

FINCHLEY & GOLDERS GREEN RESIDENTS FORUM

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

WEDNESDAY, 18 JUNE 2014

6.30pm

Chairman: Councillor Daniel Seal

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Reuben Thompstone (In the Chair)

ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE FORUM MEETING

Items must be submitted to Governance Service (f&gg.residentsforum@barnet.gov.uk) by 10.00am on the second working day before the meeting (for example, if a meeting is due to take place on a Tuesday evening, questions must be received by 10am on the preceding Friday)

	Issue Raised	Response
1.	Presentation on Budgets for Area Sub-Committees and Ward Profile	A presentation was given on the budgets for Area Sub-Committees and ward profile for Finchley and Golders Green. <i>Kate Kennally, Strategic Director for Communities</i>
2.	Petition: Portsdown Mews – Make the lower half of the Mews a one-way road (29 signatories) <i>Mr Lawrence Rodkin</i>	When considering the introduction of one way working the viability and surrounding network impact assessment needs to be investigated. Officers welcome discussion on the details and background of the request to help in determining the best way forward. Neil Richardson agreed to undertake an initial investigation and bring a report back to a future meeting of the Area Sub-Committee. He also undertook to contact Mr Rodkin to advise him of timescales and process. <i>Neil Richardson (Highways Manager)</i>
3.	<i>(Question carried over from 26 March 2014 meeting as it was not discussed due to lack of time)</i> I understand that Golders Green ward has benefited from £800,000 of Highways related funding in the last year, and has benefited recently from new paving, and even trees, including one planted by Councillor Dean Cohen, in what must be a very welcome photo opportunity, only weeks before the local elections. Please tell me how much funding from the same source in the same period has been received by West Finchley ward, and explain why, even though money was agreed last summer for potentially lifesaving measures in the accident blackspot that is Squire Lane,	Implementing all the targeted traffic and pedestrian safety improvements on this route spanning two wards (Finchley Church End ward and West Finchley ward) from the junction with East End Road up to Avondale Road are expected to be contained within £30,000. The improvements have unfortunately taken longer than desirable as for example, statutory consultation has had to happen for parking restriction changes while a road safety audit has had to be done on the proposed layout changes at the Squires Lane/Station Road/Manor View junction. The Council carried out a statutory consultation on 11th December 2013 on a proposal to introduce 'at any time' waiting restrictions outside Nos.163-167 Squires Lane and at the junction of Squires Lane and Etchingam Park Road.

	Issue Raised	Response
	<p>still no move has been made or funding spent on delivering the agreed changes?</p> <p>When is the authority going to replace the safety barrier next to Manorside school, destroyed in one of the two serious accidents since the funding was agreed last year, and why is this taking so long?</p> <p><i>Ms Theresa Musgrove</i></p>	<p>No comments or objections were received in relation to the proposed restrictions outside Nos.163-167 Squires Lane and these restrictions are expected to be introduced by mid to late April.</p> <p>However a concern was raised in relation to the lengths of the proposed waiting restrictions at the junction of Squires Lane and Etchingam Park Road and these comments have to be considered as part of the Council's statutory obligations, which will be dealt by way of summary Delegated Powers Report (DPR) which is expected to be cleared shortly.</p> <p>Subject to a formal approval of the DPR, it is intended that the final agreed length of restriction would also be introduced by mid to late April.</p> <p>Of the other improvements identified, including Vehicle activated sign (VAS), junction improvements, bollards etc. Letters are to be sent to all residents in directly affected frontages within 2 weeks with the intent of informing them of the measures.</p> <p>Although we will be receptive to any comments that may be received, we anticipate works on agreed measures to commence in May/June 2014.</p> <p>Regarding the barrier, this should be implemented by the time of the Committee.</p> <p>Neil Richardson noted a package of measures have been agreed and should have been progressed. He undertook to follow up next week and contact Ms Musgrove to provide an update. He noted that the scale and volume of the issues and works is large and that there is an effort to ensure there is regular feedback and communications. It was noted this may be an item to add to a future Area Sub-Committee agenda once the matters have been looked into.</p> <p><i>Neil Richardson (Highways Manager)</i></p>
4.	<p><i>(Question carried over from 26 March 2014 meeting as it was not discussed due to lack of time)</i></p> <p>How long has the park keeper's lodge in Victoria Park been vacant?</p> <p>Why is it still vacant?</p> <p>How much revenue from rent has been lost since the tenants were moved out?</p>	<p>The Lodge was previously used as a park keeper's cottage in accordance with the requirements of the Trust. Following vacation it was used temporarily for hostel accommodation pending a decision on its future. There has been significant correspondence with the lawyers and Charity Commission in order to ensure that any disposal accords with the requirements of the Trust. A survey showed that a significant amount of money, in the order of ~£100,000, was needed to bring the lodge up to decent standards in order that it could continue to be used as an accommodation building, however it was also established that use as temporary accommodation was not consistent with the Trust arrangements.</p>

Issue Raised	Response
<p data-bbox="168 137 831 164">How much has keeping the property secured cost?</p> <p data-bbox="168 201 1025 264">When was the property last inspected to ensure the building is still sound and not deteriorating through neglect?</p> <p data-bbox="168 301 925 328">Has the property been valued, and if so what is the value?</p> <p data-bbox="168 365 909 392">What plans have been made for the sale of the property?</p> <p data-bbox="168 432 461 459"><i>Ms Theresa Musgrove</i></p>	<p data-bbox="1088 137 2141 368">The basic rent on the last tenancy was £53.18 per week and service charges totalled £3.35. Rents were charged 48 weeks a year making total income of £2713.44 per annum. The property has been vacant for approximately four years. However as stated in the previous answer the property requires funding in the region of ~£100,000 for necessary improvements to bring the Lodge up to standards required to let the property. In addition, as previously stated the use as temporary accommodation was not consistent with the Trust.</p> <p data-bbox="1088 408 2112 472">The property was made secure when vacated and there have been no ongoing costs.</p> <p data-bbox="1088 512 1917 539">The property was last inspected by the Council on 6th May 2014.</p> <p data-bbox="1088 579 2051 643">Council records indicate that the park keeper's lodge in Victoria Park been vacant since 17th May 2010.</p> <p data-bbox="1088 683 2119 778">The property was last valued 30 March 2010 at a figure of £375,000. It is anticipated that a receipt in excess of this will be achieved as a result of a more buoyant market.</p> <p data-bbox="1088 818 2141 1414">Disposal of the Lodge was approved by the Cabinet Resources Committee on 2nd November 2009. Subsequent legal investigations to establish the disposal route established that the building was a trust asset held as a Charitable Trust for the benefit of the park and the local populace. The whole of Victoria Park Recreation Ground, including the Lodge, was donated to the Council in February 1900 following donations received by public subscription to create a park commemorating the diamond jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. The conveyance creating the trust recites that the land is to be held "on trust as a public ground for the purposes of the Recreation Grounds Act 1859". As it is a Charitable Trust held by the Council detailed discussion were held with the Charity Commission to establish the disposal route. As the asset is held on trust, the proceeds from a sale of the Lodge would need to be used for the sole benefit of the Victoria Park Recreation Ground. The maintenance and management budget for the park is currently provided by the Council. Funds from the sale of the Lodge would need to be ring-fenced with the proceeds going towards maintaining and improving the Park, particularly addressing works that have been on hold due to funding gap. The decision to dispose will need to be taken by full Council. Once disposed the Lodge will be outside the scope of the Trust</p>

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		and can be used for accommodation or other use subject to planning.
5.	<p>Travelling safely to school - Pedestrian Crossing Request</p> <p>We live in Beechwood Avenue, N3. My daughter gets the bus to school, but has to cross the very busy Finchley Road (A598) in order to get to her bus stop which is near the top of Allandale Avenue. The Finchley Road is probably at its widest at this point. There is no pedestrian crossing within reasonable walking distance from this crossing point, and I together with many other residents feel it would be in the interests of safety to place one here.</p> <p><i>Mr Jonathan Steinberg</i></p>	<p>Due to the highlighted location's proximity to Henley's corner and the A598 itself being part of the Strategic Road Network, a full impact assessment is required. Currently the location benefits from the exiting pedestrian island which continues to accord users the opportunity to cross the road in two stages but we will certainly investigate to see if further provision can be made.</p> <p><i>Mr Steinberg was not present – no further discussion.</i></p> <p><i>Neil Richardson (Highways Manager)</i></p>
6.	<p>I would like to see a one way system created for four roads off Holders Hill Road. This would affect Holders Hill Avenue, Crescent, Drive and Gardens. My proposal is for cars to enter from Holders Hill Road to Crescent and Gardens and those from Holders Hill Avenue and Holders Hill Drive into Holders Hill Road.</p> <p>The reason is that there is a build-up of cars on these roads and difficult to tell when cars come past. I was hit by a car outside my house. I would like this introduced as a way of improving safety and ensuring what is best for residents in this area.</p> <p><i>Mr Rael Gamsu</i></p>	<p>When considering the introduction of one way working the viability and surrounding network impact assessment needs to be investigated. Officers welcome discussion on the details and background of the request to help in determining the best way forward.</p> <p>It was noted this would be looked into as part of BAU, and come back for reconsideration if there are any issues. Neil Richardson advised he would be happy to keep Mr Gamsu advised of what is planned.</p> <p><i>Neil Richardson (Highways Manager)</i></p>
7.	<p>Dollis Valley Green Walk Cycling</p> <p>(a) Dollis Valley Greenwalk has been a "no cycling" area. Is it the intention to change all of Dollis Valley Greenwalk to allow cycling? If so, who approved this change? Why? What was the procedure in Barnet Council to approve the Oakdene Park Upgrades? (What person / committee / department approved this?)</p> <p>(b) Why was there no formal public consultation regarding the Dollis Valley Greenwalk works (Oakdene Park Upgrades)? Why did the notice that was placed in three or four places on Dollis Valley Greenwalk have, "For more information please visit www.barnet.gov.uk" when there was no new information regarding</p>	<p>(a) There is no intention to change and designate the entire Dollis Valley Greenwalk into a shared use cycle and pedestrian path. Any change of this nature would require detailed consideration and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility study, • Consultation, • EIA, • Planning and Environment Agency consents etc. <p>In addition to the above there would be a paper seeking a decision to make the change to the new Environment Committee.</p> <p>The walk currently has three management approaches in regard to cycling:</p>

Issue Raised	Response
<p>Dollis Valley Greenwalk added this year or last year? Where are the detailed plans? Have the necessary other reports required been produced?</p> <p>(c) Who is funding this project? If it is not Barnet Council, what are the conditions attached to this funding? When were tenders called for the "Oakdene Park Upgrades" and when was the project given?</p> <p>(d) This is a site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation. The strip of land is not very wide and until now there were just two small areas accessible by natural paths - the pond and behind Finchley Lawn Tennis Club. What justification is there to site a shared path through the area at the back of the tennis club?</p> <p>(e) There is a marked cycle route along Holden Road, Westbury Road, Chesterfield Road, Brent Way and Gordon Road. These roads are less than 100m from Dollis Valley Greenwalk. What is the justification for changing Dollis Valley Greenwalk to a "shared path"?</p> <p>(f) Have there been any "liable incidents" on Dollis Valley Greenwalk between Dollis Road and Fursby Road in the last year / last 5 years? What were these incidents and what was the cost to Barnet Council for each of these?</p> <p>(g) Why is this 'upgrade' designed for cyclists needs and not pedestrians?</p> <p>(h) The NHS and Fit and Active Barnet are encouraging people to get more exercise. Walking and jogging are the most accessible exercises. Where in Barnet will walkers walk and joggers jog?</p> <p><i>Ms Mary O'Connor</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No cycling – signed as no cycling • Cycling – signed and formally designated as a cycling route • Not signed – available for use by all, Oakdene Park falls into this category. <p>The upgrading of the footpaths utilising TfL LIP Cycle corridor funding was taken as part of the wider LIP programme approvals. This is simply a case of upgrading existing infrastructure and would not warrant any other approval. The decision to formally designate the route via signage was taken through Cabinet Member delegated powers subject to consultation and necessary approvals; the decision was taken via this route due to time constraints as the sub-committee was not due to meet within the required timeframe.</p> <p>(b) Considerable consultation was undertaken with users of the walk on site, which is a much more effective way to engage and seek the views of actual users. Previous consultations have always yielded much higher returns and levels of engagement through this methodology compared to the engagement portal, and particularly the views of residents who actually use the space. Consultation on the proposals included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal consultation to gauge users views and concerns on the proposal on 16th December, 30 people engaged • Meeting at Finchley Tennis Club including some residents of Brent Way, approximately 15 people on 4th February including site visit. • Formal consultation seeking users views on the works on site for a period of 3 days commencing 9th April, 119 people completed surveys, and a further 300 people passed through the area during this time and were made aware of the scheme but did not have time to complete a survey but were supportive of the works. <p>The detailed plans were supposed to be available on-line, however due to purdah restrictions this was not possible to do, I apologise that this did not happen.</p> <p>(c) The works are funded by TfL through the Local Implementation Plan, the funding allocation is for cycling corridors which these works meet in terms of a brief and priorities for TfL in delivering off-road cycle routes to improve safety for cyclists. No tenders were issued for the works as</p>

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	<p>these are being delivered through the Council's term contractor. The works are to provide an improved and accessible route for all users, all of which currently use the existing space with some difficulty; these improvements will enable the safer use and access of this strategic route for everyone.</p> <p>(d) There is a formal path that stretches the length of Oakdene Park between Fursby Avenue and Dollis Road, this is a tarmac footpath that in section is in a poor state of repair and in some areas is approximately a metre wide. The path is heavily used by pedestrians, push chairs and cyclist, which creates further hazards given the current restrictions. A full assessment of the existing footpath was carried out as the intention was to improve the existing footpath, however this provide to be unfeasible, and an appropriate treatment for part of this area still remain uncertain due to the difficulties and constraints of the site. The creation of a new section of footpath behind the tennis club was the only viable option to provide a safe and accessible route for all users.</p> <p>During the planning process we have consulted the Environment Agency and the London Wildlife Trust and have completed various ecological studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An extended phase 1 habitat survey. • Flora and fauna survey. • Bird nesting survey. • Kingfisher survey. • Bat survey • Tree survey <p>The works are not to the detriment of the ecological value of the site, there are a series of improvement works to enhance the bio-diversity of the site including tree planting, wild flower areas, and the creation of a seasonal pond.</p> <p>(e) Although there is a signed on road route adjacent to Oakdene Park, the preferred and current route used by cyclists is through Oakdene Park even with the current constraints of parts of the existing path. These works are enabling the path network to be upgraded for the benefit of all users; in particular push chairs who currently struggle to navigate through the site in addition these improvements will extend access to this area for other less able users including in particular those of limited mobility, sight and wheel chair users. Without this funding specifically for cycle</p>

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		<p>improvements, it would not be possible to improve the path infrastructure within the site; and it is possible that this access route would have had to be closed.</p> <p>(f) There have been no reported incidents.</p> <p>(g) The upgrades are being funded by funds designated for cycling initiatives, but the improvements will benefit all users, i.e. the gradients of the path connections are DDA compliant facilitating access with a wheel chair. The new path network will create a better space for all users to exist together, unlike the current position. The decision to formally sign the route is to enable a section of the existing path to become a no cycling area and to make users aware that the route is used by cyclists and pedestrians in accordance with best practice guidance.</p> <p>(h) These improvements support the initiatives of the FAB campaign in promoting and creating accessible routes for walking, running, cycling etc. There are over 200 parks and open spaces in Barnet providing ample provision for people to run or walk on different surfaces. In Oakdene Park itself there are informal routes adjacent to the path that able bodied people utilise as an alternative to the formal route, this position will remain unchanged following the works.</p> <p>Jenny Warren agreed to provide Ms O'Connor with the detailed plan that is going to be looked at.</p> <p><i>Jenny Warren (Head of Grounds, Street Cleansing and Parks)</i></p>
8.	<p>Given the appalling levels of litter regularly to be found on Ballards Lane and in Victoria Park and surrounding areas, what steps are being taken to implement effective and on-going enforcement of litter offenders in Finchley through the use of Fixed Penalty Notices?</p> <p>Does the Council agree that how our streets look is a reflection on the values and attitudes we as society consider important, and that if we fail to send a clear message that littering is unacceptable then we cannot hope to prevent more serious anti-social behaviour?</p> <p><i>Mr Graeme Taylor</i></p>	<p>The Council has just embarked on the Priorities and Spending Review work, which will consider options for Streetscene services over the summer months. Enforcement in terms of a policy review and implementation will be considered as part of this work.</p> <p>In addition to enforcement, the street cleansing service is currently undergoing a transformation to deliver improved cleansing standards.</p> <p>Mr Taylor spoke further on the issue. Jenny Warren noted the bins are cleared on a daily basis but that there is a volume issue and a need to educate people to reduce rubbish.</p> <p><i>Lynn Bishop (Street Scene Assistant Director)</i></p>

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9.	<p>Fly Tipping in Salisbury Avenue N3 – This has been going on for years.</p> <p><i>Mr David Keene</i></p>	<p>The current Street Cleansing Transformation Project is identifying fly-tipping and street cleansing hot spots and reviewing how these can be more effectively dealt with.</p> <p><i>Mr Keene was not present. No further discussion</i></p> <p><i>Jenny Warren (Head of Grounds, Street Cleansing and Parks)</i></p>
10.	<p>In view of the fact the proposed library in a revamped Gateway House will be in a semi basement next to an underground car park, but with no parking for library users, and across two pedestrian crossings on a very busy junction, will officers please explain why there was no consultation with library users about the proposed move? Will officers also give details of the lease: its length, the full annual cost to the public, and any break clauses in it?</p> <p><i>Mr Dennis Pepper</i></p>	<p>The new library will be in a rebuilt Gateway House, with the main library facilities on the ground floor of the building. Staff offices and a community meeting room will be located on the lower ground floor. All spaces will be purpose built and equipped with appropriate air conditioning. The new facility will be in more prominent and accessible location in Finchley Church End enabling a greater number of residents to use the service. All facilities within the building will also be fully accessible unlike the current library site. Moving the library to an alternative location was part of the comprehensive public consultation undertaken in 2010/2011 regarding the library strategy and received wide support. Public consultation events were also held by the developer in early 2013 with regards to including a library within a redeveloped Gateway House. Current proposals are for a long lease at a peppercorn rent.</p> <p>Mr Pepper discussed this item together with no 11. He noted that he had not been aware of the consultation until it was too late, there was no clarity around the results of the consultation, and noted a decision by committee appeared to be imminent in early July. It was noted that no officers present were briefed to discuss the matter further, and that for these two items written responses should be provided.</p> <p><i>Hannah Richens (Libraries)</i></p>
11.	<p>As there is little provision for the local community in Finchley Church End, will the Council please consider as a matter of urgency retaining the existing library building for community use (details of which can be worked out through discussions within the community)? It does not have to be sold off, and the last thing one would wish to see is it being acquired by the developers of Gateway House to build luxury flats as a 'reward' for housing the library. It is assumed that the lease itself will fully compensate the developers for incorporating the library.</p>	<p>Currently, the proposal for moving the library continues under discussion. Should the proposal go forward, all opportunities arising will be considered.</p> <p><i>Judith Ellis (Property Services)</i></p>

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	<i>Mr Dennis Pepper</i>	
12.	<p>Several years ago now Finchley Church End was identified as a town centre that should be redeveloped as an alternative venue to a vastly extended Brent Cross. Funding to help this was to be made available. While I am aware of such funds being awarded to neighbouring town centres - to East Finchley and North Finchley for instance - so far no funds have been made available for the improvement of Church End. Would officers please give details of what is in hand to rectify this omission?</p> <p><i>Mr Dennis Pepper</i></p>	<p>Barnet's Local Plan identified Finchley Church End as a town centre where more detailed planning work will support growth potential and manage future change. The Town Centre Strategy for Finchley Church End was adopted in June 2012. One of the key objectives of the Strategy is to encourage positive change, renewal and investment.</p> <p>Through identifying development opportunities the Strategy helps to guide investment arising from their realisation. It sets priorities for where such monies should go. The Strategy also sets out how S106 contributions arising from local development as well as Community Infrastructure Levy should be spent.</p> <p>Although not specifically referred to in the Strategy the new Library arising from the Gateway House development is a good example of appropriate infrastructure investment in a town centre.</p> <p>The improvements in North Finchley are being funded by the Mayor of London's Outer London Fund, in recognition of the unique identity and offer of culture and arts in North Finchley town centre. The Mayor has indicated that there may be further Outer London Funding made available and the Mayor and Barnet Council will look to consider town centres who have strong community and business leadership through forums such as Town Teams along with elements that will support the criteria of the funding (yet to be announced).</p> <p>Through the Strategy a framework is therefore in place to attract investment from development as well as other sources to Finchley Church End.</p> <p><i>Martin Cowie (Assistant Director, Strategic Planning, Regeneration and Transport)</i></p>
13.	<p>What has prompted the removal of guard railings outside the shops in North End Road? It would seem they were particularly needed on the build-out by 26-28 as this carries a heightened risk of a vehicle accidentally mounting the build-out, as it is preceded by a double yellow line for some distance and is at the foot of a slope, and many persons wait on the build-out to use the pedestrian crossing including school children. Google Street View shows the very railings that were last there had been lightly impacted, as if by a vehicle, and there are or have been deeply impacted railings adjoining at least two other pedestrian crossings in the constituency.</p>	<p>In 2013/14, Transport for London provided funding for a 'light touch' de-clutter of extraneous street furniture in twelve town centres of LB Barnet of which Golders Green was one.</p> <p>Following a commissioned independent Road Safety Audit (Stage 1&2), pedestrian guard rail panels considered superfluous were removed at the junction of North End Road with Finchley Road (A598). Removal objectives were to ease obstruction to pedestrian flow, benefit sight lines, clear the local environment and reduce maintenance costs.</p> <p>Pedestrian guard rail panels are not designed for vehicle impact protection and</p>

	Issue Raised	Response
	<i>Mr Levy</i>	<p>may give pedestrians a false sense of security from passing traffic.</p> <p>Further comments/suggestions were made, and Neil Richardson gave brief responses.</p> <p><i>Neil Richardson (Highways Manager)</i></p>
14.	<p>Hoardings owned by Neville Construction have been blocking a stretch of the footpath in West Heath Avenue by the corner with West Heath Drive for well over a year. This has made it more hazardous/complex to walk between the West Heath Avenue - Finchley Road junction and West Heath Drive, most of West Heath Avenue or Golders Hill Park. The new building doesn't even touch the footpath; the plans show a side alley next to the eventual boundary wall. Why not require the builder to scaffold over the footpath, as is a common practice (except when actually working on the boundary wall, or possibly certain crane ops)? Also why doesn't Barnet charge per week a footpath is obstructed? Highways Department only told me that a deposit was paid and wouldn't tell me if there was a Footpath Closure Order, no matter how many times I asked. Is there and does the law require it?</p> <p><i>Mr Levy</i></p>	<p>Neil Richardson agreed to look into the issue and email Mr Levy.</p> <p><i>Neil Richardson (Highways Manager)</i></p>
15.	<p>On Finchley Road southbound carriageway approaching the junction with West Heath Avenue, single yellow line enabling parking after 10am has been painted right up to the wait line. Why not a few metres of double yellow, as is normal in approaches to signalled crossroads? As it is now, two 2 vehicles can't stop abreast there as they do when single yellow is active, nor can even a pedal cycle stop abreast of a car in practice.</p> <p><i>Mr Levy</i></p>	<p>Officers would be pleased to review the parking restrictions in the location described to assess whether they are still appropriate. Should it be considered that a change would be appropriate, Officers would seek to progress a proposal through the usual internal and external processes.</p> <p>Mr Levy advised he was satisfied with the responses for now.</p> <p><i>Neil Richardson (Highways Manager)</i></p>
16.	<p>What is the plan for fixing the dangerously broken pavements in Finchley and Golders Green in the same nice way it was recently done in Totteridge? Please provide work-plan dates, which council department is responsible for this? Does this fall into any of the services outsourced and if so - what is the division of responsibility between the council and the provider? Who will carry out the work? What is the budget allocated for the work? Was there anywhere else</p>	<p>It was noted that Mark Cooper was not present to provide a response – a written response should be provided.</p> <p><i>(Mark Cooper, Network Management)</i></p>

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	<p>in the borough where work similar to this done in Totteridge had been carried out recently, just before the local elections?</p> <p><i>Ms Tirza Waisel</i></p>	
17.	<p>A colleague of mine had sustained a serious ankle sprain on the uneven pavement surface outside her block of flats in Temple Fortune. This is a part of the pavement where whenever it rains it becomes a swimming pool as the pavement has so many dips in it. In an icy snap these areas are perilous. She called the Highways Department to ask them to fix the pavement and Barnet promised to send a team to investigate. My colleague called back about 10 days after first logging the call, and was then told that the land is private and not Barnet's responsibility. She finds this hard to believe as the area is on Temple Fortune high road and the pedestrian walk way certainly looks as though it is a public thoroughfare. My colleague was told to consult the land registry to establish who the title holders are. She had found that the block where she lives, 1117 Finchley Road, lists Overseas Flagship Trust as the owners, but when you look at the plan relating to the building owned by the title deed holders, it seems to end at the boundary of the physical building.</p> <p>The question is who owns the public highway which is the pavement and who is responsible for its maintenance?</p> <p><i>Ms Tirza Waisel</i></p>	<p>It was noted that Mark Cooper was not present to provide a response – a written response should be provided.</p> <p><i>(Mark Cooper, Network Management)</i></p>
18	<p>There are vulnerable residents in this area who use services provided by Your Choice Barnet and to whom Barnet Council has a legal duty of care. How will Barnet Council protect these residents from a decline in quality of service resulting from YCB's treatment of the care workers employed to look after them?</p> <p><i>Ms Tirza Waisel</i></p>	<p>The Strategic Director for Communities provided an oral response to questions 18-20 as one item. It was noted that the hourly rates for care that the Council expects providers to work to are in line with the rates set out in the Care Funding Calculator, a tool used by 125 councils to determine a fair price for delivering services for people with a learning disability. The intention behind the tool is to ensure the Council places as much funding into front line services as possible, and that this is what the Care Funding Calculator does. The Strategic Director for Communities noted she would be happy to provide information on what areas of price the Care Funding Calculator looks at. It was noted that operational and performance issues can also be dealt with via contract negotiations.</p>
19.	<p>If Your Choice Barnet is in such financial difficulty, will LBB take its services back in-house to ensure a proper fulfilment of its duty of care to the residents using these services?</p> <p><i>Ms Tirza Waisel</i></p>	

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20.	<p>As the sole shareholder and owner of Your Choice Barnet and its main funder, why does Barnet Council not ensure it pays YCB £21.81 per hour per service user so that YCB have sufficient funding to run good services without claiming it needs to cut its employees' salaries by 9.5%?</p> <p><i>Ms Tirza Waisel</i></p>	
21.	<p>[Policing angle] Further to the fatal shooting of four people at the Jewish Museum in Brussels, in an apparent extremist attack. What measures or contingencies are in place to respond to a similar possibility here?</p> <p><i>Mr Levy</i></p>	<p>Awaiting update from Police.</p> <p><i>Kiran Vagarwal (Head of Community Safety)</i></p>
22.	<p>[Policing angle] Begging. I do not wish to see harsh responses to genuinely homeless or vulnerable persons, but some of the most persistent and intrusive beggars are neither. At least one has a long-term occupation pestering and conning people in various locations in the borough.</p> <p>Camden has pioneered an effective Antisocial Behaviour Ladder that has been applied variously to youth offending, nuisance neighbours, street drinking and begging, through a police 'champion' working jointly with a council 'champion'. This has led to a number of ASBOs for persistent offenders including for begging, but the ASB Ladder offers remedial solutions first e.g. for addiction or rough sleeping. Will the Metropolitan Police please appoint a Barnet ASB 'champion' who can work with an appointed council 'champion', and will Barnet consider adopting Camden's ASB Ladder?</p> <p><i>Mr Levy</i></p>	<p>Reports of aggressive begging to the police are all followed up jointly with the council. Partners will assess if there is any potential vulnerability, that appropriate services are provided and that the individual is engaged. Where the individual makes no effort to change their behaviour or engage with agreed support services and there is sufficient evidence to support enforcement action – this will also be considered. Therefore a balanced approach across prevention, diversion and enforcement is considered</p> <p>Responses to Anti-social behaviour are delivered across the partnership, not only the police. The interventions include an acceptable behaviour contract (voluntary) possibly leading to and ASBO (court order). The ASB legislation has recently been updated and provides a new set of tools and powers. Barnet Community Safety Team is working with partners to see how this will be applied in Barnet. All legal tools and powers used will be <i>based on the level of evidence and the impact on the community</i> and may not follow a 'ladder' type approach – for example where a problem is more serious the appropriate course of action may be enforcement.</p> <p>Barnet Community Safety Team, together with the police will be launching the Community MARAC (Multi-agency case conference) – this panel will meet once a month to consider complex and persistent ASB problems raised by partners and assess which intervention is appropriate. Although we do not have an individual named champion the police and Barnet Council's Community Safety Team are working very closely on:</p>

	Issue Raised	Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing information about persistent ASB • Problem solving cases and using the right interventions • Responding to complainants and the wider communities on the action taken – there will be a greater focus on this in the future • Implementing the new ASB legislation - currently working on the Community Trigger <p>The Safer Communities Partnership Board chaired by Cllr Longstaff (Statutory Board) governs the community safety work in the borough. It is held in public and all documents are available on the internet. Further work developed around ASB including the Community MARAC and Community Trigger will be tabled at the board and therefore will be available to the public in due course.</p> <p><i>Kiran Vagarwal (Head of Community Safety)</i></p>
23.	<p>Recycling. How about the council informing people of free options for re-use/recycling by other providers? E.g. that Recycle For Free are still collecting waste electrical goods in the borough for free; Tesco and Oxfam recycling banks; charity shops; Freecycle; carrier bag recycling. These would boost local recycling for just the cost of adding it to local publicity about bin collection arrangements.</p> <p><i>Mr Levy</i></p>	<p>The council does promote a range of options and services for recycling and reuse that are not directly provided by the council. The council leaflets and other information materials for the launch of the new waste and recycling services in October 2013 focused on providing residents with all the necessary details for the new household collections services. However, the council's website has full information about other services, and options for waste recycling, reuse, and reduction. Examples are included through the links below:</p> <p>Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment recycling and Barnet Furniture Centre: http://www.barnet.gov.uk/info/940358/electrical/1014/electrical http://www.barnet.gov.uk/info/528/bulky_items_white_goods_furniture_etc/326/bulky_items_white_goods_furniture_etc http://www.barnet.gov.uk/info/930151/furniture_centre/337/furniture_re-use</p> <p>Blue bin, batteries and textiles recycling: http://www.barnet.gov.uk/info/10070/house_recycling_and_rubbish_service/203/house_recycling_and_rubbish_service</p> <p>Recycling banks: http://www.barnet.gov.uk/info/531/bring_banks_across_the_borough/322/recycling_banks</p> <p>Civic Amenity & Recycling Centre: http://www.barnet.gov.uk/info/534/recycling_centre_at_summers_lane/306/civic</p>

	Issue Raised	Response
		<p>amenity and recycling centre</p> <p>Freecycle: http://www.barnet.gov.uk/info/930151/furniture_centre/337/furniture_re-use</p> <p>Clothing reuse: http://www.barnet.gov.uk/info/930371/clothing/1020/clothing</p> <p><i>Michael Lai (Group Manager – Waste & Recycling Team)</i></p>
24.	<p>What consideration has the council made of environmental hazards posed by certain common items being disposed of, and ways of changing the outcomes? E.g. backyard burning of PVC is a major source of dioxin pollution and if incinerated that is also a possible source, but it can be recycled in bulk. Fluorescent tubes and Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) contain mercury but Recycle For Free will take them if unbroken and in original packaging, though I only discovered that by asking.</p> <p><i>Mr Levy</i></p>	<p>Since October 2013 we have introduced a new household recycling service that collects a wider range of materials than previously. We can now accept mixed household plastic packaging, which was not possible with the previous collection method, and we also now provide a separate food waste service. The materials we collect are those for which we have a secure reprocessing outlet for, and which we can practically and efficiently collect.</p> <p>The Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre in Summers Lane, N12 0RF accepts around 40 materials for recycling and reuse, including fluorescent tubes and CFLs. Please see the link below for a full list of what we can accept at the site; http://www.barnet.gov.uk/info/930157/non-recyclables/316/what_we_recycle</p> <p>Further information on reducing waste is promoted through the council's website, and various reuse and recycling services can be accessed through this link: http://www.barnet.gov.uk/info/920036/reduce_and_reuse_for_barnet/977/reduce_and_re-use</p> <p><i>Michael Lai (Group Manager – Waste & Recycling Team)</i></p>
25.	<p>Re the change to fortnightly green garden waste collection with excess bundled cuttings no longer collected:</p> <p>(i) Prior to this change, what was the council's forecast of the reduction in amount of such waste collected as a result and total cost saving including collection and disposal?</p> <p>(ii) What assessment did it make of the increase in amount likely to be burnt in bonfires in response to the change?</p> <p>(iii) What assessment did it make of the impacts of this on local air quality and human health?</p>	<p>(i) The council's forecast is that the tonnage of green garden waste collected in 2014/15 will be in line with the tonnage collected in 2013/14, subject to any seasonal variations between the years. The cost saving is projected at £700,000 per year, based on operational efficiencies including maximising the use of the vehicle fleet.</p> <p>(ii) The council forecast is that the tonnage of green garden waste tonnage collected in 2014/15 will be in line with the tonnage collected in 2013/14, subject to any seasonal variations between the years. Therefore no increase in bonfires is projected.</p>

	Issue Raised	Response
	<i>Mr Levy</i>	(iii) Please see answers to (i) and (ii). <i>Michael Lai (Group Manager – Waste & Recycling Team)</i>
26.	As regards illegal or excessive bonfires, I've often found that the Environmental Health Department is short-staffed and it can be slow or difficult to get an officer to attend an incident. Does EH have any targets concerning attendance times to reported incidents of different types (e.g. noise, smoke, food shops and kitchens) or any other performance targets, and what their measured performance is on such matters, if it is recorded at all? <i>Mr Levy</i>	Apologies to Mr Levy if he has had problems in the past. There is a one hour response time to contact residents to investigate dark smoke bonfires and a 4 hour response time for less polluting non dark smoke bonfires. From the database it seems most of Mr Levy's calls have been concerning burning wood or garden waste which would explain the longer response time. Dark smoke bonfires where plastics are burnt are prioritised due to the greater amount of toxins released. In 2013-14 96% of all Public Health and Nuisance cases were responded to within the target response times this is reported on a monthly basis to the Council. <i>Ralph Haynes (Group Manager Noise, Nuisance, Public Health, Scientific Services and Priority Intervention, Environmental Health)</i>
27.	Garden waste collection and Environmental Health (EH) performance were both elements of Barnet being an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) but the website shows no AQMA annual reports for the past few years, is it no longer an AQMA, if so since when? <i>Mr Levy</i>	Barnet is still an Air Quality management area. Mr Levy has been sent the 2014 Air quality Progress report and update on the Action plan. <i>Ralph Haynes (Group Manager Noise, Nuisance, Public Health, Scientific Services and Priority Intervention, Environmental Health)</i>
28.	Has Barnet Council made any assessment of the costs and additional revenue from at least source segregating glass from other recycle, additional revenue likely because glass can badly contaminate other streams especially the paper? Or is it aware of any such assessment by others? <i>Mr Levy</i>	The council assessed a range of collection methods before a decision was made at the meeting of the Cabinet on 4 April 2012. The council has not pursued specific options involving source separation of glass. The council identified the significant benefits of collecting separate food waste and comingled dry recycling (including glass) on the same collection vehicles, and it would not be practical to collect glass separately without (1) further separate additional collection vehicles and crews, and (2) an additional container being used by households for the collection of separated glass. The council has access to case studies and research, including from the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP – www.wrap.org.uk). <i>Michael Lai (Group Manager – Waste & Recycling Team)</i>
29.	I understand there are ways of collecting recycle from street waste e.g. City of London street sweeper staff have double bin barrows,	The council is exploring the possibility of separating recyclable materials from street cleansing waste at present. The council is working to include combined on-street recycling and street litter bins as part of street furniture improvements

	Issue Raised	Response
	<p>one bin for recycle. Also if a street recycling tank is positioned close to a general bin in such a way that it requires more effort to put an item in the recycling tank than the general bin, people are less likely to misuse the recycling tank. Has Barnet experimented with either strategy, or does it plan to?</p> <p><i>Mr Levy</i></p>	<p>in North Finchley and Cricklewood.</p> <p><i>Michael Lai (Group Manager – Waste & Recycling Team)</i></p>
30.	<p>Why is reference to Residents Forums on the website only buried within the list of meetings? Why is it not one of the moving display items on the front page, or at least given its own direct link under "Get involved"? Also why not provide links to "More information about [Constituency] Residents Forum" and past meeting papers when one clicks on such a meeting under Calendar of Meetings? Otherwise a first-time user may not realise this information is available from the respective link further down, and therefore duplicate issues or miss the deadline.</p> <p><i>Mr Levy</i></p>	<p>The Council continually reviews its website to ensure it is user friendly and easy to navigate and will take the comments on board as part of this.</p> <p><i>Chidilim Agada (Governance Officer)</i></p>

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Future meeting dates:

Date	Venue
Wednesday, 22 October 2014	Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, London N3 3QE
Thursday, 15 January 2015	To be confirmed
Wednesday, 25 March 2015	Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, London N3 3QE