

FINCHLEY & GOLDERS GREEN RESIDENTS FORUM

WEDNESDAY 5 JANUARY 2011

ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE FORUM MEETING

	Issue Raised	Response
1.	<p>Pavement trading licences</p> <p>A retail premises in Cricklewood Broadway displays boxes of fruit and veg on the pavement. Pedestrians are sandwiched between the boxes and the pavement railings. It is very hard to walk past. This is exacerbated by the fact that there are also customers eyeing up the items on sale and further blocking the pavement. It is impossible for anyone pushing a pram to get by safely.</p> <p>This has been raised with Barnet on several occasions in the last six months and also raised several times at our residents' association meetings. I believe a Council officer visited the shop and put a couple of marks on the pavement beyond which they should not extend. This is ignored. Please could this matter be dealt with quickly as we are now all very fed up with it.</p> <p>Our association would also like to know the basis for issuing pavement trading licences to shop keepers?</p> <p>Who makes the decision that the pavement is wide enough to allow a trader to put boxes and stock on the pavement and that there is adequate room for pedestrians to walk past safely? Who is responsible for monitoring this and ensuring that the shop keeper does not extend beyond the agreed limit? What action is taken when the licence terms are breached?</p> <p>Jessica Howey Co-secretary Railway Cottages Residents' Association Member of the Cricklewood Improvement Group</p>	<p>A temporary street trading licence for this premises was granted for the period 1/10/10 until 31/03/2011 subject to standard conditions.</p> <p>All licences are determined with a view to balancing the needs of businesses and residents with the public expectation of an unobstructed footway. Licences are issued subject to standard conditions regarding the operation of the street trading activity. Trading is not permitted outside the licensed area and usually a minimum of 2.5 metres clear of any obstruction shall be maintained on the public highway for the safe pass, repass and free flow of pedestrian and vehicular traffic. This distance may be varied depending on the location and other local factors such as footfall, traffic, railings etc.</p> <p>London Borough of Barnet officers assess the suitability of the site prior to the grant of the licence. Visits are also made periodically during the term of the licence to assess the ongoing suitability of the pitch. If it becomes apparent that the activity is not appropriate for the location once the licence has been granted, it may be revoked or the size of the pitch reduced to allow for the safe passage of pedestrians.</p> <p>London Borough of Barnet Priority Intervention Team are responsible for monitoring this and ensuring that the shop keeper does not extend beyond the agreed limit.</p> <p>If the terms of the licence are breached officers can issue a fixed penalty notice, prosecute for breach of condition, vary the conditions or revoke the licence.</p> <p>David Curtis-Botting Principal Trading Standards and Licensing Officer</p>

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2.	<p>An abandoned blue car has been parked outside my house in Llanvanor Road for several months. The tax disc has expired. Can it be removed? Andrew Tucker</p>	<p>Officers visited the location mentioned on 4 January 2011 and the only blue vehicle in the location mentioned had a valid tax disc and a resident permit. Parking Service officers have contacted the resident to confirm whether the vehicle is still there and if it is what the make and registration number is. The Council has systems for dealing with suspected abandoned vehicles and any reported to us by telephone, email, letter or web form are inspected within 48 hours and appropriate action commenced. Tel: 020 8359 4600 In a separate, but linked, process any vehicle parked on the highway within the borough which does not display a valid tax disc is removed immediately and held until the tax has been paid. Mervyn Bartlett – Transport and Regeneration Manager</p>
3.	<p>What efforts, if any, have been made to organise the performance assessment of councillors which was promised months ago at the time of the allowance rise increases? Theresa Killick</p>	<p>In July 2010 Council resolved; <i>‘That the recommendation of LCIP be followed for role descriptions to be developed for councillors for all their areas of work; the role descriptions to be placed on council websites; Members to report publicly on their activity through a variety of channels...and the introduction of an appraisal system for Members.’</i> Work towards this is ongoing. Aysen Giritli – Democratic Services Manager</p>
4.	<p>I have been told that the borough’s huge lighting replacement project was both necessary and progressing satisfactorily. At a recent Budget and Performance Scrutiny Committee meeting, however, a council officer was apparently summoned to explain how it would be possible to make savings to the DW lighting contract. He told the meeting: “We may be able to use technology to resolve the problems instead of replacing lighting columns”. This would appear to support the suspicions of many residents that the replacement project was a misuse of financial resources and quite unnecessary. At a time when, supposedly due to a need for financial restraint, many council officers are facing redundancy, and so many vital services are at risk, how can this Council justify the waste of such a large amount of residents’ money on this pointless exercise? Theresa Killick</p>	<p>The Council has not allocated any additional funding to the Street Lighting budget since before the start of the current PFI contract. The requirement of the contract was to maintain the status quo only. Additional resources have been allocated for the contract, but by central government, and as such have no impact on any other Council allocation of resources. Savings could be made by introducing new technology into the contract and this is currently being investigated. Mervyn Bartlett – Transport and Regeneration Manager</p>

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5.	<p>The Cricklewood Community Forum have been approached by residents of Handley Grove, NW2 whose houses abut Donoghues's building in Claremont Road, NW2. Their concern is about the nature of Donoghue's waste business there and the effect on residents' health. Dust is always landing in their gardens, making it unpleasant to sit outside in the summer, when they would obviously like to. Also at least 2 young people have developed asthma since moving to these homes. The questions are therefore:</p> <p>1. What is the exact nature of Donoghue's waste business in Claremont Road? 2. What are the hours they are permitted to operate there?</p> <p>Pauline McKinnell Chairperson, Cricklewood Community Forum</p>	<p>Planning permission was granted on 9 September 1987 for: "Yard and buildings for the operation of a builder's merchant, a skip waste transfer station and a haulage company" (ref: C09210B).</p> <p>One of the planning conditions attached to the permission stated: "No work shall be carried out on the premises at any time on Sundays or Public Holidays or before 7.00am or after 6.00pm on other days".</p> <p>Officers are aware that lorries associated with the business have been operating outside the allowed hours and legal action is currently being taken to address this. If details on the nature of legal action being taken are required, please contact the case officer dealing with this (Jim Clark, tel: 02083594625, email: jim.clark@barnet.gov.uk).</p> <p>The owners of the site (PB Donoghues Ltd) have a waste management licence which is policed by the Environment Agency, North East Thames region (contact details 01707 632483/ 01276 454 629 - Emergency incident hotline 08708 506 506).</p> <p>The licence allows for the storage and processing of packaging, inert, municipal and metal wastes but does not allow for the storage or processing of special or hazardous wastes.</p> <p>The main waste handling occurs in a steel structured building which is a partial enclosure with a fine water mist dust suppressing system.</p> <p>In periods of hot weather there may be some dust and odour issues which can only be dealt with by the Environment Agency who have powers to enforce the conditions of the licence.</p> <p>Joe Henry Planning Regulations and Enforcement Manager</p>
6.	<p>Objections to the removal of free parking bays and an increase in the cost of resident parking permits from £40 to £100.</p> <p>Mr Julian Stern</p>	<p>In order to meet the Council's aspirations of converting all existing free bays to paid for parking places in the borough work has already commenced in order that identified changes</p>

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		<p>can be implemented and operational by 1st April 2011 although it is anticipated that roll out of the changes will commence on-street in late January 2011.</p> <p>It has been necessary to commence work now as the proposed changes are subject to an obligatory statutory consultation process where opportunity must be given to invite comments or objections. All Ward Members have been advised of the aspirations and have been sent relevant details.</p> <p>Objections have been received to some of the proposed changes and these will be considered in submitted letters of recommendation to the Cabinet Member and relevant AESC Chairman as part of the process.</p> <p>Regarding the proposed permit increase, the Council are reviewing all fees and charges relating to parking. However at this time no decision has been made and therefore there is no further comment to be made regarding the suggested £100.</p> <p>Mervyn Bartlett – Transport and Regeneration Manager</p>