

**FINCHLEY & GOLDERS GREEN RESIDENTS FORUM
ACTION SHEET
24 MARCH 2009**

held at St Michael's Church Hall, The Riding, Off Golders Green Road, London NW11 8DA
Forum Officers' Action Notes

*Chairman: Councillor Dean Cohen
Vice Chairman: Councillor Jazmin Naghar
(*denotes Councillor present)

	Subject	Response	Action
1	<p>a) How much Council money was invested in Icesave Bank</p> <p>b) How much of this has been recovered?</p> <p>c) Why was the money not withdrawn before the collapse of this Bank when everybody knew for months beforehand that this Bank was in trouble, I knew and I am not even a highly paid Council official?</p>	<p>Please see the Cabinet report submitted on 23 October 2008. This is available via the following link:</p> <p>http://committeepapers.barnet.gov.uk/democracy/meetings/meetingdetail.asp?meetingid=4654</p> <p>There was also an update given to the Cabinet Resources Committee in January 2009 where the Committee approved amendments to the Treasury Management Strategy and that further amendments may need to be made to the Treasury Management Strategy under authority already delegated to the Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources. The full report of this is available via the following link:</p> <p>http://committeepapers.barnet.gov.uk/democracy/meetings/meetingdetail.asp?meetingid=5261</p>	No further update.
2	<p>a) Why were a number of signs placed on lampposts in the area with questions such as 'what would you like to see changed?'</p> <p>b) What was the cost of these signs?</p> <p>c) Were other, more appropriate, ways of spending this money ever</p>	<p>Barnet Council is keen to rethink the way that it engages with its residents and lead this debate nationally. Previously, the vast majority of consultation has been in the format of resident surveys on an annual or ad hoc basis where a sample of residents are asked to complete a tick box exercise that provides only a headline snapshot of opinion in Barnet at a given point in time.</p>	No update necessary

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	<p>raised?</p> <p>d) Who was responsible for spending money in this way?</p>	<p>While useful to a degree to understand broad trends in opinion, the council increasingly feels that in-depth qualitative or conversational research is a far more insightful approach in understanding the views and wishes of residents in a far more meaningful way. Through more conversational, on-going and natural methods, residents are able to express their views in a far more open and authentic way not restricted by survey categories, with the council entering into dialogue with residents and bringing them into the decision making process rather than merely broadcasting messages at them. Whereilive.org is an attempt to create a space for residents to share their experiences of two wards (in the first instance) in their own words through the ability to write text, take photographs or record videos that best describe how they feel about their area. Simply posing the questions “what’s it like where you live? What do you most like and what would you most like to change?”. The website was piloted with staff during August before launching it in the pilot areas in September. This site is being supplemented with additional online work to reach out into places where people are already having these conversations, such as Facebook, video sharing sites such as YouTube, photo sharing sites such as Flickr and a host of local blogs. In addition as support to this work, the council has also gone out and engaged with residents face to face through a series of vox pop interviews which can now be viewed on the whereilive website. Hale and Childs Hill were chosen as two contrasting parts of the borough in the first instance, but with the intention to expand the approach to the remainder of the borough in the new year (the online aspect in particular). The</p>	

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		<p>council has used a variety of ways to reach out and collect the opinions of residents used together to drive up awareness of and participation in the whereilive engagement focused on the two wards. These include the website – core of the exercise, On street marketing – bubbles, bus shelters and street advertising boards, Postal marketing/opportunity to respond via postcard, Feature in Barnet First resident magazine and Launch of Barnet Council members of staff, around 50% of whom live and work in the borough.</p> <p>The signs cost £4,150 for 100 signs across 2 ward areas paid for as part of a grant from Communities and Local Government central government department.</p>	
3	<p>The road surface at the Southbound Llanvanor Rd bus stop has started to collapse.</p>	<p>Investigations have confirmed that the damage to road seems to be caused by a water leak. Permanent repairs to the road will be carried out after the problem with leaking water has been resolved.</p>	Nick Bell
4	<p>There is growing concern amongst parents who live in East Finchley (which stretches into Hampstead Garden Suburb) about the lack of secondary school provision. Locally this area is known as a "black hole" for secondary schools, particularly for girls, and this year there are many families from Martin Primary who have not received places at any of their 6 chosen schools including The Compton, The Wren, Hendon or Fortismere, the nearest schools. Many have been given Bishop Douglass school, which although a good school, is a Catholic School and not suitable for many of the parents who are Muslim.</p>	<p>Within the N2 and NW11 postcode area, 79% and 72% respectively, of children secured a place at one of their schools of preference.</p> <p>Although Bishop Douglass school is a Catholic School they do accept children from other denominations and there is no obligation to take part in the religious activities at the school. In addition Whitefield School also has availability for children from the NW11 and N2 areas and as Ms Drake notes Friern Barnet School generally has availability for children from these post codes. The LA also has three fully selective schools which consider applications for places irrespective of distance from the school.</p>	Martin Baker

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	<p>There seems to be a lack of political will (I have had an e-mail correspondence with Mr Freer) on the part of Barnet Council to address this issue, despite a report in the Times which showed that Barnet was the 5th highest borough when it came to areas where children did not get a place at a preferred school. The Times quoted a percentage of 11.2%.</p> <p>The other school options in this area are Christs College which is boys only and Fortismere (a Haringey School which is heavily over-subscribed and which is currently considering bringing in 10% selection). Friern Barnet is the only other possibility (but a long way to travel from the Suburb) but with applications to this school apparently higher than in previous years, even this school may soon become out of reach for this area of Barnet. Many of the children from Brooklands School and Garden Suburb end up going into the private sector just because there is no local school available to them.</p> <p>What children and parents actually want is a good-quality community school within walking distance. It seems grossly unfair that children who live some areas of Barnet have 3 or 4 options.</p>	<p>On National Offer Day for secondary transfers this year 78% of children attending Martin school were offered a place at a school of their preference.</p> <p>Issues surrounding the area would be reported to the Director of Children's Services and the Cabinet Member for Children's Services.</p>	
5	<p>Will the Council take Legal action against Patrick Towey, the former Senior Accountant to the Treasury?</p>	<p>It is not known whether the Council has suffered a loss so questions as to actions for recovery are premature. The matter regarding investments made by the Council is being fully examined and a Scrutiny Committee is analysing the situation and it will be brought forward to the Resources,</p>	<p>No update necessary</p>

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		Performance and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 25 March 2009.	
6	What's the position with regards to plastic recycling? There's a lot of plastic about and it shouldn't go into landfill.	Plastic bottles have been collected as part of the blue/black box recycling collection scheme since 17 November 2008. In February we were able to start collecting plastic bottles from schools and we are in the process of rolling this service out to flats in the borough. We are only able to collect plastic bottles for recycling as there is currently no stable market for mixed household plastic packaging e.g. Yogurt pots and margarine tubs, in the UK. We are therefore currently unable to collect this material and it should go into the general refuse bin.	No further update.
7	The Swiss Cottage Library stays open until 8 clock 5 nights a week. We only have one evening at 8 o clock at Church End Library. Libraries should also have more interesting signage perhaps use of lights.	<p>The Library Strategy (2007) creates a model of Leading Libraries, and Local Libraries. To deliver this Strategy, the council has invested £1.24m with the aim to improve service to customers. At all six Leading Libraries, the authority has installed self-service technology for customers to issue and return their own books, installed WiFi technology so customers can access wireless internet, and improve each building. Leading Libraries tend to have extended opening hours, to meet customer needs in the borough. For example, Hendon Library is open for 54.5 hours per week giving extended services to customers.</p> <p>As part of the work to deliver the Library Strategy, we will assess current opening hours and identify ways we can better meet customer needs – this may not result in longer opening hours, but will be based on customer feedback and consultation to make sure our Libraries are opening at the most convenient times for our customers and residents.</p>	Nick Bell
8	45 signature petition calling for an immediate control	A statutory consultation has been carried out in respect of proposals	Nick Bell

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	parking zone in Purley Avenue. 30 out of the 35 houses are in favour for this to be installed as soon as possible.	to introduce controlled parking into all of Greenfield Gardens. The petition was received during this consultation process, as well as concern being raised by residents, and as a result officers will be recommending a further statutory consultation to take place in Purley Avenue and Sanderstead Avenue proposing to introduce controlled parking in these roads as well. Officers anticipate this statutory consultation will commence in mid-April.	
9	One thousand and twenty-nine signature petition requesting that CCTV be installed in Finchley Road, NW11.	CCTV is already in the programme for installation in 2000-12. This priority was based on available statistics when the programme was drawn up in early 2008. It is recognised that patterns of crime and associated fear of crime change over time. For this reason, the proposed sites for 2009-12 will be reassessed prior to the commencement of any work to ensure priority remains the same. Any change to the indicated programme will be reported prior to commencement. The process is currently underway and this petition will be considered as part of the programme review. VRecent data demonstrates an increasing trend in criminal activity in the Temple Fortune area.	Nick Bell
10	With approximately 45-50 on site Wardens to deal with 1500 elderly residents in sheltered accommodation, how do Members think that 10 or less 'floating wardens' would be able to cope with all the residents needs? At present the on site warden checks on each resident every morning to see that they are still alive, not ill or injured. This facility will apparently be disposed of. Calls from the residents to emergency services would increase putting them under more strain. Many residents will end up having to go into Council Care which will cost	No decision will be made without the right consultation. All residents will be addressed in all capacities depending on their individual needs. It is also hoped that the services will become a modernised and direct service. The views of the residents have been noted. A report will be submitted to Cabinet on June 8 2009 and full details of the consultation will be provided at the Committee.	No update necessary

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	<p>more than onsite wardens. This is also putting stress and fear to people who are in sheltered housing and their families. This is considered to be callous and immoral.</p> <p>(Barbara Pearce)</p> <p>Residents are unhappy about the proposed removal of sheltered Housing Officers and unhappy because majority are elderly vulnerable people and many will no longer be able to live independently when these are taken away.</p> <p>(Iris Howlett)</p>		
11	Childs Hill Park – it has no information as to who owns it, how long its open, how to make bookings and what to do with dog mess.	The information signage on site will be reviewed. The site has a number of signposted dog bins, they are red and located around the park.	No further update
12	What are the payments for the top three elected officials at Barnet – how much do they earn as well as a breakdown of the allowances	This information was provided at the 17 September 2008 Residents Forum. The information attached is the latest information available as the current financial year has not yet been concluded.	No further update
13	How will residents contribute to Future Shape? Will there be a consultation process with working groups or some similar body? And if so what will be their terms of reference and how will the members of these bodies be selected?	<p>Staff and service users are involved with the current phase of future shape work on a targeted basis, for example, we are gathering evidence from service users to help the development of a more effective and efficient approach to how assessments are carried out across Barnet's public sector.</p> <p>Officers will report back to the Council on the current feasibility work in the summer, detailing proposals about where savings and improvements can be made and their long-term implications for the borough. This report will be available to the public. Should the Council decide after that to change how services are provided or who</p>	

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		<p>supplies them, more detailed work will be carried out 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.</p> <p>Further information on the programme is available on Barnet Online at http://www.barnet.gov.uk/future-shape-of-barnet-council We will update these pages periodically.</p>	
14	<p>There is a hazard in the Nether Street area in which traders are taking over the pavements and in some instances causing considerable inconvenience. The Council do not have 'approximately 10' premises with a license in the Area. It is actually 32. There is also litter in the street.</p>	<p>The amount premises reported by the residents on the street will be investigated and an update on the situation will be provided for the next meeting.</p>	<p>Emma Phasey/Dave Ward</p>

The forum, which had started at 6.30pm, finished at 8:10pm

Officers Present:

Jeff Lustig – Director of Corporate Governance
 Nick Bell – Highways Strategy Manager
 Karina Sissman – Planning

Committee Contact: Nazyer Choudhury, Forum Administrator, Corporate Governance Directorate, Building 4, Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1NP. Tel: 020 8359 2031, Email: nazyer.choudhury@barnet.gov.uk

Date of next meeting: 22 June 2009, St Michael's Church Hall, The Riding, Off Golders Green Road, London NW11 8DA

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, N20 0EJ

Democratic Services Contact: Jonathan Regal – 020 8359 2012 or email jonathan.regal@barnet.gov.uk

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.

Public requests to speak at Planning & Environment Committee on matters other than planning matters

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 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.

**PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS
(meetings usually start at 7.00pm)**

AREA PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

Finchley & Golders Green - Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, N20 0EJ

Democratic Services Contact: Maria Lugangira – 020 8359 2761 or email

maria.lugangira@barnet.gov.uk

Date: 26 May 2009

Hendon - Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, N20 0EJ

Democratic Services Contact: Pauline Bagley – 020 8359 2023 or email pauline.bagley@barnet.gov.uk

Date: 26 May 2009

Chipping Barnet- Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, N20 0EJ

Democratic Services Contact: Nazyer Choudhury – 020 8359 2031 or email

nazyer.choudhury@barnet.gov.uk

Date: 26 May 2009

AREA ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

Chipping Barnet – Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, N20 0EJ

Democratic Services Contact: Pauline Bagley – 020 8359 2023 or email pauline.bagley@barnet.gov.uk

Date: 29 June 2009

Finchley & Golders Green - Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, N20 0EJ

Democratic Services Contact: Stephanie Chaikin – 020 8359 2019 or email stephanie.chaikin@.gov.uk

Date: 29 June 2009

Hendon - Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, N20 0EJ

Democratic Services Contact: Nazyer Choudhury – 020 8359 2039 or email

nazyer.choudhury@barnet.gov.uk

Date: 29 June 2009