

FINCHLEY & GOLDERS GREEN RESIDENTS FORUM

TUESDAY 26TH JUNE, 2012

AT 6.00 PM

GREEK CYPRIOT BROTHERHOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE, BRITANNIA ROAD, NORTH FINCHLEY, LONDON N12 9RU

Chairman: Councillor Reuben Thompstone
Vice Chairman: Councillor Graham Old

Governance Services contact: Chidilim Agada 020 8359 2037 Email: F&GG.ResidentsForum@barnet.gov.uk

ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE FORUM MEETING

No	Issue Raised	Response
1.	Issues List - 26 June 2012	
2.	Action Notes from meeting of 14 March 2012	

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FINCHLEY & GOLDERS GREEN RESIDENTS FORUM
 Greek Cypriot Brotherhood Community Centre, Britannia Road, North Finchley, London N12 9RU

TUESDAY, 26 JUNE 2012

ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE FORUM MEETING

	Issue Raised	Response
1.	<p>There is a low brick wall on East End Road (near Tangle Tree Close) which borders a green area which seems to be "damaged" on a regular basis as not long ago the damaged bricks were rectified but unfortunately quite a large section of the wall has been "damaged" and/or "vandalised" again and needs attention. In addition, it would be useful to know who is responsible for the upkeep of the green area as it is often frequented by pupils from nearby schools who litter the area.</p> <p><i>Ms Blatman</i></p>	<p>Update to be given at the meeting.</p>
2.	<p>Petition: The Grove, Finchley Central – “Rush hour traffic mayhem, which is a weekday hazard to the residents of The grove and to the infants attending the ELY Nursery located at number 19”. (64 signatures)</p> <p><i>Keith Graville/Stephen Isaacs/Simon McNaught</i></p>	<p>Traffic assessments were concluded week-ending 22 June 2012. The results are currently being analysed and the matter is under consideration. Any options or proposals that may be identified will be presented to the next meeting of the AESC in October.</p> <p><i>Neil Richardson, Highways Manager Traffic & Development</i></p>
3.	<p>Battered School sign on a pole outside the hair salon at 755 Finchley Road (the section between Cricklewood Lane and Llanvanor Road). I believe that the school in question closed some years ago. If that is the case please could the sign be removed?</p> <p><i>Andrew Tucker</i></p>	<p>The sign has now been removed.</p> <p><i>Mervyn Bartlett, Transport and Regeneration Manager</i></p>

AGENDA ITEM 1

	Issue Raised	Response
4.	<p>(a) At a Cabinet meeting on 20 June 2012, the Finchley Church End Town Centre Strategy was approved by Members. Has any new funding been allocated to the strategy, and if not, what chance is there that the recommendations contained within the report will be implemented, or any real benefit seen in the area concerned?</p> <p>(b) In the report, there are references to the detrimental and 'unnecessary clutter' of advertising and signage in the Finchley area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The body responsible for this clutter in the first place is the London Borough of Barnet: why was this allowed to happen? • Why should tax payers now be expected to pay for the removal of signs and advertising which should not have been erected? • Can you confirm that questions in regard to the legality of the contract with street furniture providers JCDecaux have now been resolved? <p>Will the contract, if compliant, be continued, and if so, can any of the signs in Finchley be removed?</p> <p><i>Theresa Musgrove</i></p>	<p>At this point in time there is no additional funding allocated to Finchley Church End but having an agreed Strategy in place will provide the basis for negotiations with developers on future investment in the wider area as part of any planning applications that come forward and for future funding bids for pots of money from the London Mayor or National Government related to town centres.</p> <p><i>Lucy Shomali (Assistant Director – Strategic Planning and Regeneration)</i></p> <p>The JC Decaux contract is currently under review by the Council's Legal department. It is hoped that this will be resolved and finalised within the next 2 months.</p>
5.	<p>Next to the lower entrance in Long Lane to Victoria Park, there is a former park keeper's lodge. More than a year ago, I believe, the family living there as tenants were obliged to leave, and the property has remained empty since then, becoming increasingly derelict. For some time now, the fence has been broken, trampled down and the site is accessible to anyone. This is in an area in which there have been instances of drug dealing, reported to the police.</p>	

	Issue Raised	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why has this property been left unoccupied for so long when there are so many homeless families in Barnet? • Why has the council not acted to secure the property? • Has the council put the property up for sale, and if not why not? <p>Is the council hoping that if the property deteriorates it can be demolished, and a more valuable site sold?</p> <p><i>Theresa Musgrove</i></p>	
6.	<p>At a recent council meeting, plans were announced to allocate funds for highway works. I note that the funding in Squires Lane is being given to the other end from us, i.e. in the Conservative ward, rather than the Labour ward. I note that the area around the Sternberg Centre is included, which I would have thought has already benefited from the section 106 money that was supposed to be associated with the development of this site. Why is more funding being allocated to this area?</p> <p>Nearly four years ago there was a fatal accident outside our house (Squires Lane), due to a combination of a driver speeding at more than double the speed limit, and a junction with a notoriously bad sightline. After the accident we asked for improved safety measures to be put in place, as this junction, next to a primary school, is continually the location of collisions, and unfortunately it seem likely that it is only a matter of time before another fatality occurs. Despite assurances, nothing has been done, and worse still</p>	<p>It is not clear what council meeting is being referred to regarding allocation of funding for highways work so it is assumed this concern relates to planned maintenance, in which case the funding is allocated on a priority basis irrespective of where in the borough the road is located.</p> <p>Activity related to the Sternberg centre is funded through money secured via S106 financing, and therefore is a Capital contribution to the Borough for specific areas related to the development. This is the case with the current considerations for the vicinity of the Sternberg Centre, funding which the council could not secure purely to maintain the highway.</p> <p>Regarding the specifics of the accident four years ago, officers would be pleased to review this location again to see if there is merit in proposing any improvements that might be made and would therefore request more details regarding this.</p> <p>Contrary to the assertion regarding the eastern end of Squires Lane, Officers are currently reviewing junction safety issues throughout it's length and anticipate responding back on the outcomes later in the year.</p>

	Issue Raised	Response
	<p>previous traffic calming measures in Squires Lane had subsequently been removed.</p> <p>Why does the council not see this eastern end of Squires Lane as a priority?</p> <p><i>Theresa Musgrove</i></p>	
7.	<p>Speeding in Petworth Road (& neighbouring roads) - to discuss ways in which the volume and speed of traffic could be minimised within our residential family areas.</p> <p><i>Rosemary Suswillo</i></p>	Verbal Update to be given at the meeting.

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Future meeting dates:

Date	Venue
Tuesday, 16 October 2012	Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, London N3 3QE
Wednesday, 16 January 2013	To be confirmed
Wednesday 13 March 2013	Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, London N3 3QE
Tuesday, 25 June 2013	To be confirmed
Tuesday, 22 October 2013	Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, London N3 3QE

FINCHLEY & GOLDERS GREEN RESIDENTS FORUM
Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, London N3 3QE

WEDNESDAY, 14 MARCH 2012

ACTIONS/UPDATE NOTE

*Chairman: Councillor Reuben Thompstone

*Vice-Chairman: Councillor Graham Old

*denotes Councillor present

	Issue Raised	Response	Action/Update
1.	Petition: Objecting to the proposals outlined in the Hiring of Barnet Parks Events Policy dated 3 November 2011 (389 signatures) <i>(Richard Simmonds)</i>	The petition has been recorded as a response to the consultation. The consultation feedback is being used to formulate an updated 'Events in Parks Policy' which will be presented to Cabinet later this year for consideration.	Officers to inform the Cabinet Member of the receipt of the petition. <i>Jenny Warren, Greenspaces Manager</i>
2.	Requesting the council to close the end of Beechwood Avenue (junction of A406) in an endeavour to stop the spate of burglaries and serious assaults. The road functions as a conduit between Regents park Road and the North Circular thereby facilitating an escape route for thieves. <i>(Donald Bentley)</i>	The junction referred to is part of the TLRN which falls under the auspices of Transport for London. Whilst sympathetic to the concern and proposed solution, the Council will only consider road closures for matters such as planning development, traffic management or road safety and therefore would not support a closure for the reasons requested.	Item referred to Finchley and Golders Green Area Environment Sub-Committee
3.	Petition: Urging Barnet Council to change the parking restrictions outside the Royal Mail sorting office on Lodge Lane (Finchley) to include at least one parking bay that is: 10 minutes free parking, no return within an hour' <i>(or similar)</i> . This will enable us (local residents) to pick up our post without paying a minimum of £1 for 30 minutes parking /	Managing available kerb space appropriately is key to the effective operation of a town centre parking regime, and it is with this in mind that the council will soon be commencing a review of North Finchley Town Centre with a view to establishing what the most appropriate layout and approach should be which will lead the council to devise and implement a strategy for mitigating, in so far as is possible,	No Further Update Required AGENDA ITEM 2

	Issue Raised	Response	Action/Update
	illegally parking (300 signatures) <i>(Gary Sakol)</i>	the effects of increased parking charges on town centres by seeking to ensure for example that parking, waiting and loading requirements are commensurate with the needs of commercial premises in the vicinity. Accordingly consideration of appropriate parking arrangements outside the Royal Mail sorting office will be included as part of the review, the outcome of which is anticipated to be known by September.	
4.	Petition: Summerside school- parking. The petition seeks to raise awareness of the concerns of teachers, students and residents concerning the current parking situation at Summerside School (205 signatures) <i>(Mrs Bradley)</i>	The Council are sympathetic to the concerns raised, but as the issues are primarily contributed to by carers/visitors and others attending the school, the local network layout is not conducive to an obvious solution. It is understood that the school attendees are largely local and therefore the Council would seek to support and encourage the school through aspirations detailed in its School Travel Plan that would encourage attendance via alternative transport means wherever possible thus reducing congestion and demand in the vicinity of the school.	No Further Update Required
5.	Seeking information in relation to North Finchley Town Centre – Outer London Fund, and how residents can get involved in the consultation process <i>(Ms Visiani)</i>	Verbal Response to be given at meeting. It was confirmed at the meeting that the OLF is for just over £1m and is primarily focused on boosting local businesses and business activity. The consultation arrangements are to be confirmed and the lead council officer is Jodie Yandall who can be contacted on 020 8359 7975. Contact details were provided to Ms Visiani.	No Further Update Required
6.	Incomplete road marking outside 7 Llanvanor Rd, NW2. Resident seeking clarification on when marking will be completed. <i>(Andrew Tucker)</i>	A Highway Inspector has visited this location and has confirmed that the 'new' S & L that has been recently painted was the result of a utility company that undertook some reinstatement works, the O & W will need to be refreshed by LB Barnet. An order has been placed with the council's contractor for	No Further Update Required

	Issue Raised	Response	Action/Update
		the necessary works and it is envisaged the order will be completed within the next twenty eight days	
7.	<p>Parent of child attending Martin Primary School has raised concern relating to removal of safety railings from a pedestrian crossing outside the school following works to paving.</p> <p>The school has been informed by Barnet Council that the council does not intend to reinstate the railings.</p> <p>The parent has stated that this is an important safety issue as at 3.30pm each school day, over 400 children together with their parents and carers exit the school and to not have the railings by such a busy High Road is dangerous – with so many people at the crossing at this time, children can trip off the pavement into oncoming traffic.</p> <p>The parent would like to know why Barnet Council have decided to remove safety railings from outside a primary school that exits on to a busy road.</p> <p><i>(Margaret Dyer)</i></p>	<p>Verbal Response to be given at meeting.</p> <p>It was confirmed that investigations are ongoing in conjunction with the Walksafe petition, and officers are seeking to address school travel issues comprehensively. Pedestrian crossing facilities are being reviewed and officers will consider carefully what the appropriate comprehensive package will be, in particular the issue of the guardrailing. A report will be going to the Council’s Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 18 April 2012.</p>	<p>Item referred to Finchley and Golders Green Area Environment Sub-Committee for discussion alongside Agenda Item 8</p>

Officers Present:

John Murphy – Business Governance Officer
Mervyn Bartlett –Transport and Regeneration Manager

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