

MAYORALTY REPORT MAY 2022 – MAY 2023

Mayor – Cllr Alison Moore

CIVIC EVENTS

Annual Council – 2022 The Mayoral year began in May with the inauguration at Annual Council of Cllr Alison Moore as Mayor and Cllr Nagus Narenthira as Deputy Mayor. The Mayor chose Mrs Helen Gordon as her Mayoress and the Deputy Mayor chose Cllr Zakia Zubairi as her Deputy Mayoress. Rehearsals before the event ensured the ceremony went smoothly



Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations 2-6 Jun 2022 The Mayor and Deputy Mayor visited several street parties, tree plantings, picnics and other community events over a very busy weekend to celebrate the QPJ. There were also Beacon Lightings across the country. The Mayor lit the beacon at Golders Hill Park (a joint event with LBB and City of London) and the Deputy Mayor lit the beacon at St Mary the Virgin in Monken Hadley.

A Borough Civic Service was arranged at St Mary’s Hendon on Sunday evening and a celebratory reception held in the Greyhound pub. There were 17 QPJ engagements over the 4 days, some were very late invites but all were covered.



Armed Forces Day 25th June 2022 Negotiations began earlier in the year with the RAF Museum as usual. We are very lucky to have the RAF Museum as a partner in our borough and so, raising a flag at the Town Hall at the beginning of the week followed by a public flag raising and parade on the Saturday at the RAF Museum was a huge success. A large parade from all military reserve and cadet units in the borough were in attendance. This raised better awareness of the Armed Forces in the borough as so many people attend the RAF Museum for daily visits. This enabled the families of our Armed Forces, veterans and cadets to join in making for a celebratory event all round and enjoyed by all attending. The parade was reviewed by borough dignitaries enabling a more personable

exchange and presentations were also made recognising excellence from the Military community. Awards were handed out by the Mayor and the Representative Deputy Lieutenant. See link - [Barnet marks Armed Forces Day in partnership with RAF Museum | Barnet Council](#)



London Bridge is Down – 8th September 2022 – The passing of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
The Mayoral Services and Civic Events Manager, Angela Richardson is the lead in the borough for the Operation London Bridge taskings and produced a full instructional document which informed each department of the requirement in the area of their responsibility. The document was constantly reviewed with dynamic assessments and updated with further guidance as and when it became available. The guidance and awareness training delivered by the Mayor’s office to other departments over the last 4 years showed the preparations were in very good order.

Operation London Bridge came into immediate effect on 8th September 2022. All departments in the council with service responsibility for the operation followed the guidance and their own service area instructions, and the whole 12 day mourning period went without hitch.



See link - [Barnet marks the passing of Her Majesty The Queen | Barnet Council](#)

Proclamation 11 Sep

From the steps of the Town Hall the Mayor read the Proclamation for the new monarch King Charles III. A large crowd gathered to witness the occasion and all were invited into the town hall to sign the book of condolence.



Service of Commemoration for her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II - 18 Sep

A Commemorative service was held at St Mary's Hendon for all faiths and led by Reverend Dr Julie Gittoes, Vicar of Hendon and Area Dean of Barnet.

After the service attendees walked to the Town Hall to mark the silence.



Snowdrop planting Nov 2022 – Martin Primary School

Snowdrop bulbs are planted in the borough to represent a child that perished in the holocaust. The bulbs are planted in a non-Jewish school in the borough or community area by the Mayor. So far

over 60,000 bulbs have been planted since the project began. This year the Mayor planted the bulbs with school children in the grounds of Martin Primary School.



Snowdrop bulbs are also handed out at the Holocaust Memorial Commemoration event in January by school children from Akiva School.

Remembrance Sunday Nov 2022

The normal parade and service was held at Hendon War Memorial with a large attendance as expected. Mayoral representatives also laid wreaths at 14 other parades and services around the borough. We did not provide tea and coffee refreshments this year in the foyer at the Town Hall as the Registrars are still active on a Sunday and would have caused disturbance. No-one commented and this also resulted in a cost saving. Maroon rockets were let off for the 2 minute silence at the Town Hall. The Town hall was illuminated in red from 11 Nov (Remembrance day) A wreath was also sent to the twin town Chaville in France.



The Mayor also attended the AJEX Remembrance Parade at the Cenotaph in Whitehall on Sunday 20th November. This parade is always held a week after Remembrance Sunday.

Christmas Card Competition Dec 2022

The Mayor chose Tudor Primary School to design her Christmas card. The school held a competition and the top 10 were chosen by the Headteacher then the Mayor chose the winning design.



London New Year's Day Parade

We did not have an entry in the parade this year, however the Mayor attended along with many other London Borough Mayor's on the open top bus to support this huge charity fundraising event.

Holocaust Memorial 2023

This event, and every year since 2007 has been organised and directed by the Mayor's Office. The event is held at Middlesex University as they have a substantial venue. This also keeps costs to a minimum. The support from the service team at the university is immense. This includes IT and audio support, security services, cleaning services and setting up and clearing away from a great facilities team. This is an excellent example of partnership working at its best.

The theme this year was Ordinary People. The Town Hall was illuminated in purple in remembrance



See link - [Barnet communities come together to reflect on the 'ordinary people' of the Holocaust | Barnet Council](#)

Civic Awards 25 April

Nominations opened on 1 October 2022 and closed on 31 December 2022.

This is the 23rd year of the Barnet Annual Civic Awards. We had some excellent nominations again this year for the categories; Lifetime Achievement, Outstanding Service to the Community and Outstanding Service to the Community as a Young Citizen of Barnet. A total of 11 Civic Awards and medals were presented and an additional 6 scrolls recognising excellence. Others who were not selected received notification of their nomination and a certificate.



[Civic Awards | Barnet Council](#)

Civic Service 14 May

At the time of writing this report the Mayor's Civic Service is being planned with the theme of King Charles III Coronation and celebrating Barnet's diverse communities. The event will be a multi-faith event and will take place at Middlesex University.

Annual Council

The Annual Mayor Making ceremony will take place on 23 May 2023. At the time of writing this report rehearsals and preparations for the event are in progress.

MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Mayoralty has had a particularly busy year. The office have received several hundred invitations. All invitations have been considered.

The value of the community engagement is hugely beneficial to the council as a whole and engagement with the Mayor has been very significant.

By taking into consideration the needs of the organiser and the organisation to which the Mayor has been invited to, the Mayor's office have ensured that everyone engaging with the Mayoralty has an enjoyable, memorable and personal experience.

By also working with Council partners we are able to share best practices, innovative ideas and even embark on some joint ventures. Using social media platforms, but also the media platforms of our partners, we are able to reach out to larger audiences.

Mayoral invitations

Mayoral Engagement Statistics 24 May 2022 – 25 April 2023

Invitation received: 503

Invitations accepted: 400

Invitations declined: 90

Invitations cancelled: 13

Invitations attended by Mayor: 319

Invitations attended by Deputy Mayor: 67

Invitations attended by Past Mayor's: 14

Young People

The Mayor has given particular focus to young people during her term of office.

There has not been a chaplain to lead prayer at the beginning of the council meetings but groups of young people from My Say Matters have been given the opportunity to speak and have their voices heard.

The council meetings now have a much wider audience with the meetings now being live streamed.

Robe Shows

Several robe shows explaining the history and traditions of the borough, the Mayoralty and civic life in the Borough and Barnet's current statistics have been delivered in the council chamber by the Mayoral team with the Mayor present to many groups of all ages, particularly schools and youth groups. It doesn't matter if they are 6 or 96 everyone has an engaging, fun time and ask all sorts of questions.

Mayor's Hospitality in the parlour

Numerous groups and individuals have been invited to take Brunch, Lunch or Afternoon tea with the Mayor in the parlour. The catering for these events is managed by the Mayor's office without using outside catering services to save costs.

Citizenship Ceremonies

The Mayor usually officiates at these weekly ceremonies held at the Town Hall. The Deputy Mayor and the Representative Deputy Lieutenant have also officiated in the Mayor's absence.

Anyone in Barnet who successfully applies to be a British citizen and is aged over 18 must attend a citizenship ceremony. During this ceremony people make an oath and pledge their loyalty to the King and the laws of the United Kingdom. Last year, we held citizenship ceremonies for nearly 3,000 new British citizens, making us the fourth busiest local authority delivering this service in the UK. Group ceremonies are held each week at the Town Hall in Hendon with between 15 – 25 from different countries. This is a very busy service provided by the Registrars with around 8000 new citizens new to the borough every year.

Work Experience

Continuing with the Mayor's young people theme the Mayor had a work experience student from the Archer Academy. The student shadowed the Mayor at appropriate engagements for one week. The student was delightful and engaged well with the team and the organisations visited. Although the office have had work experience students before, shared with the Governance department, this is the first time we have had someone shadow the Mayor. The student gained a great deal of insight and information and was very grateful for the opportunity.

Social media

The Mayor now has a Twitter account!

Although staff and Mayoral time has not allowed for the Twitter account to be as active as it could be.

The Mayoral Car

Volvo S90 Hybrid 2018

The Mayoral car is a frequent topic for Freedom of information requests.

The Mayoral car was purchased, second hand, in 2018 and has proved to be very cost efficient, economical and importantly, environmentally compliant.

This Mayoral year (May 2022 – April 2023) fuel costs were £401.19

The Civic Room

The Town Hall has undergone a refurbishment and included the creation of a Civic Room replacing Committee Room 3. The former Heritage Room had been taken over by Registrars and replaced with a Wedding Room.

It was formally opened by the Mayor on 28th February however there are still some areas in the room requiring attention with the fixation of certain civic memorabilia and movement of electrics.

Town Twinning

Morphou, Cyprus (Outgoing)

In October 2022 the Mayor travelled to Cyprus to attend the annual rally and associated events. This is an annual event whereby the council give their support to the cause of a viable solution to the Cyprus problem that will safeguard the rights of both Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

Morphou, Cyprus (Incoming)

In March 2023 a delegation from the Morphou Municipality came to Barnet for one day during a schedule of events elsewhere in London.

The Mayor's Office organised a visit for the delegation to the Brent Cross regeneration project and guided tour followed by a Cyprus Human Rights Lecture delivered by and held at Middlesex University, which again is testament to our excellent partnership working. The Cyprus High Commissioner also attended. In the evening a Civic Dinner was held.

Berlin

Our engagement with Tempelhof-Schöneberg continues to flourish with a good working relationship between the two Mayor's offices.

This year, again, the Mayor's office arranged, at the request of Berlin, for a work placement of an individual from one of their local councils within one of our departments, through the LoGO Europe program, the Mayoral Services and Civic Events Manager, Angela, managed to secure a 6 week placement within the Planning Department under the direction of Fabien Gaudin. This was hugely successful and of great benefit to both Tempelhof- Schöneberg and Barnet as best practices and alternative views were shared.

Later in November both Fabien and Angela were invited to Berlin to share the experiences along with other representatives from Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Utrecht, Graz, Vienna, Palermo, Istanbul and Dublin who had also participated in the work placement program.

Angela also had a pre-arranged meeting with Simon Peter, a Head Teacher at Nahariya Primary School in Lichen Rade near Brandenburg, taking students from ages 6 – 12. The school is named after a city in Israel and they wanted to set up a link with a primary school in Barnet. The school specialises in Music. A link with Moss Hall Junior school in West Finchley is a possibility and the Headteachers have been put in touch with each other.



Le Raincy, France

Good communication between the Mayor's offices continues.

This year residents of the Borough have the opportunity to participate in the digital photographic competition between Le Raincy's twin towns in Italy and Portugal. This has been advertised.

Chaville, France

Communication with the office of Chaville has been difficult over the last year as their computer systems suffered a cyber attack. This is still to be rectified and direct electronic communication with

the Mayor's office is to be re-established. However, a member of the Friends of Barnet attended the Remembrance Sunday parade and service at Hendon and laid a floral tribute from Chaville and a poppy wreath was sent to the town hall in Chaville to be laid at the Chaville memorial. There is good communication with the independent Barnet organisation of the Friends of Chaville.

Kreis Siegen Wittgenstein.

There has been no communication this year other than with the independent Barnet organisation of the Friends of Siegen Wittgenstein.

Montclair

There has been no communication with the Mayor's office in Montclair for some years, however, the Mayor has attended some local events organised by the Barnet organisation of the Friends of Montclair.

Pokhara, Nepal

The Deputy Mayor of Pokhara visited Barnet independently. The Mayor's hosted the Deputy Mayor of Pokhara in the parlour in April.



Ramat Gan, Israel

A delegation from Barnet will be visiting Ramat Gan in May/June 2023 (The next Mayoral year)

Jinja, Uganda

Jinja is no longer recognised as a twin town with Barnet as Jinja now has city status and dropped the association with Barnet. However, to recognise the original reason for the twinning the Mayor hosted an event at Middlesex University for the 50th anniversary of Ugandan Asians in Barnet.

THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

The busy Mayor's office is made up of a team of 3, all of which have to work flexibly to accommodate timings of events which are often late in the evening or at weekends.

The Mayoral Services and Civic Events Manager & Armed Forces Champion (Angela)

The Mayor's Senior Support Officer/Chauffeur (Tim)

The Mayor's Administrative Assistant (Valerie)

Valerie retires at the end of May and the post has been advertised.

In Summary

The small Civic office team who are all committed, dedicated and willing, continually strive to ensure all those engaging with the Mayoralty have a memorable and good experience. Whilst delivering new and innovative ways of working and by being flexible we have ensured the office continues to deliver an exceptional service to the Mayoralty, the Council and the borough. This includes the

promotion and value of the Mayoralty in the borough with very limited resources, celebrating the diversity, collaborating with our partners and sharing best practices.

The Mayor has been particularly keen to ensure meaningful engagement with borough residents and organisations and this has been helped by the Mayor's prompt responses to communication and decision making, her flexibility and her thoughtful demeanour whether it be with the team or the community.

The Mayoral staff act with integrity. All of the team are contactable by telephone as well as email and this provides a personal and reassuring approach. Following up and providing answers and solutions to queries in a timely manner is reassurance that the office can be relied upon.

The Mayor's Office need to get it right first time, every time as the Mayoralty carries a huge reputational risk to the council. We have moved on considerably since the pandemic. The Mayoralty has been exceptionally busy this year. This has applied strain on the small team in terms of volume and time along with additional contractual tasks.

The Mayoralty require assistance for comms and media output as time pressures within the team under the current staffing level is difficult. The team was reduced in 2011 and again in 2018.

Partnership working in the community is very important and we are very fortunate to have an excellent relationship with our partners. This relationship is continually nurtured in many areas and this has helped the Mayor's office deliver some very large Civic Events in the community with enormous cost savings.

It cannot be underestimated the value of the Mayoralty to the community and council in general as it provides a visual reminder of how important it is to have a figurehead who appreciates community efforts in all aspects.

Barnet is a very diverse borough and the Mayor's office works very closely with different faith groups and community forums. At all of our civic events we ensure inclusion from different aspects of the community and celebrate this diversity. This will continue to keep the Mayoralty in the public eye in the future and for the right reasons.

We are an approachable team, offering sound advice to organisers when required.

It is important to maintain good relations with individuals, businesses, organisations, stakeholders partners and the Lieutenancy. This not only keeps the reputation of the Mayoralty and Council in high regard but benefits areas of good practice, sharing information and good news stories through our communications department, council publications and website and also council partners platforms.