

Public Questions and Comments – Environment & Climate Change Committee, 25th January 2023

Questions will be answered by the Chair in the meeting in order of receipt, alternating between residents. Residents will be able to ask one supplementary question per question answered.

At committee meetings a time period of up to 30 minutes is available for public questions in total.

Question No.	Agenda Item	Question
1.	10 - Sustainability Strategy Update	The Sustainability Strategy needs to include every aspect of council activities, including the provision of food. Other councils, such as Oxfordshire, Cambridge and Lewisham, have committed to serve only plant-based food at their events. This is the logical and necessary next step after having declared a climate emergency as Barnet has done. It will help normalise plant-based eating, which according to the science is the single most effective thing an individual can do to reduce their environmental impact. As part of the Strategy, will you commit to serving fully plant-based fare at all future catered meetings and events? Stephen Young
2.	7 – Investing in Barnet’s Roads and Pavements Programme	Re-surfacing a road which encourages car use at the expense of clean air is not building back better. It is investing in roads which generate traffic and pollution. The more you build them the more the cars come: often from places like Harrow, Hertsmere and further afield. For instance the Watling Avenue was originally built 100 years ago when most people did not have cars. The area had a rural and suburban character and included a market and high street. Could the council implement a programme of pavement widening and climate safe streets at the same time as resurfacing roads? Ben Samuel
3.	14 – A1000 Cycleway	We welcome this report and the officers' recommendations. As mentioned in our response to the consultation, we see areas in which the scheme can be improved and are willing to assist with assessing proposed solutions to any issues at the draft design stage. We would be pleased to work with you on the development of the cycle lanes, and help you identify early wins. We invite any member of the environment committee or officers to ride or walk the route with us to experience and assess the issues. Would the committee members and officers commit to such an offer?

		Peter Hale – Member of Barnet Cyclists and Better Streets for Barnet
4.	8 - Environment & Climate Change Forecast Financial Out-turn month 8 (November 2022	The Council has saved £110,000 last year by residents throwing away less black bin rubbish than was forecast. Could residents do more to save the council money in these tough times? Ben Samuel
5.	14 – A1000 Cycleway	We are not only concerned with cyclists' safety on the A1000 but also on other roads in the borough and with safety of pedestrians, public transport users and drivers' in particularly at major junctions and side roads. Does the council envisage developing cycling infrastructure further across the borough if so how will this be taken forward? Peter Hale
6.	8 - Environment & Climate Change Forecast Financial Out-turn month 8 (November 2022	I often cycle in close proximity to parked cars. When the cars are on my left, I am in the door zone, having to take care to keep 1 door width apart from the cars I pass. If the car parking spaces were allocated to the middle of the road, that would form a metal barrier between me and speeding vehicles. Is the Council legally allowed to spend the special parking account on building its new safer network of sustainable urban drainage systems, super zones and promotion of active travel? Ben Samuel