

MEETING

COUNCIL

DATE AND TIME

TUESDAY 19TH OCTOBER, 2021

AT 7.00 PM

VENUE

HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS

Dear Councillors,

Please find enclosed additional papers relating to the following items for the above mentioned meeting which were not available at the time of collation of the agenda.

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
1.	QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER (AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN IF HE/SHE HAS DELEGATED)	3 - 22

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QN	Councillor	Question	Response by	Response
1	Cllr Prager	Was the Discover Barnet Summer Festival a success?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	Yes. The Discover Barnet Presents summer festival had a range of objectives, including encouraging community members to come together, reinvigorating parks and town centres, celebrating local arts and culture and supporting local businesses. In total, there were six core council-led events held over 20 days, as well as over 40 fringe events, led by the community and publicised on the website. There were over 12,000 visitors to the council-led events and we partnered with over 100 local people, organisations and businesses to deliver the programme. Over 250 event visitors were surveyed; 91% considered the programme to be welcoming and accessible for the whole community, 82% thought that the programme enhanced the sense of community and 82% said that the council should organise other seasonal events. Officers have held a number of review activities to learn lessons for the future; key among these is ensuring that we are measured and realistic in our ambitions for the overall programme and for individual events, ensuring that enough lead-in time is available for widespread community engagement and broader communications and ensuring that we use the most appropriate venues throughout the borough. Overall, we consider the programme to have been a great success given the short space of time in which it was planned and delivered.
2	Cllr Rawlings	What does the Leader think the effect in Barnet will be from national housing and planning policy given the Conservative Party has received more than £11 million in donations from housing and development companies since Boris Johnson became Prime Minister? https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/tory-party-property-developer-boris-johnson-conservative-donors-a9588381.html	Cllr Thomas - Leader	Developers have historically made donations to most major political parties. The need to meet housing need by increasing the supply of housing, and in particular affordable housing, is a priority of national and regional housing and planning policy, and is reflected in the draft the Local Plan (regulation 19) , the council's Housing Strategy 2019-2024 and the Growth Strategy. The new 'E' class in planning will enable businesses to adapt to the changing needs of local businesses. We will continue to monitor the impact of the extension to permitted development rights on our town centres.
3	Cllr Teare	Can the Leader comment on how is the Brent Cross Town development progressing?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	Good progress is being made at Brent Cross Town and on the wider Brent Cross Cricklewood regeneration programme. The new Brent Cross West station remains on target for opening late next year. Infrastructure enabling works are progressing across the Brent Cross Town site ahead of plot development next year. The new visitor centre will be opening in November and the new Claremont Park in Spring next year. Consultation on future plans for Clitterhouse Playing Fields is underway. A detailed update is provided in the quarterly report to Housing and Growth Committee. The link to the latest report is here [https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s66501/Brent%20Cross%20Update%20Report.pdf]. Regular updates are also provided on the TransformingBX.co.uk website.
4	Cllr Clarke	On LBB Barnet's own statistic, 88% of residents were strongly opposed to the Hendon Hub plans. Precisely what level of dissatisfaction is necessary for the Council to take heed and alter its course on these colossally unpopular proposals?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	88% of respondents is not the same as 88% of all residents. The Policy and Resources Committee acknowledged that there was some opposition to the scheme from those who responded to the consultation, and balanced this response with the benefits the scheme will bring to the wider community. In particular the Committee noted that The Hendon Hub scheme will deliver developments that will, subject to planning consent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - replace unattractive buildings along The Burroughs and Church End making way for new thriving community facilities - provide a brand-new state-of-the-art Hendon Library, new community space, a health centre, and many more benefits for the local community. - Enable families to benefit from improved surroundings including green spaces and landscaping that will provide a more pleasant environment for everyone to enjoy, including new green spaces within the Prince of Wales Estate - Contrary to some misleading information, the current library building will not be demolished, it will be restored. <p>We will continue to work with the local community to ensure the local benefits can be realised and benefit all, and that any negative impacts on neighbours are minimised.</p>

5	Cllr Grocock	What are the differences between the agreement with Regal and with U+I in North Finchley?	Cllr R Cornelius - Chairman of Housing and Growth Committee	There are no substantial changes to the agreement. The reason the paper went to Housing & Growth committee was to substitute Regal London with U+I as the new partner developer joining Joseph Partners in taking forward the North Finchley scheme and, as a consequence of the resultant delay from U+I's withdrawal, to extend the period of the Exclusivity Agreement. In addition there are some non-material technical points. Officers are happy to arrange a separate session with any Member who wishes to understand these technical points in more detail.
6	Cllr Williams	Why do the Council not make any Planning viability assessments publicly available, and why is the Council ignoring Government guidance that these assessments should be made publicly available?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	Viability assessments are made publicly available as and when submitted to support a planning application.
7	Cllr Rozenberg	In light of the serious ongoing anti-social behaviour that has been taking place in and around Finchley, what steps are Barnet Council taking to keep residents safe and reassure them that the situation can and will be resolved?	Cllr Grocock - Chairman of Safer Communities Partnership Board	CST officers continue to work with police and other partners to tackle anti-social behaviour. There has been an increase in the number of street based Uniformed CST offices patrolling areas where ASB is reported. The council will be implementing a public space protection order which will help police take firmer action.
8	Cllr Duschinsky	What plans does the Council have to create a meaningful memorial to those who died during the Covid pandemic?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	<p>The Council is creating a new woodland, located centrally within Mill Hill Park (Flower Lane extension), this new woodland will offer a space of reflection for all residents.</p> <p>The location was identified based on its accessibility for all residents and to support a range of environmental benefits. It has been designed to fit in with the existing landscape and complement the existing park. A five-year after-care plan will ensure the site remains a clean, safe space to visit. The design will include new walkways and a seating area, open all-year round. Many lives were lost since the start of the pandemic and we wish for our new woodland to help bring our community together as well as inspire hope and possibility for the future.</p> <p>As part of this initiative, the Council are inviting local schools and community groups to volunteer their time to plant 500 native trees. Tree-planting will take place between Friday 26 – Sunday 28 November 2021.</p>
9	Cllr Houston	Why is the Council proposing to hand over Council land to developers in North Finchley without publicly stipulating what they want done with the land?	Cllr R. Cornelius - Chairman of Housing and Growth Committee	The vision and objectives for North Finchley are set out in the SPD, any detailed proposals for the development of the Council's land will be subject to standard statutory processes and approvals. Its too early to define what's built without engaging with Regal's development team. This will follow if the Council enters into the Land/Site assembly agreement as per the recommendations in the committee paper. Once the decision is made, council regeneration and planning officers will be working with the developers to help shape the scheme. Key considerations will be optimising the Council's assets to make better use of the land and responding to feedback from the Partnership Board. The Land Agreement is a contract to be entered into between the Council, the Buyer and the Funder. It sets out the terms upon which the Buyer will seek to satisfy the Conditions (including the grant of planning permission) to acquire Council Land and Third Party Property in Phases or Sub-Phases for which it will pay the Open Market Value for the Council Land, so we are not handing over the land for nil consideration. Prior to any disposal the Council will obtain an independent red book valuation to satisfy a best consideration disposal. Equally, its important to note that upon the sale the Buyer (Regal) commits to development obligations when it starts works on site. If the Buyer fails to carry out the development in accordance with the Land Agreement ultimately the Council may exercise a call option to require the Buyer to return the Council Land.

10	Cllr Smith	How has Barnet Council's affordable housing delivery statistics compared to the neighbouring boroughs of Enfield, Haringey and Camden?	Cllr R. Cornelius - Chairman of Housing and Growth Committee	The affordable housing delivery statistics published by the GLA for 2020/21 were as follows: Barnet – 283 Camden – 124 Enfield – 273 Haringey – 128 These figures show that Barnet has delivered the most affordable housing compared to the neighbouring boroughs identified. https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/ah_starts_and_completions_-_end_of_june_2021.pdf
11	Cllr Cooke	Is the Council administration intending to take seriously the maximum building heights stipulated in the approved North Finchley Supplementary Planning Document?	Leader/Cllr R. Cornelius - Chairman of Housing and Growth Committee	The North Finchley SPD is a material consideration in the determination of any planning application in the area. As supplementary guidance, it does not have the remit to set new policy. Therefore, building heights will also need to be considered in the context of more recently published London Plan Policy D9 and the emerging Local Plan including policy CDH04: Tall Buildings, and other emerging policies in relation to character, such as CDH01: Promoting High Quality Design and CHH02: Sustainable & Inclusive Design. A design-led approach will be applied when considering any forthcoming site proposals.
12	Cllr Wardle	Given the uncertainties in local authority financing, what is the Leader doing to lobby government to ensure a successful spending review 2021 settlement?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	Getting a fair settlement for Barnet residents is very important, I have met with local MPs and the Minister for London to make the case that Barnet is a great place to live, that has delivered growth and requires certainty and fair funding for social care and other local services. Officers have also sent a submission to Department of Levelling up, Housing and Communities and worked with London Councils and LGA to make a collective case.
13	Cllr Sargeant	What compensation will be given to residents who have been the subject of delays in reparations for cladding problems?	Cllr R. Cornelius - Chairman of Housing and Growth Committee	Government funds for cladding remediation works include: - ACM Cladding Remediation Fund - for residential buildings over 18 metres - Social Sector Cladding Fund - for residential social housing over 18 metres - Building Safety Fund - for non-ACM cladding systems in residential buildings over 18 metres - Waking Watch Relief - re-opened for applications 16 September to 10 December 2021 - Proposed Cladding Loan Scheme for residential buildings between 11 and 18 metres, with leaseholders' service charges capped at £50 a month. It should be noted that none of these schemes relate to delays specifically. The council continues to support the Inside Housing 'End Our Cladding Scandal' campaign, as agreed unanimously at Council on 19 January 2021.
14	Cllr Brayne	Will the council consider installing CCTV outside Finchley Central tube station to deter anti-social behaviour in this area?	Cllr Grocock - Chairman of Safer Communities Partnership Board	All requests for installation of CCTV will be assessed using the 6 principles set out in the CCTV review.
15	Cllr Byers	How much area committee CIL budget has been allocated since the Leader's reforms?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	There has been one round of Area Committee meetings since the new process was approved by the P&R Committee in May, these all took place in June. The following allocations were approved in June: - Chipping Barnet - £143,080 from the 2021/22 budget (and £100,000 from the 2022/23 budget for a one scheme over a second year) - Hendon - £83,468.66 from the 2021/22 budget - Finchley & Golders Green - £12,096 from the 2021/22 budget.
16	Cllr Schneiderman	Fly tipping is getting worse across the borough, but is much worse in a number of hot spots. Some of these hot spots are caused by residential and business refuse being stored in unsuitable locations. How can the planning process be improved to ensure that planning permission cannot be granted unless a thorough assessment of proposed bin locations has been carried out and deemed suitable?	Cllr D. Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	The Council published updated Recycling and Waste guidance in June 2021 for developers, architects and agents to consider in advance of them designing their development proposals. All planning applications must meet this guidance, in terms of the type, size and location of the facilities proposed, and if they do not they should be refused planning permission.

17	Cllr Thompstone	Would the Leader like to commend the Brent Cross team over their successful works over the last few months to allow the station project to progress?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	Yes. Huge progress has been made on the Brent Cross Town development and the wider Brent Cross Cricklewood regeneration. I would like to commend the team for keeping the programme on track despite the challenges presented by the pandemic. After visiting the site recently I can see the new Brent Cross West station taking shape, as well as the town's infrastructure. Work has also been undertaken to complete essential highways improvements works over the past 12 months as well as the team starting on site to build new replacement homes for residents of the Whitefield Estate. It was great to see the Exploratory Park being so well used by local residents, and I look forward to seeing the first permanent park open in the Spring as well as Barnet's newest station which will be operational by the end of next year. Well done to everyone involved.
18	Cllr Conway	Why isn't the sustainability plan an integral part of the local plan?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	<p>The Local Plan forms the spatial expression of adopted Council strategies. The emerging Sustainability Strategy, upon adoption will be a material consideration in planning decisions and any subsequent planning guidance i.e. future SPDs.</p> <p>The Submission draft of the Local Plan includes sustainability as a running thread throughout the Plan. It is specifically highlighted in the Chapter on Environment and Climate Change, which includes a specific policy ECC01 – Mitigating Climate Change. The chapter also provides further policies on flooding, decentralised energy, waste, water management, climate adaption biodiversity and greening the urban environment.</p> <p>As the Local Plan prepares for Examination, officers are reviewing policies on carbon reduction, retrofit and adaption as well as measures for fire and flood mitigation, to ensure that they reflect the council's ambition, respond to consultees and current best practice.</p>
19	Cllr Bokaei	Does the Leader envisage solar farms to be installed on parks and public open spaces?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	Absolutely not - this will not happen, and any suggestion otherwise is a wilful spread of misinformation for political gain.
20	Cllr Mittra	What consultation work did Barnet Homes and their partners undertake on the Grange estate developments over summer?	Cllr R.Cornelius - Chairman of Housing and Growth Committee	The most recent newsletter was circulated to the local community in August 2021. This notified residents that as a result of the outreach work, feedback from local residents and the design and planning teams within the Council, Barnet Homes are taking a pause to review the design proposals. It advised that we will be able to update residents further in early autumn once the design has been reviewed and that we will be letting residents know how we propose to engage with on the updated proposals thereafter. We advised that a planning submission will not be made in the autumn, to allow plenty of time to consult with the local community.
21	Cllr Rozenberg	What role has the council played to manage the fuel crisis? What steps are being taken to ensure that fuel does not run out for key workers and refuse lorries? How will Barnet ensure that continuity of supply exists over Christmas?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	The Council procures its fuel through a Crown Commercial Service contract and has not had any issue with fuel supply during the recent issues experienced in the domestic market. Sufficient fuel levels are held to support weekly front line operational services and contingency stocks held to provide resilience should there be an interruption to supply. The supplier is not reporting any expected problems with supplies over the winter period. Street Scene services has been able to provide fuel to support a number of critical front line services who normally use domestic forecourts for fuel. This has included mutual aid to a neighbouring authority with fuel to support their waste and fleet operations.
22	Cllr Grover	What is the Council doing to protect Barnet from flood events such as we saw earlier in the summer?	Cllr D Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	<p>We have captured and collated the flooding data that occurred on 12th July event. A paper is being drafted to review if any areas triggered Section 19 investigations which will be undertaken and published as per Council's Section 19 investigation criteria:</p> <p>https://www.barnet.gov.uk/environmental-problems/flood-and-water-management/flood-investigation</p> <p>We are also working with Thames Water and plan to sign an agreement with them to enable the data sharing between both the organisations. Thames Water will then be able to share the properties which were flooded and reported on that day in Barnet.</p> <p>We understand that the storm worst impacted the north-east of the borough with an annual probability of 1 in 50 year annual probability (2% chance occurring in any given year).</p> <p>Post this review, we will prepare an action plan and review the current Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) program, strategy and management plan.</p>

23	Cllr Hutton	When will Barnet follow the lead of other local authorities and appoint a lead officer in charge of sustainability and climate change? This appointment could unlock pots of money from the Government and City Hall which would go some way to mitigate financial considerations.	Cllr D Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	Officers across the council are working on sustainability initiatives and are applying for appropriate grants. The council are in the process of developing a Sustainability strategy which will highlight the work that is already ongoing across Barnet, as well as set out the additional actions Barnet Council will take to contribute to the governments ambitious targets. The Exec Director Environment is Co ordinating a cross directorate team responsible for the drafting of the sustainability Strategy with support from specialist advisors.
24	Cllr Zinkin	Would the Leader ever contemplate building on Green Belt land?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	While Enfield Council have proposed building on hundreds of hectares of Green Belt land within their borough, this will not happen in Barnet. As long as I am Leader of Barnet Council I will make sure that our vital Green Belt is not developed into housing.
25	Cllr Rawlings	What effect will the increased petrol and energy prices have on the Council budget and what are the estimated costs?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	2021 has seen the most unprecedented wholesale gas and power price movement ever witnessed, rising some 250% so far this year and an exceptional 70% from August alone The global gas market is incredibly tight, with supply concerns continually building for the upcoming winter. EU gas storage is at decade lows, compounded by low renewable generation over the past six months. LASER, the Council's Energy Framework provider has hedged considerable volumes prior the price rise, although current wholesale markets are seeing unprecedented volatility, thus forecasts are likely change accordingly, the current forecasted price impacts are increase in electricity costs on our estate is estimated at present to be 20% higher (c£192K (Excluding School & Housing). If prices were to continue to rise to 35% the cost impact would be c£335K. The Estimated impact of increase in gas costs on our estate is estimated at present to be 40%. c£109K (Excluding School & Housing) If prices were to continue to rise to 55% the cost impact would be c£149K. The council procures diesel and red diesel from the governments Crown Commercial Service Contract. Prices are issued weekly and reflect changes in the market, but the council is charged less than forecourt pence per litre prices. Petrol is obtained by the services through fuel cards which is at the prevailing forecourt price and is generally used for plant/equipment not the fleet vehicles itself, so actual use is low. In respect to mitigation, the Council is investing In energy saving & carbon reduction technology utilising the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) funding. The council is also keeping an eye on how these increases are impacted are key service providers and will keep this under review.
26	Cllr Freedman	Has the Council increased its resources to manage fly-tipping, graffiti and other similar anti-social activities?	Cllr Grocock - Chairman of Safer Communities Partnership Board	The Council's Street Scene service has three teams dedicated to responding to fly-tipping incidents. Three additional litter crews were introduced over the Summer period as part of the Pleasant Parks initiative to help manage litter and cleansing issues associated with increased footfall. The Street Cleansing service also has two teams dedicated to graffiti removal. Both teams have specialist equipment used for the removal of graffiti. In addition to this the community Safety Team investigate all incidents of Fly tipping to identify perpetrators.
27	Cllr Clarke	Why have there been delays to pavement repair works even where pavements are dangerous?	Cllr D. Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	We are currently working with our contractor to address all outstanding repairs. We have weekly calls to forward plan any outstanding repairs and are on track to complete outstanding works. If there are any specific areas of concern, please let us know so we can investigate them.
28	Cllr Brayne	Fuel issues aside, what is the council doing to prepare for other supply chain disruptions in the coming months, given global shortages in a very wide variety of goods?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	Council business continuity plans are kept under constant review and include contingency planning for supply chain disruption. Wherever we can mitigate for shortages, we have plans in place. This planning applies to vital workforce supply chain as well as goods. For example we have been monitoring the number of EU nationals in our workforce, and analysing the impact of potential staff shortages on large scale construction projects.

29	Cllr Grocock	What is Capita doing to improve customer service in the areas they are responsible for?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	<p>The following improvements have been made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During 2020 there was a programme of works to deliver end to end customer improvements with Street Scene, which went live in January 2021. The improvements enable a more proactive and targeted approach to update our residents and improves data quality ensuring the information provided to residents is correct. This improves our online offer as well as the information provided at the contact centre and ultimately reduces the need for residents to contact us unnecessarily or repeatedly • Transition of the 'Re.' customer service hub into the main customer services team, improving resilience, processes and the overall quality of customer service • Web content has been improved, as this is now the primary way customers contact us and seek information. There has been a focus on Council tax and Housing benefits content as this service has seen increased demand during the pandemic; improvements to online forms has resulted in 60% increase in customers successfully transacting this way • Improvements to the phone menu systems, following feedback from customers, that improve navigation and language to ensure options are more relevant and making it easier for customers to speak to someone when needed, resulting in a reduction in complaints • Changes to the council tax refund processes have led to a 25% increase in automation, saving time for residents.
30	Cllr Cooke	Why does the administration allow businesses to store their trade waste on the public highway even when no collection is scheduled?	Cllr.D.Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	The Barnet Waste Receptacle Regulations require businesses to provide a storage point within their premises and wherever possible, a collection point within their premises. If a suitable collection point is not available, then the public highway may be used for collections of waste contained in sacks. The council will work to enforce these requirements.
31	Cllr Jajeh	How many parking and road safety issues have been fast-tracked to the director since the Leader's reforms?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	Sixteen schemes arising from member requests, resident forum items and or area committee reports have been considered under the new Road Safety & Parking fund arrangement to date. 80% of the fund has been allocated for road safety and parking works at the time of writing.
32	Cllr Houston	What preparations are the Council making for likely shortages given the fuel crisis eg. labour/staff shortages (including for outsourced services) and supply chain shortages?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	Council business continuity plans are kept under constant review and there are a number of mitigations in place for staff shortages. We monitoring the number of EU nationals in our workforce, and in partner providers and so far have not seen increasing rates of vacancy. Mitigations for disruption to supply of essential goods are also in place wherever possible.
33	Cllr Teare	We have seen an increase in vulnerable young people and children being recruited for "County Lines" – what are we doing in the borough to identify these youngsters and dissuade them, and are we working with education providers in their settings to combat this type of recruitment at the school gate?	Cllr Grocock - Chairman of Safer Communities Partnership Board	The local authority through its range of preventative provision works closely with schools and the communities in which the Early Help Hubs are situated to identify and divert young people away from grooming and exploitation. The Home Office funded Trusted Relationships programme supports providers to deliver preventative programmes in schools, sessions have been targeted at Year 6/7 students over the past three years. Community based support, positive activities and mentoring have also been provided to enable young people to engage in diversionary activities with trusted adults
34	Cllr Schneiderman	While the cost of disposing of food waste through anaerobic digestion is £30 a tonne compared to £80 a tonne to incinerate general waste, don't the environmental AND economic arguments show the need to restart separate food waste collections now?	Cllr D. Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	Analysis of the potential costs and savings from reintroducing a separate food waste service suggests that any savings on the disposal/treatment costs of a separate food waste collection service would be outweighed by the costs of a new dedicated collection vehicle fleet and ongoing annual operational costs. The council is currently in discussion with the Mayor of London's office regarding the relationship between the Government's consultation on proposals for consistency in household and business recycling in England, the potential financial support that could be available through new burdens provisions and the resultant timeline for implementation. The council believes that it should definitely wait for the results of the government consultation to be enacted into legislation before finalising its proposals.

35	Cllr Rozenberg	What is the council doing to promote the installation of air source heat pumps (ASHPs) for private residences in Barnet? Does the council have any statistics on the number of ASHPs that have been installed in the borough?	Cllr R Cornelius - Chairman of Housing and Growth Committee	The council is considering ways to promote increased use of air source heat pumps and other sustainable energy sources as part of developing its sustainability strategy. As permission is not generally required to install these pumps, we do not hold statistics on the number installed.
36	Cllr Weeden-Sanz	What do you believe can be done to combat suicide in the borough?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	<p>Strategic level</p> <p>We can prevent deaths by suicide by understanding the risk factors for suicide and mitigating these through targeted interventions. However, suicide is a complex behaviour with no single explanation or cause. Risk factors for suicide can occur at the individual, community, and societal level. In order to successfully prevent deaths from suicide, it is critical that we work in wide-ranging partnerships, across all our communities, to systematically improve the lives and wellbeing of everyone that lives, works, and studies in Barnet. Our first Suicide Prevention Strategy 2021-2025 has been developed by working with all partners and people who are affected by suicide. The strategy identified eight areas within which we can act to improve our prevention efforts. One of the key roles of the multi-agency Barnet Suicide Prevention Partnership (BSPP) is to implement evidence-based actions against these eight areas in order to reduce the number of people who die by suicide in Barnet and provide better support to those bereaved.</p> <p>Individual level</p> <p>Combating suicide starts with recognising the warning signs and taking them seriously. We need to look out for those who are not coping. Individuals in distress, in particular, men, are often not looking for specific advice or talk about their own mental health. Hence, Men's Suicide Prevention Campaign is being launched on 6th October as part of World Mental Health Day. The delivery of the campaign will focus on three areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness building through digital advertising and posters and driving traffic to download the 'Stay Alive' suicide prevention app. The app is a pocket suicide prevention resource and has many life-saving features including strategies for staying safe, how to help a person thinking about suicide and access to local and national support. http://www.barnet.gov.uk/stayalive - Promoting Zero Suicide Alliance members of public in particular those in male dominated industries and encouraging the public to do the training. Welcome to the Zero Suicide Alliance (ZSA) https://www.zerosuicidealliance.com/ - Peer to peer support for men through Andy's Man Club where men can speak openly about their mental health in a judgment free, non-clinical confidential environment
37	Cllr Conway	Please advise how the new approach to submitting priority road safety members items direct to the director is working, and when this system will be reviewed. Should it take 4 months to hear back on proposals?	Cllr D.Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	<p>Sixteen schemes arising from member requests, resident forum items and or area committee reports have been considered under the new Road Safety & Parking fund arrangement to date. 80% of the fund has been allocated for road safety and parking works at the time of writing".</p> <p>The road safety fund applications that have been received from Cllr Conway have been responded to by Council officers within reasonable response times and we are unable to find any records of an unanswered query of the age suggested. Whilst the fund is managed under the Director of Environment, many of the actions are necessarily delegated. Highways officers have been in correspondence with Cllr Conway and engaged with follow up queries made. The processes will be reviewed at around 6 months and other intervals in the future and the appointment of a new role in coordinating these and other CIL funded measures will strengthen further the improvements that have been made</p>
38	Cllr Gurung	How much improved were pollution levels during the Covid pandemic?	Cllr D.Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	Due to the impact of COVID-19, there was a 24% improvement in nitrogen dioxide (NO2) concentrations in 2020 compared to previous years. On 23 March 2020, the UK Government released official guidance advising all members of public to stay at home, with work-related travel only permitted when absolutely necessary. During this initial national lockdown (and to a lesser extent other lockdowns that followed), marked reductions in vehicle traffic were observed. The crisis affected all forms of transport in Barnet, from cars and public transport to coaches. This reduction in travel in turn gave rise to a change of air pollutant emissions associated with road traffic.
39	Cllr Mitra	What assessment has been made over the performance of Newman Francis in their handling of consultation with the Grange estate and other local estates and residents?	Cllr R.Cornelius - Chairman of Housing and Growth Committee	<p>Consultation has been a challenge, especially due to not being able to meet in person and relying on online events. Newman Francis have made efforts to turn things around, by increasing their presence on site as part of the project outreach to ensure that residents receive information about the proposals. This included erecting information boards at various places across the estate. They have established contact with representatives from the various resident groups.</p> <p>The proposed design is currently under review. Once confirmed we will refresh the consultation and engagement strategy, to take the project through to planning stage, and this will include a review of Newman Francis' role.</p>

40	Cllr Richer	Has the Council started monitoring small particulate pollution through PM2.5 monitoring?	Cllr D Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	In the summer of 2021, the council started to monitor small particulate pollution with Imperial college. We monitor PM2.5 at 3 sites in Barnet (at Orion Primary School, Wessex Gardens Primary School and Martin Primary School) and one on the border with Enfield at Cat Hill Allotments, these monitoring stations will be in place for next 3-4 years.
41	Cllr Sargeant	What lessons have been learned from the Aerodrome Road closure?	Cllr.D.Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	The importance of engaging with residents and businesses in the area is a key element for the successful delivery of any scheme. Temporary traffic management plans need to put in place and reviewed for the entire duration of the works.
42	Cllr Brayne	After 3 years of the NIMR development, why are we still seeing mud trails from the Ridgeway site, despite almost daily complaints from residents and a planning condition to wash wheels?	Cllr Greenspan - Chairman of Strategic Planning Committee	The National Institute for Medical Research site has been visited regularly by Council officers. A recent visit by an Environmental Health Officer confirmed that wheel washing is taking place in accordance with the conditions. Wheel washing does not prevent all tracked mud from construction sites particularly in inclement weather, which requires road sweepers to clean the road periodically. This has also been confirmed as taking place by Council Officers.
43	Cllr Stock	Where does Barnet stand in comparison to other local authorities in terms of the number of electric vehicles owned by residents in the borough?	Cllr D Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	DfT publishes the statistics of new Electric Vehicle registrations in the UK. These are published quarterly in arrears with the latest data published being Q2 2021. This shows the following - In the UK - Q1 = 488,079 and Q2 = 564,694. Of these the figures for London are: Q1 = 61,855 and Q2 = 70,200. Barnet's figures are: Q1 = 4,146 (Highest in London) and Q2 = 4,452 (second highest in London) - Hillingdon was highest in Q2 at 4,737. Up until Q2 2021 Barnet has consistently been the highest in London.
44	Cllr Rawlings	Many of us receive residents' complaints about the difficulties while phoning the Council of not getting through to the relevant departments. Why is the Council so poor at customer care and when, if ever, will the extra investment start making a real difference?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •In the last calendar year the customer services team supported customers on over 370,000 phone calls, of which a small proportion (0.02%) resulted in a complaint. The service consistently receives over 90% positive customer satisfaction scores, where the resident has rated the service following their phone call. •Where complaints are received, these are investigated fully and improvements are made, wherever possible. This has included coaching staff, making changes to processes and improving the telephony system and menu options. As we continually improve our processes we seek to complete more for the customer at the first point of contact, so customers are not passed between teams and we support customers who are unable to use the website. •It has been a very challenging year for staff in our customer service teams and our customers and the way we support customers is changing, to provide more of an advisory service with calls taking longer, in some cases, as we support vulnerable customers with more complex queries
45	Cllr Marshall	How many, if any, refuse drivers has the Council lost in the past six months?	Cllr D Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	Four Heavy Goods Vehicle drivers have left the employment of the council in the past six months. Only one of these is directly linked to the current HGV driver shortages.
46	Cllr Clarke	How is the green waste collection going?	Cllr D. Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	The subscription based garden waste collection service has been extremely well received in its second year of operation. The council has sold 43,886 stickers as of 30/09/21. This is a participation rate of 58.5% and is 2% higher than the rate in 2020/21. This is believed to be the highest participation rate in London based on the information that is available from other Borough's providing this service.
47	Cllr Freedman	What steps can be taken on clearing fly tips on unadopted service roads in the borough, which are not privately owned? There is one in Edgware which is constantly fly tipped, which the council say is not their responsibility?	Cllr D. Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	For Land that is unadopted, with no registered owner the council will work proactively to address the issue, possibly with council officers engaging with multiple individuals with a potential interest in the site. The council would seek to obtain an agreement for the owner to clear the site and pay for the removal of materials if the responsible parties were identified. The Council may consider clearing the site if this were not possible and the material presented a potential public health risk. Enforcement officers would look to take action against anyone evidenced depositing waste unlawfully.
48	Cllr Cooke	Why has consideration of pedestrian crossing facilities at the High Road/Granville Road/Summers Lane N12 junction been put off yet again?	Cllr.D.Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	Due to the implementation of the 'pop-up' cycle lane on the A1000, there has been an impact on the pedestrian crossing design at this junction. As a consequence, the pedestrian improvement scheme is currently on hold until a decision is made on the continuation of the 'pop-up' cycle. Furthermore, TfL funding has temporarily withdrawn funding for such schemes.

49	Cllr Rozenberg	How long will it take before every child aged 12+ in Barnet has been offered their first vaccine jab?	Cllr Stock - Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board	All 12 – 15 years are expected to have received an offer of a COVID-19 vaccine by the half term break (wk beginning 25 October 2021). Schools are hosting the vaccine delivery which is managed through the Schools Immunisation Service. The Service will be booking in vaccination events at an agreed time for each school and will send information to the school to forward on to parents with the date vaccinations will be taking place and an online consent form for parents to sign. Delivery is being organised and run by the NHS – schools are only providing space and time to enable the NHS teams to undertake the vaccination. Some of these events may be booked in for delivery of the vaccinations after the half term. There will be plans for mop-up clinics to cover young people who might want the vaccine but who may not be available on the day their school is visited. As of 7th October, over 30 schools are booked in for vaccination.
50	Cllr Freedman	What is the future of the temporary cycle lane on the A1000? Is it going to become permanent?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	Recommendations to retain or revoke the Experimental Traffic Management Order will be made on the feedback received and a technical assessment of the scheme. The technical assessment is likely to reference the results from ongoing traffic surveys (eg traffic volume, journey time, air quality); the nature of the road in relation to Barnet's Long Term Transport Strategy and the expectations of both central government and TfL in relation to their respective commitment to future national and local transport strategies. The A1000 cycle route in its current form is very much a response to emergency funding, as is the case with other such similarly funded schemes. Any decisions on its future relating to making permanent (as opposed to removal) are expected to include recommended changes to reflect feedback and finessing of the design.
51	Cllr Schneiderman	Will Barnet's sustainability strategy be published before COP 26 (the UN climate change conference)?	Cllr D. Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	A report on the Sustainability Strategy will be taken to Policy and Resources Committee on 9 December, this will provide an update on the work being undertaken by officers to produce the strategy, an overview of the carbon baseline of the borough and the organisation, what we are already doing to address this, and the areas in which we will prioritise immediate action. Additionally, officers are in the process of creating a series of webpages and wider communications materials to support residents and businesses in becoming more sustainable. We will go live with these communications prior to COP26.
52	Cllr Freedman	There have been quite a few incidences of dangerous trees in the parks and open spaces, one which fell into a resident's back garden in Edgware. How often are these inspected, especially the large ones in parks on the boundary of back gardens?	Cllr D Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	Our parks are inspected every three years as part of the overall cyclical maintenance of all trees on public land in Barnet. We do have a select group of trees that are inspected after storms, Brent Park overhanging A406 and Brook Farm O/S overhanging the Northern Line at Totteridge & Whetstone Station.
53	Cllr Conway	When will the CCTV review be concluded and will it take into account the view of the Conservative administration community safety lead that CCTV can be "less than useful...avoided by people wearing hoods"?	Cllr.Grocock - Chairman of Safer Communities Partnership Board	The CCTV Strategic Review and procurement of new service contract was taken to CLLC on 6th October. A full business case will be going back to CLLC in June 2022.
54	Cllr Wardle	What are the benefits of resurfacing roads with recycled tyres?	Cllr D Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	Sustainable road surface treatment uses 85% recycled material, including recycled car tyres as part of the asphalt consumption. One car tyre for each tonne of asphalt. This innovative environmentally friendly material helps to combat climate change by cutting carbon emissions, reducing waste and improving the efficiency of project delivery not compromising in quality of finished product.
55	Cllr Mitra	How many tickets have been issued for incorrect use of the new cycle lane on the A1000?	Cllr.D.Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	The cycle and bus lane is not currently monitored by CCTV enforcement and so no Penalty Charge Notices have been issued for moving traffic contraventions. Up to Friday 2nd October, 16 parking Penalty Charge Notices have been issued to motorists for contravention of parking restrictions in the vicinity of the A1000 cycle lane.

56	<p>Cllr Brayne</p>	<p>If Covid cases start to rise again in our schools, what steps are being considered to manage the situation? Do we have a contingency plan featuring measures such as: reinstating requirements for masks in secondary schools, requiring schools to inform parents as to any cases in their child's school, or requesting that children and staff who are close contacts of cases do not attend school until their PCR test results are clear?</p>	<p>Cllr Stock/ Cllr Longstaff - Chairman of Health and Wellbeing Board/ Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee</p>	<p>The Government issued the contingency framework which states schools should have an "Outbreak Management Plan" outlining how a school or setting would operate if any "extra action" becomes necessary in their local area. Public Health Team have developed Barnet's Outbreak Management Plan for schools that accompanies the school's operational risk assessment and baseline control measures being undertaken and should be read in conjunction with the school guidance updated by the Department for Education: Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak. The schools risk assessment must be regularly updated by the school and kept as a live document.</p> <p>All schools in Barnet have been provided with a template Operational Management Plan (copy available on request from public.health@barnet.gov.uk) which can be used by each school to help them decide what additional measures are needed within their school community. Once a school reaches the COVID cases thresholds stated within the guidance they are required to notify the DfE Helpline which automatically links to London Coronavirus Response Cell (LCRC)- the London Health Protection Team. This will trigger a direct call from LCRC to the school. LCRC will go through a risk assessment with the school and recommend a series of actions listed on an LCRC form and identified as Green or Amber. These actions will be given time to work and reduce transmission. If there continues to be ongoing transmission within the school after two weeks or if there are other complicating factors the situation may be escalated to the next tier and a further level of actions advised proportionate to the risks being experienced within the school.</p> <p>If there is ongoing transmission in the school, LCRC may refer the school to the Barnet Director of Public Health. Directors of Public Health can recommend certain measures for individual schools or clusters of settings to help manage outbreaks in schools, or if there is an "extremely high prevalence" of COVID-19 in the community and other measures have failed to reduce transmission, or as part of a package of measures responding to a variant of concern.</p>
57	<p>Cllr Marshall</p>	<p>What proposals, if any, has the Council to ensure that electric charging points are available 24/7?</p>	<p>Cllr D Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee</p>	<p>Following the first installations of EV charge points in the borough these have been monitored very closely and this has provided evidence that there is a need for dedicated EV bays to be created at each EV charge point site to ensure that these charge points are as accessible to EV drivers as possible. It is clear that without dedicating bays inconsiderate non-EV drivers will block access to these charge points and this has lead to many complaints and lower utilisation of these charge points. This action will ensure that the charge points that are provided are accessible at all times and hence provides an effective EV charging Infrastructure, which in turn should assist in encouraging more people to switch to EV vehicles.</p>
58	<p>Cllr Sargeant</p>	<p>What plans are in place for the closure of Colindale Avenue during the new developments around Colindale Station?</p>	<p>Cllr.D.Cohen/R.Cornelius - Chairman of Environment Committee/ Chairman of Housing and Growth Committee</p>	<p>The Council is still awaiting confirmation from TfL that the Colindale underground station re-development is going ahead. If it proceeds, there are proposals to temporarily close one lane of Colindale Avenue, which is detailed within the Traffic Management Plans submitted to LBB which are currently being reviewed by the highways team in June 2021. The duration of this single lane closure is currently being finalised.</p>

59	Cllr Sowerby	What has the Council done to reduce its carbon footprint since 2018?	Cllr D Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	<p>Since 2018 the council has implemented a number of energy saving and efficiency measures which will reap both financial and environmental rewards. This includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 2020, the Council completed the RE:FIT project, which installed energy saving measures on the Corporate Estate, such as libraries and Council offices, including the town hall. The CO2 savings for the REFIT project are estimated at 139 tonnes of CO2 emissions per year. - The Council is currently mid-way through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) project, which is a £1.38m grant to work towards decarbonising some of the Council's buildings. The CO2 savings for the PSDS project are estimated at 288 tonnes of CO2 emissions per year. - Development has recently begun on the North London Heat and Power Project, a ten-year £1.2 billion project to build an Energy Recovery Facility and associated development. The new facility will generate around 70 megawatts of electricity, enough to power around 127,000 homes, and could provide heat and power for local homes and businesses. The facility will help convert up to 700,000 tonnes of waste to energy from the seven North London boroughs. - We have undertaken a wholesale change in streetlighting, converting the entire network to LED lighting. This will result in a drop in our lighting related emissions by two thirds, as well as significant cost savings over the next decade. - Barnet has an ambitious electric vehicle charge point programme, which has now installed over 100 charge points based on resident request, as well as freestanding town centre units and community charging hubs in car parks across the borough.
60	Cllr Rawlings	An analysis of NHS Digital data by the Royal College of Psychiatrists has found that between April and June this year, 190,271 0–18-year-olds were referred to children and young people's mental health services. This is up 134% on the same period last year (81,170) and 96% on 2019 (97,342). Has Barnet seen a similar increase and how is the Council working to provide an adequate service for our young people?	Cllr D.Longstaff - Chairman of Children's, Education and safeguarding	Barnet benefits from having an integrated clinical services for children and young people which co-locates mental health workers in schools, in the community and alongside statutory services (Children's Social Care, Youth Offending teams). As part of the Early Help offer for mental health and wellbeing we also commission provision from the voluntary and community sector to deliver a range of services and activities including confidential online and in person counselling, play therapy, parenting support. There has been an increase in demand for these services.
61	Cllr Mearing-Smith	How many trees have we planted since 2018?	Cllr D Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	We have planted 3,771 semi-mature trees from a target of 4,500 set in the Tree Policy published in 2017, so on course to fulfil this target. We have planted 600 trees in parks, 2,488 in streets and 663 specifically for Green Infrastructure reasons (poor air quality, high urban heat island temperatures). We have also planted 820 seedlings with Dwight School at Friern Retail Park for woodland creation and 125 on Barnet Hill Open Space with the Barnet Society and Kisharon School.
62	Cllr Clarke	When will we have our separate food waste bins back?	Cllr D. Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	The council is currently reviewing options for food waste collections. A report was jointly commissioned by the council and Resource London (now known as ReLondon) to explore options for a food waste service, and noted that treatment of food waste through energy from waste and anaerobic digestion each offered different environmental benefits. This was reported to the council's Environment Committee in September 2019. The council is currently in discussion with the Mayor of London's office regarding the relationship between the Government's consultation on proposals for consistency in household and business recycling in England, the potential financial support that could be available through new burdens provisions and the resultant timeline for implementation. The council believes that it should definitely wait for the results of the government consultation to be enacted into legislation before finalising its proposals.
63	Cllr Rozenberg	Mike Freer MP has written to residents to say the following about the A1000 cycle lane: "Even as a regular cyclist, I believe the lane should be removed." Has the Leader of the Council also already made up his mind on this matter?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	I am opened minded and await all the relevant statistics.
64	Cllr Rutter	How many EV charging points are we planning to install around the borough in the next 4 years?	Cllr D Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	This will very much depend on the success or otherwise of bids for available EV charge point funding. The Council has submitted a substantial bid to OZEV for funding a two year project which includes providing around 500 charge points.

65	Cllr Cooke	Has Community Infrastructure Levy for the 11-13 Approach Road EN4 development been collected yet?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	The demand notice has been issued but the CIL remains unpaid. The Council's solicitors are in correspondence with the applicant regarding the MOL application, the affordable housing contribution and the CIL payment.
66	Cllr Rajput	What is the Leader's view of green developments in London such as Brent Cross Town?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	Green developments such as Brent Cross Town play a key role in the future of our borough. With our joint venture partners, Argent Related, Brent Cross Town promises to deliver the first park town for Barnet, with everything existing and future residents need within 15 minutes, and a pledge to be carbon neutral by 2030. Clitterhouse Playing Fields are at the heart of the Brent Cross Cricklewood regeneration programme where these 40 acres of playing fields will be enhanced as part of the project, along with eight public squares and seven new and improved parks. Clitterhouse Playing Fields in particular will play a key role in ensuring Barnet's new park town enhances the health and wellbeing of residents. It's important that residents also have their say on what the improved playing fields will look like and I encourage everyone to join in the public consultation which launched this week at bxt.uk/cpfconsult .
67	Cllr Schneiderman	Why does the draft Local Plan commit the Council to zero carbon by 2050 when the London Plan target is actually 2030?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	The London Plan, which was adopted in March 2021, contains the policy objective for London to be net zero carbon by 2050. LB Barnet is required to be in compliance with the London Plan policy. Since the publication of the London Plan, the Mayor has announced an ambition to bring this date forward, however that target has not yet been reflected in the London Plan.
68	Cllr Shooter	What plans does the Council have to further improve performance with our call centre?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	The council will be replacing the current call centre platform and underlying systems in the early part of 2022 to improve resilience and quality. Benefits will include improving data quality and functionality to provide a more responsive and proactive service to our residents, reducing repeat contact, improving identification and remove clunky push button systems that are often complained about today.
69	Cllr Conway	How regularly is the report fly-tipping function on the Council's website checked to see if it's working properly?	Cllr.D.Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	There are continual monitoring tools in-place which alert officers if a particular form becomes unavailable or is not working as a result of a technical issue. There is a feedback tool, on each form, that allows customers to provide feedback directly if they experience any issues which are then investigated. Online forms are tested whenever there are changes or technical upgrades are completed
70	Cllr Rozenberg	Does the Leader agree that the proposed £20 weekly cut in Universal Credit (due at time of writing to be implemented from the start of October) is going to hit vulnerable families hardest in Barnet? How does this plan fit with the government's intention to "level up"?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	The £20 increase in Universal Credit payments was a temporary measure introduced by the Government at the outset of the Pandemic, to support those who needed it most and in extraordinary circumstances. With the lockdowns now at an end and the economy opening up again our attention needs to turn to supporting people from all backgrounds back into work, particularly as there are significant numbers of vacancies in a range of sectors available to residents across the borough at this time. At the time of writing, we are awaiting details of the recently announced £500m being made available to support vulnerable households over the winter, which is expected to assist the transition period for those most in need.
71	Cllr Fluss	What improvements of customer service have been made in regard to Council Tax collection?	Cllr Zinkin - Chairman of Financial, Performance and Contracts Management Committee	The following improvements have been made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web content improved to provide clearer signposting and guidance; since its launch in May 2021 over 20,000 customers have visited the improved 'contact the council tax team' web page • Optimisation of existing online forms has resulted in 60% customers using them, compared to 40% using email • Improvements to the phone menu has resulted in 20% customers finding it easier to navigate the phone menu and are selecting the option relevant to them • Changes to refund processes have led to 25% increase in automation • A new bereavement guidance page was launched in July 2021 and 350 people have visited it since its launch • There has been a 90% reduction in escalations of queries since June 2021 The team are continuing to review customer journeys to introduce further improvements.

72	Cllr Mitra	When will the council commence the final consultation on the A1000 cycle lane scheme?	Cllr D.Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	The Experimental Traffic Management Order set out a statutory consultation period of 6 months, ending in March 2021. Subsequent to that the regulations allow a further 12 months period to review the scheme based on both positive and negative feedback and a technical assessment of the impact of the measures put in place. The next proposed milestone to consider next steps is January Environment Committee.
73	Cllr Weeden-Sanz	What is being done by the Council to support electric car owners?	Cllr D.Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	See answers above to questions 57 and 64. In addition to this a current programme of 150 street light mounted EV charge points is being delivered. This is in addition to the 76 already operational street light charge points and those located in various Car Parks.
74	Cllr Sargeant	Will you agree to investigate the implementation of another entrance to Colindale Gardens, as, at the moment there is only a single entry to the development?	Cllr R.Cornelius/D.Cohen - Chairman of Housing and Growth/ Chairman of Environment Committee	The consented development contains several entrances at different points along Colindale Avenue. It is anticipated that these additional roads will be opened up as soon as construction in the relevant phases have advanced.
75	Cllr Simberg	What future plans are there for enforcement across the borough?	Cllr Grocock - Chairman of Safer Communities Partnership Board	Under the Council's Clean, Safe Well Run program we are listening to and working with residents and others, we want people to have opportunities to live healthy and fulfilling lives in safe and thriving communities. Providing good quality customer service in all that we do. In relation to Enforcement, The Council has a number of enforcement powers and responsibilities. Most require professionally trained staff as well as a street-based presence during the working week, in the evenings and at weekends. At the moment, enforcement involves a number of different teams that don't always work seamlessly together. We will align processes and procedures to improve outcomes for residents and visitors and create a 'one team' approach. This will be delivered through a three-phase approach: Advise - Mediate- Enforce
76	Cllr Clarke	As a Grade 2 listed building, what evidence can Council produce of working with Historic England on ensuring Edgware's Railway Hotel is looked after and put back into use?	Cllr R. Cornelius - Chairman of Housing and Growth Committee	The Council have approved a number of schemes to convert the listed building into use as a hotel, but unfortunately these approvals were not implemented. More recently it was intended to use the ground floor as a restaurant, but this was not pursued by the leaseholder despite works commencing. A new application for the change of use as a restaurant has now been submitted and is presently under consideration. Planning enforcement action has been taken several times to prevent unauthorised uses from taking place and requiring external works to be carried out, including repairs and the removal of fly-tipping. Further enforcement action has now been initiated following the recent fire. The building remains on the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register.
77	Cllr Rozenberg	Does the Leader regret the decision to remove reference to local government in the newly named Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities? Does he agree that changing this name shows that the Conservatives do not care about local government?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	Almost every other Government Department is named after the agenda it delivers, and not the institution that delivers it. This name change brings the new Department into line with common practice. I have no doubt that the new Secretary of State and his team recognise the central role that councils play in delivering for communities.
78	Cllr Richman	What has attendance to libraries been like since they reopened?	Cllr Thompstone - Chairman Community Leadership and Libraries Committee	Loans of library materials have continued to rise steadily as the service has re-opened. In the month of August 2021 a total of 116,357 items were borrowed, including 43,838 digital loans, compared to 115,554 physical and digital loans in the month of August in 2019. Physical visits to libraries have also risen steadily from 1,600 in the month of July 2020 to 16,180 in the month of August 2021. A total of 8,777 new members have joined the Library Service to date since July 2020.

79	Cllr Schneiderman	What contingency measures are being taken to avoid refuse and recycling collections being affected by the shortage of HGV drivers?	Cllr.D.Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	The Council has been tracking the impact of the national shortage on its HGV driver establishment and benchmarking its employment package against the external market. The package compares favourably against other local authorities, however a recruitment and retention payment has been agreed for HGV drivers and is being paid for a 12 month period from 01 October. This is to ensure the offer remains competitive and encourages HGV driving staff to remain in the employment of the council. Street Scene is also sponsoring twelve employees on HGV apprenticeships that are due to conclude in Spring 2022. A further Five employees are to be supported to complete a faster track HGV qualification
80	Cllr Prentice	How important is it that residents have the flu jab?	Cllr Stock - Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board	<p>In an average year, almost 11,000 people in England die from flu and tens of thousands are hospitalised. This year it's particularly important to protect people at risk of getting seriously ill from flu, for several reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o more people are likely to get flu this winter as fewer people will have built up natural immunity to it during the COVID-19 pandemic o if you get flu and COVID-19 at the same time, research shows you're more likely to be seriously ill o getting vaccinated against flu and COVID-19 will provide protection for you and those around you for both these serious illnesses o getting the flu jab, is one of the best things you can do to help protect the NHS from coming under pressure this winter. Flu vaccination has started at the end of September and can be safely co-administered with COVID-19 vaccination booster. <p>The best time to have the flu is in the autumn or early winter before flu starts spreading, but people can also get the vaccine later. The flu vaccine is given free on the NHS to people who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o are 50 and over (including those who'll be 50 by 31 March 2022) o have certain health conditions o are pregnant o are living in a residential or nursing home o the main carer of an older or disabled person o live with someone who is more likely to get infections o frontline health or social care workers <p>o Eligible for flu jab in form of nasal spray are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2021 – born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2019 o all primary school children (reception to year 6) o all year 7 to year 11 children in secondary school o children aged 2 to 17 years with long-term health conditions o If your child is aged between 6 months and 2 years and has a long-term health condition that makes them at higher risk from flu, they will be offered injection instead of nasal spray.
81	Cllr Conway	How much of the £3.5 million allocated for investment in Burnt Oak Centre will be spent on: 1. Consultants? 2: Investment into the community? 3. The hosing development of the former Watling Market site and current tube car park?	Cllr Thomas Cllr R.Cornelius - Leader/ Chairman of Housing and Growth Committee	Following approval of additional resources for Burnt Oak public realm improvements at the recent Housing and Growth Committee, officers have started to develop detailed plans for bringing the project forward, in line with the adopted Town Centre Strategy. It is too early to provide a budget breakdown for the project. Engagement with the local community - including residents, businesses and others - will be a fundamental part of project development and delivery. All costs associated with the redevelopment of Watling Car Park and the Library will be borne by Link City at no cost to the council.
82	Cllr Byers	What feedback have you received on this summer's Barnet Presents events and how does the Leader feel we could improve them further next year?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	See response to Question 1.
83	Cllr Mittra	What outstanding action points remain to be resolved on the A1000 cycle lane?	Cllr D. Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	Some specific parking and loading concerns raised by individual businesses during initial installation have been addressed. Two remaining actions relating to a loading bay for a business by Chandos Road and reinstatement of parking just south of Martins School are in progress . Turning to wider proposals to improve some elements of the A1000. These would entail development from the initial 'pop up' scheme and there is a balance between commitment of additional funding and commitment to subsequently retain the scheme. There are a number of changes to the A1000 that could be made dependant on funding. In this we note a need to consult with stakeholders. For instance, recommendations recently received from Better Street for Barnet set out a number of proposals that we can consider.
84	Cllr Prager	What plans does the Council have to continue improving community safety?	Cllr Grocock - Chairman of Safer Communities Partnership Board	The council has invested in increasing the size of the Community Safety team increasing the number to 21 ward based uniformed officers who will be working with Partners such as police to tackle social issues such as ASB Fly tipping, littering etc. We have a new CCTV car which will be deployed daily to areas of the borough where and when required.

85	Cllr Schneiderman	Why did the consultation period for the A1000 cycle lane end in March 2021 when the report is not now due to come to the Environment Committee until January 2022?	Cllr Grocock/Cllr D.Cohen - Chairman of Safer Communities Partnership Board/ Chairman of Environment	Following the introduction of the 18 month Experimental Traffic Management Order in September 2020, a statutory 6 month consultation period commenced. The March report to Environment Committee noted the ending of the statutory period and that subsequent to that a scheme can remain under review for the remaining 12 months pending any decision to revoke or make permanent the Order. In noting this the March committee pre-empted Government advice outlined in the July Dept of Transport letter advising against premature removal of such schemes.
86	Cllr Richman	What plans are there for winter events across the borough?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	Building on the successes and lessons learned from the Discover Barnet Presents programme (see responses to Questions 1 and 82), officers have been planning a modest winter events programme. This will be delivered in partnership with the community and will predominantly focus on promoting community-led events. The full programme will be shared with members in due course.
87	Cllr Conway	Please advise: A) why are there no limits on funding allocations from area committees on individual members items? B) how this system can function fairly, and for areas most impacted by development, regardless of the political balance of the area committees?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	There is no scheme funding cap although each Area Committee has to operate within its budget, which is advised at each meeting. The increased funding allocations and cap removal are intended to enable Area Committees to consider both funding larger schemes and a larger number of schemes, providing them with the opportunity to unlock significant community benefits. The Area Committees were asked to set their funding priorities, linked to Council priorities, prior to the new process to ensure that all Members had transparency and flexibility to consider a wide range of community schemes. Area Committees could when setting their priorities consider the areas most affected by development or growth and identify specific areas or wards where CIL funding might be prioritised over other areas in the constituency area. - The Road Safety & Parking fund was established and a transparent process made available to Members outside of the Area Committee structure to enable the enlarged CIL budget to be more accessible to Members. - The Members process to apply for CIL funding, through raising a Members item for consideration at an Area Committee, has not changed and each Area Committee is able to review and consider each Members item on its merits.
88	Cllr Wardle	Is the Brent Cross West train station project on track?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	As set out in more detail in question 3 the station remains on target to be opened late next year.
89	Cllr Schneiderman	How many emails need to be sent to Conservative councillors before they agree to declare a climate emergency?	Cllr Thomas/ Cllr D.Cohen - Leader/ Chairman of Environment Committee	As I said in the last Council meeting, when the same question was asked, "The Council passed a resolution noting that the same environmental challenges that are faced by the UK are also faced in Barnet, and that Barnet's commitment to remain a green and pleasant borough goes hand-in hand with the Council's commitment to fighting climate change and pollution. The Council believes that climate action is more important than statements. Officers are currently working on producing Barnet's first Sustainability Strategy which will include actions to support sustainability and climate change"
90	Cllr Mearing-Smith	How much investment will be made in open spaces linked with the Brent Cross Town project?	Cllr R Cornelius - Chairman of Housing and Growth Committee	The Brent Cross Town project is providing substantial public realm investment, with eight public squares and seven new and improved parks. The new Claremont Park is due to open to residents in Spring next year and we this week launched our public consultation around the Clitterhouse Playing Fields. These 40 acres of playing fields will be enhanced as part of the project and we encourage residents to have their say on what they would like to see there at bxt.uk/cpfconsult . The team has also been nominated for a New London Award by New London Architects for the temporary Exploratory Park which is already being enjoyed by those that live in the area. The Awards celebrate high-quality design, planning and construction across the capital, and the impact they can have on people, neighbourhoods and the city.
91	Cllr Conway	How can we be sure that Burnt Oak Library and the community hub there will survive the proposed housing development on the Watling market and tube station and that part of the high street?	Cllr R.Cornelius - Chairman of Housing and Growth Committee	The proposal for redeveloping the Car Park and the existing library will include provisions to re-provide space for a new library and Boost. This is integral to the regeneration of Burnt Oak.
92	Cllr Richer	How many affordable housing units have been built since 2018?	Cllr R Cornelius - Chairman of Housing and Growth Committee	917 affordable housing units have been built between April 2018 and 31 March 2021.

93	Cllr Mittra	What assessment has been made of the impact of the A1000 cycle lane on Long Lane?	Cllr D.Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	As part of the monitoring process for the A1000, traffic surveys on Long Lane have been undertaken since the scheme was installed and data analysis is being processed.
94	Cllr Gurung	What has footfall been like on Barnet's high streets since lockdown ended?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	<p>Analysis of mobility patterns across the borough since full re-opening on 19 July 2021 shows that footfall levels are returning to pre-pandemic levels. Moreover, they are generally tracking higher than the Greater London average. Since 19 July, visits to Retail and Recreation venues in Barnet have been approximately 13% below the average rate in January 2020. This compares to a rate for Greater London that is 20% below the pre-pandemic level. Visits to Grocery and Pharmacy outlets are almost back to pre-COVID levels: 2% below the pre-pandemic average, compared to 4% below for Greater London.</p> <p>The council is in the process of acquiring footfall data for individual town centres across the borough so will be able to report in more detail in future.</p>
95	Cllr Schneiderman	Allotments have become even more valued during the Covid-19 pandemic. Will the council confirm its commitment to maintaining and supporting all of Barnet's allotments?	Cllr D.Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	<p>There are approximately 40 leases in place in relation to Allotments across the Borough. The conditions for each may include specific covenants with devolved management arrangements in place.</p> <p>The Council recognises that such arrangements would typically allow for an allotment association to decide its own code of conduct for plot holders and have the ability to enforce the rules of the allotment tenancy agreements in place on their site.</p> <p>However, the legislation (Allotment Acts 1908-1950) still requires associations to comply with the same statutory regulations that would be applied by the Council. The Barnet Allotment Federation also exists to provide advice, support and services to its members, namely the societies. The Council will shortly be issuing correspondence to all Allotment Societies which shall include a reminder of the obligations to comply lease conditions and that of the Allotment Act(s). The Council are also reviewing monitoring arrangements to ensure that there is compliance and shall issue further information on advice and support.</p>
96	Cllr Hart	How did our schools perform in regard to GCSE and A-Levels this year?	Cllr Longstaff - Chairman of Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee	<p>Barnet's performance at GCSE - As with the previous year, in 2021 GCSE grades were allocated by students' subject teachers and senior leaders following the cancellation of exams again due to COVID-19. While national league tables were again suspended, it is expected that Barnet students will again perform strongly in their GCSEs. In 2019, the last time there were external examinations, students in the borough ranked second for Progress 8 and Attainment 8. We are confident again this year that Barnet schools carried out the assessments in a robust and fair way and that the final gradings were an accurate reflection of the students' abilities. We anticipate that Barnet's results this year will again be above the London average and in the top 5% of the country when the data is released early in 2022.</p> <p>Barnet's performance at A-level and BTEC - This year students were awarded grades by teachers, and were only assessed on what they were taught, not what they may have missed. Teachers based their judgements on students' performance on a range of evidence, which could include mock exams, non-exam assessment (coursework) in some subjects, as well as other assessments done in class. Teachers used an evidence-based approach, so that students, their parents and carers, and all those who use the grades awarded could see how their final grade was arrived at and know that they were determined objectively. Due to this marking process, these grades will again not be used to obtain a school average as was the case prior to 2020 and we will only receive Barnet averages early next year which will enable us to compare results in Barnet with the national averages. Over the last few years Barnet A-Level results have consistently been in the top five per cent nationally.</p>
97	Cllr Conway	What measures are being taken to ensure the Winter Festival initiative has better community engagement and positive impact for our town centres and residents than the Discover Barnet programme?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	The Discover Barnet Presents programme was delivered at short notice across the borough, yet managed to attract over 12,000 visitors and received excellent feedback from participants. Throughout the programme, officers engaged directly with established community organisations and sign-posted them to the event company. Given the short time-frame for delivery, it was a challenge to accommodate the aspirations of all community groups. The council is now planning a modest winter programme. As noted (see Question 86), this is primarily focused on signposting residents to existing community-run events and officers have already begun engaging with the community to understand their plans.

98	Cllr Jajeh	Can the Chairman detail what extra measures we took over the summer to make sure our parks and open spaces were kept clean	Cllr D Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	<p>In May, the Council launched a series of activities to improve the cleanliness and appearance of our parks and open spaces. This included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased Street Scene resource to support litter clearance and 'deep clean' efforts. • Staff deployed Friday to Monday keeping parks clean before, during and after week-end use • Appointment of specialist contractor to support co-ordination 'clean up' across water course locations, including with Welsh Harp, Silkstream and Dollis Valley. • Engagement and support of partner agencies such as the Environment Agency, Canals & Rivers Trust and LB Brent. • Launch and delivery of a Borough wide campaign 'Pick It. Bag It. Bin It' / • Delivery of a community and volunteer programme which engaged with over 150 volunteer groups to support litter clearance efforts. • Participating Schools and Groups received stickers and award pack. • All equipment provided by the Council, with Street Scene collecting all litter bags collected. • Volunteer opportunity to all Council staff to support – resulting in over 8 scheduled team dates. • Appointment of Parkguard to support park patrols and engagement, with over 640 reported litter incidents (May-Sep 21) with action taken to educate residents.
99	Cllr Schneiderman	What plans are in place to ensure that Barnet's roads and pavements will be properly gritted during the upcoming winter season?	Cllr.D.Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	<p>The Council operates its Winter Service in accordance with a Winter Service Plan, which sets out in detail the way in which the service will be delivered in response to a range of weather conditions. This plan takes account of industry guidance and lessons learnt from previous years. This years plan is currently being finalised by Regional Enterprise and plans are already being made to ensure that all required resources are in place. The gritter vehicles have been delivered and salt stocks are ordered to ensure that the quantity of salt required (as indicated in the plan) at the start of the season is in place. All salt bins across the borough have been inspected, refilled and replaced where necessary.</p>
100	Cllr Grocock	During Covid lockdown outside spaces use was encouraged, quite rightly, for health, wellbeing, Mental Health, and socially distanced polite communal interaction – which now appears to be being abused by parking without regard to Council facilities/Fitness centres etc gates/exits and even yellow lines (regardless of their not being Parking Orders) disabling free unfettered flow and use by Council workers doing valuable grounds/parks maintenance etc – can we now have a review of our outside spaces/parks Parking facilities?	Cllr.D.Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	<p>In March, Environment Committee considered proposals for car park charging in parks. The programme includes a number of charged sites to be implemented in phases. The first phase is currently being delivered with subsequent sites to be reviewed at a later date. Agenda for Environment Committee on Thursday 11th March, 2021, 6.00 pm (modern.gov.co.uk) https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=695&MId=10159</p>
101	Cllr Conway	What plans are there to mitigate flooding issues at the proposed Watling Market and tube station car park site, particularly in terms of ensuring access to reach residents if flooding occurs in that area?	Cllr.D.Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	<p>As part of the Silk Stream Flood Resilience Innovation (SSFRI) -Defra funded £6m -6 year project, different options will be considered and studied to mitigate the flood risk at this site and the wider Burnt Oak area and the Silk Stream catchment. One of the potential option could include some sort of online flood storage upstream or at this site;</p> <p>This site partially lies in Flood Zone 3b having close proximity to the river. The flood zone 3b is defined as the functional floodplain where water has to flow or be stored in times of flood. The flood zone 3b extents of the site have to be protected as development is not permitted in Flood Zone 3b particularly, More vulnerable -residential developments. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6000/2115548.pdf (Table 3)</p> <p>The development plans for this site has not been finalised yet and has to link up with the National Planning Policy Framework requirements and consultation with Environment Agency in order to provide safe access to the site if flooding occurs.</p>
102	Cllr Grover	What can the Chairman tell us about 2021's Community Participation Strategy?	Cllr Thompstone - Chairman Community Leadership and Libraries Committee	<p>The Community Participation Strategy was approved by CLL Committee in June 2021. It covers four main areas of the council's interaction with residents and community groups: place-based working, stronger partnership with the voluntary, community and faith sector, resident participation - including engagement and volunteering, and how we can unlock resources for community benefit.</p> <p>Much of the work to implement the strategy is already underway, and an update on progress will be brought to CLL in January.</p>

103	Cllr Mitra	Why did the Council refuse to fly the Greek flag for the 200th anniversary of Greek independence, given the huge contribution of the Greek community in Barnet?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	We have no record of being asked to fly the Greek Flag for Greek Independence Day. We were asked to light up the Town Hall Blue and White, but this request was declined by the Chief Executive on the advice of the Monitoring Officer given that Greek Independence Day 2021 fell within the pre-election period.
104	Cllr Byers	Has the Youth Parliament been able to achieve anything over the past 18 months?	Cllr Longstaff - Chairman of Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee	<p>A report went to the Children Education and Safeguarding Committee on 13th September setting out the work of the Youth Parliament https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s66450/Annual%20Voice%20of%20the%20Child%20CES%20Report%20September%202021.pdf</p> <p>The Youth Assembly has continued to meet over the last 18 months virtually, to discuss local issues that are important to them and to help shape the Youth Assembly moving forward. The pandemic, has meant that preparations to re-launch the Youth Assembly in the way that we wanted have been postponed. However the next meeting of the Youth Assembly is set to be the 26th October and will be held at Colindale, to allow for a hybrid meeting set up to take place. We hope to enable more communication between the Youth Assembly and Members moving forward, to ensure that the voices of the young people are heard and action is taken where possible, to make a difference locally.</p>
105	Cllr Conway	Why aren't councillors kept informed by the Council of key community safety incidents and responses in their ward on a regular basis?	Cllr Grocock - Chairman of Safer Communities Partnership Board	There is a reporting protocol which is adhered to by council officers. As council officers are informed of incidents the information is passed on to councillors. Council officers are not informed of all crimes, this is police data and is available from the police websites. Crime statistics within the borough are reported to the SCPB on a regular basis. The council is careful to only communicate verified, confirmed facts regarding criminal incidents and there can often be a delay in the council receiving this information. When the information is regarding an ongoing investigation, updates can often be quickly overtaken by events, however we strive to keep councillors updated even when the council is not the source of the information.
106	Cllr Smith	What work has been done to continue improvements at the Welsh Harp since the Spring Clean?	Cllr D Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	Officers continue to engage with partners (LB Brent, Environment Agency and the Canals & Rivers Trust) to ensure that efforts are co-ordinated. Representations are made via the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee which meets on a quarterly basis, the Council are also supporting the development of a new Welsh Harp Vision and Action Plan document which is expected for completion later this year.
107	Cllr Mitra	What further action is being taken to deal with the severe rat infestation at Cherry Tree Wood?	Cllr D Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	This site is adjacent to the railway track which unfortunately attracts rats to nearby bins within the park. Park users are encouraged to ensure litter is placed in bins or taken home to avoid any issues which may attract rodents. Pest Control will be revisiting this site to review and provide further action to resolve issues.
108	Cllr Richman	What are the Borough and the Police doing with regard to the start of the process of removing to jail those "running" the young vulnerable people in "County Lines" activities?	Cllr Grocock - Chairman of Safer Communities Partnership Board	There is close cooperation between the local authority and police to identify adults that groom and exploit children and young people for criminal activities. Multi-Agency Panels facilitate regular discussion that assist the development of insights and disruption activities.
109	Cllr Mitra	When will the stop line on Central Avenue at the junction with King Street and Elmfield Road be repainted? I have requested this several times without success.	Cllr D Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	We have raised an order for repainting and will be planning the repair in line with the current programme of works.

110	Cllr Hart	What are we doing and what more could be done to strengthen the links with our twinned towns?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	<p>During the pandemic we have been able to maintain our relations with most of the twin towns. The Mayor had zoom meetings with the Mayor's of Le Raincy and Tempelhof-Schoneberg. Chaville – The Mayor is often invited to attend zoom meetings with members of the Friends of Chaville. We also engage around Remembrance and we send a wreath to be laid at the Chaville memorial every year. Le Raincy - We are still engaged particularly with the annual Digital Photographic competition for residents. Tempelhof-Schoneberg – We are hoping to re-establish the film festival visit with Canada Villa and receive a work placement from Berlin once restrictions have lifted. Kreis-SeigenWittgenstein – Have requested a partnership with one of our senior schools (request received 4/10/21). Morphou – The Mayor is currently in Cyprus to attend the annual rally. Montclair – The Friends of Montclair are still very active and the Mayor has been invited to attend engagements locally to celebrate Independence day and upcoming thanksgiving. Ramat-gan – as the last visit was cancelled due to lockdown we are hoping this will happen once safe to do so. Jinja – This is only an ad hoc administrative link – no visits are likely to take place – incoming or outgoing. Pokhara – Our latest link - Cllr Gurung has recently visited Pokhara to handover the resolution in person to the Pokhara municipality. This was a private visit at no cost to the council.</p>
111	Cllr Mitra	What further discussions has the Council had with broadband internet providers such as virgin and BT about ensuring Strawberry Vale has access to faster internet speed?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	<p>Strawberry Vale is a Peabody owned housing estate and therefore as the housing stock are 'Multiple Dwelling Units' (MDUs), full fibre connectivity will require cabling being attached to the external walls or run through internal risers. Such cabling will require the permission of Peabody as the landlord. We have contacted Peabody to find out if they have signed up any partners for installing full fibre, and will provide an update to the Councillor when the answer is received. The council's role as landlord to its own housing stock has involved bringing on board partners to install fibre broadband to all Council Housing Stock by 2023. More broadly we are engaging with all interested Network Operators, including Openreach, Virgin Media/02 (newly merged), Community Fibre, Hyperoptic, G.Network, Open Infra, and Hampstead Fibre. Reporting on digital infrastructure investments and progress is included within the 'Thriving' update reports to Housing and Growth Committee. Further information is also available via www.barnet.gov.uk/broadband</p>
112	Cllr Wardle	What work is being done regarding digital inclusion in the borough?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	<p>A digital inclusion steering group has been put in place, alongside a forum for coordination between council services. A new Digital Inclusion Coordinator was appointed to Barnet's BOOST service to embed the this agenda within wider support services for residents. In addition a wider group of staff have begun work on various activities to more effectively deliver digital inclusion support, including: recycling of old council devices to provide free devices for residents without access to laptops, delivery of affordable/suitable connections to communities with poor broadband services, a new digital support hub in Grahame Park, and more to follow across the borough in the coming months, a new network of digital volunteers to provide support and training, and ongoing assistance from public libraries to help residents engage with digital services.</p> <p>The Council is bringing this complex agenda together and improving the communication of available support and information in time for 'Get Online Week' (18-24th October 2021). Further information and ongoing reporting on digital inclusion is included within the regular 'Thriving' update report to Housing and Growth Committee.</p>
113	Cllr Mitra	Does the Council have an update on the potential for Middlesex County Cricket Club to have "home" matches in Barnet when not playing at Lords?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	<p>MCCC had indicated through the Copthall Masterplan consultation their interest in creating an enhanced offer at the Copthall site which would include a Community Cricket Facility. The Council are aware that this proposal is now deferred without any further detail yet provided on timescales for review</p>
114	Cllr Duschinsky	Can the Leader give us more information on the Community Innovation Fund and the kind of project he expects it to support?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	<p>Barnet Council launched the Community Innovation Fund (CIF) in spring 2021. The CIF comprises funding from health and social care partners as well as the council and is co-designed with Barnet Together – the borough's voluntary sector partnership. The pilot round saw nearly £130,000 invested in seven local projects that are helping Barnet residents improve their health and wellbeing. Following the success of this first round an increased grant fund of £320,000 will be awarded to more local health and wellbeing projects this autumn. The fund supports projects designed to improve the wellbeing of residents. The priorities for the second round are: mental health, health inequalities, green spaces for healthy leisure and improving the health of families and young people. Grants of up to £65,000 are available to any community or voluntary organisation that supports Barnet residents.</p>

115	Cllr Mitra	Does the Council believe it treats all residents equally?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	The council quite rightly provides a much greater degree of support to vulnerable residents and those in greatest need. The council is constantly working to ensure that all residents, regardless of their circumstances, have equal access to the services that they need.
116	Cllr Rutter	How many missed bin collections have been reported over the past 12 months, and how does that compare to the 12 months before it?	Cllr D Cohen - Chairman of Environment Committee	There have been 7,536 missed bins in the past 12 months (Oct '20 to Sept '21). This compares to 11,263 for the same period the year before.
117	Cllr Mitra	How has Barnet Council supported the local arts and culture sector during the Covid pandemic?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	<p>The council as supported the arts and culture sector in a number of ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grants were available to local businesses and community organisations that met the eligibility criteria set by government, including arts and culture organisations. Where an organisation did not qualify, a Barnet discretionary fund was also available. In total around £113 million has been paid in grants to business over the course of the pandemic. For voluntary and community sector organisations a sustainability fund was launched in summer of 2020 that paid grants of up to £5000. All of these grants were available to arts and culture organisations, although they were not targeted at any particular sector. - Two of the seven successful bids to the first round of the Community Innovation Fund were awarded to arts projects. - Various creative projects have been undertaken or promoted by the council during the pandemic, and creative placemaking is a growing area of importance for town centre renewal initiatives. Finchley Central has hired a cultural curator and a local producer to work with the local Town Team to produce a programme of events and capacity build. In Edgware, a local photographer, illustrator and cartographer have been commissioned to work on a cultural masterplan, and in Burnt Oak work is underway among local organisations to co-produce artworks in the town centre.
118	Cllr Byers	Daily reports of knife crimes in neighbouring boroughs including attacks on solo females by groups of young men – what is the Borough doing to educate (i) our young people, and (ii) their care providers/parents, and (iii) what are we doing to safeguard our areas for solo walkers/travellers?	Cllr Grocock - Chairman of Safer Communities Partnership Board	The local authority is working closely with community providers to develop Parent/Carer champion networks in which over 100 parents have been engaged in the West of the borough, a number of these parents are now being trained as champions for their communities and the scheme will be rolling out to other parts of the borough over the next six months. The local authority in partnership with police and domestic abuse/youth providers to ensure women and girls are provided with information on keeping safe and Healthy Relationships education workshops are provided to schools, this work is considered in the Domestic Abuse and VAWG Strategy that is currently out to public consultation
119	Cllr Mitra	How many of the recommendations that I made after my members item in June 2020 on BLM been actioned?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	<p>Of the 19 recommendations in the member's item, we have commenced work on 11 with four fully implemented. A further four are currently under discussion and two more are firmly planned for future implementation. Delivery of all EDI actions will be planned and monitored through the EDI Action Plan.</p> <p>A significant development is our workforce demographic dashboard. This enables us to report staff diversity data against a number of other metrics, such as grade, department, gender etc. The Barnet Equality Allies have also continued to grow in number and impact, along with staff diversity networks covering a range of characteristics. Looking outwards, we are undertaking a study into disproportionality in the borough and the longer term impacts of Covid. The establishment of Covid Health Champions during the pandemic enabled health messages to reach diverse communities, and we also held community-specific awareness raising events with residents conducted in community languages where necessary.</p>
120	Cllr Shooter	What work has been done to make sure the Council is meeting the commitments it made by signing and reaffirming its commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant?	Cllr Thomas - Leader	The Covenant is to due to re-signed on 2 November. An event has been organised to include an Armed Forces reception to enable valuable networking and establish relations with the Armed Forces community in the borough to include partners signing the covenant. Once signed and nominations are open the council will be able to apply for Silver Employers recognition. Policy changes have also been made locally in some areas and this includes Barnet Homes. Currently there is a draft paper being prepared to address parliament to make a national policy. Currently the main effort is to bring awareness of the Armed Forces Community in the borough and we have done this by involving our partners to sign the covenant and having the e-learning course made available to everyone in the council. Our efforts, with collaboration, are visible on Armed Forces Day in June and Remembrance in November. Armed Forces organisations also invite the Mayoralty to significant events their calendars. Using press and social media platforms from the council, Armed Forces in London and the Greater London Reserve Forces and Cadets Association continues to raise awareness.