

Barnet's Citizens Assembly and Young People's Assembly on Climate Change & Biodiversity

Proposer: Councillor Giulia Innocenti

This council notes:

1. That minimising climate change - and therefore the carbon emissions which contribute to it, is one of the greatest challenges of our time.
2. That the effects of continued pollution from carbon emissions, the general increase in temperature and extreme weather is affecting Barnet and the whole of the UK as well as:
 - The submerging of entire countries from rising sea levels
 - Increased deaths from natural disasters
 - Disruption of food supplies leading to food price inflation
 - Poor health and poverty
 - The risk that the planet, in the long term, becomes increasingly un-inhabitable
3. That in view of those risks Barnet has set itself a target of becoming, in overall terms, a council that does not emit more carbon into the atmosphere than it removes, i.e. a Net Zero council, by 2030 and a Net Zero borough by 2042.
4. That pollution-creating activities are so deeply entrenched in our society and economy that any attempt to cease them may cause disruption to the lives of our residents.
5. That the potential disruption to the lives of our citizens places a moral obligation on decision-makers to involve residents in developing our plan to tackle the issue.
6. That it is therefore necessary to build a consensus with the people of Barnet on how we achieve our Net Zero goals and are candid about the challenges it poses.
7. That the recently completed Citizens' Assemblies are a critical step to laying Barnet's pathway to Net Zero
8. That more than 60 residents - aged 12 to 90 - including 20 young people gave up much of their time to these efforts.
9. That the Citizens' Assemblies has generated 20 recommendations which the Council administration will now consider.
10. That these recommendations call on both the council and citizens to take responsibility for tackling climate change.

Council Resolves:

1. To thank all those residents who participated in the Citizens' Assemblies and confirm that their work was necessary and vital.
2. To support Cabinet in its work of seriously examining the Citizen's Assemblies' recommendations and looking at the best way to achieve their objectives.
3. To continue to work, as a council as a whole, with the participants of both Assemblies, the wider community, businesses and environmental groups in our plan to get to Net Zero.

Under Council Procedure Rule 15.5 this motion is to stand referred to the Executive as an executive side function