

FINCHLEY & GOLDERS GREEN RESIDENTS FORUM

WEDNESDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2011

ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE FORUM MEETING

	Issue Raised	Response
1.	<p>Clitterhouse Playing Fields, Cricklewood.</p> <p>(a) Who is responsible for regular litter-picking and removal of rubbish from the playing fields, pathways and waste baskets at Clitterhouse Playing Fields, how often is it scheduled to occur and how is the work monitored?</p> <p>(b) Is there a Council strategy for the maintenance of tarmac paths and hedgerows bordering the Clitterhouse Playing Fields, and removal of rubbish from the hedgerows and River Brent? Who is responsible for implementing this management strategy, and how often?</p>	<p>Litter and bin collections are carried out across the whole site twice a week throughout the year with the play area cleansed daily, Monday to Friday from April through to September. This frequency of cleansing is the normal level deployed and should be more than sufficient for this type of open space. However, following the raising of this issue the site will be monitored daily for a period of four weeks to establish if an increase in frequency is required and to what level. The number of bins at the space cannot be increased beyond this level. There are no plans to install additional litterbins at the site.</p> <p>Fly-tipping is an on-going problem at the site, items that are accessible/visible within the site are removed as and when they arise. The perimeter of the park is subject to continuing fly-tipping and a deep cleanse is carried out once/twice during the winter period to clear this area.</p> <p>The issue of littering and fly-tipping by users of parks and open spaces is not uncommon. We would welcome the involvement of the local community in the space, and the development of a friends group of local park users can be effective in helping reduce and change this behaviour, the Council can support local groups in holding activity and love your park events.</p> <p>A deep cleanse of the hedgerows is carried out at least once during the winter period when vegetation has died back enabling better access to this area. The River Brent is regularly inspected and maintained by the Environment Agency who ensures the river is able to flow unrestricted by debris.</p> <p>General maintenance is the same as all other parks and open spaces where litter is collected regularly, grass cutting operations are carried out every two to three weeks during the cutting season. The perimeter vegetation in the park is not on a maintenance schedule.</p>

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	<p>(c) The NW area of the Clitterhouse Playing Fields site (next to the ex-Hendon Football Club) has been grossly neglected and is currently widely used for fly-tipping and rubbish disposal and the nearby buildings are populated by squatters. What is the ongoing management plan for the maintenance of this area, particularly in view of the proposed changes to its ownership?</p> <p><i>(Sara Churchfield)</i></p>	<p>Footpaths are maintained as and when they require intervention i.e. trip hazards.</p>
2.	<p>Clitterhouse playing fields – are very poorly maintained, how often is the green space cleaned and why isn't more being done to keep it in better condition? Fly tipping and dumping around the edges of the field and in the river is a major problem. Is there a plan to put a stop to this? We need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased litter collections • more bins • signs advising people they will be fined and adverts promoting more responsible use of the space <p><i>(Mr Thomas Ball)</i></p>	<p>See response to Issue 1(a).</p>
3.	<p>Are there any plans to provide better sporting facilities for Clitterhouse Playing fields, such as toilets, changing rooms and storage for teams to put sports equipment in?</p> <p><i>(Mr Thomas Ball)</i></p>	<p>There are no plans to provide sports facilities at Clitterhouse in the immediate future, as these facilities cost significant sums to construct and then maintain. There are plans under the regeneration plans to develop the site into a key sports site for the borough including tennis, multi-sports, cricket, football rugby and changing facilities.</p>

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4.	<p>Clitterhouse Road – big problem with litter on the road. Is it possible to get more bins put on the road, especially at the open green crescent areas which are badly affected by litter being blown on to them?</p> <p><i>(Mr Thomas Ball)</i></p>	<p>Consideration will be given to installing some litter bins at this location. The area street scene supervisor will be asked to inspect the area for suitability and to check for historical and current litter problems from existing data to see if this is justified.</p>																		
5.	<p>Why are some local events in parks charged the full new rate, and others charged nothing at all? Who decides which event will be charged?</p> <p><i>(Theresa Musgrove)</i></p>	<p>The rates charged for events in parks is as set out in the Council's fees and charges as follows:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="987 424 2107 639"> <tr> <td>- Fun Fairs (up to 12 rides) and Private Functions</td> <td>Day</td> <td>£560.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Event size 1-100</td> <td>Day</td> <td>£250.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Event size 101-1,000</td> <td>Day</td> <td>£560.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Event size 1,001-2,500</td> <td>Day</td> <td>£750.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Event size 2,501-5,000</td> <td>Day</td> <td>£1,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Event size 5,000 +</td> <td>Day</td> <td>By Negotiation</td> </tr> </table> <p>-25% discount is applied to non-trading e.g. set and close down of the event</p> <p>- A discount may be applied to the daily rate for Charitable/Community events at the discretion of the Director for Environment and Operations</p> <p>- Events are priced by estimated attendance however prices may differ when special requirements need consideration.</p> <p>In considering a discount for Charitable/Community events consideration is given but not limited to costs incurred by the Council, the type of event taking place and any income it will generate for the organisers.</p>	- Fun Fairs (up to 12 rides) and Private Functions	Day	£560.00	- Event size 1-100	Day	£250.00	- Event size 101-1,000	Day	£560.00	- Event size 1,001-2,500	Day	£750.00	- Event size 2,501-5,000	Day	£1,000.00	- Event size 5,000 +	Day	By Negotiation
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6.	<p>(a) How many fun fairs have there been in Victoria Park in the last 12 months?</p>	<p>Two this financial year.</p>																		
	<p>(b) What are the criteria for the use of public resources like parks, libraries, museums and open spaces and who can use them?</p>	<p>Membership of Barnet's library service is open those who live, work or study within the borough. Several library branches also have community rooms available for private hire.</p> <p>Parks and open spaces are open to everyone to use. If an organisation/person wished to hold an event in a park they would need to apply to the Council for</p>																		

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	<p>permission to hold an event and pay an appropriate fee, events can be classified as below.</p>
<p>(c) What is the criteria for allowing the use of public resources (parks, libraries, open spaces etc) by community groups</p>	<p>Libraries: In relation to libraries, there are no set criteria for hiring or using space. Community groups negotiate local arrangements with library managers on a case by case basis.</p> <p>Parks and open spaces: Parks and open spaces are open for all to use. To hold a specific activity or event in a park an application can be made by any person or organisation to hold an event. There is an application pack that requests specific information and requires organisers to provide insurance, risk assessments, details of the event etc.</p> <p>The draft - Hiring of Barnet Parks - Events Policy defines events as follows:</p> <p>2. Event Classification</p> <p>There are a number of different types of events all these events are charged in accordance with the pricing structure.</p> <p>Commercial event: Any event not organised by the community or not for profit making organisations for an audience/attendees; a maximum number is identified. Such events include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fun fairs and circuses • Festivals • Concerts • Markets/car boot sales • Corporate events <p>Charitable and Community events:</p> <p>Charitable events are organised by a charitable organisation or not for profit organisation who can demonstrate the charitable or not for profit nature of the event. Events run by a commercial company for charitable fund raising would normally fall into this category e.g. fun run.</p> <p>Community events are small scale event organised by a community or voluntary group for the benefit of the local community and/or the parks and open spaces</p>

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	<p>that does not exceed one day in duration. Such events include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community days • Fetes • Picnics 																		
<p>(d) Are there different criteria for the use of community resources by community groups than by commercial bodies?</p> <p>(e) Is there any charge linked with use of such public resources and if there is - are community groups charged the same as commercial bodies?</p>	<p>Libraries: - educational and voluntary organisations are eligible for discounted room hire. Commercial or private bodies are paying the full hire rate.</p> <p>Parks and open spaces: - consideration is given to applying discounted rates for community groups upon application.</p> <p>The rates charged for events in parks is as set out in the Council's fees and charges as follows:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>- Fun Fairs (up to 12 rides) and Private Functions</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Day</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£560.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Event size 1-100</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Day</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£250.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Event size 101-1,000</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Day</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£560.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Event size 1,001-2,500</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Day</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£750.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Event size 2,501-5,000</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Day</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Event size 5,000 +</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Day</td> <td style="text-align: right;">By Negotiation</td> </tr> </table> <p>-25% discount is applied to non-trading e.g. set and close down of the event</p> <p>- A discount may be applied to the daily rate for Charitable/Community events at the discretion of the Director for Environment and Operations</p> <p>- Events are priced by estimated attendance however prices may differ when special requirements need consideration.</p> <p>In considering a discount for Charitable/Community events consideration is given but not limited to costs incurred by the Council, the type of event taking place and any income it will generate for the organisers.</p>	- Fun Fairs (up to 12 rides) and Private Functions	Day	£560.00	- Event size 1-100	Day	£250.00	- Event size 101-1,000	Day	£560.00	- Event size 1,001-2,500	Day	£750.00	- Event size 2,501-5,000	Day	£1,000.00	- Event size 5,000 +	Day	By Negotiation
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<p>(f) What are the criteria for putting up stalls in community events?</p>	<p>Organisers determine what stalls are present at their events.</p> <p>The following is set out in the conditions of hire:</p>																		

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	<p>9 <u>Prohibition</u> The Hirer shall not stage or engage in any activities that might be deemed to be ancillary to the main purpose of the booking, e.g. catering, stalls, raffles and any other fund raising/income earning activities without the prior written consent of the Council.</p> <p><u>General</u> The Hirer must submit full details of the proposed event for the approval of the Council's Events Team.</p> <p>9 <u>Prohibition</u> The Hirer shall not stage or engage in any activities that might be deemed to be ancillary to the main purpose of the booking, e.g. catering, stalls, raffles and any other fund raising/income earning activities without the prior written consent of the Council.</p> <p>10 <u>Prohibited items</u></p> <p>10.1 No pornographic material shall be exhibited, offered as a prize or for sale or used in anyway in connection with the Event or form the subject matter of any similar transaction. As to what constitutes pornographic material shall be decided by the Council at its sole discretion.</p> <p>10.2 No imitation, replica or toy guns, baseball bats or similar items which could be construed as an offensive weapon shall be offered as a prize or for sale or form the subject matter of any similar transaction.</p> <p>14 <u>Permits and Licences</u> The Hirer shall ensure that any licence, permit or other consent which may be required is obtained, whether from the Council or otherwise, before the Event may take place and shall produce to the Council copies of such licence, permit or consent. If any such licence, permit or consent has not been obtained, the Council reserves the right to cancel the booking forthwith.</p>

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		<p>19 <u>Collections or Lotteries</u> No collections, games of chance, sweep stakes; lotteries or betting of any kind may be conducted at the Venue without the prior written consent of the Council.</p> <p>23 <u>Breach by Hirer</u> If the Hirer fails to observe or perform any of these terms and conditions the Council may cancel the booking without notice and without incurring any liability to the Hirer for the return of any Hire Charge or otherwise. Such cancellation shall be without prejudice to all other rights and remedies of the Council against the Hirer in respect of any antecedent breach or non-observance of these terms and conditions.</p>
	<p>(g) Who makes this decision about it and is there any appeal procedure attached in case of unfavourable decision? <i>(Tirza Waisel)</i></p>	<p>No consideration of appeals process exists for any items stipulated in the T&C's setting out what is not permitted. Outside of this the Council has no jurisdiction over the types of stalls at events.</p>
7.	<p>The road junction where Creighton Avenue meets the High Road (A1000) is very unsafe for pedestrians, especially children. We ask that you create a safe system for crossing Creighton Avenue at this junction. <i>(Emily Burnham)</i></p>	<p>There has been no personal injury accident to pedestrians for the last ten years at this site therefore, whilst the concern is appreciated there is no justification in proposing any changes.</p>
8.	<p>The crossing on the High Road in front of Martin Primary School is ignored by drivers who quite frequently "run" the red light at speed. This has been witnessed by the community safety officers more than once. We ask that you install a CCTV to monitor the red light and place the school crossing signs in more prominent positions <i>(Emily Burnham)</i></p>	<p>Monitoring cameras are normally used at traffic signalised junction rather than at pedestrian crossing sites. While the council cannot guaranty that every single drivers will obey the signals, the layout has been reviewed and found to meet the visibility requirements for stand alone pedestrian crossing. However, the location will be checked to ensure that signage is appropriate at the location.</p>

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9.	<p>Church Lane traffic is too fast for the width of the road and pavements. There are few safe places to cross the road, especially near the junction with East End Road <i>(Emily Burnham)</i></p>	<p>While Church Lane attracts through traffic as it provides a link between East End Road and the A1000, speed survey and accidents record checks carried out over the years did not indicate a lowering of the speed limit or alternative traffic management measure to be justified. Footway improvements have been carried out along Church Lane a few years ago to improve the footway width and walking surface for pedestrians especially those attending the nearby school.</p>
10.	<p>I understand that this year's Friern Barnet show took place in a public park but was not charged the full new rate by Barnet Council for the event. By contrast, I believe the 100 year old Finchley Carnival which takes place in Victoria Park had to be cancelled this year because the full charges were going to be imposed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you confirm that this was the case, and if so clarify why charges are made in one case, but not the other? • Can you confirm that the decision to charge or to waive the charge is made by the Cabinet member for Environment, or if he was present at council meetings at which the show was discussed? <p><i>(Theresa Musgrove)</i></p>	<p>As stated above, all community events and events of charitable status are charged as follows :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A discount may be applied to the daily rate for Charitable/Community events at the discretion of the Director for Environment and Operations - Events are priced by estimated attendance however prices may differ when special requirements need consideration. <p>The Council endeavoured to reach agreement with the previous organisers of the Finchley Festival to enable a community event to be held. Unfortunately the organisers did not take up this offer.</p> <p>All events will be advised of the Councils fees and charges above. Once they have confirmed Charitable/Community status this is then referred to the Director accordingly.</p>
11.	<p>Can you confirm that councillors still qualify for free parking permits that ensure they do not have to use any payment system when parking in the borough? If so, can you confirm that this generous gesture for our elected representatives will continue? <i>Theresa Musgrove</i></p>	<p>This Is a Policy Issue and therefore not within the remit of the Forum.</p>
12.	<p>There was a water pipe leakage in my street which took 6 weeks to fix. What measures does the council take in order to force a timely fixing of those Viola</p>	<p>The Utility Companies are required to identify proposed works in advance and this requires them to issue a Permit approval request to the authority. In order for approval to be considered the utility company must provide full details of the proposed works including methods and duration. If the authority is not happy that</p>

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	<p>rivers? (Ron Cohen)</p>	<p>the information is complete or is not happy with the proposed method and duration of the works they can either challenge or refuse to approve the Permit. However, this level of control does not apply to emergency works such as a water leak, where in this situation to Utility can commence works without approval and must notify the authority within two hours of commencement on site. Water leaks can prove problematic to identify the exact location of the leak and can therefore be rather time consuming to trace and hence complete the repair.</p>
13.	<p>After the replacement of the lights poles in my street, the EDF workers reappeared, digging the street and relocating the poles five (!) times over a stretch of 50 yards. Who paid for this extra work? If this work was the results of the contractor's fault, did the Council put any penalties on him? (Ron Cohen)</p>	<p>The Street Lighting Service Provider is fully responsible for completing the new installation works in accordance with agreed designs and specifications. If they fail to comply, they are responsible for taking all appropriate corrective actions at there cost. An independent certifier carries out inspections when the Service Provider believes the installation is complete. All defects they identify during the inspection are provided to the Service Provider to rectify together with a certificate to identify that the installation has failed the inspection as it is not fully compliant. The Service Provider will ONLY be paid when the installation is certified as complete, i.e. deemed to be fully compliant, by the independent certifier. Adjustments are also made to payments to the Service Provider if the Service Provider is behind programme, which is likely if he fails to achieve certification in accordance with the programme.</p>
14.	<p>Bus stop on the 382 route near Sunny Way - decision not to proceed with the planned bus stop (Mrs Shirley Rink)</p>	<p>Serious consideration was given to the scheme with the intention of introducing a stop. However, ultimately it was determined that the scheme should not proceed for the following reason:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loss of parking space • increase in congestion in Summers Lane • no need for an additional bus stop • grass area to be paved over with loss of amenity • unnecessary expenditure on a non priority matter in times of shortage of public money.

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15.	<p>What are the considerations the Council makes in respect of the rights of older and disabled residents to take part in local events like community festivals and on their ability to do so, in light of these residents' likely difficulty to access festivals farther from their homes and the irrelevance of funfair rides to them?</p> <p>Why did the Council choose to insist on using the Showman's Guild funfair despite the damage it had caused to the park previously, rather than leaving this decision with the organising committee of Finchley Community Festival?</p> <p>What lessons have been learnt from the very poor attendance of the fun fair which replaced the Finchley Community Festival in July?</p> <p><i>(Tirza Waisel)</i></p>	<p>The Council is not responsible for organising community events and welcomes applications from all members of the community.</p> <p>The Council endeavoured to reach agreement with the previous organisers of the Finchley Festival to enable a community event to be held. Unfortunately the organisers did not take up this offer.</p> <p>The Council wanted to ensure that residents of the Borough were able to attend an event and therefore came to an arrangement with the Showman's Guild. The Council is always happy to and will continue to endeavour to work with local community groups to enable community events to happen.</p>
16.	<p>What, if any, proposals does the Council have to introduce a cycle path alongside the Dollis Brook between Dollis Park and Waverley Grove?</p> <p>If, so, what is the proposed timescale for its implementation?</p> <p><i>(Mr Mike Gee)</i></p>	<p>There are no plans to introduce a cycle path. There are footpath resurfacing improvement works programmed to take place on 19th September.</p>