

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

<u>Parks Engagement</u>	
<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>No response required. There will be a presentation on resident engagement.</p>

	Jon Sheaff	
--	------------	--

	Issue Raised	Response
1.	<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>	<p>The record of injury accidents in Manor Drive (which provides an objective measure of the relative issues in different locations) indicates that there has been one ‘slight’ injury accident in the most recent three years data currently available (to the end of 2014) at the junction of York Road, but speed is not identified as a contributory factor in this incident.</p> <p>We do not appear to have recent speed survey information for this location.</p> <p>This request can be included in the annual assessment and prioritisation against all other traffic management schemes in the borough; where highest priority schemes would then be included in future years’ programmes for approval by the Environment Committee.</p> <p>Highways.Correspondence@barnet.gov.uk</p>
2.	<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. • To ensure to distribute / deliver from now on all the future issues to every household in their borough in accordance with 	<p>Barnet First is the council magazine and is published four times a year. It is distributed to every household in the borough, as well as every library in the borough and the Hendon Town Hall. We apologise if there are any residents who have not received a copy to their home.</p> <p>The magazine is distributed through a door to door distribution contract, which has recently been renewed and awarded to LetterboxDistribution.com for a three year period. The new contract has software in place that allows real-time and historic</p>

	Issue Raised	Response
	<p>their website statement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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>	<p>GPS tracking to monitor delivery across the borough. In addition delivery teams are instructed to feedback any delivery problems to specific addresses after each edition is distributed so any problems can be resolved.</p> <p>The previous contractor was Letterbox Marketing. Distribution was monitored through recording of missed properties, and working with the council to resolve any specific issues.</p> <p>Occasionally there are problems with distributors gaining access to certain properties. If a resident does not receive a copy of the magazine, they can contact the corporate communications team by emailing barnet.first@barnet.gov.uk or by calling 020 8359 2000. Whenever the council has been informed that a resident has not received the magazine, this is passed to the contractor to investigate and a copy of the magazine is sent to the household.</p> <p>The council is not able to offer a refund, but is happy to resend copies of the magazine to anyone who reports they have not received it. Previous editions of the magazine are available in libraries across the borough, and are also accessible online through the council's website at www.barnet.gov.uk</p>
3.	<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>"All men are equal, but some are more equal than others."</p>	<p>Residents Forums provide an opportunity for any resident to raise local matters. Following recent rounds of Residents' Forums and Area Committees, the Chairmen of these bodies expressed concern at the way that issues were being managed and responded to. Under the previous arrangements, it was not often not clear what had actions had been agreed following the discussion / debate on an issue. As a result, a number of changes are currently progressing through the council's committees aimed at improving processes.</p>

Issue Raised	Response
<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>	<p>Details of the background to the changes can be accessed via the references below.</p> <p>The changes are designed to improve the processes and procedures relating to Residents Forums in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the amount of time that the chairman and officers have to provide responses to issues will enable more detailed information to be provided to residents. • Forum chairmen will have new powers to determine whether an issue has: i) been responded to fully and is therefore closed; ii) or requires a further response from officers within 20 days. This will provide clarity to residents regarding the status of their issue once it has been considered at the forum or area committee. • Forums will now produce minutes which will detail the discussion that has taken place, the decision of the chairman and, if there are any actions arising, who is the officer responsible for responding within the 20 day response timeframe <p>In relation to the reduction in the number of forums since 2009, consideration of the number and type of decision-making bodies and the frequency of meetings is a matter for Full Council.</p> <p>To ensure that residents have not been adversely affected by the revised deadline, the timetable for publicising the changes has been moved forward. The timetable for the 2 July Forums was as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advert in local press – 17 June 2015

	Issue Raised	Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-mail to residents on the Residents Forum e-mail distribution list detailing changes to publicity arrangements – 19 June 2015 • Deadline for submission of issues – 10am, 25 June 2015 <p>If residents would like to receive e-mail notifications about forums, they can do so by notifying: governanceservice@barnet.gov.uk</p> <p>Impact of the revised deadline on the number of issues received:</p> <p><u>Chipping Barnet</u> March 2015 = 8 issues July 2015 = 18 issues</p> <p><u>Finchley & Golders Green</u> March 2015 = 9 issues July 2015 = 16 issues</p> <p><u>Hendon</u> March 2015 = 20 issues July 2015 = 13 issues 1 issue was ruled out due to references to planning. The resident was given an opportunity to amend the issue but declined to do so.</p> <p><u>References:</u></p> <p>31 March 2015, Constitution, Ethics and Probity Committee considered the proposed changes to arrangement for Residents Forums: http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=589&</p>

	Issue Raised	Response
		<p>MIId=7825&Ver=4 The rationale for the changes are detailed in item 5 on pages 12 – 13 of the ‘Agenda and Report Pack’. The changes were approved by the Committee on 31 March and then by the Full Council on 14 April 2015.</p> <p>30 June 2015, Constitution, Ethics and Probity Committee proposed the addition of powers available to forum chairmen (page 67 of the ‘Agenda and Report Pack’ refers): http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g8390/Public%20reports%20pack%2030th-Jun-2015%2019.00%20Constitution%20Ethics%20and%20Probity%20Committee.pdf?T=10 These changes are subject to consideration and approval at Full Council on 28 July 2015.</p> <p>Residents can access these report online via the council’s website. Procedures for Residents Forums and Area Committees are in the council’s constitution which is available online via: http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/</p> <p>andrew.charlwood@barnet.gov.uk</p>
4.	<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>	<p>This location was identified in the Environment Committee report in January for inclusion in the 2015/16 work programme, although the report indicated that work at this location would be subject to review against other locations with high numbers of accidents.</p> <p>Speed and traffic volume surveys have been carried out on Gainsborough Road and Woodside Avenue. The surveys for Gainsborough Road site indicate that 85% of drivers were travelling at or below 24.5 mph in one direction and 21.2 mph in the other. However on Woodside Avenue 85% of drivers were</p>

	Issue Raised	Response
		<p>travelling at or below 36.1 mph in one direction and 34.7 mph in the other.</p> <p>A copy of the full survey reports will be provided for the resident at the meeting as well as handwritten turning and junction movement counts for the junction.</p> <p>The poor accident record at the junction means that it remains in the programme for scheme development this financial year, with implementation as part of the 2016/17 work programme.</p> <p>Highways.Correspondence@barnet.gov.uk</p>
5.	<p>I am interested to hear about any proposals regarding the old Underhill football site.</p> <p>Allan Greig</p>	<p>The Old Underhill site has been purchased by the Department for Education with the view to provide a school on the site. Officers are awaiting submission of draft proposals as part of a pre-application advice service. It is anticipated that a full planning application, which would need to fully take into account Officers advice, will be submitted in the autumn/early winter.</p> <p>Joe.henry@barnet.gov.uk</p>
6.	<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</p>	<p>Please refer to the response at item 3 above.</p>

	Issue Raised	Response
	<p>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 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>	
7.	<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</p>	<p>Please refer to the response at item 3 above.</p>

	Issue Raised	Response
	<p>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 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>	
8.	<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>	<p>We are in the process of evaluating consultation feedback and a further report will be considered by the Children, Education and Libraries Committee in September 2015.</p> <p>Val.white@barnet.gov.uk</p>

9.

- (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 polluted 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.
- (b) Is this true - that the engines have be left running, so as to provide electricity for the computers?
- (c) Who enforces Barnet LB's regulations governing stationary idling motors? Is the responsibility of the police, or that of the parking attendants?
- (d) What are the guidelines for enforcing Barnet's idling regulations?

Phil Fletcher

(a) It is correct that mobile data terminal in a police car only works if the engine is running.

- The data terminal is used by the officers to access the police national computer (PNC) , police calls (CAD calls) requiring an urgent response and mapping systems (given the size of the borough officers require this so they can quickly reach their destination).
- When the engine is switched off and on it takes time for the systems to re-boot. The calls for police assistant also cannot be received and officers are unable to respond, for example an officers might be attending to an incident and an 'I' graded call (urgent) is received – the target response time is 12 minutes – if the police car is switched off it could take officers approx. 4 minutes for the system to come on, accept the call and start the navigation before they make their way.
- Officers make a judgement call depending on, for example, what they have been called out for or any other events taking place on the borough – the general guidance is not to leave the engine running for excessive times unless required.

Kiran.vagarwal@barnet.gov.uk

The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 make it an offence to leave vehicle engines running whilst unattended. Unfortunately however, police vehicles, ambulances and fire brigade vehicles are exempt for these purposes by virtue of section 107(2)(a).

The London Borough of Barnet has not adopted the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty)(England) Regulations 2002 which contain the powers with which local authorities can enforce using fixed penalty notices.

		James.Armitage@barnet.gov.uk
10.	<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>	Please refer to the response at item 3 above.
11	<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>	<p>Given the number of schools in the Borough and the enforcement resources available to us we try to visit as many schools as possible. When we receive specific concerns at particular schools we use this to prioritise resources appropriately; however we do receive a lot of similar requests and are not always in a position to accommodate all requests. The Council are currently reviewing the priority locations to install CCTV cameras as this is a more effective way of enforcing school locations than deploying an on-foot enforcement officer.</p> <p>Paul.Bragg@barnet.gov.uk</p>
12	<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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The closing of the libraries in Barnet turning your ward into a dumpster by relocation the Mill Hill waste depot in our heavily residential area the residents asking for your recall as a councillor as you have publicly said that you are putting the party's wishes above your 	<p>Residents Forums provide an opportunity for any resident to raise local matters. Local matters are any matters which are relevant to the council expect for matters relating to specific planning or licensing applications. Issues raised should relate to local matters and not the actions of individual councillors. As set out below, the Chipping Barnet Residents Forum Chairman, Councillor Rutter, has allowed the questions, but these issues should have been ruled out of order upon receipt:</p> <p>andrew.charlwood@barnet.gov.uk</p>

residents. I would like to ask the exact amount you are paid to be the Chairman of the Chipping Barnet resident's Forum?"

Kanu Dave

Response from Councillor Lisa Rutter:

"It would appear that you have misunderstood the remit of the residents' forum.

Resident forums provide an opportunity for residents to raise local issues except for matters relating to specific planning applications.

Your question is not for this forum as it is a personal question to a Councillor. As Chairman however I have allowed this on this occasion and have tried to respond to the matters in question. If you have further questions, I will respond to you personally by email.

a) You state that since I became Councillor, my voting actions have resulted in the closing of libraries in Barnet.

It would not be possible for me as one Councillor to be responsible. There are 63 Councillors and we all have to vote. I am informed that the Council are not closing any libraries. The results from the consultation will be presented on September 21st.

b) You state that I am turning my Ward into a dumpster by relocating the Mill Hill waste depot in a heavily residential area.

I am in no way trying to turn my Ward into a dumpster – in fact the very opposite. The recent purchase of the lease for the Winters Haulage site next to the Abbots site means that once they have gone, there will be a reduction of heavy goods vehicle movements along Oakleigh Road South. If the proposal goes ahead residents will find it much better. The next stage is for the planning application to be submitted and this will be shortly. The application will be posted on the website and people will be able

		<p>to view and comment.</p> <p>c) You state that the residents are asking me to resign as I put the party's wishes above the residents and you would like to know how much I am paid as Chairman of this forum.</p> <p>I do not intend to resign. I have been a Councillor since 2006. I owe a duty to the majority of residents that elected me to continue to represent them. I help a lot of people and work very hard. I hold weekly surgeries and sometimes residents from other Wards come to see me because people have recommended them to me as the best person to help them. With reference to the amount I am paid as Chairman – this information is on the Council's website.”</p>
13	<p>LITTER BINS The heritage style littler 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</p>	<p>The Street Operations Manager will look into the issues raised on litter bin maintenance and insufficient bins and update accordingly.</p> <p>There is a planned programme of power jetting all town centre pavements to clean and remove staining, and areas around street bins will be addressed as part of this.</p> <p>lynn.bishop@barnet.gov.uk</p> <p>The repair of the wall at the junction of Stapylton Road/ Salisbury Road Junction is currently with the contractor and works will be completed within the next 28 days.</p> <p>The junction of Stapylton Road with Salisbury Road has 4 injury accidents recorded in the most recent 5 years data (2 in 2010 and 2 in 2014). One refers to a vehicle having to pull out into the traffic stream because of parked cars and another records, as a contributory factor, a pedestrian “crossing road masked by</p>

	<p>please to moving the offending parking bays to the opposite side of the road?</p> <p>Gordon Massey Barnet Residents Association</p>	<p>stationary or parked vehicle”.</p> <p>There are no recorded injury accidents in the most recent five years data for the junction of Stapylton Road with The Drive.</p> <p>Officers note the request for the parking bays on Stapylton Road to be relocated and Officers will include this request as part of the assessment and prioritisation of yellow lines and minor parking change requests which will take place this Autumn, with any agreed measures to be progressed throughout the remainder of the 2015/16 year if funding is available.</p> <p>Highways.Correspondence@barnet.gov.uk</p>
14	<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>	<p>Officers request that the Residents Association provide further detail on the exact issues that are causes parking problem so a way forward can be discussed.</p> <p>Highways Officers did raise concerns over parking and traffic in their response to the planning application however, as The Cat Hill Development is in Enfield rather than Barnet, Officers had no control over the final detail in the planning approval. However, so Re Officers are contacting the relevant Officers at Enfield to discuss any Construction Management Plan that was put in to place prior to granting planning permission and ways to address the parking issues on Barnet Roads.</p> <p>Highways.Correspondence@barnet.gov.uk</p>
15	<p>Can an update be provided on the progress relating to parking issues on East Barnet Road?</p> <p>Carol and Fiona</p>	<p>This question was received after the deadline. A detailed response will be sent to the resident within 20 working days.</p>

16	<p>STAPYLTON RD PEDESTRIAN CROSSING</p> <p>This crossing is poorly lit because of a lack of a nearby street lamp. Could consideration be given to improving the lighting please?</p> <p>Gordon Massey</p>	<p>This question was received after the deadline. A detailed response will be sent to the resident within 20 working days</p>
17	<p>SALISBURY RD FOOTPATH BETWEEN STAPYLTON RD AND HIGH ST</p> <p>The north side of this footpath has been in a dreadful state for some years, with extensive pooling in wet weather It carries a heavy footfall of people walking to/from the High St. Could consideration be given to including the re-laying of this path in the forward maintenance programme please?</p> <p>Gordon Massey</p>	<p>This question was received after the deadline. A detailed response will be sent to the resident within 20 working days</p>
19	<p>CHEWING GUM REMOVAL</p> <p>I understand a chewing gum removal machine was acquired in October last, but we have yet to see evidence of it being used. When is it planned to use it in High Barnet please?</p> <p>Gordon Massey</p>	<p>This question was received after the deadline. A detailed response will be sent to the resident within 20 working days.</p>

Contact: Governance Service, Assurance Group, London Borough of Barnet, NLBP, Building 2, Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1NP.
Tel: 020 8359 3469, Email: chippingbarnet.residentsforum@barnet.gov.uk

Future meeting dates:

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