

Council: Tuesday 25th January 2022

Administration Motion in the name of Cllr Dan Thomas

Political Discourse Within Barnet

Council notes that:

1. The Barnet Labour Party and members of the Opposition have made misleading claims about this Administration's policies and achievements.
2. Contrary to Barnet Labour's misinformation:
 - a. Barnet has not only maintained weekly collections of refuse and recycling under this Conservative administration, unlike any neighbouring borough – which are all run by Labour – but we also have the lowest number of missed bin collections in London.
 - b. Council Tax in Barnet has been kept lower than that of any of our neighbouring boroughs for the past decade, and will remain so. In real terms, Council Tax in Barnet has been reduced by 5.2% over the past decade — despite the Labour Mayor of London taking an ever-increasing sum from Council Tax.
 - c. Barnet has zero “non-decent” Council homes, while our neighbouring boroughs have thousands. Labour Enfield alone have over 4,000.
 - d. Barnet's outsourcing has saved millions – ensuring value for money for our residents.
 - e. Barnet has successfully stood up to developers and has been successful in having storeys removed from proposed towers. The ineffectual Labour group is impotent to influence the Labour Mayor of London's desire for ever larger tower blocks in London. This is evidenced by the Mayor's support for the original B&Q proposal and those regarding tower blocks over tube stations, such as a recent High Barnet application.
 - f. This Conservative Council would not and will not build on our parks or green spaces. This has been made clear a number of times over the past year in various committees and at Full Council.
3. The above are responses to only some examples of the mistruths stated by the Labour group.
4. The Labour Party and Labour councillors made exaggerated claims during the East Barnet by-election, which the people of East Barnet clearly saw through. However, such claims risk causing polarisation, unnecessary upset and worry amongst local residents.

Council believes that:

1. Misinformation about the state of the Council, and this administration's policies and history, are little more than a sign of desperation from the Labour group.
2. Over the past term and beyond, this Conservative Council has consistently made decisions based on value for money for our residents, while ensuring that they receive the best possible services.

Council resolves to:

1. Condemn wilful misinformation by the Barnet Labour Party and its councillors.

Under Full Council Procedure Rule 17.17: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting, I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.