

Council meeting, 27 July 2021

Motion: Cllr Alan Schneiderman

Amended by Cllr Dean Cohen, Chairman of the Environment Committee

Climate emergency

Council notes that

1. On 29 October 2019, Council agreed a motion asking each relevant Committee to consider the Friends of the Earth report for Barnet on tackling climate change and review what more could be done in their remit to tackle climate change
2. On the 30 July 2019 Council agreed the motion "Climate Emergency Motion". This motion was unanimously supported by Members of the Conservative Group. It was unanimously opposed by the Labour Group
3. It was recognised in the "Climate Emergency Motion" that "Parliament has agreed a motion declaring an environment and climate emergency" and that "the same environmental challenges that are faced by the UK are also faced in Barnet"
4. It was also recognised in that motion that "Barnet's commitment to remain a green and pleasant borough goes hand-in-hand with the Council's commitment to fighting climate change and pollution. Barnet remains the borough with the sixth most green space, and has invested in a strategy to ensure that it remains both literally and figuratively a green borough"
5. Barnet has since taken a series of actions, including producing a long-term transport plan, a new corporate plan to 2025, an air quality plan and is working on a new sustainability plan. The actions that will come out of these plans will ensure that keeping Barnet green is at the heart of everything that the Council does. Barnet welcomes the contribution that Friends of the Earth makes to environmental strategy in the borough.

Council believes that:

1. Barnet Council and residents are committed to fighting the challenges of climate change. For instance, the Council not only has an award-winning tree planting campaign, but more Barnet residents own electric vehicles for private use than those in any other London borough or local authority area in the country. Barnet is supporting this growth with an extensive program of supplying electric charge points through lamppost chargers, community hubs and rapid charge units.
2. LB Barnet recognises that it can and should do more, and is committed to doing so

Council resolves to:

1. Continue its work in producing a sustainability strategy, which will consider – among other things - the implications of Government policy and targets regarding climate change for Barnet Council and its committees.