

Decisions of the Finchley & Golders Green Residents' Forum

Weds 8th January 2020

Members present:

Cllr Jennifer Grocock (Chairman)

Cllr John Marshall (Vice Chairman)

1. Meadway

Submitted by: Karen Grossmark

Dr Grossmark stated that displacement of parking had occurred due to the CPZs nearby. The problems reported had been ongoing for 4-5 years and evidence had been sent to Barnet on previous occasions.

Cllr John Marshall noted that a CPZ should be considered for this part of Meadway. The Chairman referred the matter up to Finchley & Golders Green Area Committee. Due to lack of available budget this would be submitted for the meeting on 2 April 2020 but she offered to request that Highways Officers try to bring it forward for discussion at the Area Committee on 3 February, subject for Highways Officers having sufficient notice to gather feedback and complete their report.

Action: Governance and Highways

2. Augustus Cooper Bequest

Submitted by: Kieran Kettleton, Chairman, West Finchley Residents' Association

Mr Kettleton noted that he had awaited a response for some time and had tried to discuss his issue at the September 2019 meeting of the FGG Residents' Forum but his email had unfortunately not been received by Governance. He raised concern that Barnet Council did not appear to have fulfilled its responsibilities as corporate trustee in a bequest in relation to Finchley Way Open Space.

The Chairman asked Governance to again contact Green Spaces Services Manager to follow up on a previous query. The Chairman would monitor progress and could bring this matter to Finchley & Golders Green Area Committee if no progress was forthcoming.

Action: Governance, Greenspaces

3. Barnet Business Parking Permits

Submitted by: Martin Berg

Mr Berg did not attend the meeting.

4. 20 mph Speed Limit for East Finchley County Roads
Lead Petitioner: Kellie Sloane

Cllr Mitra spoke on behalf of Ms Sloane who could not attend the meeting.

He asked for the matter to be referred to Finchley & Golders Green Area Committee so that a wider piece of work could be requested. Cllr Alison Moore noted that some work had already been undertaken around St Martin's School and hoped that this evidence would help.

The Chairman would refer the matter up to the Finchley & Golders Green Area Committee, 3 February 2020.

Action: Governance

5. Sort out Barnet's Bins
Lead Petitioner: Cllr Alan Schneiderman

Cllr Schneiderman reported that the changes to Barnet's bin collections had resulted in £1.8million overspend on waste, as reported to the Environment Committee. The Environment Committee was continuing to discuss the issues and he recommended that the petition be referred to that Committee. Cllr Cooke added that the situation had not been fully rectified and residents continued to report their bin collections being missed. They were considering going to the Ombudsman. Complaints to the Council were not being responded to. One particular problem area was Summers Row where refuse teams had not responded about missed collections.

Cllr Mitra reported that residents of Leslie Road and Leopold Road, East Finchley, had also reported frequent missed bin collections with very little follow through when complaints had been logged numerous times. He added that responses to complaints and getting it right after one complaint, had been discussed at Policy & Resources Committee on 6th January. With regard to bins the problems were not being resolved at first request even though it was happening at the same locations. Members' escalations had started to improve the responses but there were still persistent problems.

The Chairman would refer this up to Area Committee with a view to asking the Environment Committee to look into this, in particular the poor communication and the reasons for persistent problems. The Governance Officer would copy in the Chief Executive and Cllrs Mitra, Schneiderman, Cooke and Moore asking for a response on the customer service review.

Action: Governance, Streetscene

6. Parking and security, Winnington Road
Submitted by: Trevor Abrahamson

Mr Abrahamson did not attend.

The Chairman requested that an Officer contact Mr Abrahamson with a response within 20 working days.

Action: Member Liaison Officer

7. Entrance to Hampstead Golf Club, Winnington Road

Submitted by: Jeremy Charles, Chairman of Hampstead Golf Club

Mr Charles noted that the unsocial parking of cars and vans on both sides of the entrance to the Golf Club were causing problems with access for the club's 500 members, staff and suppliers. The Club is seeking double yellow lines/box junction so that drivers can see other traffic when they pull out of the entrance. He added that the Golf Club would contribute costs where required.

Mr Charles reported that the CPZ elsewhere in HGS had impacted on Winnington Road causing displaced parking. The Chairman noted that she had discussed this road with officers who were in the process of removing some of the vehicles that were abandoned. She recommended that the issue remain on the priority list and encouraged Mr Charles to be in contact with Ward Councillors who could submit an item to the Area Committee if required. She noted that the Area Committee had a limited budget for the 2019/20 financial year.

Action: Highways

8. Tarling Road Community Centre

Submitted by: Vanita Rasiah, representing Grange Big Local Board

The resident was not in attendance. The written response was noted. Cllr Moore requested more regular updates in general from the Estates Team.

Action: Member Liaison Officer

9. Parking, High Road End of Lodge Lane, North Finchley

Submitted by: Trevor Williams on behalf of Lodge Lane Residents Association

Mr Williams noted that Lodge Lane is a narrow road and the usual restrictions were not relevant. Residents had reported conflict between drivers due to cars not having room to turn as cars were parked on both sides. There needed to be better parking control. Sundays were a problem due to the different restrictions. A seven-day restriction could improve matters.

The Head of Parking and Infrastructure reported that officers were sent to enforce but transactions were often quick. Loading restrictions on both sides of the road would impact on local businesses and would affect blue badge use.

It was agreed that a 7-day restriction would be added to the priority list.

Action: Head of Parking and Infrastructure

10. Highways problem report

Submitted by: Mr Levy

Mr Levy spoke to his item. The Chairman asked the Member Liaison Officer to respond within 20 working days.

Action: Member Liaison Officer

11. CPZ Top of North Sq/Erskine Hill

Submitted by: Ruth Smith on behalf of residents of Chatham Close, off Erskine Hill

Ms Smith reported that the new CPZ in North Square had caused major problems in Chatham Close. She had emailed local Councillors. She suggested that an extension be made to the CPZ along Erskine Hill with yellow lines at the entrance onto Erskine Hill.

Cllr Marshall noted that there had been three consultations on a CPZ for Erskine Hill and the outcome had been that it was not wanted. He hoped that a request for double yellow lines could be forwarded to the Area Committee.

The Chairman agreed to refer the matter to the Area Committee. She would request that it be brought to the February meeting if appropriate.

The Chairman suggested that residents contact their Ward Councillors to find out whether traffic enforcement was sufficient. Specific vehicles can also be reported to the highways officer and abandoned vehicles could be removed. The Head of Parking and Infrastructure said that he would consider the options for unadopted roads.

Action: Governance, Head of Parking and Infrastructure

12. Lodge Lane Car Park

Trevor Williams on behalf of Lodge Lane Residents Association

Mr Williams reported that problems had been ongoing for several years. There were trees overhanging the car park causing some of the loss of light. The school had stated that these were not within its boundary however Barnet Council had informed the school that the trees were within the school's boundary. Cllr Geof Cooke requested that the Council deals with the trees as this is a public safety issue.

Mr Williams noted that there were ongoing drug dealing problems outside the school and a smell of cannabis, as well as some theft from the school. If the trees could be cut back this would help prevent crime. The school had paid for security lighting into the road to act as a deterrent to the drug dealing outside the school.

In addition, some residents had been conned by fake traffic wardens outside the shop by the car park and had had their cards cloned when they were trying to pay for parking. Residents felt vulnerable in the area as it was not possible to see into the car park.

Cllr Schneiderman requested that the CCTV that used to be in the car park be reinstated as the area is a crime hotspot.

Cllr Grocock advised residents that the car park lighting is to be upgraded to LED lighting in around three months' time, which should help to improve visibility.

The Head of Parking and Infrastructure would investigate the issue surrounding the trees and would respond to the resident within 20 working days.

The Community Safety Manager would be notified to also contact the resident within 20 working days to give details of the Community Safety Team's timelines for their consideration of this matter.

Action: Head of Parking and Infrastructure, Community Safety Team

13. Pavement Parking – Scaffolding Lorry

Submitted by: Mr Levy

The Head of Parking and Infrastructure noted that driving on the pavement was a policing matter. However specific comments for developers could be passed on to them by Barnet. The Member Liaison Officer offered to take details after the meeting.

14. Clogged Roadside Gullies

Submitted by: Mr Levy

The written response was noted.

15. Water on kerb to Golders Green Road/Woodside Ave Zebra Crossing

Submitted by: Mr Levy

The Chairman recommended that Mr Levy contact his Ward Councillors about such matters. Ward Councillors could call this in for discussion.