

## **Council meeting 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

### **Opposition motion in the name of Cllr David Longstaff.**

#### **Planning enforcement is a must in Barnet.**

#### **Council notes:**

- The importance of adhering to granted planning permissions.
- Should building works exceed the planning permissions granted and it be expedient to enforce the breach, it is important the council seek rectification at the earliest opportunity. Having won decisions on enforcement, the council should have a clear schedule for enforcement.
- Unacceptable agreements should not be reached with developers that leave residents incandescent at an unjust compromise. A compromise will invariably mean residents feel let down by the council.
- That compromises rarely produce satisfactory outcomes and can result in reputational damage to the council's enforcement team.
- Residents regularly contact councillors to express their dismay and/or confusion as to why certain enforcement actions may not be taken.

#### **Council resolves to:**

- Call on the Labour Administration to ensure that all planning enforcement rulings from Planning Inspectorate decisions are pursued by officers with a managed, clear schedule of action to ensure the harm caused by the breach is resolved.
- Thereafter produce a report to the Strategic Planning Committee highlighting the:
  - o The requirements of the upheld notice.
  - o Date of the appeal decision.
  - o Restorative action taken.
  - o The date case is closed.
  - o If not closed, the reason for delay.
- To provide a clear explanation to concerned parties as to the reason for routes taken in deciding how to deal with a planning enforcement matter. Highlighting, as done in councils such as Buckinghamshire:
  - o Expediency.
  - o Harm.
  - o Discretionary.

*Under Council Procedure Rule 15.5 this motion is to stand referred to the Strategic Planning Committee as a matter within the remit of that committee*