

CHIPPING BARNET RESIDENTS FORUM
BARNET HOUSE, 1255 HIGH ROAD, WHETSTONE, N20 0EJ
WEDNESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2014, 6.30PM

Chairman: Councillor Lisa Rutter
Vice-Chairman: Councillor Caroline Stock

ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE FORUM MEETING

Issue Raised	Response
<p>1. <u>Traffic calming by re-painting the road markings & putting up some 30mph signs along Oakleigh Park North.</u></p> <p>I wish to inform you of a bad accident directly outside our home at No. ■ on 11th July at approx. <u>10.30pm</u> Nobody was injured, however a parked car was written off & another two cars were badly damaged.</p> <p>One of the cars, after hitting a neighbours wall, ended up blocking the centre of the road for four hours before being removed.</p> <p>This in itself nearly caused several further accidents as it was not visible to fast oncoming traffic from both directions. It is known that many cars travel at great speed up & down Oakleigh Park North & I have realised that there are no road markings in the centre of the road. As a result many cars drive in the centre of the road rather than on the left.</p> <p>The street is very dark at this part of the road & last night really indicated to us all how dangerous this stretch of road is.</p> <p><i>(Mr David Gillow)</i></p>	<p>Network Management</p> <p>Several years ago the Council decided to adopt a minimal road marking policy following carriageway resurfacing. As part of this, centre road markings and hatch markings are minimised, particularly away from junctions. Research has shown that, in general, drivers take more caution where there is less road markings. This also helps to keep the cost of road marking maintenance down and also reduce clutter.</p> <p>Officers look forward to discussing the areas of concern in more detail at the Forum to try to fully understand the issues that are occurring.</p>

	Issue Raised	Response
2.	<p><u>Car parking permits for East Barnet Road residents.</u></p> <p>I am interested to know when there may be a Council Meeting to consider the change of car park to 'residents permit'.</p> <p>As I mentioned in my previous email, on a day-to-day basis I am at work full time and use the car park after 5pm and at weekends. However, if I have time off or finish early, parking anywhere but the car park is very difficult.</p> <p>My last house was ■ Linthorpe Road, EN4 where I had off street parking for 2 cars and parking on the road. My council tax in my 2 bed cottage, with no parking at all, is the same band!</p> <p>I do not expect a guaranteed parking space or to have free parking, just the opportunity to purchase a parking permit so that I can park near my home outside the 'free' hours of the car park.</p> <p>With a virtually empty car park during daytime hours, I find it difficult to understand why the Council cannot implement this scheme - it must be minimal cost to implement and is a guaranteed income for the Council.</p> <p>Members of the Church, people attending functions at Subud Hall and classes at Bodens are certainly appreciative of the car park - as a resident I would just like to park any time, any day with a parking permit.</p> <p><i>(Ms Carole Weightman)</i></p>	<p>Infrastructure and Parking Manager - Commercial and Customer Services</p> <p>Update to follow</p>
3.	<p><u>Street Playing Policy</u></p> <p>Does Barnet have a street play street policy?</p>	<p>Traffic and Development</p> <p>The Council doesn't have a Play Street Policy and would like to hear more detail from the resident on how they would see such a Policy working in Practice.</p>

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	<p>If not, then could a street play policy be implemented?</p> <p>And once a play street policy is in place, could information on how to set up a play street be readily available on the LBB website, in Barnet First, and in the local press?</p> <p><i>(Mr Phil Fletcher)</i></p>	<p>Even though there isn't a Play Street Policy in place, the Council are currently willing to consider allowing Play Streets and in fact agreed for a road to be closed to enable one to take place last year.</p> <p>In terms of the road closure, it is considered that all vehicle use is prohibited in the street play area during the street play times to ensure road safety etc. However, it should be noted that while every effort will be made to support Play Streets applications for road closures, there may be certain roads where closures would not be appropriate. Each request would be considered on its own merits, once the organisers advise the Highways Department of details such as location, dates and times etc, plus produce evidence that they have support from residents of the road(s).</p>
4.	<p><u>Sustainable communities Act</u></p> <p>Has Barnet signed up to the Sustainable communities Act 2006, so that residents have the opportunity to the advantage of this Act?</p> <p><i>(Mr Phil Fletcher)</i></p>	<p>Policy Unit</p> <p>The Council has not signed up to the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. A decision was taken by the then Cabinet in April 2009 not to sign up to the Act as it was felt that the benefits of doing so had not been demonstrated.</p>
5.	<p><u>Junction of Woodside Avenue and Woodside Park Road</u></p> <p>Why is the Highways Team so unresponsive?</p> <p>Cllr Rutter told me she was instructing them to contact us to discuss this junction on 16 July.</p> <p>A letter to them about this junction was sent in August by my neighbour Vittoria. To this date (1 October) not a word has been received from them.</p> <p>Further accidents have happened since (I have pictures) but police were not called, so there will be no official record.</p> <p>The matter remains of great concern to us.</p> <p>When will they contact us?</p> <p><i>(Ms AM Poppy)</i></p>	<p>Traffic and Development</p> <p>Officers engaged with local Ward members but unfortunately understand responses may not have been received leading to the impression no response was given.</p> <p>Officers will be pleased to discuss this further at the meeting.</p> <p>However, Officers have instructed that the road markings in the vicinity are to be refreshed.</p>

	Issue Raised	Response
6.	<p><u>Meadow Works in Dale Close</u></p> <p>The residents of Dale Close are concerned about the constant speeding of traffic out of Meadow works along Dale Close and accessing by breakdown vehicles and other large lorries often 24 hours per day.</p> <p>There is an accident waiting to happen.</p> <p>We therefore call on Barnet Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigate the permanent closure of the gates to Meadow Works in Dale Close restoring it to a Close, and all future traffic to Meadow works can be accessed via the Great North Road. 2. Introduce a traffic calming measure to Dale Close. 3. Introduce a 20 MPH zone in this area especially Dale Close, with adequate signage. 4. Write to the owner of Meadow works with our concerns. <p><i>(Mr and Mrs Plummer)</i></p>	<p>Traffic and Development</p> <p>Meadow works has access onto both Dale Close and the A1000 Great North Road. The Council in its role as Highway Authority is not in a position to restrict this access. We also do not believe there is any planning restriction on use of the Dale Close access so there is no action the Council can take in this regard.</p> <p>However, Officers look forward to discussing the areas of concern in more detail at the Forum to try to fully understand the issues that are occurring.</p> <p>Group Manager Noise, Nuisance, Public Health, Scientific Services and Priority Intervention - Environmental Health</p> <p>Environmental Health wrote to Meadow works in the summer regarding noise from garages on site, unfortunately our nuisance laws do not control engine noise from vehicles on the highway and the Priority Intervention team checked there were no persons sleeping overnight on the premises.</p> <p>The transportation planners did respond to the highways issues at Meadow works.</p>
7.	<p><u>WalkSafe N10.</u></p> <p>Update from the Council on 20mph speed limit and new pedestrian crossing for Colney Hatch Lane.</p> <p><i>(Ms Sarah Perman)</i></p>	<p>Traffic and Development</p> <p>The 20mph zone is currently with contractors for implementation.</p> <p>The feasibility and options study report regarding the pedestrian crossings on Colney Hatch Lane is being undertaken. Feasibility design on the Zebra crossing has been carried out, should it introduced it will entail the probable re-location of two bus stops and discussion with London Buses is on-going.</p>
8.	<p><u>Brunswick Park Playground</u></p> <p>I received a reply from Barnet Council to my request to have fencing installed at Brunswick Park Playground. The reply indicated that fencing was too expensive. A cheaper</p>	<p>Head of Parks, Street Cleansing and Ground Maintenance - Street Scene</p> <p>The play equipment installed in Brunswick Park utilised all the available funding in order to deliver the best and maximum amount of play equipment on the ground. The installation of fencing would have resulted in a much smaller play area with very little play equipment, at</p>

Issue Raised	Response
<p>solution would be to put up signs for owners and to have Parks staff visit the park and educate owners. Over time this should reduce incidents of dog fouling. This does not seem to have happened in nearby Oakhill Park play area which remains unfenced and is regularly fouled.</p> <p>The Council's solution does not take account of fox mess or the fact that a small percentage of dogs remain poorly trained and their owners show a lack of regard for the wellbeing of other people, irrespective of the efforts directed at them. There is also the risk of dogs running excitedly about and scaring small children in an unfenced area. Supervising my three children in a playground taxes my senses sufficiently without having to constantly be on the lookout for dog mess, fox mess or excitable dogs. It seems unreasonable to expect our young residents to pay the price of the Council's cheap solutions.</p> <p>Please could the Council tell me the evidence that their proposed solution (namely signage and intermittent visits) works as well as fencing the play area?</p> <p>Also, assuming that my children's lives are not blighted by toxocariasis, can they expect to play tennis, basketball and bowls in unfenced grounds in the future or does the Council intend to continue funding the enclosure of certain park activities?</p> <p><i>(Ms Bernadette Covo)</i></p> <p>As headteacher of the school, I wholeheartedly support their campaign and will be presenting a petition to support the campaign to fence the play area at Brunswick Park at Wednesday evening's meeting. This petition is very much in</p>	<p>the expense of installing a fence.</p> <p>It was never the intention to fence the trim trail/adventure playground, which is intended to be part of the much wider environment and present children with more challenging play opportunities, expend energy and in particular interact with the wider area, this is an approach that was endorsed and promoted as part of the Play England - natural play programme alongside risk in play. Fencing this space would also detract from the wider park which the play space currently blends into.</p> <p>There are a number of other play spaces in Barnet's parks and open spaces that are constructed in a similar way; without any fences (in excess of 10). Our experience with these was very similar; at first there were a number of issues with dogs and dog fouling, but this soon remedied itself once people became educated about the impacts of this anti-social behaviour and aware that these parts of the park were being used for play.</p> <p>In Mill Hill Park this was a particularly significant issue when the external unfenced play area was constructed. After 6 months this issue dissolved following the pro-activeness of park users and the Friends of Park Group in addressing irresponsible dog owners alongside the Council's efforts.</p> <p>The parks budget does not have provision for expenditure of this scale, especially when considered against other health and safety pressures and priorities where existing infrastructure needs to be replaced. If this requirement continues to be a priority issue for park users, consideration could be given to putting the scheme forward for alternative funding opportunities that could be accessed by residents or considered for local area budget funding.</p>

Issue Raised	Response
<p>its infancy, but the names are coming in thick and fast - clearly demonstrating the strength of feeling of our parents and other local residents.</p> <p><i>(Mr Andy Griffiths - Headteacher)</i></p>	
<p><u>Brunswick Park Playground</u></p> <p>At last night's meeting of the full governing body of Brunswick Park Primary and Nursery School the governing body requested that I contact you to have three separate but connected matters raised at the Chipping Barnet Residents Forum on Wednesday October 22nd.</p> <p>1. We are very pleased to see that play facilities have been installed in Brunswick Park for the use of children many of whom will be pupils at our school. We were hoping that the school could make use of these facilities during the day on a controlled and regulated basis. Unfortunately the lack of fencing around the play equipment means that it will be very difficult to safeguard the children of Brunswick Park School whilst using the equipment as a group. Brunswick Park is used by dog walkers on a very regular basis, whilst many are responsible owners some allow their dogs to wander off without keeping a close eye on them allowing them to defecate at will without clearing up their mess. Additionally very close to the play equipment is a dangerous steep bank of approximately fifteen to twenty feet down to Pymmes Brook, there is a hole in the bushes that leads to the steep bank. The provision of fencing around the play equipment would mean that all children would be able to use the equipment safely without fear of being contaminated by dog faeces and</p>	

Issue Raised	Response
<p>being disturbed by uncontrolled dogs, the children would be contained in a restricted area making it easier for parents/guardians/carers to keep them safe and finally it would make it harder for young children to wander off and have an accident by falling down the steep bank into Pymmies Brook.</p> <p>2. The governors have been pleased to extend the school to two forms of entry as requested by the local authority. To alleviate congestion at the one and only pupil entrance two further entrances have been created into the school, both new entrances have been provided with a foot path that joins the existing footpath network of the park. One of the new entrances gives access via Nurserymans Road the other, when it is opened, will serve pupils entering the school via the park entrance adjacent to the new play equipment. This means there will be increased pedestrian traffic crossing Osidge Lane in the West Walk/ East Walk/ Osidge lane car park area. Serious concerns have been made by parents/carers regarding children crossing Osidge Lane at this point at the times of day when traffic is busy. We as a governing body are obliged to encourage parents to walk children to school, to enable us to ensure the safety of our pupils on their journey to school we feel that it would be appropriate to install a pedestrian crossing in Osidge Lane in the area adjacent to the park entrance. The additional benefit of this would be to provide safe access to the park for all children wishing to use the play equipment.</p> <p>3. The emergency access road that leads from the park entrance up to the school has for a long time been</p>	

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	<p>problematic. With the winter nights drawing in we expect to see an increase of instances of drug use and casual sex along this road. This is evidenced by the sight of used condoms and disposed drug taking paraphernalia found lying in the gutter. The school uses its own resources to clear up this disgusting mess so our children are not exposed to the danger this carries. The local police have been informed of these matters at the Safer Neighbourhood forum but their limited resources mean that they can only visit on infrequent occasions, after they visit the instances reduce for a short time. The school, at our own expense has installed some lighting in our car park area and along part of the service road down to our nursery unit. We as governors feel it would deter these illegal activities if the authority installed street lighting along the service road. The number of lights needed would be minimal and modern lighting techniques would mean that the lighting footprint would not disturb the residents whose properties back on to the emergency access road.</p> <p><i>(Peter white MBE JP, airman of Governors, Brunswick Park Primary & Nursery School)</i></p>	
9.	<p><u>Fly tipping - Friern Barnet Library</u></p> <p>What can be done about the fly tipping outside Friern Barnet Library?</p> <p><i>(Ms Frances Briers)</i></p>	<p>Head of Parks, Street Cleansing and Ground Maintenance - Street Scene</p> <p>Unfortunately the Bring Banks throughout the borough are subjected to fly-tipping and are often used by residents to dispose of waste that is not intended to be recycled at these centres and/or deposit the recyclates next to the bins rather than within them. A recent review saw the rationalisation of the brings banks, with the remaining banks generating good levels of recyclates.</p> <p>The site is cleaned daily for these reasons and all fly-tips removed. In addition to the daily cleanse residents can report incidents of fly-tipping on fixmystreet or to the Customer Services Team 020 8359 2000; we aim to deal with any reported incidents within 24hrs.</p>

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10.	<p><u>Holly Park School - Litter issues</u></p> <p>Why is there so much rubbish & litter around Holly Park School?</p> <p><i>(Ms Frances Briers)</i></p>	<p>Head of Parks, Street Cleansing and Ground Maintenance - Street Scene</p> <p>This location is an identified hot spot during school term time and is cleared of litter three times per week. We also encourage schools to take responsibility for preventing the creation of the litter by engaging pupils and parents to be responsible in disposing of their litter.</p> <p>Contact will be made with the schools to ask that a new message is passed out to pupils and parents.</p>
11.	<p><u>Streets Bins in Friern Barnet</u></p> <p>Can the street bins get empty more around Friern Barnet as they seem to be full all the time? As I have been spending a lot of time in Enfield & their streets are a lot cleaner than ours & I walked my dog around a housing estate & I couldn't find a street bin to put my poo bag in but there wasn't any rubbish lying around at all not even dog ends.</p> <p><i>(Ms Frances Briers)</i></p>	<p>Head of Parks, Street Cleansing and Ground Maintenance - Street Scene</p> <p>All litterbins have a programmed schedule for emptying which varies depending upon their location and use. At times they may become full outside of this schedule and can be reported for additional emptying via fixmystreet or to the Customer Services Team 020 8359 2000.</p> <p>The Street Cleansing Service is currently undergoing a full review which includes the provision of litterbins to ensure there is sufficient provision in the right locations and emptied at the right frequency. The implementation of the new service offer will take place from April 2015 and includes complete revision of the current service provided across residential streets, town centres and provision and servicing of litterbins.</p> <p>Any additional information/data that can assist in the formation of the new service offer is welcomed, thus the reporting of issues such as full bins is essential in helping inform the review.</p>
12.	<p><u>Congestion and lack of pavement on York Way</u></p> <p>1. The parking on the pavement restricts the use of pavement on BOTH sides. At many times of the day it is impossible to walk along the road using the pavement as a single person less alone anyone with a wheelchair or buggy. I am a childminder and am unable to walk to the school</p>	<p>Traffic and Development Manager</p> <p>Officers look forward to discussing the areas of concern in more detail at the Forum to try to fully understand the issues that are occurring.</p>

Issue Raised	Response
<p>because I cannot use the pavement with my double buggy and a child next to me.</p> <p>2. The road is constantly used by large vehicles and in particular skip lorries from the base on Oakleigh Road North. There has been many instances where these lorries come at considerable speed along the road and refuse to give way. I have been caught walking along the road with the double buggy and a toddler walking and have had a large lorry continue along the road and refused us access and I have had to retrace my steps with a lorry on my heels and on oncoming traffic reversing all the way back to the corner of Porch Way which is the first area I could fit the double buggy onto. A weight restriction is required as this road should not have a continual flow of heavy vehicles.</p> <p>3. Whilst there are double yellow lines on the corner of Porch Way where it joins with York Way to allow drivers exiting Porch Way visibility, these are constantly parked on without any recourse to the offender. At many times of the day there are large school buses parked there and delivery vans and it is impossible to exit York Way as the corner is totally blind to drivers. This area requires bollards to prevent parking and signs stating strictly no parking.</p> <p>4. As we exit Porch Way there is great danger with cars coming along York Way who see oncoming traffic and quickly dip into the exit area at Porch Way, in many instances just missing anyone driving up from Porch Way. The road requires some scheme of access at the junction of Porch Way and perhaps give way to oncoming traffic instructions and bays at both ends of York Way.</p> <p>5. The corner of York Way from Oakleigh Road North is</p>	

	Issue Raised	Response
	<p>dangerous in rush hours and at weekends particularly. It is not possible to enter York way without mounting the pavement as cars park all the way along on both sides and if a car is exiting there is insufficient space.</p> <p>To summarise the road requires traffic management and pavement access. As stopping it being used as a short cut would be difficult to enable without inconvenience to residents a system of preventing it from being quicker than using the alternative routes be implemented and a weight restriction enforced.</p> <p>I have written to the council on this matter continuously for some years and in particular after the event with the lorry being on my heels with the children but regrettably have seen no constructive efforts being made by the relevant department and did in fact receive a reply some 3 years ago stating that as the road had not had a fatal/dangerous accident it was not deemed as necessary!!</p> <p>I would ask that we do not wait for the fatal accident.</p> <p><i>(Ms Sandy Segui)</i></p>	
13.	<p><u>Birley/Naylor Road</u></p> <p>I want to know if the results of the recent survey re parking permits.</p> <p><i>(Ms Zenta Henkhuzens)</i></p>	<p>Traffic and Development</p> <p>Officers are aware that Ward Councillors carried out their own consultation earlier this year. Feedback, received this week, is that residents of Naylor Road and Birley Road were in favour and officers anticipate agreeing a timescale to commence a more detailed study.</p>
14.	<p><u>Birley Road/Naylor Road/Hayward Road N20 Consultation</u></p>	<p>See item 13</p>

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	<p>A previous petition for a CPZ was rejected as reported to the Forum Meeting on 26th March 2014 as follows: "However, having sought views from the local ward members on the extent of the area to be consulted concerns were raised on the appropriateness of such consultation being carried out. Currently therefore there are no plans to explore this further however the issues can be discussed further at the forum."</p> <p>Following a request submitted following the previous Forum meeting in June 2014 to the local councillors (R. Cornelius, A. Cornelius & C Stock) it was agreed that an formal consultation to ascertain views on parking issues and controls should be carried out primarily centred on Naylor Road, Birley Road & Hayward Road.</p> <p>This consultation has now taken place and we have been advised on 2nd October by Councillor A. Cornelius that Cllr. C Stock has now put all the information into a spread sheet and that they (Cllrs R. Cornelius, A. Cornelius & C Stock) are now in a position to discuss the matter with Highways officers and then report back.</p> <p>To date no report back of this discussion with Highways has materialised despite follow up emails. What is current situation?"</p> <p>Birley Road/Naylor Road/Hayward Road N20 Consultation</p> <p><i>(Mr Brian Wakeham)</i></p>	
15.	<p><u>WalkSafe N14</u></p> <p>Can the WalkSafe N14 Group have an update on progress</p>	<p>Traffic and Development</p> <p>A report is being prepared for the November Environment Committee, as per the decision of that</p>

	Issue Raised	Response
	<p>following the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee on October 7 2013? At that meeting, it was agreed that Barnet Council would undertake a site investigation to develop a detailed safety scheme for the area around Osidge and Ashmole Schools with the final decision being taken by the Cabinet Member under delegated powers following the completion of all necessary consultation processes. Have these commitments happened?</p> <p><i>(Ms Cait O'Riordan, Organiser, WalkSafeN14)</i></p>	<p>Committee, seeking approval for various identified measures to improve safety in the area.</p>
<p>16.</p>	<p><u>Consideration for double yellow lines in Swan Lane N20</u></p> <p>Swan Lane is rather narrow and has daily problems in front of St John's School.</p> <p>For about an hour each morning and again each afternoon drives have difficulty in passing up and down the lane when cars are parked on each side of the road in the area of the nursery and the playing field fence. This has led to many scenes of road rage as well as occasions when lorries, vans and minibuses are unable to move.</p> <p>Recently someone has placed road barriers along the difficult section which has, temporarily, greatly helped the traffic movement. I should be grateful if the Council could consider the possibility of putting double yellow lines in this section on the north side of the lane beside the nursery school and the playing field.</p> <p>The congestion regularly gives access problems to residents as Swan Lane is a cul de sac which gives us only one route to and from our homes.</p>	<p>Traffic and Development Manager</p> <p>Officers will be happy to listen to concerns with a view to investigating suitable proposals for the road.</p>

Issue Raised	Response
<p>If you were able to inspect the lane you would note that the pavement on the school side is badly damaged where people park their cars partially on the pavement. A few years ago the pavement was completely re-laid by the Council with extra thick paving stones. Within a few days of being laid the first stones had been broken by drivers parking heavy cars partly on the path.</p> <p>If you are able to present this to the Residents Forum I would be pleased to attend and answer any questions about the problem.</p> <p><i>(Mr John Ward)</i></p>	

Contact: Maria Lugangira, Business Governance Service, Assurance Group, Building 2, Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1NP Email: chippingbarnet.residentsforum@barnet.gov.uk

Items must be emailed to chippingbarnet.residentsforum@barnet.gov.uk by 10am on the second working day prior to the meeting

Future meeting dates:

Date	Venue
15 January 2015	Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, N20 0EJ
25 March 2015	Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, N20 0EJ