

CHIPPING BARNET RESIDENTS FORUM

Wednesday, 23 June 2011 6.00pm
Coppetts Wood Primary School, Coppetts Road, Friern Barnet N10 1JS

Action/Update Note

*Chairman: Councillor Barry Evangeli
 Vice-Chairman: Councillor Kate Salinger
 *denotes Councillor present

	Issue Raised :	Response :	Action/Update:
1.	Request for Yellow lines outside Barnes Court, Station Road New Barnet	This issue has been raised previously and following consideration no actions were considered necessary. However, officers would be happy to review this situation further.	Highways Manager
2.	Petition: Save Our Lollipop Team – Monkfrith School	Whilst it has been decided as a matter of Policy that the Council will no longer provide the School Crossing Patrol Service, it will respond to and investigate matters of road safety in the same way as it has always done and if actual safety issues are identified that merit further investigation it would be please to explore options.	No further update
3.	Petitions: Save Friern Barnet Library Ms Francis Briars 1739 Signatures Mrs Maria Persak Enefer 132 Signatures	<p>Background briefing note</p> <p>The research activities provided information to set clear objectives for the library service, reflecting the priorities of residents and library users identified during consultation and each area of research. Along with these strategic objectives, a number of proposed changes were outlined indicating how the library service can best meet resident and customer needs. The priorities identified through consultation are the foundation of the proposed strategy and services changes are proposed to best achieve these objectives.</p> <p>Strategic objectives</p> <p>Following consultation, a clear direction for the Barnet’s library service can be articulated. It should be an exceptional reading service that puts learning and literacy at the heart of what we do. It should enable easy access to information, and provide services through high quality spaces designed to meet the needs of communities.</p> <p>The strategy aims to deliver four key objectives.</p>	A report on Strategic Library Review will be going to Cabinet meeting of 26 July 2011.

Increasing reading, literacy and learning opportunities for children, by: improving our services and spaces for children and teenagers, including study space; increase the number of books bought; investing in workforce development to better support children and young people; piloting a new collection and outreach service in a school library; ensuring all primary-aged children are library member; developing volunteering to offer a greater range of activities and events; and offering an extended range of homework clubs and learning activities run by local partners.

Promoting reading and learning opportunities for adults, by: increasing the book budget and number of books bought; extending opening hours (bringing forward to 9.30am); developing reading schemes for people with low levels of literacy; equipping staff with skills to better promote and support reading and literacy; offering a paid-for book delivery service as a new pilot service; and working with partners to offer more learning activities and events.

Engaging with communities and offer improved community spaces, access and resources, by: extending opening hours (bringing forward to 9.30am); investing in all libraries and ensure they are accessible and fit for purpose; developing volunteering, outreach support and community engagement programmes; sharing buildings with partner organisations of value to specific communities; and creating additional study space and community meeting space.

Providing easy access to wider world of knowledge and information, by: developing an interactive online library branch, with more online resources; providing supported self-service access to council customer services; and offering new technology in libraries, including free WiFi and self-service systems.

The new library strategy sets out a new vision to sharpen the focus of library services in future years and achieve £1.4m savings. This savings package includes a number of elements, with the some higher-risk activities (such as innovative partnerships).

- A new relationship with citizens and customers (£253,750)
- Innovative partnerships (£350,000)
- A remodelled network of libraries (£410,000)
- A drive for efficiency and income (£95,000)

		<p><i>(N.B A further £236,000 savings have been taken in the 2011 – 2012 budget and additional savings are to be achieved from museums).</i></p> <p>Disposal of sites and changes to properties are expected to achieve capital receipt of up to £3m. The strategy proposes to reinvest this to deliver the library strategy.</p> <p>It does mean change and the strategy aimed to set out the best option possible, with far less money available and customer trends changing. However, all responses will be taken into account before a final decision is made.</p>	
4.	<p>Safety issues relating to slip road at Friern Barnet Road by the old town. Cars use the slip road as a short cut to avoid the congestion and to turn down Horsham Avenue. There are 4 schools in the vicinity and it is only a matter of time before there is a fatality.</p>	<p>In the period from August 09 to February 2011 there were no recorded injury accidents relating to pedestrians being hit by vehicles at this location. The full details relating to the recent (June) incident have not yet been disclosed to officers to consider.</p> <p>The concerns appear to be related to pedestrians rushing in order to catch a bus and in such a situation usual consideration of moving traffic appears to be ignored.</p> <p>As pedestrians are clearly putting themselves at risk by ignoring the safe crossing point and are not using usual due diligence in terms of observation of traffic before proceeding to cross a road it is unlikely that an engineering solution will be the answer.</p> <p>However, officers will be considering improvement schemes along the A1003 Corridor and this location will be included as part of the route survey. The survey will seek to address safety issues at appropriate locations throughout the route.</p>	Highways Managers
5.	<p>Why does the Environment Department of Barnet council operate a two tier system on road repairs? We have been waiting forty years for repairs on Crocus Field, Dollis Valley Way and yet Hillside Gardens has had three lots of repairs done in the last two years.</p>	<p>Crocus Field was inspected recently (first week of June) as part of the ongoing cyclic inspections of the public highway network and a number of defects have been identified and orders have been raised with the contractors to rectify. This includes works required to both the carriageway and footpaths where intervention level defects have been noted. The same assessment criteria is used for all roads in the borough.</p>	No further update

<p>6. The residents of the small network of roads that interconnect Friern Barnet Road and Colney Hatch Lane have made a number representation to this Forum and directly to the Council's Traffic Engineers about traffic 'rat-running' through these roads to avoid the controlled junction where the A1003 crosses the B550. Despite initial assurances that the matter would be properly investigated, no investigation took place and no action has been taken. In the meantime the scale and speed of rat-running continues.</p> <p>The residents have carried out a detailed traffic survey and their own local Consultation to establish the level of support for closing the roads to through traffic and request that Barnet Council now acts according to their wishes</p>	<p>The location has been reviewed previously culminating in a signal timing review to optimise the Friern Barnet Lane /Colney Hatch Lane junction in November 2010. This has led to the 'cycle' times being made shorter to increase opportunities for traffic wishing to turn right from Woodhouse Road onto Colney Hatch Lane although it is realised that this recent improvement may not be easily noticeable to the public.</p> <p>This issue is an agenda item on the Area Environment Sub Committee who are due to meet to discuss this issue later this evening.</p>	<p>Highways Manager</p>
<p>7 What measures are Barnet Council taking to address Anti social behaviour and violent behaviour in Barnet especially on known difficult housing estates?</p>	<p>The Council collates and monitors incidents of Anti Social Behaviour across the public estate from all the various agencies that deal with such issues. Information is analysed to identify hotspots, trends and to prioritise issues. Each issue identified is taken to a multi agency problem solving panel where an appropriate action plan is developed and implemented. Recent examples have seen the closure of a crack house and a closure of another property related to prostitution. In addition specific multi agency action plans have been developed and are being implemented for town centre areas to tackle street drinking and associated anti social behaviour and disorder.</p> <p>With regard to social housing, registered social landlords are responsible for tackling anti social behaviour on their estates. When necessary they refer cases/issues to the multi agency panel for problem solving/intervention.</p>	<p>No further update</p>

8.	What measures are Barnet Council taking in cooperation with the police to address excessive speeding on the Borough's Roads?	The Council work closely with the Police to address speeding concerns. This can involve Council officers requesting the Police to carry out speed surveys and/or the Police responding directly to concerns and providing their findings to Council officers. Issues arising are dealt with via a combination of actions including, warnings/education, fines, further investigation to seek an engineering solution.	No further update
9.	What representations has the Council made to the Police to ensure that the Police owned handheld speed laser guns are calibrated and suitable for use in the Borough?	The Police are responsible for ensuring that they have relevant procedures in place to ensure that the equipment they use is correctly calibrated. They will have a process in place which defines the requirements in that respect. The Police will be fully aware that any prosecution they make may be subject to challenge and as such they would need to be in a position to demonstrate that proper equipment and process was used.	No further update
The next Chipping Barnet Residents Forum will be held at 6.00pm on 20 September 2011 at All Saints Arts Centre, 122 Oakleigh Road North, London N20 9EZ			

The meeting which started at 6.00pm ended at 7.00pm

Officers present:

Paul Bragg: Highways Manager

Maria Lugangira: Governance Service