CHIPPING BARNET RESIDENTS' FORUM

MEETING HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2009 ACTION NOTES

held at: Danegrove School, Windsor Drive, East Barnet, EN4 8UD

*Chairman: Councillor Bridget Perry *Vice-Chairman: Councillor Caroline Margo *Denotes Councillor Present

	Issue Raised	Response	Update (and by whom)
1.	Usue Raised What proposals does the council have to include the ratepayers of Barnet in the Future Shape of the Council Programme? Will the public have an input to the discussions before any decision is made? Will the public have an opportunity to vote in a referendum on any major changes? (Mr David Howard)	A written response was received from Richard Grice: The Future Shape of the Council programme is a direct response to concerns raised by residents about access to and the cost of services. These concerns are reflected in the Annual resident survey and other consultation and engagement initiatives, such as whereilive.org. In the period to June 2009, a number of groups will explore ways in which improvements and savings will be made. Many of these will consult in a targeted way with Barnet residents.	Update (and by whom) No further update required.
		For example we have a group looking at the way we assess people with complex needs in the Borough and we will be talking to a group of families about their experiences and how these can be improved. Officers will report back to the Council in the summer detailing proposals about where savings and improvements can be made. Should the Council decide after that to change what services are provided or who supplies them, this will be done on a business case by business case basis, taking full account of the likely impact on residents and staff, and the risks involved. This is in line with the way that previous decisions of this type	
		have been made Ms Stansfield add that members of the public would be involved but that at this stage it was not possible to confirm in what form any consultation would take	

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2.	Who authorised the closure of public highway in Barnet Lane, location near Ravenscroft school? (Mr Ashwood)	A written response was received from Lynn Bishop: Barnet Magistrates Court, 17 th February 1971. Mr Ashwood commented that he was referring to the gates put two years ago at the bottom of Barnet Lane which are not on school grounds. The result is that the road is now closed off to the public.	Lynn Bishop To investigate why gates have been placed on the road and who gave the authorisation for this to be carried out
3.	How much money is to be invested in banks by Barnet Council, and to what has this money been allocated to, if anything? (Mr Ashwood)	A written response was received from Jonathan Bunt: The Council does not invest in banks but places surplus cash balances on deposit. In the 2007/08 financial year, the deposits placed by the Council with banks and building societies that met the requirements of the treasury management strategy amounted to £1.19bn and £1.12bn of deposits were repaid in that year. For the first nine months of this financial year, 2008/09, the Council placed deposits with banks and building societies totalling £853m and have had £835m of deposits repaid. All deposits were placed with banks that met the credit criteria contained within the annual treasury management strategy and or the revised strategy after it was subsequently amended. The funds deposited represent surplus Council cash flow that is grouped together and placed with banks and building societies for various terms dependent on the Council's requirement to make cash payments in the future. Mr Massey further added he wanted to know why the Council was building up such big reserves when it was cutting services?	Jonathan Bunt Why is the Council building up a big reserve instead of spending it on its Services? There are two main types of reserves. Specific reserves are established to meet the cost of future planned initiatives. General reserves are established to manage future financial risks. For example, when taken together, the Council's income and expenditure totals approximately £1.5 bn. A 1% overspend on expenditure and a 1% drop in income would result in a financial problem of £15m which is almost the total of the Council's general reserves (£17.447m at 31 March 2009).

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4.	Update on recovery of Icelandic bank deposits. (Mr Ashwood)	A written response was received from Jonathan Bunt: Councils with deposits in Icelandic banks have organised themselves into an overall steering committee, with two bank specific committees underneath that – Heritable, and Landsbanki/Glitni	No further update required.
		The Council's Director of Resources & Chief Finance Officer, Clive Medlam, chairs the Glitnir/Landsbanki committee	
		The overall committee has a wider remit, which includes engagement of legal support and liaison with the Treasury and CLG etc.	
		Two Informal Creditor Committee (ICC) meetings for each bank have so far been held in Iceland, in November and December. These ICC meetings are by invitation only, they are not required to be held at all but the fact that they are demonstrates the desire of the Icelandic FME (their regulatory body) and the Resolution Committees to work with creditors to maximise asset value and ultimately return of deposits, bonds etc. to them. Both banks are now what in Iceland is termed Moratorium, which means the assets of the old banks continue to be actively managed but with court protection against hostile legal action. This month, there will be an Open Creditors meeting for each bank, which is part of the formal moratorium process whereby the Resolution	
		Appointee have to present their case for a continuation of the moratorium. One aspect of this process is demonstrating that there is sufficient value in the old banks' assets to warrant a continuation of the existing asset management arrangements rather than move to a rapid closing down process. The moratorium can be extended for up to two years, in steps of six month intervals/decisions. There is no reason at this time to think that the moratorium won't be extended.	

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5.	Are the Councillors of Barnet intending to accept increases in expenses in the next financial year? (Mr Ashwood)	A written response was received from Nick Musgrove: The Council will decide on this when they consider the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel at their meeting on 3 March 2009.	No further update required
6.	He raises concerns with regards to the increase in financial remuneration to Senior management given, in his view, the current chaos in the Borough? (Mr Ashwood)	Mr Ashwood clarified that what he meant by 'current chaos on the Borough', was that during the snow period that the Borough apparently drew to a halt. He said in that there was no gritting and cited the bottom of Barnet Lane and also Vale Drive as examples.	No further update required.
		Ms Bishop stated that gritters were deployed to primary and main roads.	
6.	cont	Additional staff were deployed to salt town centres and to assist generally. A huge diversion of resources occurred during this period	
		Mr Massey commented that he was surprised to read that there was a move to increase the pay of very Senior Council Officers, and that the reason for this was to ensure the recruitment of officers at senior levels. He was concerned this would be seen as a bench mark for all Senior Officer salaries to rise.	
		As a Senior Officer of the Council Ms Stansfield declared a interest and stated that she could not comment on this issue and that it would be a matter for the new Chief Executive to consider.	

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7.	Why do Barnet Council management think they can, in his view, completely disregard the law of the land with regard to the Freedom of Information Act? (Mr Ashwood)	A written response was received from Vinod Mandora: The Council has to disagree with Mr Ashwood's statement. Officers have written to him on numerous occasions and supplied a lot of information. Officers have also had 2 meetings with him to go through his requests. At present officers have one outstanding query which they would be responding to this week. In addition Barnet Homes have written to him on numerous occasions. Mr Ashwood stated that at the last meeting Ms Dorne Kanareck said would provide him with information on three different things. He went on to add that Ms Kanareck had called him to let him know that the she had passed on his issues and they were being look at. He said as yet he has had nothing back.	Dorne Kanareck To contact Mr Ashwood and provide him with an update
8.	How much is Barnet Council paying for financial advice? Who chaired and sat on the finance committee when this question was raised? (Mr Ashwood)	Mr Ashwood clarified he wanted to know who sits on the Committee that decides as to where the Council's money goes and how much? Did Mr Medlam has sole discretion of this? Ms Stansfield stated that there are rules in place that govern how Council money is spent and that Mr Medlam acts within those rules. The budget is considered by the Cabinet and recommended to a full meeting of the Council in March, which make the final decision.	No further update required.

	Janua Bairand	Barrana	Lindata (and burnings)
9.	How much are Barnet Council paying out to regeneration personnel and advisors eg, Delare and Henderson since	A written response was received from Roger Arkell: The Council's estate regeneration programme incorporating the 4 large	Update (and by whom) No further update required
	2002, when the regeneration project started. How much new rented accommodation has been	Council Estates at Grahame Park, West Hendon, Stonegrove/Spur Road and Dollis Valley is expected to produce over 7500 new homes with total private investment in excess of £1,700 million.	
	added to the council stock? (Mr Ashwood)	Approximately 2,500 new high quality affordable homes will be produced for existing residents and for applicants to the Council. Although the programme is still at an early stage, 94 new homes have already been completed, including 58 homes for rent and 20 intermediate homes.	
		Since 2002, the Council has invested approximately £5 million in consultants' fees, the vast majority of which will be recovered from the Council's development partners as the projects proceed. This expenditure represents less than one third of one percent of the investment that will be attracted to regenerate key parts of the borough.	
		Most of the cost associated with staff time, planning applications, highways orders, resident engagement, project evaluation and validation, contract negotiations and other associated activities, will be recovered from the development partners, through cost recovery, and fees.	

	Issue Raised	Response	Update (and by whom)
10.	When will consultation on the LDF Supplementary Planning Document for culture recreation and open spaces take place? It is true that this consultation has been "put on hold"? (Mr Dix)	A written response was received from Martin Cowie:	No further update
		A comprehensive borough wide review of open space and recreational facilities is currently being undertaken. An interim report will be completed by the Spring and this will inform of the work being carried out in relation to the Local Development Preferred Options document that will be available for public consultation in the Summer.	
		Mr Cowie added that a Borough wide survey will need to be undertaken with all the information being collated and analysed	
11.	When is Barnet Council planning to undertake a	A written response was received from Julian Mauger:	No further update required
	sports facility audit and when will it develop a sports facility strategy that identifies Barnet's sport and physical activity facility gaps and future investment priorities? (Mr Dix)	The Council will produce a leisure facilities strategy in 2009/10. Discussion of the scope and timescale will begin soon but accordingly no public consultation or any other part of the work has yet been scheduled. Mr Dix has been made aware he is on the mailing list for any public consultation that is required.	
12.	Is the Council continuing to work with Tesco's	A written response was received from Martin Cowie:	No further updated required
	regarding their proposals for a major store in New Barnet (The large Optex and other buildings site not the 9 -11 Victoria Road Tesco Express site)?	The local planning authority has provided professional advice to Tesco during formal pre-application discussions and will continue to do so if it is requested.	
	(Mr David Howard)	Mr Cowie further added that preapplication fees had been paid to the borough.	

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13.	Has the Council registered the latest planning application from ASDA? If not when is it likely to be registered? (Mr David Howard)	A written response was received from Martin Cowie: The local planning authority is in the process of validating the application which was placed on hold pending the submission of further information. It will be formally registered within the next few days.	No further update required
		Mr Cowie added that as this was a significant scheme there would be a time extension on the consultation period to allow the residents time to look at the plans and respond to the Council. To aid this process information would be posted on the Planning section of the Council's website.	
14.	Once a planning application from ASDA has been registered will the council be organising a public consultation meeting? (Mr David Howard)	A written response was received from Martin Cowie The local planning authority will undertake a comprehensive consultation exercise in accordance with its statutory responsibilities. This will entail notifying several thousand local residential properties and businesses. Details of the planning application will be made available on the Councils website, in local libraries and at the councils planning reception.	No further update required
15.	I thought that a condition of approval of Barnet College redevelopment plans was a S.106 contribution. If so how much was this, will it be spent in High Barnet, and indeed in the vicinity of the College. (Ms Helen Massey)	The application for the construction of a new college facility which was considered by the Planning and Environment Committee and granted consent 19 Sep 2007 secured a range of key community related benefits including: - A contribution of £30,000 towards open space improvements to be spent within the Old Court House Recreation Grounds.	

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	- A contribution of a towards maintenand in the Old Court House Recreation Ground - A contribution of a towards Public Reafootway and Junctive improvements to the Street-High Street and the immediate Works to take place years of the occupation the new college but - A contribution of a towards a parking in the area surrounding College and any rechanges to the partice controls resulting from review. - The works approvapplications N0107 (Erection of brick works approvapplications N0107 (Erecti

	Issue Raised	Response	Update (and by whom)
16.	We were told by Mr Cowie at the meeting on 23.6.08	A written response was received from Martin Cowie	
	that the Council was undertaking a borough wide town centre strategy review and that individual town centre reviews were not planned. In response to Q6 at the meeting on 6.11.08 he said that as part of the Suburban Town Centres Strategy (is this	The local planning authority is currently undertaking a borough wide review of its town centres and retail sector. This will inform the emerging Local Development Framework and relevant core strategic planning policies contained therein, which will form the basis of the councils Suburban Town Centres Strategy.	
	the same as the borough wide review referred to above?) the Council is undertaking "planning frameworks" for six of the centre including High Barnet. What is the difference between a "planning framework" and a "town centre review". Another document from Cllr. Harper on 13.1.09 talks about the overarching document being a parent document to individual	As part of this strategic policy agenda, the council is also in the process of preparing a number of town centre planning strategies for its key centres including North Finchley, Finchley, Edgware, New Barnet, Chipping Barnet and Whetstone. These local strategies are intended to assist in delivering economic and environmental improvements to Barnet's key centres and guide future development opportunities with the full engagement and support of the community.	
	"town centre strategies"? So are they going to happen after all and what might be the terms of reference? (Ms Helen Massey)	Mr Cowie as the local planning authority an options paper will be prepared and go out for consultation. It is at that stage that residents will have the opportunity to express their views.	
		The scoping exercise will look at what the issues are that need to be addressed	

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17.	In August 2008 Barnet Residents Association proposed to the council a restructuring of parking provision in High Barnet town centre. We suggested that these proposals should improve the availability and take-up of shopper parking and at the same time significantly increase revenue for the council. The response has been to refer the issue to a future CPZ review or a proposed High Barnet Town Centre Strategy. As neither of these reviews appear to be imminent, is the council content to continue to ignore the possibility of increasing income or will it now address our proposals? (Mr G Massey)	A written response was received from Lynn Bishop The Association has received a reply, by way of a letter to the secretary dated 13 January 2009, relating to car parking across the town centre, the summary of which is as follows:- The Council has been proactive in introducing amendments to the onstreet parking arrangements. The proposed changes to the pay and display bay operating times on High Street, were implemented on 8th December 2008 and now provide extended hours of general parking in the peak traffic periods. This will significantly improve accessibility and convenience for motorists wishing to visit the shops etc in the town centre. Reduced parking tariffs were also available across the board over the Christmas and New Year period which attracted more people to come into our local town centres and support our local retail economy. In regard to the controlled parking zone review, it will be carried out early in the Council year 2009/10. This forthcoming review, unlike previous ones that were undertaken to address specific issues at the time, will look at the whole zone. In practice, the Council will send out questionnaires to all occupiers within the current CPZ requesting responses to a range of questions, constructed in such a way as to ascertain the community's satisfaction with the CPZ, at the same	

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		time providing an opportunity for respondents to comment on what changes, if any, they feel would improve the way the CPZ serves their needs and demands. The result will be a holistic view of the zone as it currently operates, forming a basis for taking forward changes/additions. These will include adequate parking provision for residents, their visitors, short-term and long term visitors to the area and workers.	
		Mr Massey added that there were a number of parking spaces that sit empty during the day (he cited Ravenscroft Park Road and Hadley Green as examples) due to CPZs which mean only residents can park. As a consequence the Stapleton Car Park with charges £3.00 for all day parking gets filled up by commuters. He suggested if the designation of the CPZ was changed it would enable more people to be able to park close and visit the town centre, which in turn would be beneficial to the prosperity of the town centre.	
18.	Can the council now advise when the review of CA-C CPZ will take place? (Mr G Massey)	A written response was received from Lynn Bishop Early in the Council year 2009/10. (May / June 2009) Ms Bishop further added that when the review takes place t takes place, the result will be a holistic view of the whole zone as it currently operates,	

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19	Following the re-surfacing of Carnarvon Rd the parking bays have been narrowed to the permitted legal minimum of 1.8m. Was any consideration given to the advantages and disadvantages of doing this, and why were residents not informed? (Mr G Massey)	A written response was received from Lynn Bishop Parking bays should be marked with a minimum width of 1.80m. The width of the parking bays in Carnarvon Road are 1.80m, the bays are narrower than before but still comply with the current legislation and the traffic order. Parking bays are provided to make it easier for residents to park near their homes, to help residents, users of local services, businesses and shops and to ease congestion caused by inconsiderate and inappropriate parking.	Lynn Bishop To undertake a letter drop to all residents to clarify the criteria on which PCN's would be issued.
		The width of the parking bay does not and cannot of itself offer protection to a car from damage from passing vehicles – the parked car takes up the same space on the road whether in a parking bay or is just adjacent to the kerb.	
		Residents are consulted on traffic schemes where change is envisaged, but were not on this occasion as the project was a resurfacing replacement. Mr Massey added he concerned that with the bays being narrowed residents would be open to being charged for traffic offences.	
		Ms Bishop assured Mr Massey that as long as cars parked neatly, close to or touching the curb and stayed within the bays no PCNs would be issued.	

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20.	The agreement between Barnet Council and Mr. and Mrs. Walsh, owners of Barnet Market, which allows for the Market to be held on the Council-owned car park in Stapylton Road is due to expire on June 9 th of this year, 2009. This is very much down to the wire for the market stall holders, who find that they have only a few months left to survive, because without a venue, there can be no market in Chipping Barnet.	A written response was received from Martin Cowie In seeking to assist the continued operation of the market, the council has agreed in principle to an extension of the lease for the use of the car park site. It is currently waiting for confirmation from the owner of the market that she wishes to proceed on the basis of a three year lease extension when formal terms and conditions will be prepared.	No further update required
	Would the council give its assurance AT THIS MEETING that the market will be allowed to take place for, say, the next three years?		
21	Since the demise of the market in St. Albans Road, the Market is held in the corner of a small car park, where it is virtually invisible to Barnet's through-traffic. The St. Albans Road site was highly visible to passing traffic, at least coming in and out of Barnet that way. Would the Council	A written response was received from Martin Cowie The market is not a council owned facility and it has not yet been confirmed that it will remain in its current temporary location. The council is not therefore in a position to erect any signs but the suggestion will be considered and a response provided at the next forum meeting.	Martin Cowie The Council is still in negotiations with the owner of the market about its future location and therefore is not in a position at this stage to confirm whether any directional signs would be appropriate.

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	consider installing 3 double-sided signs, to be fixed to existing posts, one at the junction of the Great North Road and St. Albans Road, one at the junction of Wood Street and Stapylton Road, and one at the junction of the St. Albans Road and Stapylton Road? The signs to read: "BARNET MARKET" with perhaps the words "Wed. and Sat." in smaller letters below? (Mr Chris Carstairs)		
22	How much funding has been spent on cycling provision this financial year and on what? (Mr Fletcher)	This question was raised outside of the meeting, therefore no response was available on the night.	Mervyn Bartlett: This financial year the council has spent the following on cycling and cycle related activities:- A) Cycle training with schools and adults; £107,000 comprising 332 Year 6 pupils (2 day courses), 82 Year 5 pupils (2 hour sessions), 79 Special Education Needs (SEN) pupils (1 hour per week over 6-8 weeks), 141 secondary pupils (163 sessions in total as some receive 2nd sessions), 84 adults (101 sessions in total as some receive 2nd sessions), cycle route audits to 5 secondary schools. We are still training and the Year 6's, SEN pupils, secondary and adults figures will increase by the end of March.

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			B) Cycle parking community facility in Hadleigh Highstone which cost £300.
			C) Assessment studies of the whole London Cycle Network Plus (LCN+)
			network which cost approximately £30,000
			D) LCN+specific link 8 (Waterfall Walk) scheme; combined footway/cycleway path reconstruction, which cost £32,000.
23	Does the Council intend to consult, ask the advice, of local cycling groups on cycling provision, e.g. positioning of cycle stands, road layouts specific to cycling? (Mr Fletcher)	This question was raised outside of the meeting, therefore no response was available on the night.	Mervyn Bartlett: The Council is keen to involve local cycling groups as cycle-related proposals, both large and small, are developed. For example, the Cabinet Member for Environment + Transport, together with senior officers, met with local cyclists to discuss the evolving borough network in November. Cycle routes and facilities are an important element in our Regeneration schemes, and continue to be widely consulted on through the development of Area Action Plans, such as those in Colindale and Mill Hill East. On the Council's most significant regeneration scheme at Brent Cross Cricklewood, officers have ensured that there has been a close dialogue between the Development Partners and local cycle groups. At a local level as town centre footways are resurfaced in the next financial year the relevant cycle group(s) will be consulted regarding the provision of appropriate levels of cycle parking facilities.

Issue Raised	Response	Update (and by whom)
DATES AND VENUES OF	17 March 2009	Chipping Barnet Library
FUTURE MEETINGS	12 May 2009	Coppetts Wood Primary School

The meeting finished at 8.34 pm

Officers Present:

Lead Officer Jill Stansfield

Assistant Director (Performance) Environment and Transport Head of Planning and Development Management Democratic Services Lynn Bishop

Martin Cowie

Maria Lugangira

Councillor Duncan Macdonald was also in attendance.

FORTHCOMING PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(meetings usually start at 7.00pm)

AREA PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE: - ALL TO BE HELD AT BARNET HOUSE, 1255 HIGH ROAD, N20

Chipping Barnet

Democratic Services Contact:

Hendon

Democratic Services Contact:

Finchley and Golders Green

Forthcoming meetings:

Finchley & Golders Green	Chipping Barnet	Hendon
1 April 2009	1 April 2009	1 April 2009
30 April 2009	30 April 2009	30 April 2009
26 May 2009	26 May 2009	26 May 2009

Public requests to speak at Area Planning Sub-Committees on planning applicationsWritten requests to speak on planning applications should be notified to the relevant Area Planning Officer by 10.00am on the 2nd working day before the day of the meeting.

Public requests to speak at Area Planning Sub-Committees on matters other than planning applications

Written requests to speak on matters other than planning applications must be received by the Democratic Services Manager by 10.00am on the 2nd working day before the day of the meeting.

Public requests to ask questions at Area Planning Sub-Committees

Any request to ask a question (exact wording) on the work of the Sub-Committee must be received by the Democratic Services Manager by 10.00am on the 7th working day before the day of the meeting.

AREA ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEES:

Chipping Barnet Barnet House, 1255 High Road, N20 Democratic Services Contact:

Finchley & Golders Green Barnet House, 1255 High Road, N20

Democratic Services Contact:

Hendon Barnet House, 1255 High Road, N20

Democratic Services Contact:

Forthcoming meetings:

Finchley & Golders Green	Chipping Barnet	Hendon
11 March 2009	11 March 2009	11 March 2009
29 June 2009	29 June 2009	29 June 2009

Public requests to speak at Area Environment Sub-Committees

Written requests to speak on issues on the agenda must be received by the Democratic Services Manager by 10.00am on the 2nd working day before the day of the meeting.

Public requests to ask guestions at Area Environment Sub-Committees

Any request to ask a question (exact wording) on environmental matters must be received by the Democratic Services Manager by 10.00am on the 7th working day before the day of the meeting.

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone N20

Democratic Services Contact: Maria Lugangira (tel: 020 8359 2761)

Public requests to speak at Planning & Environment Committee

Written requests to speak on planning applications should be notified to the relevant Area Planning Officer by 10.00am on the 2nd working day before the day of the meeting.

<u>Public requests to speak at Planning & Environment Committee on matters other than planning matters</u>

Written requests to speak on matters other than planning applications must be received by the Democratic Service s Manager by 10.00am on the 2nd working day before the day of the meeting.

Public requests to ask questions at Planning & Environment Committee

Any request to ask a question (exact wording) on the work of the Committee must be received by the Democratic Services Manager by 10.00am on the 7th working day before the day of the meeting.

Forthcoming meetings:

18 March 2009, 6 April 2009, 6 May 2009, 3 June 2009, 1 July 2009, 29 July 2009