

Council Questions 11 July 2023

Qn.	Councillor	Question	Response by	Response
1.	Cllr Greenspan	What discussions and steps has the leader taken with the Mayor of London to assist Jewish schools in Barnet with the provision of Kosher school meals for children?	Leader	<p>The serious food inflation we are seeing is hitting many groups and organisations hard. It is increasingly affecting the ability for Jewish schools to provide Kosher meals for their pupils, given that, in general, Kosher food is more expensive. It has become clear that schools have been covering the funding gap between Government funding coming in for meals and the cost of Kosher catering with means-tested free school meals for some time. This is ultimately an issue about schools having to cope with persistent underfunding from the Department for Education.</p> <p>We are working with the Mayor of London's Office to identify possible ways forward on this in relation to his Key Stage 2 universal free school meal offer and Cllr Clarke, in her capacity as GLA member for Barnet and Camden, has been speaking to the Deputy Mayor for Children & Families, Joanne McCartney. These discussions have been focussed on helping Jewish schools provide Kosher food for their children in a financially stable way and ensuring that all children at Key Stage 2 can benefit from the Mayor's Universal Free School Meal.</p> <p>We hope to have an update from the GLA by the July Full Council meeting.</p>
2.	Cllr Shooter	What is the current administration's view on LTNs.	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	The policy of the administration is that we will not impose Low Traffic Neighbourhoods in Barnet.
3.	Cllr Thomas	What is the current backlog of unrepaired potholes and please provide monthly figures since November 2022 detailing:	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	Since November 2022 there have been 3,630 potholes reported and 3,350 potholes fixed. The average time from report to repair is 6 days. There are currently 280 potholes awaiting being fixed. We have invested an additional £250k a year in reactive road and pavement repairs to help speed things up.

Council Questions 11 July 2023

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of potholes reported. • Number of potholes fixed. • Average time from report to repair 		
4.	Cllr Longstaff	In Barnet Vale Ward, a recent 'informal' consultation regarding parking issues and a possible CPZ commenced with residents, but without Highways having the courtesy of informing and discussing the consultation and potential outcomes with local councillors first. Does the Cabinet Member agree with me that this is an unacceptable situation?	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	<p>First of all I want to thank council officers for their diligence and conscientiousness in their work, including in Highways.</p> <p>The procedure followed – and this is the same now as under the previous administration – is that an informal consultation is used to gauge resident feedback on whether they would like an amendment to the existing parking layout within their local area, whether that is a CPZ, yellow lines or some other intervention.</p> <p>The results of an informal consultation are reviewed to help determine whether additional measures are required for this location.</p> <p>Ahead of any statutory consultation taking place, ward members are consulted on the officer proposals prior to the consultation being launched.</p>
5.	Cllr McGuirk	Does the leader welcome Keir Starmer's pledge not to have a departing honours list after he is elected as Prime Minister? Does he share my frustration that the current Government is continually distracted by the chaos and chryonyism of Boris Johnson from tackling the cost-of-living crisis that is blighting the lives of so many Barnet residents who are struggling with sky-high mortgage	Leader	Yes and Yes. The Conservatives have no answer to the cost-of-living crisis, the housing crisis, or the climate crisis. Parliament has been discussing those Conservative MPs who decided to undermine the Privileges Committee which held Boris Johnson to account, forced to take valuable time away from tackling the issues affecting people's every day lives. The only way to move on from this melodrama is a Labour Government.

Council Questions 11 July 2023

		payments, energy bills and the rise of food prices?		
6.	Cllr Zinkin	Whose idea was it to add the minimum 6-month closing off of Golders Green Crescent to the Golders Green Placemaking consultation as such a proposal has never been in previous consultations?	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	The proposal to close vehicle access to Golders Green Crescent is part of the Golders Green Town Centre Strategy. This plan was drawn up following consultation with residents, and was agreed by the Housing and Growth Committee in January 2020 under the previous Conservative administration, who forced it through with their Conservative majority. That consultation found that among respondents, that restricting vehicle access to the end of Golders Green Road, under a scheme in the consultation referred to as Water Main Square, was the number one priority of respondents for Golders Green. The trial period of pedestrianisation followed from the decision made by Conservative councillors at that meeting.
7.	Cllr Khalick	Colindale South councillors were delighted to hear that the Council is working to acquire 249 new homes in the Colindale Gardens development to be let as council homes at London Affordable Rent. This will mean the council has delivered nearly a quarter of its 1,000 new council homes pledge this summer, with further starts on site in other locations. Please will the Leader update Council on this and advise when families will be able to move into the new homes?	Cabinet member for Homes & Regeneration	Subject to exchange and completion of the sale contracts between the council and Redrow, 142 of the homes will be ready for residents to move into from October 2023; the remaining 107 will be available for residents to move into from January 2024.
8.	Cllr Shooter	How many members enquiries were there in the year to end of March 2023 and year to March 2022	Leader	April 2021 – March 2022 7,213 and from April 2022 – March 2023 7,370

Council Questions 11 July 2023

9.	Cllr David	Will the leader join me in congratulating the staff, parents, governors and students of St Mary's Church of England Primary School in East Barnet Village for their recent Ofsted inspection. As well as receiving a 'good grade' under this new more rigorous framework, several of the areas were graded outstanding and the school can be justifiably proud.	Leader	Yes. The whole team at St Mary's Church of England Primary School should be proud of what they are achieving as we are.
10.	Cllr Thomas	Please provide the number of road repair issues reported and completed via members enquires from May 2018 to May 2019 and May 2022 to May 2023.	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	2018/19 – 263 2022/23 - 322
11.	Cllr Lemon	Barnet families re-mortgaging this year will on average face an increased annual payment of £2,300 due to the Conservatives' incompetent black hole budget last September. Barnet Conservatives tried to bring Liz Truss style budgeting to our borough, with a £5million black hole in their proposed budget this year, which the people of Barnet have thankfully avoided. What has the council been doing to support people through the Tory cost-of-living crisis including helping those most in need?	Leader	<p>To support those affected by the Tory cost-of-living crisis, the Council has</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • committed to keeping council tax low, and now has the 14th lowest council tax in London, up from the 16th lowest • created an additional £2m resident support fund for those in immediate financial crisis • The £2m resident support fund is part of a larger £9million package of support that also includes a housing support fund, council tax relief, discretionary housing payments and a school uniform fund.

Council Questions 11 July 2023

12.	Cllr Zinkin	Did the council receive support from the Childs Hill Councillors to implement the 'pedestrian square' on Golders Green Crescent?	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	<p>The decision to go ahead take steps towards creating a pedestrianised area on Golders Green Crescent, which also involved accepting the findings of a public consultation, was made by the Housing and Growth Committee on 27th January 2020. All six Conservative members – who were in the majority, voted for it to go ahead. No Labour members voted for it. Those who voted for it included Councillor Zinkin and Councillor Thomas.</p> <p>Our Childs Hill colleagues have been working with residents and officers to find the best way forward, and have supported a number of community workshops to help support this process.</p> <p>The ward members have been engaging in correspondence with officers regarding the proposals prior to implementation and have been engaged in the council's work in starting implementation of projects identified in the Golders Green Town Centre Strategy. Councillors have attended a number of community workshops to support the development of permanent improvements for Golders Green.</p>
13.	Cllr Innocenti	Wildflower planting is good for diversity, good for net zero and good for our well-being. There are four grassy islands in the Vale in Childs Hill where nothing can be built due to waterpipes which could benefit from wildflower planting. Would the leader look into some audit of where wildflower planting may be appropriate across the borough and how we may implement it?	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	<p>The Greenspaces and Leisure Team is in the process of awarding a contract for the development of a new Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The research and development of these documents will play a key role in the councils future management and planting approaches across the borough.</p>
14.	Cllr Longstaff	Labour promised to improve the quality and efficiency of pothole and pavement repairs, as well as boost	Cabinet member for Environment	<p>3,350 potholes reported since November 2022 have been fixed with an additional £250k a year invested in reactive repairs. The reason why we have been able to run our council services in an orderly and responsible manner is because we set a</p>

Council Questions 11 July 2023

		funds for reactive maintenance. Why has Labour failed to achieve their election pledge?	& Climate Change	responsible budget. If we had set the Barnet Conservatives' Liz Truss style budget with a £5million black hole of undeliverable savings, we could be scrambling around cutting services, rather than carrying out works as we had planned.
15.	Cllr Velleman-Woodcock	Will you join me in welcoming Sadiq's extension of the scrappage scheme for high polluting cars to include all families in receipt of child benefit, medium sized business, many charities and carers?	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	Climate change is with us, childhood asthma caused by pollution is with us, the cost to of this to our NHS is with us. We need a plan to reduce pollution and it is great we now have a scrappage scheme that covers families and businesses to help us move off the most polluting cars. I would encourage people to visit https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/scrappage-schemes to see if they are eligible for up to £2,000 to help replace their vehicle.
16.	Cllr Zinkin	Will the leader undertake to remove the disused parklets and refrain from introducing any more parklets without a full consultation of residents in Golders Green, Childs Hill and Garden Suburb (whose local town centre is Golders Green) and local businesses?	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	These parklets are there because the Housing and Growth Committee under the previous Conservative administration, of which Cllr Zinkin was then a member of the Conservative majority and voted for them in the Golders Green Town Centre Strategy. He may regret his decision to vote for it now he is receiving complaints from residents. In contrast, this administration makes decisions with residents. So, as agreed at the Housing and Growth Committee in March, there is a meeting with Golders Green and Childs Hill councillors due for the week commencing the 17th July and there will be an evaluation of the Temporary Streetspace Fund, responsible for parklets, which will consult residents and businesses.
17.	Cllr Sargeant	Many of our residents who are leaseholders are still waiting for action on flammable cladding six years on from the Grenfell Tower tragedy. Would the leader impress on the Government the need to sort this problem out as soon as possible?	Cabinet member for Homes & Regeneration	To give an idea of the scale of the problem in Barnet: 56 tower blocks have been reviewed and assessed as low priority; 138 blocks have had some activity related to them; Four have been identified as high risk and have had statutory notices served one them. Work on one is complete, and three are currently undergoing the necessary work. We are meeting with Government monthly on the issue and are completing the work as quickly as possible.
18.	Cllr Wardle	Vandalised electric bikes are increasingly causing harm to our	Cabinet member for	When Officers receive reports of Lime Bikes being left unattended, Officers will contact Lime Bike directly who arrange for the collection of the bikes.

Council Questions 11 July 2023

		<p>parks and streets. What more can the Council do to force companies (such as Lime bike) to recover their bikes swiftly and without delay?</p>	<p>Environment & Climate Change</p>	<p>Officers from Highways and Community Safety are currently exploring long term solutions for unattended / vandalised bikes.</p>
19.	<p>Cllr Chakraborty</p>	<p>January-May 2023 were challenging months for local businesses on West Hendon Broadway. This was brought about by utility companies closing large sections of West Hendon Broadway for months. This resulted in significant drop in footfall and a substantial loss of revenue for these businesses. While many of them survived the covid pandemic lockdowns, they were on brink of insolvency because of these protracted road closures with a resulting loss in footfall. What can the council do to ensure that when utility companies are issued licences to close roads in the borough, these works are completed in a timely manner and also utility companies should notify businesses of their rights to claim compensation as part of the licence application process?</p>	<p>Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change</p>	<p>Depending on the works, companies can be charged up to £2,500 per day for projects that overrun, and it is a process, in terms of setting expectations for people carrying out works, that I am asking officers to look at. However, I do know that already officers work closely with utility companies on all works undertaken within the borough, paying particular attention to locations that may cause the most disruption. Officers have experience in dealing with a wide range of schemes and can robustly challenge any requests for road closures.</p> <p>Legally, the right to compensation from utility companies is only applicable when a service is disconnected. However, I understand in this case, the utility company did decide to voluntarily compensate some businesses. Please contact me if there are particular-businesses who have not managed to access this.</p>

Council Questions 11 July 2023

20.	Cllr Zinkin	Does the leader plan to do anything about the parklets being used as a rubbish dumping spot?	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	I hope Councillor Zinkin raises this issue in the meeting that is being arranged for week commencing 17th July. Businesses that have applied for parklets have entered into contracts whereby they should upkeep them properly. We will be carrying out a second round of evaluating the Temporary Streetspace Scheme as a whole. What we intend to do is follow a proper process of evaluation and consultation, in relation to these parklets that Councillor Zinkin voted for in 2020.
21.	Cllr Farrier	The first two play streets in the borough are very successful in allowing and encouraging families to safely use the roads in which they live. What are the plans, and what is the process, for establishing more play streets?	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	<p>It's great that to see the success of Barnet's first play streets. This is a pilot play street scheme that is currently ongoing with regular review from Officers.</p> <p>The pilot has allowed officers to monitor the success of the first two play streets, prepare web content, create an application process, review traffic management requirements including consultation process and collate costs.</p> <p>I am waiting for an evaluation this summer on the success of this pilot, with Officer recommendations for the future.</p> <p>During this pilot all expressions of interest are being collated for future consideration.</p>
22.	Cllr Thomas	Can the leader provide information on the issues raised on ward walks including the number of issues fully resolved?	Cabinet member for Community Safety Participation	<p>Since the start of the ward walks programme in November 2022, we have visited 22 wards with the last two wards due to be visited by the end of July. During these visits we have identified 235 issues of which 119 have been confirmed by the designated council service to be completed and resolved. This equates to just over 50% of issues resolved. This includes data from our most recent set of ward walks only completed last week. The main issues raised in these walks are listed below:</p> <p>Absence of CCTV Blind spots/hidden areas Drugs / Alcohol abuse Empty/derelict/isolated buildings</p>

Council Questions 11 July 2023

				<p>Feeling like you are being followed</p> <p>Graffiti</p> <p>Overgrown bushes/trees</p> <p>Poor or no streetlighting</p> <p>Street Cleansing</p> <p>Highways</p> <p>Public Health</p> <p>Anti-Social Behaviour</p> <p>External Partner Association</p> <p>Fly- Tipping</p> <p>Parking issue</p>
23.	Cllr Ioannides	<p>June was Pride Month, where we celebrate our LGBT+ community, and raise awareness of the rights we still have yet to win. Does the Leader agree that members should join Barnet Pride on 20th August, pay tribute to the volunteers and officers organising it, and reinforce to all our residents that they are not just welcome in Barnet, who celebrated for who they are.</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Equalities & the Voluntary & Community Sector</p>	<p>Seeing a reinvigorated Pride month in Barnet has been great, with events throughout the community. I want to say thank you to all the officers who put hard work into making it a reality, our partners and everyone throughout the borough who took part. And I urge everyone to join the Pride event on the 20th August in Victoria Park, Finchley.</p>
24.	Cllr Zinkin	<p>How many Golders Green Town residents were consulted re the closure of the road for the pedestrian square?</p>	<p>Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change</p>	<p>In May 2023, letters were sent to 297 residential properties, outlining the intention to implement the temporary closure. However, it is worth noting at least ten Barnet residents were consulted in January 2020 under the previous Conservative administration, when the Housing and Growth Committee, which included a Conservative majority at the time and Councillor Zinkin, voted for this scheme to proceed. In that paper, a consultation with more than 500 responses found that the pedestrianisation of the end of Golders Green Crescent was the number 1 priority for residents for that part of Golders Green.</p>

Council Questions 11 July 2023

25.	Cllr Roberts	Ward walks have been very successful at identifying problems in Underhill. Can the Leader give an overview of how the programme has gone at the end of the first year, and the impact it has had on our neighbourhoods?	Cabinet member for Community Safety Participation	We are currently halfway through the programme with the second round of Ward Walks currently being scheduled. The Ward Walks have been well received by members and residents and have shown to be a successful tool for resident engagement. Councillors have also commented on the success of the Ward Walks as it allows them to engage with not only residents but also council officers to discuss possible solutions to issues raised at the time. 119 out of the 235 issues have been resolved, such as graffiti and poor lighting.
26.	Cllr Longstaff	Labour promised to maintain quarterly deep cleans of residential streets. Why has Labour failed to maintain the quarterly deep cleans	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	Street Cleansing Crews have fulfilled their operational schedules of servicing residential neighbourhoods up to four times per year and will continue to do so. If councillor Longstaff has a particular neighbourhood he is concerned about he should contact me. The council are also providing weed treatment up to 4 times a year, responsive fly tipping and graffiti removal, as well as the ward walks service for identifying problems. Keep Britain Tidy has assessed that we are performing better than the London standard for litter, detritus and graffiti - in fact we have improved quite a bit compared to 2019/20. This may have something to do with the additional £500k we have invested in streetcleaning.
27.	Cllr Ambe	On the back of the well organised first ever West Hendon Summer Solstice Festival which was a co-produced by the West Hendon Arts and Culture Society (WHACS) and the Council's Town Team, would the leader extend the residents of West Hendon's gratitude for the enduring support from the Council's Town Team and will the leader commit to supporting the West Hendon model of co-	Cabinet member for Community Safety Participation	Co-production is key to our community participation strategy and we're delighted that we're able to build trust with residents and communities to work with the council to deliver on these outcomes. I want to thank everyone who put in so much effort at WHACS, and the ward councillors, who are helping to show what vibrant communities we have in Barnet and how we are a Borough of Fun.

Council Questions 11 July 2023

		production between local community groups and the Council?		
28.	Cllr Zinkin	Does the leader support the parklets in Golders Green?	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	As Leader of Barnet Council, I support the residents of Barnet, including those in Golders Green. A strategy was passed by the Housing and Growth Committee under the previous Conservative administration in January 2020, on the votes of the Conservative majority, including Cllr Zinkin, which promoted the use of parklets in Golders Green. There will be a meeting for the week commencing the 17th July for ward councillors to give feedback on how the parklets are faring. There will also be an evaluation of the Temporary Streetspace Fund which supports parklets which will include a consultation with residents, and the feedback will be examined.
29.	Cllr Hutton	Following a recent case in my ward, can the council help ensure that if highways/street scene officers find a deceased animal that these are dealt with sensitively, taken back to the depot and checked to see if they are microchipped, and if so to contact the owner. And to ensure that the microchip machine is kept in working order?	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	We are a Council that cares for people, our places, the planet and pets! The Council's Street Scene service has an established operating procedure for the handling of deceased animals. This includes a requirement to scan any deceased domestic animals/pets found on the highway so that the owner can be notified. Refresher briefings are being undertaken for front line cleansing teams to ensure all personnel are fully aware of this procedure and the sensitivity required when dealing with such cases.
30.	Cllr Wakeley	Can the deputy leader confirm what percentage of homes in Barnet are unoccupied and how this	Cabinet member for Homes & Regeneration	Published data is only provided annually and only provides data at borough and England level, therefore the figures are: As at 12/09/2022 1.9% of properties were noted as empty in England and at the same date 2.2% of properties were noted as empty in Barnet.

Council Questions 11 July 2023

		compares to the national and London averages?		
31.	Cllr Barnes	Speeding cars is a real problem for Barnet Vale residents. What is the Council plan for dealing with this issue?	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	<p>Officers are able to undertake Traffic Management surveys should we receive reports from ward members, via the Road Safety and Parking Fund Request. Where speeding is observed officers can propose measures to limit speeds.</p> <p>If there any particular roads of concern in Barnet Vale, or any roads within the borough, please write to the Member Liaison Officer for your area and they will arrange the completion of a Road Safety and Parking Fund request form.</p> <p>Residents can also contact the Community Road Watch scheme more information can be found online at https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/safety-and-security/road-safety/community-roadwatch.</p>
32.	Cllr Zinkin	Will this administration implement more parklets in Golders Green without resident approval?	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	<p>The parklets that have been introduced to Golders Green were done so after six Conservative councillors, including Cllr Zinkin, voted for the Golders Green Town Centre Strategy at the January 2020 meeting of the Housing and Growth Committee. I must defend the conscientious work of these councillors, and assure Cllr Zinkin that they would have only voted in such a way, if they were confident of resident approval. There will be a meeting for ward councillors on the meeting beginning 17th July to give feedback on how the parklets are performing, and there will be an evaluation of the Temporary Streetspace Fund which supports parklets, which involves consultation with residents.</p>
33.	Cllr K Gurung	I have received feedback from residents about the operation of the CPZs in Burnt Oak, including the Burnt Oak North CPZ. Can these be reviewed after the first six months?'	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	<p>The Burnt Oak North (BON) experimental (trial) CPZ became live on Monday 22 May 2023 and the scheme will remain in place for a period of up to 18 months, during which time comments received during the first six months constitute as the statutory consultation. An experimental scheme gives the council time to consider any comments received, assess the effectiveness of the parking controls,</p>

Council Questions 11 July 2023

				and make changes if required. Any comments received during the first six months will be collated and reported back to members with recommendations on the future of the scheme.
34.	Cllr Thomas	Does the leader still stand by the Labour Group’s manifesto pledge to prevent high-rise developments?	Cabinet member for Homes & Regeneration	The Council inherited a draft Local Plan that was advanced under the previous administration. As a Labour administration we stand by our manifesto commitment to avert Tower block blight and have subsequently put proposed changes to the Plan to the Planning Inspector, that would see a further tightening of the policy on tall buildings, ensuring they may only be considered in limited locations and must meet strengthened criteria. Through the changes we have also made clear Tall Buildings is not this Council's preferred model for achieving high density housing in Barnet as it would not protect our borough’s suburban outer-London and historic character. We have also committed to producing detailed guidance that will raise the design quality of all high-density development.
35.	Cllr Zubairi	Following the successful rollout of the community skips programme, will the leader say what else the council will be doing to build on its success of dealing with fly-tipping	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	Dealing with fly tipping continues to be an important issue for the Council. Community Safety Officers receive reports of fly tipping and carry out patrols (along with Street Scene Officers) on a daily basis of fly tipping hot spots. Enforcement officers carry out investigations to identify perpetrators and gather evidence of the offences (prescribed under the Environmental Protection Act). Enforcement action will be taken when sufficient evidence is obtained. This can result in Fixed Penalty Notices being issued or formal prosecution being pursued. We have also been running a flytipping awareness raising campaign to encourage people to report fly-tipping so we can clear it up quickly and take any action against perpetrators.

Council Questions 11 July 2023

36.	Cllr Zinkin	Why haven't the promised improvements to Golders Green Town Centre been implemented yet?	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	We are keen to see the improvements as laid down in The Golders Green Town Centre Strategy, that was passed by the Housing and Growth Committee in January 2022. However, we must not rush ahead in these matters without resident approval. Which is why we have an upcoming evaluation of the Temporary Streetspace Fund that supports parklets, and a trial period for the pedestrianisation of one end of Golders Green Crescent.
37.	Cllr Young	I know that the Leader recently visited Israel and our sister City of Ramat Gan with a cross-party delegation. Would he join me in thanking Cllr Greenspan, who has been a leading figure in the Friends of Ramat Gan group for many years in helping to make the trip possible, and share with us some of his highlights from the trip?	Leader	I truly enjoyed my trip to Israel, and would like to thank Councillor Greenspan for all her work over the years to build the relationship between ourselves and our twin city of Ramat Gan. My favourite part of the trip was meeting young Barnet residents spending time in a seminary in Jerusalem, getting to know what Israel means to them and their hopes for the future.
38.	Cllr Thomas	Will the leader listen to Conservative and Labour councillors and drop the hugely undemocratic petition system for area committees?	Leader	We currently have no plans to change how area committees works but I am always open to a conversation with members about how we can improve how they work.
39.	Cllr Rose	I am delighted that the Mayor has celebrated the phenomenal win of Alma Primary winning the FA Schools Competition – will the Leader join me in congratulating them?	Leader	Yes, and I want to praise in particular the players themselves, as well as Alma Primary's Sports leader, Yasmin Ahmed, the school's Headteacher, Marc Shoffren, the team's coach Alex Norman, team manager Caroline Norman, the school's wider teaching body, the governors and parents. I am delighted we will be marking this success with a motion on the matter at the Full Council meeting.

Council Questions 11 July 2023

40.	Cllr Mire	Does the leader feel it is appropriate to spend £160,000 for a contract resource to join Barnet? How does he think this resonates well with Constituents during a cost-of-living crisis?	Leader	The contract in question is for less than a year so we won't be spending £160,000. It will support implementation of the Oracle Fusion programme which will deliver savings as part of the medium-term financial plan by enabling enhanced reporting to allow the council to make more informed decisions under the council strategic objective 'engaged and effective council'. The market is impacted by the cost-of-living crisis and the rate offered is in line with the market. I'm happy to talk further with Cllr Mire about this.
41.	Cllr Bilbow	The newly formed West Hendon Arts and Culture Society (WHACS) has been doing incredible work on community cohesion in West Hendon with the Artsdepot being a strategic and helpful partner in capacity building. The council has also supported WHACS by providing micro-grants for events. Will the leader commit to continue with the Council's successful and developing community events programme which has supported community groups like WHACS as part of the administration's "borough of fun" agenda?	Cabinet member for Community Safety Participation	WHACS is a great example of the sort of organisation that we want to support as a council. The way the group has joined together to, in their words:" Bring joy. Bridge cultures. Gel communities. Give understanding of different cultures." is inspirational. As well as the Summer Soulstice event, they have organised events for St Patricks Day, Eid and a Tree festival! WHACS has shown the way in building up our Borough Fun and we look forward to working with groups like WHACS going forward.
42.	Cllr Grocock	How many hours are CST members spending in the hubs? As the residents of Barnet want to see	Cabinet member for Community Safety Participation	Community Hubs are open for 12 hours a week. There are 2 officers at each hub which equates to 24 hours of officer time per week. All officers do carry out Hi Visibility Street patrols across Wards on a daily basis. The Community Safety Team have officers available between 8am - 8pm Monday to Friday and 10am – 5pm Saturday , 10am- 4 pm Sundays.

Council Questions 11 July 2023

		patrols out and about, what is the plan for this?		In addition to this Community Safety Officers are currently carrying out patrols in the borough's parks on Saturdays and Sundays 12-8pm
43.	Cllr Cooke	The administration's introduction of School Street schemes (traffic restrictions around school start and finish times) including near Summerside School, North Finchley, is very welcome to keep children safe but, if the area designated is too small, there can be access problems for residents and displacement, rather than elimination, of the danger to pupils. Will you give assurance that schemes will be reviewed quickly, and adjustments made as necessary?	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	<p>Officers recently undertook a review on vehicle movement in Crossway, Schoolway and Ingleway to determine use of kerbside space.</p> <p>The results of this review will be used to identify the current school street and determine additional measures that may be required.</p>
44.	Cllr Grover	How many applications to cut down TPO protected trees were received in the years May 2021 - May 2022 and May 2022 - May 2023, and how many of those applications were approved in both years?	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	<p>The majority of decisions are made by officers under delegated authority and the felling of a protected tree is only approved if sound arboricultural reasons have been provided by the applicant and following a thorough assessment by tree officers. When the felling of a tree is proposed due to alleged subsidence and/or where the Council's decision might be liable to compensation then the matter is referred to a planning committee for a decision. Between May 2021 and May 2022, 2 applications were referred to committee and both were refused. Between May 2022 and May 2023, 7 applications were referred to committee. 3 were approved, 3 refused and one had a split decision (part approve / part refuse). There are sometimes unavoidable reasons for felling trees, for example, if they are undermining local people's homes or pinning them would emit more carbon than the result of felling them. This small number of decisions should be placed in the context of the council's commitment to plant 1,000 trees per year.</p>

Council Questions 11 July 2023

45.	Cllr Whysall	Will the Leader join me in congratulating the organisers of the Barnet Medieval Festival for a successful 5th annual event last year. The festival celebrates Barnet's rich history - what steps are being taken to enable more such events take place across our borough?	Cabinet member for Culture, Leisure Arts & Sports	<p>The Barnet Medieval festival as a brilliant event and I wholeheartedly congratulate the organisers with the magnificent job that they did. It is the kind of event we want to see more and more of in Barnet. A Civic and Community Events Policy was approved by CLL committee in February. This not only formalised the programme of cultural and awareness events that the council would officially mark, it also launched a grant funding scheme. This makes small grants available to local community organisations to help them fund events. An allocation of £120k has initially been put towards this grant pot and so far, £6,195 has been awarded to enable 69 community events. This first year is a pilot and we will gauge the take-up of funding, as well as the number and diversity of events it enables. Funding decisions are made by a multi-agency panel that includes voluntary sector representatives and incorporates communities associated with corresponding cultural and faith festivals. In June 2023, the panel was pleased to grant Barnet Medieval Festival £1,000 towards the costs of this year's event.</p> <p>The Community Events programme is one of two major council workstreams that are supporting culture in the borough. The other is our Culture Strategy; a five-year plan to develop the arts, culture and creative assets in Barnet. This strategy is being coproduced with the community, under the oversight of a Steering Group made up of residents, artists and community organisations. The Medieval Festival itself is represented on the Steering Group through its director Susan Skedd. In parallel to the development of the strategy, Barnet is also bidding to be London Borough of Culture in 2027. A proportion of the funding for the BOC award comes for Lottery Heritage Fund and it will be important for both the bid and our strategy to show how we will go further in celebrating the history and heritage of Barnet and supporting the organisations that work to preserve it. This will include working closely with the newly formed Heritage Barnet group.</p>
46.	Cllr Zinkin	How many Golders Green Crescent businesses were consulted re the	Cabinet member for	In the lead up to the Golders Green Town Centre plan being passed by the Housing and Growth Committee under the previous Conservative administration

Council Questions 11 July 2023

		closure of the road for the pedestrian square?	Environment & Climate Change	in January 2020, which included plans for closing the end of Golders Green Crescent, 103 businesses were consulted. Before the closure began, in March 2023, 48 nearby businesses were informed about the closure. During the trial period, businesses can contact parking.consultations@barnet.gov.uk to give feedback which will shape the trial's findings.
47.	Cllr Radford	East Barnet is lucky to have some amazing community groups, but can I ask the Leader to particularly congratulate Jim's Café on all of the good it does in our community, recognised by the Mayor with a recent community award. The work Sonia Lucas and Karen Kill, Reverend Laura Hewitt of St James Church, Martine Whitaker-Lucas and others do, from signposting to resources provided by the Council as well as all the work they do themselves, is a true inspiration to me and many others.	Leader	I would like to thank and congratulate Jim's café, Reverend Hewitt, Sonia Lewis and Martine Whitaker-Lucas on everything they do for the community. It is residents like them who make sure there is such a thing as society.
48.	Cllr Grover	The 2023/24 Highway Work Programme was developed based on a visual condition assessment survey and deterioration modelling. Will the leader provide copy of this survey and modelling, and any information that explains how the work programme was prioritised as a result?	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	<p>The work programme is developed using an independent condition assessment survey company, XAIS, who undertake a visual survey of public highway footways and carriageways in the borough and record the data to a defined national standard.</p> <p>This data is added to that of the defects scores, scoring to indicate the relative position on the operational network hierarchy and location in relation to places of education and worship. In the case of footways, the surveys also consider where footway deterioration was evident due to tree root protrusion.</p>

Council Questions 11 July 2023

				<p>These principles and guidelines are documented in the Code of Practice ‘Well Managed Highway Infrastructure’ publication commissioned by the Department for Transport.</p> <p>In adherence to the aforementioned ‘Code of Practice’ it is crucial that a risk-based asset management approach is employed when selecting potential schemes, and the Council continually seeks advancement in the way the condition data is collected and analysed.</p> <p>With the advancement in data capture and analysis technology, this has enabled us to gain more insight into the data and use it more effectively to determine areas of defectiveness on the highway network.</p> <p>Officers, alongside Xais, will arrange for briefing sessions for Members as an overview of the survey process. Furthermore, If there is a particular road you would like to know the score for, please contact members.enquiries@barnet.gov.uk</p>
49.	Cllr Mittra	What is the administration’s plans for increasing tree planting in the borough, and making it easier for residents to request action in this area?	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	A new Tree Policy and tree planting programme was agreed at Environment and Climate Change Committee in March 2023. The Council will aim to plant 1000 trees per year. The Council has also partnered with Trees for Streets, which enables residents to identify a location and sponsor the planting of a tree (whether that it outside a house or in a park location).
50.	Cllr Thomas	In January 2022, Cllr Schneiderman, in his question to the leader, suggested that the council has some powers to	Cabinet member for Environment	Action has been taken. The misconnections log has been handed over by Thames Water to the Council and enforcement action is being undertaken by the Environment Health Team. In addition, there is the ongoing dialogue. I met with

Council Questions 11 July 2023

		stop water companies from allowing sewage to flow onto our pavements and parks. After a year in power, what extra action has the council taken to ensure that water companies take swift action to stop sewage overflowing onto pavements and in parks?	& Climate Change	<p>the Thames Water Sustainability Director in January 2023.</p> <p>Further meetings have been scheduled with the Thames Water Liaison Officers to discuss in detail sites with sewage overflow issues.</p> <p>Thames Water have agreed to install monitors or undertake long term modelling to explore potential solutions for persistent problem locations.</p> <p>Regular updates are provided directly to residents by Thames Water Customer Care Team or the Council and Thames Water working collaboratively.</p>
51.	Cllr Monasterio	We all agree that no child or young person should face the prospect of being homeless. Will the leader support the work of the task and finish group on the subject so that we can ensure that Barnet council has an effective policy on the issue?	Cabinet Member for Family Friendly Barnet	Yes I do, and I thank the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee taking up the issue with a task and finish group, the report of which I look forward to reading.
52.	Cllr Mire	Can the Cabinet member for Environment and Climate Change clarify the Administration's commitment to Net 0, when the chair of Planning just approved the felling of a historic tree within Garden Suburb? Does he believe in a climate emergency he declared or was this just a statement to win an election,	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	There are sadly circumstances in which trees must be felled - for example when they undermine homes or when underpinning them would release more carbon into the atmosphere than felling them. However, the four trees this year that have sadly had to be cut down or partially cut down must be placed in the context of the 1,000 trees per year the council is planting in our mission to Net Zero.

Council Questions 11 July 2023

		like the 1% rebate that was promised and creatively never received.		
53.	Cllr Perlberg	Many of the residents in my ward are worried about cars driving too fast in their neighbourhoods and the local air quality. How can we make it easier for residents to request action in this area?	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	Councillors can make a Road Safety and Parking fund request in such locations where speeding has been raised as a concern. Members can contact their Member Liaison Officer to arrange a site visit with Officers prior to a Road Safety and Parking Fund application being submitted for consideration.
54.	Cllr Thomas	What representations has the leader and/or the council made to the Mayor of London regarding the toxic air of tube platforms and corridors?	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	We support the Mayor's efforts to reduce dust from the Tube. Dust on the Tube has fallen by 19 per cent on the Platform and 37 per cent from the driver's cab, since the mayor launched his initiative to reduce such pollution in 2016. We also support the mayor's collaboration with Imperial College to explore how to reduce this even further.
55.	Cllr Haylett	As part of our net zero initiative, can the leader update on the Electronic Vehicle Charging Point rollout plans?	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	To date the Council has installed 232 EV (on-street and car park) charge points across the borough and these are fully operational. A further 463 EV charge points are due to go live within the next 4 weeks (by the end of July) and our further planned roll outs for the period up to March 2024 includes 100 EV charge points mainly across Town Centre locations and 1,293 EV charge points to be installed in residential streets. The focus on residential streets is to prioritise resident requests and streets where the majority of cars are parked on street due to the lack of off-street parking facilities. There are further plans to seek additional grant funding through the LEVI Fund to allow a further roll out beyond March 2024. This has already included an Expression of Interest being submit to fund up to a further 650 EV charge points.
56.	Cllr Rich	When Labour came into administration, one priority was to make Barnet cleaner. Can I ask how	Cabinet member for Environment	The Council's Street Cleansing budget has been increased by £500,000 to support residential roads within the borough being serviced up to four times per year. Operational schedules have been developed and Street Cleansing Residential

Council Questions 11 July 2023

		progress on improving street cleanliness is going, and what are the next steps?’	& Climate Change	<p>Crews complete their allocated visits throughout the service year.</p> <p>The Keep Britain Tidy Group undertake independent street cleanliness assessments on behalf of the Council. The most recent assessment (April '23) reported improvement across all four parameters and confirmed that cleanliness standards in Barnet for litter, detritus and graffiti were better than the London 2022/23 benchmark standard.</p> <p>The service continues to develop its efforts to use service data and insight from residents to shape the service offer and inform the deployment of resource to the areas of most need.</p>
57.	Cllr P Cohen	Does the Leader agree that Barnet residents are increasingly concerned about the pollution of our precious natural environment and understand that the Conservatives have done nothing about this in 13 years of misrule. It is shocking that untreated sewage has been flowing into our local waterways like Dollis Brook and Pymmes Brook, yet Barnet’s Tory MPs backed legislation in the Environment Bill which failed to impose tougher regulation on water companies, despite them making huge profits every year. Does he agree with Labour’s proposals to fix our water systems by tightening the law to protect consumers?	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	I certainly do agree. After 13 years of Conservative rule, so much seems broken - millions on NHS waiting lists, the backlog in the justice system, and the state of our rivers and waterways. It is time for a Labour Government to fix Britain again.
58.	Cllr Vourou	I wanted to highlight how we can improve traffic problems and road	Cabinet member for	The improvements on Arlington Road and Summit Way are a great example of how interventions can make a neighbourhood safer and more walkable, with

Council Questions 11 July 2023

		<p>safety in the borough when we work with residents. The Arlington Road and Summit Way suffered from overparking and driving far too fast for a school neighbourhood, but with a 20 mile an hour zone and new zebra crossings, we've really managed to tackle the problem. Will he join me in thanking council officers for their excellent work in this area?</p>	<p>Environment & Climate Change</p>	<p>constructive councillors, and with the involvement of residents. I want to thank everyone involved for their hard work.</p>
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