

Full Council, 29 January 2019

Motion: Cllr Alan Schneiderman

The state of Barnet's streets

Council knows how important a clean environment is to local residents, as well as how a neglected street scene can have a detrimental impact on levels of crime, disorder, and how safe people feel.

Council notes that the cleanliness of Barnet's streets has been deteriorating, with increasing complaints to local councillors about litter and detritus on pavements and roads, overflowing and uncollected street and park litter bins, fly-tipped rubbish and uncollected autumn leaves.

Council notes that this has been made significantly worse by the thousands of missed bin collections across the borough since 4 November.

Council notes that in 2007/8 every residential street in Barnet was swept 13 times a year, with regular cleaning of town centres and regular street litter bin collections.

Council notes that LB Barnet's street cleaning policy for residential streets is now entirely reactive, and streets are only inspected or swept if someone reports an issue to the Council.

Council believes an urgent review of street cleaning and environmental enforcement is needed.

Council instructs the Environment Committee to:

- review all current policies on street cleaning and environmental enforcement, together with the impact these are having on the level of litter and fly-tipping across the borough;
- consider best practice in other boroughs including regular monitored community skips for bulky waste, closer working with private landlords and tenants on disposal of bulky waste, and ways to make it easier for residents to report issues to the Council - through a mobile device app for example;
- improve engagement with the community on environmental issues, including more systematic support for community groups that are concerned about the state of our streets, and working with businesses, especially fast food outlets, to ensure they are minimising litter on surrounding streets;
- and following this review, make recommendations to improve the cleanliness of Barnet's streets.