

Council: 25 January 2022
Opposition Motion in the name of Cllr Ross Houston
Development in Barnet

Amendment from Cllr Nagus Narenthira

Council believes that:

1. For development to work well residents' views must be central to plans with co-production at early stages.

Council notes that:

1. Conservative-run Barnet Council has failed to do this, and ignored residents' views on key developments, forcing them through despite huge opposition, for example:
 - a. The Hendon Hub – opposed by the vast majority of respondents to the Council's consultations including 2,000 petition signatories
 - b. The B&Q site, Cricklewood – the mega-high 18 storey, mega-dense 1,049-unit scheme opposed by 2,000 residents in letters of objection

Council also notes that:

1. Conservative-run Barnet Council handed-over North Finchley Library, the artsdepot, Lodge Lane car park and Woodhouse Road car park to Developers.
2. These Council assets were disposed of with no agreed plans for the North Finchley Regeneration project and before the stakeholders' Partnership Board was set-up.
3. The Council failed to robustly defend the planning refusal for the massive North London Business Park scheme at Appeal.
4. As a result, the Government over-turned the decision, and the Developer has now doubled the size of the scheme - perhaps this is what the Government means by 'levelling-up'.

Council believes that:

1. There needs to be a complete re-think about how development in Barnet is done, with residents' voices at the heart of regeneration.
2. The Planning Service should be brought back-in house, and run by the Council on behalf of the residents of Barnet

Council resolves to:

1. Ensure there is more community engagement in neighbourhood planning in the future, reviewing the Council's approach to co-production and consultation so residents are involved in the early stages of development and regeneration
2. Work to bring Planning back-in house in the review of the Capita contract.

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.