annual Report</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Report of</p>	<p>Chairman of Environment Committee</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Key</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Enclosures</p>	<p>None</p>
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<h2>Summary</h2>
<p>This is the first annual progress report on Public Realm Forum. It reflects achievements to date for the Public Realm Forum and updates members of the Environment Committee on heritage and memorial initiatives which are taking place within the Borough.</p>

<h2>Recommendations</h2>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Environment Committee notes the progress made by the Public Realm Forum and the implementation of heritage and memorial initiatives. 2. That Environment Committee nominates new Members of the Council to attend the Public Realm Forum as required (on the basis of one administration member

plus substitute member and one opposition member plus substitute member).

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 This report updates members of the Environment Committee on progress and achievements of the Public Realm Forum and of heritage and memorial initiatives in the borough.

2. PUBLIC REALM FORUM ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2.1 At Environment Committee on 15 March 2017, a motion on 'A Public Realm Management Forum for Barnet' was reported and carried (the motion had been referred from Full Council on 31 January 2017). It was resolved that officers should bring a report to Environment Committee detailing the how a Public Realm Forum for Barnet could be implemented.
- 2.2 On the 11th September 2017 Environment Committee approved the establishment of the Public Realm Forum, recommended that the Public Realm Forum Terms of Reference be adopted and nominated elected Members of the Barnet Public Realm Management Forum.
- 2.3 The aim of the forum is to understand best practice in the context of finite resources for the public realm and to understand the cost benefit of a pallet of materials for conservation areas. Since the establishment of the Public Realm Forum was approved, the forum has met on three occasions.
- 2.4 On 11 September 2017, Environment Committee nominated the following elected Members to be part of the Public Realm Forum; Councillor Stephen Sowerby and Councillor Devra Kay (with Councillor Rohit Grover and Councillor Phil Cohen as substitute Members). Due to a number of changes in elected Members since the last Local Election and varying commitments, we would like to ask the Committee to confirm and nominate new Members for the Forum.
- 2.5 There are many initiatives that the Public Ream Forum could suggest or be involved in however we have to select priorities in line with our finite resource profile. The key initiatives that the Forum have been involved in over the last year are noted below.

Decluttering the Public Realm:

- 2.6 The Forum has identified an issue of redundant street furniture creating an element of cluttering in some areas. Therefore, an emerging initiative of the Forum has been to progress with de-cluttering the Public Realm, which has included some suggested de-cluttering raised at a previous Forum meeting by Heritage subject matter expert Phillip Davies. The Chairman on the forum

agreed that de-cluttering requests would be managed through the Highways Direct Labour Organisation Members Footway Improvement Service. Communications informing Councillors of the request from the Public Realm Forum and details of the service were released.

- 2.6.1 A number of redundant items of street furniture have been removed and where possible the materials are reused or recycled. It is worth noting that whilst some items of street furniture may appear unnecessary, they are sometimes performing an important function and therefore not all seemingly redundant items of street furniture are in fact redundant after further investigation. For example, in some cases there are multiple speed limit zone signs or parking signage which are performing an important function or there are cases where the signage has suffered vandalism or has been removed dishonestly and so the post may look redundant but is in fact awaiting replacement signage or repair.

Guidance in town centre signage:

- 2.7 The Council is reviewing the Borough / Town Centre Signage and asset sponsorship arrangements, as noted in the report to Environment Committee in September 2018. The forum has discussed and advised on signage design considerations such as identity, branding and sponsorship which should be taken into account by officers as part of the project. For example, discussions have been had regarding the uniformity of signage vs celebrating the differences between town centres.

Input to the Golders Green Town Centre Strategy:

- 2.8 The Public Realm Forum have been informed of the progress in developing the Golders Green Town Centre Strategy and have provided input and guidance. For example, the forum noted there have been some projects in the area which have been popular with residents and improved the public realm such as the tree planting.

Advising on the development Electric Vehicle Charging Points:

- 2.9 The Council are installing both free standing units and lamp post charging units for electric vehicles in the borough. With increasing requests from residents for the introduction of electric vehicle charging points the forum discussed how electric charging points can work in Barnet including the preferred type of charger and locations. In addition, the Forum has reviewed how other organisations such as The National Trust have installed electric charging points on their properties of important historical significance and will be looking at other examples best practice for the installation of electric charging points.

3. HERITAGE AND MEMORIAL INITIATIVES

- 3.1 Barnet's Public Realm contains a rich and varied number of heritage features which illustrate the Borough's past and its development through time. Heritage work can be separated into the delivery of heritage projects and reviews made

to protect our heritage assets. In 2018 a number of memorial projects were completed and are noted within this report.

Heritage Projects:

- 3.2.1 The biggest heritage project the Borough has delivered within the last financial year in terms of financial commitment is the refurbishment of the Barnet Physic Well. The project received match funding by Historic England and the council made significant financial contribution and project managed the works with specialist heritage contractors. The Council's financial commitment for this project was secured by the Heritage and Design Champion, Councillor Sowerby who has been the lead Member for the project.
- 3.2.2 Recently the Chipping Barnet Area Committee has agreed funding for the reinstatement of a historic horse trough and the installation of a history board in Whetstone. This project was initiated by the local residents group 'Love Whetstone'.

Heritage Reviews:

- 3.3 Heritage Reviews have been made to protect our heritage assets. Examples of this work includes the following.
 - 3.3.1 The Planning service initiated a review of the Borough's Local List of Buildings of Historic significance as the last review took place in 1986. This review has largely been conducted by volunteers coordinated by a heritage specialist. The nominations for buildings to be included on the revised local list have been selected by a committee chaired by the Councillor Stephen Sowerby (Heritage and Design Champion) alongside Councillor Tim Roberts, and representatives from Historic England, local heritage groups and the council's Conservation Officer. The revised schedule of buildings on the list is due to go to Policy & Resources committee in 2019.
 - 3.3.2 The Heritage and Design Champion has instigated a Review of the Borough's 17 Conservation Areas which will initially focus on the role, operating framework and effectiveness of the Conservation Area Advisory Committees. The Planning Service is currently seeking to engage a heritage consultant to lead on this project with the aim for a report and consultation document to be ready for distribution next year.

Memorial projects:

- 3.4 On 13 March 2018 The Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Brian Salinger, and Councillor Dean Cohen opened a memorial garden for Sir Nicholas Winton at Princes Park, Golders Green funded by the Council. Sir Nicholas Winton was a British humanitarian, who organised the evacuation of 669 children prior to the start of the Second World War. Most of the children were Jewish, and from Czechoslovakia, with the evacuation taking place on the eve of the Second World War. In an operation later known as the Czech Kindertransport, Sir Nicholas found homes for the children and arranged for their safe passage to Britain.

- 3.4.1 In June 2018 a memorial stone was unveiled in Garrick Avenue, Golders Green to honour five airmen killed when their First World War RAF Handley Page bomber crashed in front of 21 Garrick Avenue in June 1918. There was only one survivor – Colonel Ogilvie, a passenger in the tail gunner position. The memorial stone was funded by the Council.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 **Recommendation 1** – to ensure that members are aware of the progress of the Public Realm Forum and key heritage projects.
- 4.2 **Recommendation 2** – To clarify membership of the forum and to nominate replacement Members for those that have recently left the forum. As noted in the Terms of Reference the Public Realm Forum comprises of two Elected Members of the Council nominated by the Environment Committee (comprising of one administration member and one opposition member and appropriate substitutes).

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMEND

- 5.1 No alternative options have been considered as the above recommendations align with the report which was approved by Environment Committee on 11th September 2017 which noted that an annual report would be provided to Committee.

6. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 6.1 If the Committee is minded to agree the above recommendations work will continue to progress and three Pubic Realm Forums will be held next year (2019).

7. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

7.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 7.1.1 The Corporate Plan 2015-2020 is based on the core principles of fairness, responsibility and opportunity to make sure Barnet is a place:

- Of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life
- Where people are helped to help themselves, recognising that prevention is better than cure
- Where responsibility is shared, fairly
- Where services are delivered efficiently to get value for money for the taxpayer

- 7.1.2 The Councils key areas of focus include

- Delivering quality services – improving the overall approach to planning and enforcement, including taking action against enviro crime such as

littering and fly tipping

- Delivering services that our residents value most to a high standard, including keeping our neighbourhoods and town centres clean, safe and health, maintaining our parks and open spaces, ensuring that our roads and pavements are well looked after.

7.1.3 There are no implications relating to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and its stated priorities, or the future health and wellbeing needs of the local population as identified in Barnet's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

7.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

7.2.1 **Finance and Value for Money** – For the Public Realm Forum the work undertaken to date has been done so using existing services and staff. As and when required, the authorisation for spend and reporting of spend will be undertaken in line with the council budget monitoring and reporting process and will be contained within existing resources. In addition, current contracts will be used and at this stage no additional procurements are required. The priorities for the Public Realm Forum need to be considered in line with our finite resource profile and other service priorities to ensure residents receive value for money and any initiatives do not deflect from the delivery of statutory services.

7.2.2 The Heritage projects have been funded by a number of sources including the Council, Area Committee and Historic England and is managed by various services across the council.

7.2.3 **Procurement, Staffing, Property, IT & Sustainability** – At this time there are no implications.

7.3 Social Value

7.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. This will be done as part of any contract procurement. No contract procurement is currently planned as a result of the recommendation in this report.

7.4 Legal and Constitutional References

7.4.1 The Council's Constitution (Article 7 – Committees, Forums and Partnerships) sets out the terms of reference for the Environment Committee:-

- 1) Responsibility for all borough-wide or cross-constituency matters relating to the street-scene including parking, road safety, lighting, street cleaning, transport, waste, waterways, refuse, recycling, allotments, parks, trees, crematoria and mortuary, trading standards and environmental health;
- 2) To submit to the Policy and Resources Committee proposals relating to the Committee's budget for the following year in accordance with the budget timetable;

- 3) To make recommendations to Policy and Resources Committee on issues relating to the budget for the Committee, including virements or underspends and overspends on the budget. No decisions which result in amendments to the agreed budget may be made by the Committee unless and until the amendment has been agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee;
- 4) To receive reports on relevant performance information and risk on the services under the remit of the Committee.”

5.4.2 There is no statutory duty for the council to have a Public Realm Management Forum. However, the motion to set ‘A Public Realm Management Forum for Barnet’ was reported to Full Council on 31 January 2017. At its meeting on 15th March 2017, the Environment Committee voted in favour of the option to set up a Public Realm Management Forum. Environment Committee on 11 September 2017 approved the establishment of the Forum, recommended that the Forum Terms of Reference be adopted and nominated elected Members of the Council to the Barnet Public Realm Forum.

5.4.3 The Public Realm Management Forum is an informal advisory body and cannot take decisions on behalf of the Council. As such, the forum falls outside the scope of the Council’s Constitution and will not have any delegated powers from the Environment Committee.

7.5 Risk Management

7.5.1 All risks are managed using the risk management procedure, as set out by the Corporate Risk Management Framework.

7.6 Equalities and Diversity

7.6.1 The Equalities and Diversity Act, 2010 outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to:-

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act, 2010;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people of different groups;
- Foster good relations between people from different groups.

7.6.2 Relevant protected characteristics are:- age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

7.6.3 Individual projects and initiatives will consider any potential equality impacts and to date they have not found that there would be any specific adverse impact on any of the protected groups. Each project and initiative will develop Equalities Impact Assessments when required to ensure compliance with the requirements of the 2010 Act.

7.7 Consultation and Engagement

7.7.1 To date no specific consultation has been undertaken to date. However, engagement and communications has been undertaken for specific heritage and public realm initiatives.

7.8 Corporate Parenting

7.8.1 Not applicable.

7.9 Insight

5.9.1 Research has been undertaken along with discussions with key stakeholders for specific initiatives. This has been used to inform the initiatives noted within this report. Further research will be undertaken to inform the development of the forum and support best practice.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Environment Committee, 11th September 2017, Barnet Public Realm Forum
<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s42008/Barnet%20Public%20Realm%20Management%20Forum.pdf>

Environment Committee, 15th March 2017, Barnet Public Realm Forum Item 7
<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=695&MId=8593&Ver=4>

Motion to Full Council, 31 January 2017, Barnet Public Realm Forum
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=162&MId=8818&Ver=4>

Annual Council, 22nd May 2018, Item 11
<http://committeepapers.barnet.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=141&MId=9449&Ver=4>