

FINCHLEY & GOLDERS GREEN RESIDENTS FORUM
St Michael's Church Hall, The Riding, Off Golders Green Road, London NW11 8HL

WEDNESDAY, 16 JANUARY 2013

*Chairman: Councillor Reuben Thompstone

*Vice-Chairman: Councillor Graham Old

ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE FORUM MEETING

Items must be emailed to the Governance Service (f&gg.residentsforum@barnet.gov.uk) by 6.00pm on the day before the meeting

Issue Raised	Response
<p>1. Residents Parking at Montrose, Dudley and Clarendon Courts</p> <p>Since the change from meters to telephone parking, the three pavement sections of these blocks of flats are not used during the restricted time period, thus incurring lost revenue for the council. I have monitored these three sections daily and it is clear shoppers are not parking here any more. There is adequate parking opposite for users of Topps Tiles, Kwik Fit and the businesses leading to North Circular.</p> <p>I have completed a survey of all fifty-five flats and nine have expressed an interest in Residents' Parking Permits. It seems that Residents Parking in front of the blocks would be sufficient to resolve the issue, possibly Dudley and Clarendon Courts.</p> <p>One of the biggest problems residents face is parked cars in the private driveway behind Montrose and Clarendon Court, where the garage is located. For those who have a garage, it is intensely annoying and very inconvenient to find a car or van blocking you in or out. This happens on a regular basis in spite of large "No Parking" signs on the relevant garage door.</p> <p>1. It would be worth looking at the revenue change in the areas</p>	

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	<p>concerned before and after the move to telephone meters.</p> <p>2. There are 55 flats in Dudley, Montrose and Clarendon Courts and effectively no parking area at all for the residents, except for a driveway in front of Dudley for a few cars. So, unless like me you are paying for a garage, there is nowhere for residents to park other than by meter or in surrounding side roads, which is difficult for residents with small children.</p> <p>3. The biggest battle is with visitors who think they have every right to park at the back of the flats in front of the garages. There is one couple, who attended last night from Dudley Court, who need their car every day. The car needs to be accessible at all times and was once blocked in for two weeks by a car whose owner had gone on holiday.</p> <p><i>Ms Valerie Cowan</i></p>	
2.	<p>Narrow pavement along Manor View London N3.</p> <p><i>Mr Erik Alexander</i></p>	
3.	<p>The Railway Terraces Resident's Community Association - the CPZ hours for our streets (area around Gratton Terrace NW2 6QE). We have completed a survey of all local residents, at the suggestion of Barnet's parking team, and wish to present our findings.</p> <p><i>Clayton Crabtree, co-chair, The Railway Terraces Resident's Community Association</i></p>	
4.	<p>How many other vacant properties (other than the former park keeper's lodge next to the lower entrance in Long Lane to Victoria Park), residential or otherwise, owned by the council exist in the</p>	

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<p>borough, and how many of these have been vacant for more than six months? Please list residential properties separately to other categories.</p> <p>On what grounds are these properties being kept vacant for such long periods of time?</p> <p>How many of these properties are being secured by a contracted company or in house property services? Or are they only secured if a complaint is made to a Residents Forum?</p> <p><i>Ms Theresa Musgrove</i></p>	
<p>5. In the last three months or so, there have been three more accidents in Squires Lane near the junction with Avondale/Etchingham Park Road, including one in which a car crashed into the crossing, ending up on the pavement across the road some distance away, destroying a telephone pole which came crashing down into the front garden of a resident's house. It was nothing short of miraculous that no one was badly hurt. This blackspot is next to a primary school and nursery. There have been countless accidents in this area, including a fatal one outside my own house.</p> <p>Why does the council refuse to do anything to mitigate against the risk of further loss of life at this junction?</p> <p><i>Ms Theresa Musgrove</i></p>	
<p>6. Residents of this ward have been waiting with enormous excitement for the development of the so called 'Landmark Library' at the Arts Depot, promised by the council as a spurious justification for closing the branch library at Friern Barnet Library. It has now been admitted by Councillor Robert Rams that this new library will not be going ahead. How much money will be saved by</p>	

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	<p>the failure of this empty promise, and where will the funding now be relocated, or will the money be withdrawn from the library budget?</p> <p><i>Ms Theresa Musgrove</i></p>	
7.	<p>The sign regarding East Finchley Neighbourhood Centre (EFNC) located on the High Road, East Finchley, near Martin School has still not been removed; please advise when this will be dealt with as its several months since I brought this to your attention. I assume the same sign located on East End Road at top end of Church Lane has also not been removed.</p> <p><i>Ms Blatman</i></p>	
8.	<p>Damaged brick wall bordering the Garden of Hope on East End Road - despite months of exchanges of emails and being referred to Transport for London (TfL), whose responsibility it is to rectify the damage, the latest email dated 19 December 2012 from the Borough Engagement Manager (North) TfL advised <i>"The brick section will be rebuilt by Friday 21 December as previously advised. However, the TfL contractor undertaking the works has encountered a problem sourcing the matching coping stones, the blue grey colour is apparently a "special order". Therefore, the fitting of the coping stones will not be undertaken until the end of the second week in January when all aspects of the work will then be completed."</i></p> <p>Please note that the brick section was not rebuilt by 21 December and as it is approaching the end of the second week in January, I have today checked the brick wall and not only is it still in its original damaged state, without any brickwork done either to the bricks or the coping stones, but additional bricks in the wall have deteriorated.</p> <p><i>Ms Blatman</i></p>	

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9.	<p>A carpet shop has recently re-opened at 85 East End Road and after approximately 18 months of major excavation and renovations, the pavement outside this shop requires attention to ensure the pavement stones are level and there is also a section of the pavement which has been badly concreted leaving an uneven surface, all of which contributes to a lack of health and safety especially for disabled and visually impaired people, whom I know live in the nearby area and would use this pavement.</p> <p><i>Ms Blatman</i></p>	
10.	<p>Usage of The Vale by PB Donoghue skips and other lorries - The noise and vibration from the skips and lorries is significant, causing vibration <i>inside</i> the house. The articulated lorries are very large, heavily laden and long adding to the level of noise and vibration. Sometimes the skips and lorries park on The Vale with the engine running presumably waiting for a call to say they can access the yard. The problem starts early in the morning six days a week. Can you ask them to drive at 20mph?</p> <p><i>Name supplied</i></p>	
11.	<p>It is 2 years since the council evicted a family from the Warden House in Victoria Park, and left the house derelict.</p> <p>Why the residents were evicted?</p> <p>When the council is going to reuse the house?</p> <p>What measures are being taken in order to repair the house?</p> <p><i>Mr Ron Cohen</i></p>	
12.	<p>The roads around my house in Finchley Central tend to become full of holes in the winter time, currently with two dangerously big holes in Park Crescent and in Park View Road. I am aware that</p>	

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	<p>some of the roads' repairs have already been carried out by a private contractor, however, it is the council's customer services that we contact to report the problem and the council is the body responsible for our safety and accountable to us over this issue.</p> <p>Who will be responsible to these repairs once Customer Services are outsourced to Capita and Highways Maintenance outsourced to Capita Symonds or whoever wins this particular One Barnet contract, under the NSCSO and the DRS respectively?</p> <p>Whose responsibility will it be in case an accident occurring due to the bad repair of the roads?</p> <p><i>Ms Tirza Waisel</i></p>	
13.	<p>Former park keeper's lodge, next to the lower entrance in Long Lane to Victoria Park</p> <p>On the day after the June 2012 Forum, I noted that at last steps were being taken to secure the lodge, albeit to a limited extent. Access to the grounds is still open, and the property is still vulnerable. More importantly, it is still vacant and unsold while thousands of homeless families in Barnet wait in vain for accommodation.</p> <p>Why then, was a family evicted from this property needlessly, when the property could have been continued in use as much needed accommodation? Are you really claiming that the council was not aware of restrictive covenants, and that it is taking two years to deal with these?</p> <p>Why is the property still not properly secured?</p> <p><i>Ms Theresa Musgrove</i></p>	

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14.	<p>Warden House in Victoria Park - Since the Estates department is going to be transfer to Capita, and Ground Maintenance is part of the DRS, which may as well transfer to yet another private company, how this is going to impact the maintenance of the house and the park, and how the council intends to reconcile between the two.</p> <p><i>Mr Ron Cohen</i></p>	

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Future meeting dates:

Date	Venue
Wednesday 13 March 2013	Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, London N3 3QE
Tuesday, 25 June 2013	Greek Cypriot Brotherhood Community Centre, Britannia Road, North Finchley, London N12 9RU
Tuesday, 22 October 2013	Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, London N3 3QE