

**FINCHLEY & GOLDERS GREEN RESIDENTS FORUM**  
**VENUE: Greek Cypriot Brotherhood Community Centre, Britannia Road, North Finchley, London, N12 9RU**  
**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2015**  
**6.30PM**

Chairman: Councillor Reuben Thompstone

**ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE FORUM MEETING**

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

	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 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>Elsie Josland</i></p>	

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2	<p>The Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association recently held a meeting to discuss noise and other nuisances within the Ward.</p> <p>A particular concern, which was mentioned by a high proportion of the 50 or so residents who attended, was the level of noise that motorised garden equipment makes – particularly petrol-operated leaf blowers. They are keen to understand what the Council may be able to do to control the occurrence of this ‘nuisance’. They seem to be used by private contractors at all times of the day with great frequency. Introducing a bye-law to permit their usage only at certain times on certain days was an idea that was suggested.</p> <p>Hence I have the following questions, which I would be very grateful if you could answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I understand the Council has powers under the Environmental Protection Act to investigate 'nuisances' and if necessary issue a statutory notice which if not complied with could lead to taking steps to stop the noise. I know that there is a process for complaining about noise which is set out on the Council's website, but my question is how does the Council decide what constitutes a ‘nuisance’ worthy of serving a statutory notice? Is this a fact-based analysis or within the Council's discretion? What factors are taken into consideration if the latter?</li><li>• Does the Council have powers to introduce a bye-law as suggested?</li><li>• Does the Council monitor or control the noise created by leaf blowers operated by its contractors which are used on public highways?</li><li>• Is there anything else within the Council's powers that can be done to control this noise?</li></ul>	

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	<i>Gary Shaw, Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association</i>	
3	<p>Negative Impact on Residents and the Local Community of Members and Users Attending FRS Synagogue &amp; Kindergarten at 101 Fallow Court Avenue N12 0BE, Including Illegal and Inconsiderate Parking, Saturated Parking, Poor Driving, Dangerous Manoeuvres, Air Quality, Noise &amp; Disturbance</p> <p>We are attaching logs of photographic evidence collected since the beginning of the year which irrefutably demonstrate the harm caused by the increase in Kindergarten numbers, Synagogue membership and activities on the site.</p> <p>Despite repeated requests for assistance from various departments within Barnet Council and their sub-contractors, the issues continue unabated.</p> <p>Residents have been led to believe that FRS will be submitting a new Planning Application shortly for redevelopment of the site with no car parking facilities on site, which will lead to a further increase in activities and numbers attending with no provision for the existing or additional numbers, the majority of whom arrive in private, single-occupancy cars. The streets surrounding the site are already over-saturated and residents often cannot even park in their own street and access to drives is obstructed.</p> <p>Residents request assurance from Barnet Council that best practise will be employed and an impact assessment carried out over a period of time without the knowledge of the kindergarten/synagogue to reflect the accurate situation and a Final Travel Plan for the synagogue submitted together with the Planning Application for redevelopment.</p> <p>Residents additionally request Barnet Council to ensure that FRS's plan</p>	

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	<p>for redevelopment includes sufficient on-site car parking provision for the numbers expected to attend current and increased activities and functions to prevent any further loss of residents' amenities.</p> <p>We understood from the Forum 15/1/15 that a Tracking Sheet had been assigned to Issues raised regarding Illegal Parking, etc. and that comments could be added. We have had no response to our email to an Officer on 21/1/15 despite a request for a response 8/3/15.</p> <p>DVDs containing all the photographs listed in the photographic logs can be supplied if required.</p> <p><i>Wendy &amp; Louis Bernardelle</i></p>	
4	<p>There are currently two traffic islands on the street (near the corner with Park View Road and close to the junction with Park Crescent), they do not serve any useful traffic calming function, and an increasing number of vehicles appear to be using the street as a rat-run to avoid the traffic lights at the junction of Squires Lane/Long Lane and as a means to get to Ballards Lane. This has resulted in a fairly high volume of fast-moving traffic, particularly at night when cars are often driven at excessive speed.</p> <p>I understand that in the past there were speed humps on the road, but that these were removed due to concerns from the ambulance service, who regularly visit the elderly residents of Etchingam Park Road and the surrounding streets. My neighbours are of the opinion that since this removal the traffic situation has worsened, and I would like to rectify this to make the street nicer for all residents and to encourage through traffic to use Squires Lane/Long Lane, which are both of a more suitable width to accommodate higher traffic volumes.</p> <p>There are many young families living on the street, and a high number of</p>	

Issue Raised	Response
<p>elderly residents, all of whom are vulnerable to speeding motorists, and I would like the forum to discuss the possibility of introducing more effective traffic calming measures, specifically:</p> <p>1) Widening of the traffic island close to the junction with Park View Road to restrict the width of vehicles able to travel the whole length of Etchingam Park Road and to slow down traffic at this point. Alternatively, to turn the existing island into a gated filter which would allow cyclists and emergency vehicles to pass but not motor vehicles.</p> <p>2) Creation of a similar traffic island or filter between Ballards Lane and Holdenhurst Avenue which would deter southbound drivers from using Etchingam Park Road as a short cut to Squires Lane and/or Long Lane.</p> <p>3) Construction of a further traffic island between Squiers Lane and the Etchingam Park Road/Park Avenue junction to deter drivers from driving north and using Park Avenue as a cut-through onto Long Lane.</p> <p>4) A similar level of traffic calming on Woodlands Avenue and Queens Avenue, ideally close to their junctions with Squires Lane and Park Crescent to discourage their use as alternative rat-runs.</p> <p>4) Signage at both ends of Etchingam Park Road (Ballards Lane and Squiers Lane) indicating "No Through Road - Access Only" or similar</p> <p>I am unsure if this is the correct procedure for raising this concern or indeed if the forum is the correct place for the matter to be discussed in order for it to be raised with the council's highways division - if this is best raised via an alternative means, please let me know how I should proceed from here.</p> <p><i>Tim Fearn</i></p>	

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5	<p>Safety concern around cars travelling at speed along Etchingam Park Road when there are three exits from Victoria Park onto this street. This park is used by a lot of local families, and in addition on warmer days there is usually an ice cream van located near the junction with Seymour Road that attracts children - there is a definite risk that a child could run out into the street and be hit by a speeding motorist.</p> <p><i>Tim Fearn</i></p>	
6	<p>CPZ Consultation 25365</p> <p>Myself and a few other residents have taken the lead in highlighting to the Consultation that we have experienced issues with parking in these two road over the past 3 years, in the start at a result in the over expansion of the Palm Hotel, which now hosts parties for upto 300 guests in a function room granted an entertainment licence in 2012.</p> <p>Video of the chaos caused when 300 guests try and park in our narrow residential streets</p> <p>Cloister Road &gt; <a href="http://youtu.be/TxWm2llrhY">http://youtu.be/TxWm2llrhY</a></p> <p>Cloister and Garth &gt; <a href="http://youtu.be/NcFfdqhQ8Z8">http://youtu.be/NcFfdqhQ8Z8</a></p> <p>More recently over say the past 24 months the number of commuters parking up in the street and leaving resident no space when they return from work and with all the surrounding areas already controlled by CPZ's we have no choice but to 'double park' illegally. Which has resulted in many residents of Garth getting PCN's and some in Cloister. (Map attached – Note the parking oasis of Cloister and Garth at the bottom)</p> <p>Adding to the commuters which increase with every Jan increase in the</p>	

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	<p>charge, we now have the building contractors and associated fitters parking up in their work vans and walking up to the building site at the top of Cricklewood Lane Jct with Finchley Road.</p> <p>Driveways get parked on or across and residents have endured enough, we had the police attend an altercation between a resident and a hotel guest over parking and my wife has been abused when I popped out in the car for milk and she asked a Hotel party guest not to take my place as I would only be 5mins.</p> <p>We have submitted a 200+ petition some time ago now at the beginning of the problems – This relates to parking and the hotel, but since we collected this the problems have worsened and my wife and I are being actively stopped in the street to get update on ‘the parking situation’ ...</p> <p>I have emailed Barnet council over this period with the 1<sup>st</sup> being 03/04/2012 (I shall forward this on)</p> <p>Thanks for taking the time to discuss this very important issue which quite frankly is affecting the lives of the residents in these two small residential streets</p> <p><i>Richard Davis</i></p>	
7	<p>Mortimer Close, NW2, is not included in the CPZ zone. This is unlike other roads off Cricklewood Lane. As a result of this there are significantly increased pressures on parking on Mortimer Close during week days. Residents ask for the introduction of a CPZ on Mortimer Close.</p> <p><i>Residents from Mortimer Close</i></p>	

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8	<p>The Kara Way playground has a multi-use games court which was intended to include a tennis court. Residents were told that folding tennis net posts, that could drop down into the tarmac when not being used, would be installed along with a storage box so the tennis net could be kept on site.</p> <p>The playground opened last August but, nearly a year later, this work has not been completed. We have been given tennis posts which are stored in a resident's shed along with the net. These are very heavy to carry to and from the playground so the tennis court is not being used. Before the playground was redeveloped, there was a storage box on site.</p> <p>At a recent meeting to discuss anti-social behaviour taking place in the Kara Way playground, councillor Longstaff suggested that a timetable be drawn up for the installation of the folding tennis posts and the secure box. This has not happened, so we have no idea when the work will take place. We would be grateful if you could let us know when the storage box and post will be fitted. Tennis will bring another user group to the playground and help reduce anti-social behaviour.</p> <p><i>Sylvia Gauthereau</i>  <i>Railway Terraces Residents' Association member</i></p>	
9.	<p>So many issues were raised by the residents of the Railway. Officers have suggested conducting a walkabout with residents, in particular issues relating to damaged signage, missing bollards, road surfaces, potholes in the terraces and the very faded yellow box junction at the entrance to Kara Way.</p> <p>The walkabout took place during 2014. None of the issues raised during that walkabout have been dealt with and continue to affect residents</p>	



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	<p>who have continued to raise them with officers during the year.</p> <p>A further walkabout more recently covering the same issues has taken place but the same issues are still outstanding eighteen months after being raised at the Residents' Forum. Concern remains about the number of HGV's reversing down Kara Way on to the Edgware Road, blocking the road completely and the forklift operating in Kara Way, the main route to the newly refurbished playground.</p> <p>Jessica Howey Secretary Railway Terraces Residents' Association</p>	
10	<p>Kara Way is the main route to the new playground. Many families and children use the playground. Sometimes there are 120 adults and children in the playground. This means increasing amounts of litter are dropped in Kara Way. This road needs to be included in the regular street cleaning rota.</p> <p><i>Resident of Campion Terrace</i></p>	
11	<p>A number of streets in our neighbourhood have parts of the footpath obstructed through overgrown hedges. This causes an obstruction for people with buggies and wheelchairs – sometimes having to manoeuvre onto the road. What process is there for local residents to alert officers to the dangerous restriction of the footpath, what action will be taken by officers and in what time frame?</p> <p><i>Kieran Kettleton</i></p>	
12	<p>The footpath beside Dollis Brook in West Finchley has recently been improved as a result of the GLA grant. The inclusion of a cycle path has given additional access to the area which was previously a no cycling</p>	

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	<p>zone.</p> <p>Parts of the cycle path run along the same path as the footpath. As it is designed, it is not an exclusive cycle path and is shared with pedestrians. Cyclists travelling at high speed on the new path have not always shown consideration to pedestrians.</p> <p>Can appropriate signage be displayed to a) request that cyclists slow down, b) that cyclists show consideration to pedestrians and c) that pedestrians have priority.</p> <p><i>Kieran Kettleton</i></p>	
13	<p>1. Please explain why more than £13.5 million of taxpayers' money has been spent on buying the site for the new waste depot when last year it changed hands for only £750,000? Why were councillors given misleading information that did not acknowledge this transaction before the decision to approve the purchase was forced through? Why is it the Tory administration is so quick to find £13.5 million to pay for this site when claiming it needs to slash our library service budget by £2.8 million?</p> <p>2. Why did the Tory administration secretly give away public land in West Hendon worth more than £12 million to private developers for the sum of only £3, and is this not another example of Conservative profligacy with taxpayers' money?</p> <p>3. Why has there been no real attempt to advertise the change in submission dates for Residents Forums, and why does there continue to be such poor publicity for the meetings? Is it not the truth that the Conservative administration resents the existence of the Forums and uses every means at its disposal to avoid reminding the wider public that the Forums exist?</p>	

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	<p>4. Has the council managed to sell off the historic park keeper's lodge in Victoria Park yet? Are there any more publicly owned assets, historic or otherwise, in Finchley which are now marked for selling to the highest bidder?</p> <p>5. How much money is the council hoping to make from the sale of Church End library, and what is the latest news of the library promised in the Gateway House multimillion pound development that no one asked for but has been forced upon us? When will it open, how big will it be, and will it have any staff or be one of the new 'open' libraries with a few books and no librarians?</p> <p><i>Theresa Musgrove</i></p>	
14	<p>1) Barnet has areas which are Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation. How are they managed to ensure that their biodiversity is enhanced? When Barnet Council has works carried out in these sites, as part of the works are measures undertaken to ensure that weeds are not introduced during these works? Additionally, are surveys undertaken at regular intervals to ensure that flora not present in previous flora surveys of the site are identified and procedures undertaken to remove them?</p> <p>2) In the vicinity of Dollis Brook, which of the flora species below were present prior to 2010? In order to select Dollis Brook as a SINC surveys of flora would have been undertaken at different times. I am no botanist but I think the following are now along Dollis Brook. Some are only a few of a plant species but others are very common - Himalayan balsam, thistles, hogweed (giant and common), poppy, knotweed, wheat, yellow flowered plant, fat hen, hemlock, cornflower, docks, plant with big leaves, comfrey. Will Barnet Council</p>	

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	<p>control these - if so, when, as they are either in flower now or soon will be?</p> <p>3) As Dollis Brook flows into Welsh Harp, which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation is it even more important that species previously absent from Dollis Brook are prevented from seeding / breaking off and moving downstream so they eventually colonise Welsh Harp?</p> <p>4) Why are City Suburban Tree Surgeons cutting down so many trees? Why is this work being undertaken at this time of the year when such work should be undertaken outside the bird nesting season?</p> <p>5) What season does the Seasonal Pond between Dollis Brook and Finchley Golf Club operate?</p> <p>6) Victoria Park. At the last forum, a freedom of information request to determine who are the Victoria Park Recreation Ground trustees was initiated. No update to this has been posted in the Forum Issues List. What is the outcome of the FOI? Has the missing land register / indenture for the third section of Victoria Park to be obtained been located?</p> <p>7) The forums are a means for residents to make enquires of Barnet Council the answers of questions also being available to other residents on-line. Previously I had emailed Barnet Council Greenspaces and received answers in an email. However, I considered that these "answers" were not answering my questions so I asked them again at a resident's forum. The answers took the form of " This query has been raised with and responded to by the Greenspaces Team on 30th December 2014 and there is no further update. " Please can these be properly answered so they are available to all residents?</p>	

	Issue Raised	Response
	<i>Mary O'Connor</i>	
15	<p>Parking and speeding problems on Friary Way and Valley Avenue</p> <p>There was a resident led consultation that took place on Friary Way and Valley Avenue N12 between Sunday 30 May and Friday 12 June in relation to the significant parking issues in both streets and the speed and volume of traffic on Friary Way.</p> <p>Over 50% of the residents on both streets responded to the consultation and are demanding the opportunity to be consulted on options to address both issues.</p> <p>We draw your attention to the particular concerns residents have raised about the significant access problems and potential health and safety issues on Valley Avenue caused by the intensive commuter parking and the dangers of heavy and speeding traffic along Friary Way. In both cases there is an accident waiting to happen.</p> <p>Given that the CPZ is already in operation in surrounding streets and is having a negative impact on Friary Way and Valley Avenue we request that a review of the CPZ should be incorporated into the Council's Highways team work programme as soon as possible.</p> <p>Many residents have suggested that a 1 hour per day CPZ would be the most effective way of addressing the parking issues by preventing commuter parking and dealing with the long term parking of people who do not live on these streets. There is already a 1 hour 2-3pm control in operation within part of the North Finchley CPZ near to Woodhouse Road so the precedent has been set.</p> <p>We are demanding the opportunity to be consulted on options to address the parking issue on Friary Way and Valley Avenue by</p>	

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	<p>extending the CPZ and reducing the speed along Friary Way through traffic calming measures such as introducing a 20 mph speed limit . We would like a commitment from the council and a program of action on the issues we have raised.</p> <p><i>Mr Behrouz Shomali</i></p>	
16	<p>Petition with 42 signatures:</p> <p>'Golders Garden is one of the only roads in the whole of Barnet which has parking restrictions all day and 7 days a week. We the undersigned would like the restrictions changed to Mon-Fri 11-12'</p> <p><i>Lead petitioner: David Hersh</i></p>	
17	<p>Petition with 78 signatures:</p> <p>'We the undersigned petition Barnet Council to not sell Victoria Park Lodge (former park keepers lodge) in Victoria Park, Finchley'</p> <p><i>Lead petitioner: Ms Mary T O'Connor</i></p>	

Contact: Edward Gilbert, Governance Service, Assurance Group, London Borough of Barnet, NLBP, Building 2, Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1NP.  
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Future meeting dates:

Date of meeting	Location
21 <sup>st</sup> October 2015	Greek Cypriot Brotherhood Community Centre
13 <sup>th</sup> January 2016	TBC
30 <sup>th</sup> March 2016	Avenue House