

FINCHLEY & GOLDERS GREEN RESIDENTS FORUM

VENUE: Greek Cypriot Brotherhood Community Centre, Britannia Road, North Finchley, London, N12 9RU

Wednesday 21st October 2015 – 6.30PM

Chairman: Councillor Shimon Ryde
Vice 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) 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)

Barnet Health and Wellbeing Strategy Consultation

Barnet's Health and Wellbeing Board, which consists of Barnet Council, Barnet's Clinical Commissioning Group and Barnet Healthwatch are planning how they will support residents to stay healthy and lead active, independent lives over the next four years (2016 – 2020).

There has been lots of engagement work over the last three months with key stakeholders, including at the Health and Wellbeing Board and Partnership Board Summit in July to develop the priorities of the strategy.

Based on this engagement the Board has written a draft strategy called "Keeping Well, Promoting Independence" which sets out our plans.

The draft four-year strategy is intended to give greater numbers of people, of all ages, the opportunity to live healthy, active lives and help prevent avoidable illnesses.

We want to hear your views on whether our plans are right for the people of Barnet.

You will find the online consultation on Barnet Council's Engage Space - <https://engage.barnet.gov.uk/commissioning-group/joint-hwb-strategy-2016-2020>

Please contact Zoë Garbett if you have any questions or to arrange for a paper copy to be sent to you. The consultation ends on the 25th October ahead of the final Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy being approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 12 November 2015.

Telephone – 020 8359 3478

Email: zoe.garbett@barnet.gov.uk

	Issue Raised	Response
1	<p>Bridge over Dollis Brook, Windsor Open Space at Holders Hill Gardens</p> <p>It would be useful if someone could let local residents know when this bridge is being repaired. It is over 2 months since first reported and Park and Highways depts. have just passed this issue to each other.</p> <p>Local residents and visitors are being severely inconvenienced.</p> <p><i>Alan Edwards</i></p>	
2	<p>Why was the tree on the corner of Long Lane and Park View, in Victoria Park, cut down last month? This tree was over 60 years old. What was the financial cost of its removal? Are environmental considerations considered? Corporate policy is to improve the satisfaction of residents. So why remove large trees without warning?</p> <p><i>Mary O'Connor</i></p>	
3	<p>On the side of Dollis Brook, not far from Lovers Walk a tree has recently had all the branches and the top cut off. Why?</p> <p><i>Mary O'Connor</i></p>	

	Issue Raised	Response
4	<p>From a Freedom of Information request, the new bridge across Dollis Brook cost £47,575.75. Barnet Council plans to replace two more bridges so will cost about £100,000. Why is there no engineers reports regarding the condition of the present bridges to justify their replacement? Do they need replacing or is the only reason these bridges are marked for replacement to enable cyclists to travel faster? Why are they being replaced with bridges similar to the new one instead of a design in keeping with the surroundings? How can the cost be justified for cyclists when the path is below cycle standard and on-road parallel provision for cyclists is required as Dollis Valley Greenwalk is not lit at night?</p> <p><i>Mary O'Connor</i></p>	
5	<p>Proposals for Lodge Lane from the Residents Committee</p> <p>Proposal 1: To resurface the road to a better standard and replace all road markings without delay.</p> <p>Reason 1: The work that has been done is unsatisfactory and dangerous. Loose chippings are flying up into the faces of pedestrians and damaging cars. There is a very high risk of pedestrians slipping.</p> <p>Comments 1: The work as it stands is a health and safety hazard for the residents of Lodge Lane. We feel that this is negligent of Barnet Council.</p> <p>Proposal 2: To improve the standards of the pavements</p> <p>Reason 2: The pavements are uneven, full of holes and dangerous. Residents are having accidents and cars are mounting the pavements causing further damage.</p> <p>Comments 2: We need traffic curbing measures. Barriers to prevent cars mounting the</p>	

Issue Raised	Response
<p>pavements would not be appropriate, unless the road is one way, as this would lead to greater congestion.</p> <p>Proposal 3: To make the road one way .</p> <p>Reason 3: The road is far too narrow and it is a hazard to all pedestrians when cars mount the pavement to pass each other. It is the cause of great tension amongst residents and the motorists themselves as they often have to reverse back and squeeze into dangerous positions to get past each other.</p> <p>Comments 3: We do not believe this will have a negative effect on surrounding roads. Woodside Park Road, Nether Street and Gainsborough Road are much wider roads than Lodge Lane and have the capacity for more cars to travel down. Lodge Lane has too high a proportion of users as it has the car park at one end, the post office at another and a primary school.</p> <p>Proposal 4: To impose a speed limit and safer crossing area for all users of Lodge Lane including the school.</p> <p>Reason 4: The road is used by many members of the public including young children going to school, the elderly, Lodge Lane residents, businesses and visitors. There is currently no safe crossing or clear indications for cars to slow down as they approach the school.</p> <p>Comments 4: We do not think that it is satisfactory to have to wait for numerous incidents where pedestrians are seriously injured before residents, parents from the school, businesses and other users of Lodge Lane are listened to.</p> <p><i>Sian Jays</i></p>	

	Issue Raised	Response
6	<p>Kingsley Close is opposite the main entrance to Lytteleton Playing Fields and park and childrens play ground. This park attracts a great many people on Sundays not only from HGS but Temple Fortune, Golders Green, and other local areas. Also there is a regular football team that play every Sunday all through the year and occasionally in the summer cricket teams use the park. It is unknown if they have a licence from Barnet for this facility.</p> <p>Most of this problem starts around mid afternoon and especially when the football team arrive in their cars,as they all arrive about the same time at the peak time with everyone else, and this chaos carries on till late in the afternoon. This often gets out of hand with a lot of frayed tempers, hooting and arguments.</p> <p>This situation is getting worse and worse and now becoming quite intolerable.</p> <p>It is a serious situation regarding Emergency Vehicles, if there was a serious accidents in the park, playground, or the footballers or in one of the households it would be impossible to get through.</p> <p>Residents propose that the double yellow lines are continued along Kingsley Way, on the side of the road of the entrance to the park, and to continue for a short way past Middleway junction.</p> <p>And to leave the other side of Kingsley Way as it is now for free parking. We feel that this would</p> <p>Solve the problem and allow traffic to flow freely and allow for the Emergency Vehicles.</p> <p>Please give this your attention and let me know when and where the next Forum is taking place.</p> <p><i>Barbara Bliss.</i></p>	

	Issue Raised	Response
7	<p>State of alley behind shops nos 170 – 192 Cricklewood Broadway NW2</p> <p>Raising this again, first raised at F & GG Residents' Forum on Wed, 25 March 2015. Taken up by Cllr. Shimon Ryde, who has had a number of meetings with Technical Officers, Refuse Collectors, Local Business Owners and Managing Agents.</p> <p>Some improvement over the last few months but there is a lack of monitoring and the condition of alley continues to deteriorate. Problems seem to stem mainly from tenants and misuse of bins. Rubbish accumulates, not necessarily from tenants, but it is not removed. For example, today, Tuesday, 13 October, there were 2 supermarket trolleys loaded with assorted rubbish and a pile of stuff on the ground. This is typical. My last communication was on 8 July from Cllr. Ryde, who said he would follow up on my last report same day but have heard no more from him.</p> <p><i>Sonia Bryant</i></p>	
8	<p>Can we please have a salt bin for Avondale Avenue, N12 8EP. It is a street with a gradient and it has two corners which get no sun. It gets very icy in winter.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p><i>Patricia O'Connor</i></p>	
9	<p>1. Waiting restriction on Finchley Road southbound approaching West Heath Avenue.</p> <p>Pursuant to item 4 of January's Forum. Officers' response stated that a proposal had been developed for a double yellow line approaching this junction opposite 831-835 Finchley Road, that was expected to go out to consultation in spring. May we have an update please?</p> <p>2. Motorised gardening equipment.</p>	

Issue Raised	Response
<p>Pursuant to item 1 of July's Forum, concerning the perceived nuisance from petrol-driven leaf-blowers in Hampstead Garden Suburb. They are also causing considerable nuisance in other parts of the borough, not just Hampstead Garden Suburb. It is not merely noise pollution, their inefficient engines produce far more noxious pollutants than the equivalent car engine power, as well as blow up dust that may contain mould and animal faeces. Concerning officers' comment that "Contractors... do not now sweep leaves", bans or major restrictions on such motorised equipment have been introduced in many US municipalities, and there they do again as a consequence.</p> <p>(i) May we have a direct answer to one of the questions put, namely, does Barnet Council have the power to introduce a bye-law to ban or restrict some types of motorised gardening equipment? (As opposed to whether Re is in favour).</p> <p>(ii) Does the Mayor of London have the power to introduce such bye-laws, which concerned Councils and others could call for?</p> <p>3. Noisy cars and motorcycles.</p> <p>One or two sports cars are causing a nuisance in and around Golders Green by being driven extremely loudly down certain streets on a daily basis. Also some motorcycles appear to be unsilenced causing similar noise nuisance. What powers do the council and/or police have in this regard? Can offending vehicles be detected by CCTV operators?</p> <p>4. Pooling on pavement in North End Road</p> <p>A rainwater pool up to eight feet long often forms on the pavement in North End Road near the entrance to the Bus Station, in a confined space with high footfall, where many have luggage. The council has advised me that to rectify this does not attain their criteria for Highways budget. However, is it eligible to be put forward for an Area Committee grant, and if so, may I have a costing for such rectification works? My original Highways Service Request reference number was 53874.</p>	

	Issue Raised	Response
	<i>Mr Levy</i>	
10	<p>Two years ago I campaigned through the forum for residents' parking on Finchley Road outside Clarendon/Dudley/Montrose Courts. NW11.</p> <p>Unfortunately, although the metered parking in these areas is mostly empty during the day, I was unable to persuade the committee that some of it should be given over to respark for the flats.</p> <p>There was some new CPZ introduced at the time that we hoped would include us but it did not materialise.</p> <p>I note that you are now monitoring parking use with sensors so you will know how little these bays are used during the day.</p> <p>Those residents of these blocks of flats with cars struggle to find street space and end up parking behind the flats in front of the garages blocking garage users in.</p> <p>I would like the committee to re-look at my proposition. We are not asking for all three sets of bays to be respark, although that would be great, but at least give us a few spaces.</p> <p><i>Valerie Cowan</i></p>	
11	<p>I would like to know what issues below, the Council and the police have a legal duty of care to deal with and within what time-frame as these problems are long-standing.</p> <p>1. Rats</p> <p>The rough sleepers / rubbish issues from HMOs are fuelling the infestation of rats. Significant extermination programme is required and then plugs re-installed in paladins in Burlington Parade. It would seem sensible to replace the plastic plugs with metal</p>	

Issue Raised	Response
<p>ones, thereby not enabling the rats to gnaw through periodically and re-create the infestation. We have a highly qualified and experienced vermin expert who lives in the terraces and is willing to undertake an assessment and provide a report to the Council.</p> <p>2. Signage</p> <p>We need far more “Official Council Signage”: Multi language, pictorial, and placed in the bushes, steps, playground: No drinking, fouling, sleeping, fly-tipping etc. It would also be a good idea to make clear through signage that rough sleepers are at risk of being bitten by rats if they continue to sleep there and use it as a public toilet space.</p> <p>3. Bushes / Pruning</p> <p>The bushes are a noise barrier to the onslaught of noise from the street as well as the pub/club across the road. However, it is advisable to prune the bushes in such a way that it is no longer possible to use the area as a hidden place to sleep and defecate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • Prune hard from waist level down on Edgware Road side to expose the ground level. • Add metal fencing both on the main road side and gratton terrace side to enclose the shrubbery area and stop anyone being able to enter it. • • Add some type of deterrent on the floor : Spiked flooring to make lying down impossible. • Clear existing rubbish (given human excrement, and drug-detritus this needs to be done by specialists) <p>4. Deterrent</p> <p>We ask that CCTV and security lights (placed high in the trees) be installed to ensure that the bushes are not a good place to sleep / drink / do drug deals. Additionally a far stronger police / community official presence is required especially at the times when</p>	

	Issue Raised	Response
	<p>the incidents take place.</p> <p>5. Toilets</p> <p>There is a need to have a least one public toilet in Cricklewood or its environs. The facility would need to be properly cleaned and supervised. Perhaps a collective of Wickes, B&Q and the Council could be convened to fund and place a public convenience away from residential areas.</p> <p><i>Rebecca Lewis</i></p>	
12	<p>Every bus shelter, telephone box, lamp post, pedestrian island bollard, CCTV pole has been targeted by certain political advertisements in the last year. Decaux, BT and Arqiva have advised that they are unable to sustain removal as costs are prohibitive. This needs to be tackled as we do not want to be surrounded by graffiti.</p> <p>The Cricklewood Town Team have sent numerous requests and had meetings with Barnet street scene asking if they could arrange for CCTV to be viewed. The Town Team are removing the flyposting every day, and as soon as the graffiti or flypost is removed they are back the next day so it should be easy to pinpoint the culprits. Town Team are liaising with Brent Community Safety and have repeatedly asked Barnet to liaise too. Requests from the Town Team to local businesses for intelligence has not been forthcoming and we have asked the Councils if they can have a word with them. The bus shelter in front of the Co-op Cricklewood Lane is permanently targeted so assume a covert operation or mobile CCTV would catch these culprits. No doubt the culprits are attacking other areas in Barnet too so a concerted effort is needed to bring this anti-social behaviour to an end.</p> <p><i>Jessica Howey (Railway Terraces Resident's Association)</i></p>	
13	<p>1. Rough sleeping and attendant detritus and health issues are a huge problem in the hedge at the front of Gratton Terrace NW2 6QE. Please can the following</p>	

	Issue Raised	Response
	<p>possibilities be considered as deterrent?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Careful and controlled pruning on the Edgware Road side of the hedge to make offenders more visible from that side b. Addition of robust fencing in sections where the hedge has gaps from frequent access to ensure that no one can enter the shrubbery c. A CCTV camera and security lights installed high in the trees to ensure that the bushes are not a good place to sleep, drink or do drug deals d. A far stronger police and community official presence, and more frequent patrols <p>2. Certain issues, such as the rough sleepers and incidents on the Kara Way Playground, are recurring and frequent problems Residents would like a consistent case number to facilitate contact with the police and increase the possibility that police deterrent can be applied as these things are happening rather than after the fact.</p> <p><i>Linda McKeen (Railway Terraces Resident's Association)</i></p>	
14	<p>I am a resident and part of the Railway Terraces Resident Association.</p> <p>Anything that affects any part of the Terraces affects us all.</p> <p>GRATTON TERRACE - ROUGH SLEEPERS, LITTER, HUMAN WASTE AND RATS:</p> <p>The area between Gratton Terrace and the A5 Edgware Rd/ Cricklewood Broadway is a hedged, bushes, shrubs and rough grass area. This is being used by rough sleepers and the situation is getting worse.</p> <p>The food litter is attracting more and more rats. One of our residents is in fact a pest controller and he himself describes the infestation as one of the worst he has seen. This needs to be addressed.</p> <p>The hedges and bushes are beneficial to residents as a barrier to noise pollution, but</p>	

Issue Raised	Response
<p>we agree that low level pruning, to waist high, would expose the area and discourage rough sleepers. It would also reveal the rat burrows and tunnels. These need to be baited and trapped.</p> <p>Human waste is also an issue. There are no public toilets in the area. As well as the rough sleepers, others are also using the area as a toilet. Intervention from the council will make a considerable difference.</p> <p>We need signage - certainly a picture of a rat would alert to would be sleepers, including any who do not speak English, as to how unsavoury an area to sleep in it is.</p> <p>How possible would it be to lay a net of plastic spikes or something like that, to make the area impossible to sleep on, but not inhibit the plants and trees?</p> <p>CAMPION TERRACE:</p> <p>There is a small wooded area between Champion Terrace and the car park that serves B and Q, Jessons and Beacon Bingo. It again is a wonderful sound barrier as the main rail line is on the other side of the car park. We don't want it removed but made safe.</p> <p>This small wooded area between Champion Terrace and the B and Q Car Park. has attracted the same issues as Gratton Terrace. An earth bank was created, presumably as a deterrent, but it has made matters worse. It now encloses the wooded area and means that the interior is out of view. It has become a dumping ground for all manner of fly tipping, I myself reported seeing an asbestos chimney dumped in there. I have seen it used as a day camp by several men, it smells of human waste, has a rising rat population, and creates a dangerous area. Its PROXIMITY TO THE CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND IS OF GREAT CONCERN, both from a health point of view, but because it attracts unsavoury characters and activities such as drinking and drug exchanges. I have seen evidence of this on many occasions.</p>	

	Issue Raised	Response
	<p>I think - The earth bank should be removed, the wooded area exposed, but then wire fenced. The internal area of the wood should be cleared.</p> <p>The upgrading of the CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND has been a great success but the problems besetting Gratton and Champion Terraces has encroached. Human excrement has now been found in the playground area itself.</p> <p>We need your intervention and support. Work with us the Railway Terraces Residents Association and we will support whatever resources and help you can offer us in whatever way we can.</p> <p><i>Veronica Roberts</i></p>	
15	<p>Does Barnet have a policy on begging?</p> <p>We have people begging on Cricklewood Broadway on a daily basis. The general advice is not to give to people begging, as this money is often used for drugs or alcohol and that the best way to help people, who are really down and out, is to make a donation to an organisation like St Mungo's, which can offer practical support.</p> <p>The same woman sits on the pavement outside the NatWest bank and Iceland and begs for money every day. Other people beg on the other side of the Broadway. The SNT team are aware but the woman is still there everyday begging. Would it be possible for Barnet to contact the manager of the NatWest or Iceland and ask that they call the police/Barnet/StMungo's or the appropriate agency to deal with this?</p> <p><i>Jessica Howey (Railway Terraces Resident's Association)</i></p>	
16	<p>I live in in the Railway Terraces. I wish to place the following on the agenda of the coming Residents' Forum.</p>	

	Issue Raised	Response
	<p>There are rough sleepers in the bushes and hedge opposite me. It is upsetting because they use the bushes as a toilet. Would Barnet consider clearing the undergrowth to make the rough sleepers more visible and hopefully deter them? The bushes are a barrier between Gratton Terrace and the Edgware Road so I would be against any severe pruning.</p> <p>There is another infestation of rats. My neighbour in Burlington Parade, who works in pest control, has been observing them and says there are many burrows in the bushes and the amount of rats is a cause for concern and should be dealt with.</p> <p><i>Dave Marlow</i></p>	
17	<p>Rats are resident in our terraces. I have had several in my garden. Can the council please find ways to eradicate them as many of us have children/ grandchildren who like to play in gardens and run the risk of weill's disease.</p> <p><i>Hannah Pascucci</i></p>	
18	<p>I would like to raise the following issues:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rough sleepers in the borough - how is this being addressed? Particularly problematic in Gratton Terrace • Barnet Council plans for taking in refugees / immigrants given the inability to serve the current population • Rat infestation - HMOs cause over-population and puts strain on the existing services plus the rough sleepers means we have persistent infestations <p><i>Fiona Cohen (Member of Railway Terraces: Residents Association)</i></p>	

	Issue Raised	Response
19	<p>The council has contracted out the delivery of Barnet First. Copies were being delivered in the Cricklewood Railway Terraces by two people on the morning of 7 October. I observed the delivery and noted that copies of Barnet First were only put into houses which had letterboxes fixed to the wall or fence outside the property. No one opened the gate and walked up to the house to put a copy through the letterbox. I asked why they were not being delivered to all the houses and was told 'don't speak English'. I explained that they needed to deliver to all the houses. Again I was told 'don't speak English'. There are 79 houses in Johnston and Needham Terraces and only 13 have letterboxes outside the boundary of the property. What happened to the 66 copies that were not delivered? I have checked with a number of terrace residents and they did not receive copies of Barnet First. I believe the same delivery, or rather non-delivery, also took place in Champion Terrace and Midland Terrace. Gratton Terrace did receive copies as all doors front directly onto the street.</p> <p>The name on the van which was waiting to collect the two deliverers was Letterbox Distribution with the phone no 020 8440 0400 and the slogan London's Direct Marketing Solutions that Deliver painted on its side.</p> <p>I have no objection to the deliveries being contracted out but Barnet is paying for a service that does not deliver and is a waste of money. There need to be checks made. No doubt the same situation is happening in other parts of Barnet.</p> <p>Our association has suggested before that we deliver Barnet First to our own residents, as we have reported problems in the past. We would be willing to do this without being paid, so our residents do receive a copy. Please could 230 copies be delivered to us for distribution in future.</p> <p><i>Jessica Howey(Railway Terraces Resident's Association)</i></p>	
20	<p>We have problems in our Terrace with rough sleepers in the bushes. They urinate and</p>	

	Issue Raised	Response
	<p>defecate in front of us. They don't seem to think we can see them. We would like a wire fence in front of the bushes and areas at the back cleared so that there is no place for these people to go. That is one suggestion we have but we are open to others. We need some signage in the bushes to deter this. One suggestion is that we put up a pictorial sign with a rat and several languages on it so that the rough sleepers know it's dangerous.</p> <p>We also have a large rat population here. I have personally filled in five rat tunnels in my garden in the last six month and they are openly visible in the streets</p> <p>Also there are large gangs of men out in Cricklewood Broadway just in front of our house Number 34 Gratton on Sunday mornings waiting to be picked up for work. They shout at each other and disturb us as early as 6 a.m. I would like this stopped please. I have also seen them being dropped off and picked up at Lidl.</p> <p><i>Francine Harper (Railway Terraces Resident's Association)</i></p>	
21	<p>There are two public health issues in Cricklewood which I wish to place on the agenda of the coming forum with particular reference to where I live. I live in the Railway Terraces.</p> <p>1 Rats</p> <p>We have a recurrence of the rat infestation in Gratton Terrace. Their burrows are in evidence and they have eaten the Burlington Parade paladin bin plugs.</p> <p>2. Rough Sleepers</p> <p>There are rough sleepers in the bushes along Gratton Terrace and they are urinating and defecating in the bushes. A suggestion at one of our recent residents' association meetings was to prune, to waist high only, the shrubbery and to clear the ground. The</p>	

	Issue Raised	Response
	<p>trees and bushes act as a barrier to noise and pollution from the Edgware Road so it is really important that any pruning is minimal to the requirement of opening up the area to deter rough sleeping only and not to destroy our 'barrier'. Should any such work be agreed it would be much appreciated. It would also be very important to keep Gratton Terrace residents informed. This could be done through our residents' association.</p> <p><i>Marlene Wardle</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
13 th January 2016	TBC
30 th March 2016	Avenue House