

FINCHLEY & GOLDERS GREEN RESIDENTS FORUM

Wednesday, 23 June 2011 6.00pm

Held at the Greek Cypriot Brotherhood Community Centre, Britannia Road, North Finchley, London N12 9RU

Action/Update Note

*Chairman: Councillor Reuben Thompstone

*Vice-Chairman: Councillor Graham Old

*denotes Councillor present

	Issue Raised :	Response :	Action/Update:
1.	Petition: Save Hampstead Garden Suburb Library (422 signatures e-petition) and (2125 signatures hard copy) <i>(Ms Deborah Warland)</i>	<p>Strategic objectives 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. 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.
2.	Petition: Save North Finchley Library from Closure (790 signatures) <i>(Ms Louise Keane)</i>	<p>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.</p> <p>Promoting reading and learning opportunities for</p>	

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		<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new relationship with citizens and customers (£253,750) • Innovative partnerships (£350,000) 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>	
3.	Petition: Save Our Lollipop Team – Moss Hall Schools (208 signatures)	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 pleased to explore options.	No further update.
4.	Petition: Save Our Lollipop Team – All Saints CE Primary School, Cricklewood Lane NW2 (277 signatures)		
5.	Petition: Friary Park – To improve facilities and children’s play area (212 signatures) <i>(Mr Christopher Richards)</i>	<p>Children’s Play area</p> <p>There is a wide selection of play equipment for all ages and abilities at Friary Park, which is a well used and popular play area.</p> <p>There are a number of bark pits located in the borough and traditionally this is one of the most effective safety surfaces used in play areas. To remove and replace the bark in Friary Park would cost a significant amount of money and is estimated to be in excess of £50,000. This is not a project that can be undertaken by the Council.</p>	Officers to contact resident directly and explain what residents can do to help the local community make a bid for grant funding. Greenspaces Manager

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5a.	<p>A resident commented about unsafe play equipment in Mill Hill Park in that facilities for young and old children appear to be mixed up together.</p>	<p>Play equipment such as the train and swings had to be removed from the play area as they had come to the end of their life and were no longer safe to use. Funding is prioritised on repairs and maintenance and unfortunately there are no funds available to replace items of play equipment.</p> <p>A number of resident groups have successfully achieved grant funding to purchase and install new play equipment with the support of the Council. The Friend's of Friary Park were un-successful last year, however new funding is now available that can be applied for.</p> <p>An extension to the play area is to be installed this year to specifically provide accessible play opportunities for all children. The equipment is suitable for a wide range of ages and includes a trampoline, basket swing; see saw, roundabout and various other pieces. The installation is scheduled to take place at the end of August and will be based on rubber matting safety surface.</p> <p>Toilet facilities The toilets are cleaned and replenished daily. Unfortunately public conveniences are subject to misuse and vandalism and will deteriorate between the scheduled cleanse.</p> <p>Officers will investigate the matter.</p>	<p>Over the years the park has seen the loss of equipment and installation of some new which has resulted in provision for all ages being integrated together. However the Friends of Mill Hill Park have been successful in obtaining lottery funding to provide</p>

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			equipment for the under 8's and as part of the project the relocation of existing items where possible will be carried out to create clearer age zones i.e. under 5's and over 5's in the fenced area and outside the fencing a 'free' play space for all ages. The play area development is due to commence later this month.
5b.	A resident asked if there were still any park keepers in the Council's parks.	Officers to confirm the position.	There are seven park keepers that are located at: Edgwarebury Park Victoria Recreation Ground (part time) Mill Hill Park Hendon Park Friary Park Childs Hill/Basing Hill Park Victoria Park
5c.	<p>A member of Brent Terrace Residents Group asked about the £5,000 Section106 monies from the Travelodge development, which was to be a contribution towards the improvement of the playground in the park.</p> <p>She also asked of the position with their request for the floor of the playground to be resurfaced.</p> <p>The resident also commented that the park has issues around night time security and noise and she</p>	<p>Community Groups could put bids together for play equipment from Heritage Lottery Fund. Littleton Playing Fields received a grant of £50,000, which demonstrates what can be achieved when communities work together with the Council.</p> <p>Officers to confirm position.</p> <p>Officers to investigate and to confirm the position regarding the fencing.</p>	<p>£5,000 of s106 monies from the Travel Lodge development will be available to apply to the improvement of Brent Terrace. An overall plan for improvements to the site needs to be developed with residents with the view to obtaining match funding to redevelop the playground into something that will be of great benefit to the local community. This work is programmed to commence early next financial year.</p> <p>The entire play area needs to be reviewed, and at this time it would not be the best use of resources to invest funds</p>

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	had been advised by Council officers that eight feet high fencing with anti-climb paint would be needed. Is there any progress on this?		into surfacing and raising the perimeter fence higher, and there are no revenue funds to do so.
6.	<p>Safety issues relating to the road junction with Brookland Schools' driveway. What has happened as nothing has changed at this junction?</p> <p>Various issues in the vicinity of Brookland School (near Henlys Corner) including severe parking problems for residents when the school has a big event on and obstructive parking. (Mr Brian Ingram)</p>	<p>Following the concerns expressed, investigations have been undertaken and an additional school sign installed on Brookland Hill. The school has been encouraged to review their Travel Plan and we will investigate any issues or engineering measures that the review may identify. Appropriate public consultation will be carried out on any measures; and officers have been in contact with Mr Ingram and are aware of his specific highways concerns, which will be taken into account in any future work.</p>	<p>Issues raised at the last meeting have and continue to be followed up. Measures including two humps within the schools access area have now been installed. Parking enforcement activity outside the schools is carried out at least monthly. The schools have been reminded about the final Travel Plans, which are awaited. See also item 8b below for resident information on parking enforcement.</p>
7.	<p>Unsolicited Parking Meter Text Messages/ Overcharging of the Parking Meter on Golders Green Road (Dena Sanger)</p>	<p>This matter is presumed to refer to the text messaging service which includes an option to be sent a reminder message, for which there is a charge. However, this option can be switched off.</p> <p>The Transport and Regeneration Officer advised that there is no intention by the Council to try and obtain additional monies unknowingly from residents.</p>	<p>No further update.</p>
8a.	<p>Hobbs Green - outstanding problem of blocked access down into the close/cul-de-sac of Hobbs Green due to ongoing parking at the t-junction outside Ashes Lodge. Request that the t-junction be</p>	<p>The Transport and Regeneration Officer advised that there was a meeting with Ward Councillors and the Cabinet Member regarding this matter and measures that could be taken to address the problem were discussed.</p> <p>This matter was referred for consideration to the Finchley</p>	<p>Following consideration of this matter, Finchley and Golders Green Area Environment Sub-Committee resolved as follows:</p> <p>(1) That the Interim Director of Planning,</p>

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	<p>clearly sign posted or painted with restrictive lines. (<i>Mr Philip Bailey</i>)</p>	<p>and Golders Green Area Environment Sub-Committee meeting which took place at 8.00pm following this Resident Forum meeting.</p>	<p>Environment and Regeneration be instructed to draw up a proposal for a length of 'at any time' waiting restriction along the affected part of the western side of Hobbs Green in order to deter parking, and undertake appropriate statutory consultation.</p> <p>(2) That subject to available resources, the scheme be implemented by the next meeting of the Sub-Committee on 14 September 2011 (target date).</p>
8b.	<p>Who do residents call at night or at weekends if there are cars parked on double yellow lines and whether if no Enforcement Officer turned up and residents took their own photos these could then be used by the Council to take retrospective action? (<i>Mr Philip Bailey</i>)</p>	<p>Officers to confirm.</p>	<p>An enforcement response service is available from 0700 to 2200 every day. They can be contacted on 020 8359 5050 and, commensurate with other demands on their time, can attend to double yellow lines. We cover the entire borough and have a very restricted service after 1830 so cannot undertake to respond to all calls.</p> <p>Outside these times, the police can be called to deal with parking which causes an actual obstruction.</p> <p>The process for issuing a Penalty Charge Notice is tightly constrained by legislation which requires that the contravention be witnessed by a trained officer. In this circumstance it would not be possible to take action based on evidence provided by a third party, even where supported by clear photographs.</p>

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9.	Pictorial Safety Sign at the junction of Brookland School driveway and the public roads - The School has advised this sign was ordered months ago. What is happening? <i>(Mr Brian Ingram)</i>	The Chairman advised that the question should have been directed to the school however officers to check and confirm the position.	The School has advised that the “Stop with children crossing sign” is in place and they have received an email from the resident acknowledging this.

The meeting which started at 6.00pm ended at 7.35pm

Officers present:

Mervyn Bartlett: Transport and Regeneration Manager

Chidilim Agada: Business Governance Service

Kim Webster: Business Governance Service

Future meeting dates:

Date	Venue
Wednesday, 14 September 2011	Trinity Church Centre, 15 Nether Street, London N12 7NN
Wednesday, 23 November 2011	Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, London N3 3QE
Monday, 23 January 2012	St Michael’s Church Hall, The Riding, Off Golders Green Road, London NW11 8HL
Wednesday, 14 March 2012	Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, London N3 3QE