

CHIPPING BARNET RESIDENTS FORUM

Chipping Barnet Library
3 Stapylton Road, Barnet EN5 4QT

Thursday 2nd July 2015

6.30PM

Chairman: Councillor Lisa Rutter
Vice Chairman: Caroline Stock

ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE FORUM MEETING

	Issue Raised	Response
1	<p><u>Parks Consultation</u></p> <p>Parks and open spaces are one of the best things about living in Barnet. They offer people the opportunity to relax, to exercise, to socialise, to learn and to play. The Council recognises how important parks are to local people and is developing a new strategy to improve the Borough's green spaces.</p> <p>The Council's aspiration is to make parks safe places for people to enjoy and to encourage people to use parks to adopt healthy lifestyles. Newly refurbished parks will form the centrepiece of the Borough's seven regeneration areas so that new homes and workplaces have access to the outdoors. Good quality parks can also support better educational outcomes and offer the chance for local people to volunteer, gain new skills and make new friends. Our open spaces are havens for wildlife and will limit the impact of climate change on the Borough.</p> <p>The Council wants to involve residents in the process of improving our parks to make sure that they deliver all of these outcomes as fully as</p>	

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	<p>possible. Through this consultation, we want to get a better idea of why Barnet's residents use parks and what their priorities should be for the future. We'll use this information to develop specific proposals on which we'll consult in more detail next year.</p> <p><i>Jon Sheaff</i></p>	
2.	<p><u>Petition</u></p> <p>Petition to: seeking to reduce speeding vehicles (on Manor Drive, Whetstone) to appropriate levels</p> <p>More details from petition creator: Recently some local residents met with the Council to see what measures could be taken to reduce the speeding vehicles which continuously break the speed limit along out residential roads. We urge the Council to urgently consider the matter of unlawful speeding of vehicles in our road.</p> <p>Signatures: 125 - Online 124 – Offline Total – 249</p> <p>Felix Maguire and Cathy Braddish</p>	
3.	<p>Request to discuss Barnet First magazine distribution to the Barnet Borough householders –</p> <p>Since the publication and distribution costs for the Barnet First is paid for by all the residents in the borough I respectfully request for the council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To investigate why they have failed to deliver their magazine to all the households in the borough to date. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure to distribute / deliver from now on all the future issues to every household in their borough in accordance with their website statement. • To investigate and consider either a council tax credit or money back to those householders that did not receive all or some of approx. 58-60 numbers “Barnet First” published to date. • <p>Tözün Zeynel</p>	
4.	<p>What are the purposes of Residents Forum Meetings? Is one of them to encourage the dissemination of facts and truth, or is the purpose merely to go through the motions of democracy?</p> <p>In his book <i>Animal Farm</i>, George Orwell describes how the writing on the wall used for this purpose was secretly eroded to the single sentence:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“All men are equal, but some are more equal than others.”</p> <p>Are the announced changes to the procedures the Council’s way of eroding the meaning of “facts” and “truth”, as they have changed the meaning of “democracy” and “consultation”?</p> <p>Are the change of procedures designed to confuse residents and thereby discourage their attendance and participation?</p> <p>Keith Martin</p>	

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5.	<p>I was pleased to find that a feasibility study on the dangerous junction of Woodside Avenue, Woodside Park Road, and Gainsborough Road is in the order of work for the Council in the coming financial year. I look forward to that work being carried out. Jobs can fall off the order of work sometimes, I trust that will not happen to this item.</p> <p>Can the results of the traffic survey of the junction be supplied?</p> <p>Poppy</p>	
6.	<p>I am interested to hear about any proposals regarding the old Underhill football site.</p> <p>Allan Greig</p>	
7.	<p>(a) Why did forum Chairmen decide to change the deadline for submission of questions to the forum from 10am 2 working days beforehand to five working days beforehand without at least discussing it with residents or at the Forums?</p> <p>(b) What is the role of a Residents Forum and to what extent have the Council consulted residents about its role?</p> <p>(c) In 2009 there were nine residents Forums annually and questions could be submitted in advance or at the meeting, in 2010 there were seven, in 2011 there were five and from 2012 onwards there have only been four per annum and now we have to submit questions 5 working days before the meeting. Do you think that represents an enhancement or deterioration in public participation?</p> <p>(d) The deadline for submitting questions to any other Council</p>	

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	<p>committee is by 10am 2 working days before the meeting. Why are resident's forums being treated so differently from any other Council Committee?</p> <p>Jon Dix</p>	
8.	<p>I have seen a document stating that questions to Residents' Forums must be submitted '7 working days before the meeting'.</p> <p>(a) Please tell me when this alteration to procedure was made and when it was advertised to residents.</p> <p>(b) If this alteration was made prior to 25 March 2015, why was it not announced at the last Residents Forums, which took place on that date or even on the advertisement for tonight's meeting?</p> <p>(c) If it has not been pro-actively advertised to residents yet, when is it proposed it will be and how will it be done?</p> <p>(d) What is the link to the rules of Procedure for Residents Forums on the Barnet website?</p> <p>(e) Why has this alteration been made: are there more questions than ever before or fewer staff to deal with them?</p> <p>(f) Did any residents in any of the three areas submit questions for tonight's meetings within the former deadline and have their questions refused?</p> <p>(g) If this alteration to the procedure has been made without residents being informed, how can the Chair defend this</p>	

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	<p>effective interference with democracy?</p> <p>(h) How many people have been receiving letters notifying them of the dates for Residents Forums and how did they qualify for this service?</p> <p>(i) Will the notification of the change of rules include information about getting e-mail notification of the dates in future?</p> <p>Barbara Jacobson</p>	
9.	<p>Now that it is reported that Dan Thomas said 'It was soon realised that this suggested space [540 sq ft] was far too small. The consultation was misleading.', can we be assured even before the CELS committee meeting in September that all libraries will remain open and none will be reduced in size?</p> <p>Barbara Jacobson</p>	
10	<p>(a) A a recent event, I happened to notice that the police cars in attendance had left their motors idling for over 3 hours. This is in one of most air pulluted boroughs in London. When I asked the police about their idling motors, I was told that this had to be so because of the computers on board.</p> <p>(b) Is this true - that the engines have be left running, so as to provide electricity for the computers?</p> <p>(c) Who enforces Barnet LB's regulations governing stationary idling motors? Is the responsibility of the police, or that of the parking attendants?</p> <p>(d) What are the guidelines for enforcing Barnet's idling regulations?</p>	

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	Phil Fletcher	
11.	<p>Apparently, the deadline for submitting questions for residents forums has been increased from 7 to 10 days before the relevant residents' forum.</p> <p>While this may be necessary, possibly due to a reduction in staff, and perhaps an increase in the number of questions submitted, (something I can understand, if this is the case), why weren't we told of this at the last meeting?</p> <p>Phil Fletcher</p>	
12	<p>I would like to write to you regarding the unlawful parking of parents in Queens Road Barnet. This is having serious effects on pedestrians and other car users who are unable to park in their own road or drive safely around corners into Granville Road and Elizabeth Close. The parents are parking in residents parking bays and across drives and on yellow lines. When asked to move they are often quite rude and will not cooperate. If you parked in this way in other areas of Barnet you would receive a parking fine. Yet there appears to be a lack of traffic wardens around this road during the hours of 2.45- 3.30 could you please look into this?</p> <p>Sarah Vipond</p>	
13	<p>Question for Councillor Rutter</p> <p>“Since you became a Cllr for Barnet Council and the Brunswick Park ward, your voting actions have resulted in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The closing of the libraries in Barnet b) turning your ward into a dumpster by relocation the Mill Hill waste 	

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	<p>depot in our heavily residential area c) the residents asking for your recall as a councillor as you have publicly said that you are putting the party's wishes above your residents. I would like to ask the exact amount you are paid to be the Chairman of the Chipping Barnet resident's Forum?"</p> <p>Kanu Dave</p>	
14	<p>LITTER BINS The heritage style litter bins in High Barnet High Street were purchased in 2011 using the OLF grant. They have not been cleaned since and are now looking very shoddy including flaking paint and rusty patches.</p> <p>There is extensive staining to the pavements around the bins. The bins are often overflowing suggesting the number is insufficient or they are not emptied regularly enough.</p> <p>Could steps be taken to improve matters please?</p> <p>STAPYLTON RD/SALISBURY RD JUNCTION There was a collision at this junction last December resulting in a wall to the south side being partially demolished. What are the plans to rebuild the wall?</p> <p>I am aware of another collision at this spot in identical circumstances some eight years ago. There is a problem with motorists pulling out of Salisbury Rd and The Drive being unsighted because of parked vehicles to their right. To improve the sightlines could consideration be given please to moving the offending parking bays to the opposite side of the road?</p> <p>Gordon Massey Barnet Residents Association</p>	

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15	<p>I wish to speak at this meeting on behalf of the residents of Mansfield Avenue and Vernon Crescent EN4 concerning the parking problems we are experiencing in particular from the builders at the Cat Hill development but also from general builders who have moved into the area.</p> <p>Yours faithfully, Dr. Kim Coleman Chair, Cat Hill Area Residents Association</p>	

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Future meeting dates:

Date of meeting	Location
21 st October 2015	
13 th January 2016	
30 th March 2016	