

Council Questions 17 October 2023

Qn.	Councillor	Question	Response by	Response
1.	Cllr Shooter	The Prime Minister, quite rightly refused to bail out Birmingham City when the Labour group ran it into the ground, will the leader be seeking a bailout when the cabinet drives Barnet to the same place despite the robust position that was handed to them 18 months ago?	Leader	It is doubtful that The Prime Minister will bailout Birmingham, just as he refused to bailout Conservative Thurrock and Conservative Northamptonshire. This has been a difficult thirteen years for local government, as central government grants have been more than halved. And Barnet's Conservative administrations have also found it difficult, having to call draw millions and millions in ressrves, even in the years before Covid. But we will close the gap responsibly, without unrealistic Liz Truss like spending or tax proposals.
2.	Cllr Thomas	Please list the membership of the new Financial Sustainability Board and the dates it has convened.	Leader	The purpose of the Financial Sustainability Board is to review financial risks identified through outturn and to review income opportunities. The Board includes: The Section 151 Officer; The Assistant Director for Finance; Executive Directors, Directorate Business Planning Leads, Directorate Heads of Service; Directorate Head of Finance; Investment Project Managers. It met on the 29th June, 26th July, 19th September and the 26th September. i. To review financial risks identified through outturn ii. To review income opportunities
3.	Cllr Greenspan	What is the current backlog of unrepaired potholes and please provide monthly figures since November 2022 detailing: 1. Number of Potholes reported. 2. Number of Potholes fixed. 3. Average time from report to repair. Please provide detailed responses to each numbered item in the question and note that I have requested monthly figures.	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	From December 2022 to September 2023 inclusive, 4,617 potholes have been reported and 4,357 potholes have been fixed. The average time from report to filling in is 8 days - this covers all categories of potholes with the most serious ones being fixed more quickly.

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4.	Cllr Thomas	At the September Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Cllr Schneiderman said that the increase to parking charges reflected the increasing costs of running the service. Please advise what elements of running the service have increased by more than inflation since the last increases to charges were implemented.	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	Inflation has peaked at 11 per cent under this Conservative Government. That has had an impact on the cost of contracts, labour and materials.
5.	Cllr Rose	There have been ten Section 114 notices issued since 2018, when in the 17 years previously there were none - including Conservative Thurrock, Liberal Democrat Woking and, yes, Labour Birmingham. This appears to be the impact of a 50 per cent cut in central government funding since 2010. How do we not just balance the budget this year, but prepare for any more Truss-like reckless funding slashes that may come out of this desperate and dying government.	Leader	We are meticulously challenging and re-building budgets to ensure future demand for services is understood and built in. This task has not been helped by the reckless Government mini-budget of last year. What we really need is sanity in Government, which can only come from Labour.
6.	Cllr Longstaff	The Labour Administration plans to increase Controlled Parking Zone prices by 10.9% for several of the bandings from January 2024. This is on the back of similar increases in January this year. The increases are well beyond the cost of the service. The Cabinet Member said this was to	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	Under this Conservative Government, inflation has run as high as 11 per cent, and therefore freezing parking charges is the equivalent of a subsidy to motoring. This is about ensuring a level playing field for council taxpayers, service users, and yes those that use their cars. We're all in this together.

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		<p>elicit a change in driver behaviour. Will the cabinet member please explain the driver behavioural change he expects to see from raising prices on hard-pressed residents who are buying a permit just to be able to park near their home?</p>		
7.	Cllr Mitra	<p>There has been real concern that following Prime Minister's nudge and a wink to climate deniers by postponing the end of the sales of new petrol cars, that there will be a drying up of investment in electrical charging points. Will the Cabinet member for Transport and Climate Change commit to continue Barnet's investment infrastructure for electric even as the Conservatives start to indulge their worst instincts.</p>	<p>Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change</p>	<p>Even if the Government is wobbly on Climate Change and our children's future, we are going to be continuing to push for more electric vehicle points, planting trees and ensuring transport choices in Barnet. We hope to see a Labour Government whose Green New Deal will supercharge an agenda the Conservatives have left to stagnate for too long.</p>
8.	Cllr Greenspan	<p>Will the Leader update council the progress of the council's support to Jewish Schools in dealing with the Kosher school crisis since the last council meeting?</p>	<p>Cabinet member for Family Friendly Barnet</p>	<p>Following detailed written feedback from Barnet Council to the GLA about the potential financial impact of the Mayor's Offer on Jewish schools, the GLA published an Equality Impact assessment (EQIA). Following the EQIA, the Mayor agreed a further £5m contingency to address extraordinary costs, which resulted in an uplift in the grant for kosher school meals, equating to 85p per meal, which takes the total funding for each kosher meal to £3.50. The council also provided feedback to the LGA about the potential financial impact of the offer on all schools, particularly in relation to schools being paid for only 80% take up. The GLA subsequently increased the payment rate to 90% take up and all schools will receive this, even if the take up is lower than this. The council has sent out a survey to all schools to find out what their take up has been at the start of term and to ask them if they anticipate any negative financial impacts as a result of</p>

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				<p>implementing the Mayor’s Offer and, if so, this will again be raised with the GLA. The council have been working with Pardes House, who are leading a tender to find a new schools meals provider for the Jewish Schools. The Council has offered a lease for the Kosher Kitchen with a peppercorn rent and the details of this offer have been included in the tender. However, not all of Barnet’s Jewish schools have chosen to be part of the tender and so part of the survey to schools, specific questions have been included for Jewish schools to get an update on how they are currently providing free school meals. The shortfall for providing Free School Kosher Meals in Key Stage 1, a Westminster Government policy, continues to be an issue for Jewish schools in Barnet.</p>
9.	Cllr Radford	<p>May I thank the Cabinet member for Family Friendly Barnet for her speedy response to the national RAAC scandal? While I am pleased to hear that East Barnet schools seem to not be immediately affected, I was greatly reassured by the speed of her and officers’ respons. Can an update be given on the implications for the non-school estate?</p>	<p>Cabinet member for Family Friendly Barnet</p>	<p>Following the review of our managed school portfolio, we carried out a secondary review to double-check the initial findings. Following this secondary review, Underhill School, most of which was built in 1932, has had another visual survey carried out in the separate extension building, and has been identified as requiring further intrusive surveys. The area has therefore been cordoned off and will be kept out of use, until the intrusive survey has been carried out. We also have initiated an investigation into the Council’s wider portfolio which consists of 978 buildings, excluding schools. This investigation has so far consisted of a desktop exercise in partnership with building services and property services to identify which properties have an increased likelihood of containing RAAC, based on the information held on build dates and works carried out. This investigation has identified 5 properties which were built within the period RAAC was most widely used. These properties are to be surveyed over the next two weeks, in order to confirm the presence or absence of RAAC. These surveys are to be carried out by a partner contractor and will consist of the following: • An initial visit to understand areas which are required to be surveyed. • Assessment on any areas which are inaccessible where intrusive survey is required. • Plan to carry out intrusive survey safely including mitigations for risks such as asbestos or height. • Intrusive survey conducted. • Findings provided. The 5 properties identified for further investigation: • Canada Villa Young Peoples Activity Centre, Edgware Library, Family Resource Centre, Osidge Library - visual inspections</p>

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				carried out on 22nd Sep. Intrusive surveys scheduled. • Hendon Lane 24 – desktop survey carried out, and further site visit scheduled for confirmation of two small areas which are flat roofs.
10.	Cllr R Cornelius	Does the leader acknowledge that the heavy responsibility of granting Landlords consent for the Spires development will be a decision for him alone under the current constitution?	Leader	Very much so. Any change of use of the site to residential, and / or structural repairs (including demolition and redevelopment of the site) would both require landlord’s consent. Legally however, these are not to be unreasonably withheld. So, in addition to carefully considering any such request for consent, legal advice will also be sought, in order for a properly informed decision to be made.
11.	Cllr David	Last week was National Hate Crime Awareness Week, which focuses on combatting hate crime and making it easier for victim of hate crime to report incidents. Will the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Resident Participation engage with third party reporting organisations, such as Tell Mama, CST and Gallup to ensure we are doing all we can in Barnet to encourage the reporting of hate crime?	Cabinet member for Community Safety Participation	As part of Hate Crime Awareness Week, Barnet's Community Safety Team are attending several Hate Crime events across the borough during the week with pop-up hubs, to engage with and educate residents. We commission Barnet Mencap to deliver Barnet's Hate Crime Project and work closely with them and the police, including the Transport Police, all year round, with activities, promotion and educational events detailed in the annual Hate Crime report which is presented to the SCPB.
12.	Cllr Grocock	Please identify how many ANPR cameras are in the Borough and how many are currently online with those offline?	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	There are currently 20 ANPR cameras in Barnet which are controlled and monitored by the Met Police.
13.	Cllr Ambe	Could the Leader advise Full Council on what progress has been made in ensuring Barnet Council is accredited	Leader	As we continue to see more employed residents needing extra support, we cannot reduce poverty without having a clear approach to becoming a living wage

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		to the Living Wage Foundation in line with my proposed motion last year?		borough. As an employer Barnet council pays all our staff a living wage and has undertaken a review of our contracts confirming most of our contracts pay a living wage. For some of our contracts, implementing this has been more difficult and will take more time. This challenge is most prevalent within our adult social care contracts, which is an issue all local authorities and the wider care industry are grappling with. Officers are currently working with 3rd parties to ensure they all pay a living wage on contracts. We are therefore taking a long-term view on addressing this issue and will continue to work with the Living Wage Foundation and other local authorities on this issue. Barnet is committed to being a living wage borough, but we cannot achieve this alone. Therefore, as well as focusing on our own workforce contracts, we have started developing a plan to engage local businesses and anchor institutions.
14.	Cllr Longstaff	Since Labour's introduction of an £8 per hour charge to play tennis in our public parks, a big increase on the previously much lower price of free, I've not seen any parents and children playing tennis on a Saturday in Friary Park. There are no free times to play on a Saturday when families are most likely to want to play. Does the Cabinet Member consider this to be a successful outcome for families in the 'Borough of Fun'?	Cabinet member for Culture, Leisure, Arts & Sports	It is worth pointing out that before the introduction of charges there were already two council tennis courts that were already charging, as they had done under the previous administration. Many of the others were of poor quality that were not up to a requisite standard. You can give out free tennis racquets, but if they have broken strings, there is not much use in giving them out. So we faced a dilemma on how to bring up council courts to a standard where they can be used at a time when there is real financial difficulty, having seen central government grants more than halved since 2010. We secured investment from the LTA to bring the courts up to a decent standard, and £1.2 million have been invested, on the condition they are kept to a good standard. The money has to come from somewhere. The Conservative Group does not like fees and charges in general. We need to keep council tax low. And we never want to go lightly into reserves. As well as the pay and play fee of £8 for adults or £4 for concessions (Under 16s or Over 60s) per hour, there is an Annual Season Ticket option of £35 for adults or £15 for concessions. Season Ticket holders can book two 1 hour

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				<p>courts per week at no extra cost and this is also supported by free play sessions Monday – Friday 10-11am, 4-5pm and 5-6pm. A sinking fund of £1,200 per court per year will be set up from the income generated from the new model ensuring the courts can be maintained to the new high standard enjoyed across the borough. As well as the pay and play fee of £8 for adults or £4 for concessions (Under 16s or Over 60s) per hour, there is an Annual Season Ticket option of £35 for adults or £15 for concessions. Season Ticket holders can book two 1 hour courts per week at no extra cost and this is also supported by free play sessions Monday – Friday 10-11am, 4-5pm and 5-6pm. A sinking fund of £1,200 per court per year will be set up from the income generated from the new model ensuring the courts can be maintained to the new high standard enjoyed across the borough. In setting these fees, the council reviewed information from other councils tennis court charges so that they were fair and comparable. Since launching the new model at the start of September 340 residents have signed up to a Season Ticket - 66 Under 16s - 69 Over 60s - 205 Adults. - The Annual Season Ticket offers the best value for players, a one off fee that makes the costs of tennis as little at £0.33p per court for adults and £0.14p per court for concessions. Over the month of September a total of 4,918 bookings were made across all sites of which 70% were booked by Season Ticket Holders (no additional charge) or as free to play session and only 30% were Pay and Play bookings. For the first 5 months of 2023/24 financial year, we have received 32,000 bookings, which compares favourably with 43,000 booking for the previous 12 month period. showing that giving people a working racket at a very low cost, is better than giving them a broken racket for free.</p>
15.	Cllr Hutton	I would like to ask the Chair of the Pension Fund Committee to thank the members of the Committee, from	Chair of Pension Fund Committee	The Committee appreciate the thanks from Cllr Hutton, as I appreciate the work of members of the committee from both parties, and the work from Cllr Hutton as chair which laid the foundations of this success.

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		both parties, for their work in getting Barnet Council to the point where its Pensions are fully funded?		
16.	Cllr Grocock	Knife crime is gut-wrenchingly rampant across the BCU – what is the Administration planning to seek from the current Mayor of London Sadiq Khan who has it in his gift to provide to this Borough, but has so far failed to?	Cabinet member for Community Safety Participation	<p>We are working with the Metropolitan Police's programme, called 'Clear, Hold, Build' (CHB), which has seen council officers and residents of Colindale's Grahame Park Estate working with the Police to identify issues, make arrests and clear it of those threatening the safety of residents. In just two months, the Police have made 160 arrests.</p> <p>Current statistics show that Knife Crime in Barnet has reduced, which will be detailed at Safer Communities Partner Board.</p> <p>Barnet Family Services receives a range of funding from City Hall, London Crime Prevention Fund/Violence Reduction Unit which includes and supports delivery of:</p> <p>Victim Care Hub £135,000 (2022-25) Victim Coordinator role to identify victims of violence offending and signpost to trauma therapy, housing support, Restorative Justice, and guidance on community/public safety, (Victims Code of Practice - Right 4)</p> <p>Restorative Justice Work £123,550 (2022-25) Delivering training to schools, colleges, universities, early help parenting groups and voluntary sector in restorative justice/conferencing Building a RJ champions network and increased capacity in the community to resolve conflict and prevent violence escalation.</p> <p>Targeted Mentoring Programme £198,000 (2022-25) providing additional rehabilitation pathways to high risk 17–25 year-olds to mitigate and reduce that risk, supporting offenders to make positive life choices & to stop violent offending.</p>

				<p>Supporting Children at Risk of Exclusion from Education £580,000 (2021-25) - providing mentoring to support young people to remain at school and engaged in education and training</p> <p>Parent Champion Network £132,415 (2020 -24) Training local parents to lead and facilitate groups in their local communities to enable them to develop a stronger community voice and have a focused representation in wider forums, seeking participants from Black and Global Majority communities and parents with lived experience of parenting children and young people involved in anti-social behaviours, offending, exploitation, gangs and serious youth violence.</p> <p>Community Responders Project £93,181 (2021–23) Partnership with Colindale Community Trust, 4Front, Youth Realities, FUSE, Orion & Saracens Schools adopting a “Community Responders” to build knowledge, capacity, resilience and plans by working directly with groups of young people, parents and other community representatives to strengthen community engagement through coproduction and produce a “NW9 Community Plan” focused on reducing local tensions and incidents of violence, provision of Street Doctors training to schools.</p> <p>Community Capacity Coordinator £84,950 (2023-24) To build local resilience and develop plans with existing community/faith groups and schools that support the diversion of young people and adults from involvement in incidents of serious violence and facilitate/coordinate Community Conferences to reduce tensions, and promote community healing</p> <p>Serious Violence Duty £79,645.32 (2023-25) Detached Youth Work provision for young people aged 16+</p>
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				Development of a Strategic Needs Assessment and development of Barnet Safer Community Partnership's Serious Violence Strategy 2024
17.	Cllr Ioannides	The Clear Hold Build Strategy is having a real impact on Colindale North - 160 arrests in eight weeks - including for suspicion of serious crimes from murder and grievous bodily harm to firearms possession and drug dealing - and residents feel far safer on the estate. I would like to ask the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Resident Participation, after the initial wave of arrests, what are the next steps for the Clear Hold Build strategy and both in Grahame Park, and if we could see the approach used elsewhere.	Cabinet member for Community Safety Participation	The success of the Clear Hold Build Project in Barnet is being replicated across London. As the project is a police led operation, the next stages will be decided by the police in collaboration with council officers, who will have an integral part in the ongoing project, and relevant press releases will be issued when appropriate.
18.	Cllr Grover	Officers have been ignoring my emails over several months, so I raise a question here. The temporary parklets brought in during the lockdown period involved having agreements in place with all relevant businesses requiring them to take responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the space, including frequent sweeping, removing all litter, watering, maintaining, and replacing the plants provided. There are many examples of these agreements not being honoured by businesses –	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	All businesses involved in the parklet programme were contacted as part of evaluation in October 2021 – 16 businesses responded (out of 23). The evaluation focussed on the impact of the parklet on the business (as the primary objective of the programme was to support small, high-street businesses during the COVID period). Questions included: - Have the parklets benefitted your business - 15 strongly agreed /agreed, one felt neutral. - Was the application process simple – 12 strongly agreed / agreed, 4 felt neutral or disagreed. - Would you like to continue using the parklet in the future – All strongly agreed. Other businesses feedback included:

		<p>including a few on Temple Fortune. I understand a review of all parklets took place last Spring to ensure that businesses are using them correctly and that the licenses and other requirements are in order. Please can the results of that review in relation to each parklet be published by way of answer to this question.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "It was the difference between us reopening and closing after lockdown." - "So many residents are still extremely concerned about sitting inside, now they don't have to worry." - "Customers now have confidence in our business after COVID." - "Really easy to maintain and attracts customers in." - "We have had amazing feedback from customers." - "The council has provided amazing support during COVID to help us reopen." <p>Neighbouring businesses were also interviewed. The results of these interviews showed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most of the neighbours spoken to do not have outdoor space, and considered that there are still customers that are uncomfortable entering premises. - Neighbouring businesses thought that parklets have had a negative impact on their customer numbers compared to competitors with parklets, although they were unable to substantiate this. - Businesses were supportive of parklets and their impact on the aesthetic of the high street. - Some noted that customers have complained about not being able to park but they acknowledge parklets have limited impact on this. <p>A subsequent analysis of parking data showed that the parklets had not impacted the availability of parking, however. The evaluation concluded with the following recommendations for improving the parklets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase the opportunities for greening. - Improve the height and depth of parklets to reduce traffic noise and improve safety. - Consider options to provide shelter from rain and sun. - Support access to electrical points to for heaters and lighting in colder seasons - Bring level with pavement to enable access for all customers. <p>The council is commissioning a second evaluation of the parklet programme, which we anticipate concluding on the week commencing 11th December. This</p>
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				<p>evaluation will review the challenges around maintenance, amongst other issues, to understand whether some businesses are not complying with this part of their agreement, and the changes that need to be made to the programme going forwards. Whilst the programme is giving important support to local businesses, high streets and town centres at a challenging time, we should look at improvements that could be made.</p>
19.	Cllr Whysall	<p>We know that the previous Conservative administration put together a Local Plan that lacked controls, risking situations like the Edgware development which has caused real upset in the community. Can the administration give an update on the Labour administration's application to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to modify the Local Plan, and what we may do if they refuse amendments.</p>	<p>Cabinet member for Housing & Regeneration</p>	<p>We are committed to progressing with the Local Plan we inherited or risk not having a development framework for Barnet to influence proposals such as the Ballymore/TfL regeneration scheme in Edgware. We are working with officers to submit further modifications to the Plan via the Government's appointed Inspector, but it is important to remember, that under the current planning system, the Local Plan is subject to a Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Inspector led examination. Any modifications we propose will now need to be agreed by the Inspector. The Local Plan and the Edgware Growth SPD set only a broad strategy for regeneration, so it will be through the planning application that the Council will assess the scheme's appropriateness.</p>
20.	Cllr Longstaff	<p>Will the Cabinet Member continue his robust and misplaced support for Transport for London over Barnet residents, in TfL's desire to introduce bus lanes between Wood Street and Meadway in Chipping Barnet, that no residents have asked for, but will increase traffic congestion?</p>	<p>Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change</p>	<p>It is critical we give Barnet residents transport choices. Reliable buses not only provide a means of transport for those who don't own a car, are looking to save on petrol bills or not worry about parking, but they can also enable up to 80 people not to have to drive their cars, easing congestion for when residents do decide to take their car. Along Barnet High Street (between Wood Street and Meadway) there are almost 7,000 passengers getting on and off buses, many of which are facing delays. We want to take the side of Barnet residents, and ensure that people have a genuine choice between public and private transport. This also supports our Net Zero commitments - cars are responsible for 65% of Barnet's transport-related carbon emissions, buses for 4%. Bus priority measures are part of making using the bus a practical option.</p>

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21.	Cllr Khalick	Can I ask the Leader to thank the Visit my Mosque initiative, building links the the Muslim community and society, and share his reflections on the day.	Leader	I am very happy to express my thanks to the Visit My Mosque initiative. Visit my Mosque is a great initiative and an excellent opportunity to get to know the community. I want to make sure that next year as many councillors as possible participate in the programme.
22.	Cllr Grover	Damage to the wall around a tree on Finchley Road, outside the offices of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust, were reported for repair via Members Enquiries in May. Since then, despite multiple reminders, nothing has been done and no timeframe has been given. Please confirm: (a) that the Council intends to make this repair (b) if so - when? (c) if not, why not?	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	This issue is part of the wider review for Temple Fortune between Addison Way and Willifield Way. The wall around the tree is included within the design and will be repaired as part of the scheme. A site meeting is planned for 31 October 2023 to review this location and arrange a date for the permanent repair.
23.	Cllr Innocenti	There appears to be a problem in my ward of Childs Hill with the misuse of resident parking permits, which may be being used as business parking permits. Would the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change look into whether this is a problem in the wider brough and what can be done about it?	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	Residents are able to purchase vouchers for the use of visitors. When validated, these vouchers are valid in applicable bays throughout the zone for which they are issued. Reports of misuse of paper resident visitor vouchers are investigated jointly by the council's parking team and the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) to identify whether there is any evidence of misuse and appropriate action. If a voucher is not used according to the conditions of use it may be invalid and a Penalty Charge Notice may be issued. I do understand that residents are worried about a particular problem in Childs Hill and I would be happy to continue the discussion with Cllr Innocenti and ask officers to investigate.
24.	Cllr Grover	As of the 15th of September, Barnet's web pages regarding the East Area Committee confirm that the Committee will 'Consider petitions which receive between 25 and 6,999	Leader	The rules relating to petitions changed on 23 May 2023. Prior to the changes, petitions with 25 – 500 signatures which related to the functions of an Area Committee were reported there for consideration. Following the changes, petitions within that threshold now have a written response from the Cabinet Member only and are no longer reported to the relevant Area Committee. In July

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		<p>signatures relating to the functions and responsibilities of the Area Committee.’ A group of residents in Garden Suburb submitted a petition in July that received over 25 signatures. Following this I checked with the relevant Governance officer who confirmed that it would be brought before the East Area Committee on 19 September. It wasn’t - instead I was informed, 4 days before the Committee meeting, that as the petition achieved less than 500 signatures it would not be brought before the Committee. Why is the website misleading our residents?</p>		<p>an officer from the Governance Team incorrectly advised the Lead Petitioner that the petition would be reported to the East Area Committee when in fact it should have been referred to the relevant Cabinet Member for response. It was also identified that some of the web pages linked to the Area Committees still included the previous petition arrangements. The incorrect webpages have now been updated. The petition has now been responded to by the Cabinet Member and the Lead Petitioner has been informed of the response. Officers in the Governance Team have been briefed on the new arrangements relating to petitions to ensure such issues do not reoccur.</p>
25.	Cllr Young	<p>The Golders Green Town Centre Strategy was approved in 2020 by the previous Conservative Administration. On page 37 of the strategy it sets out a priority action to be delivered in the first two years of the strategy to be the introduction of ‘Trial vehicle access restriction into Golders Green Crescent Junction to create new temporary public amenity space. Trial place activation ideas and greening options and measure response.’ The trial of this space is underway and as local councillors we have received</p>	<p>Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change</p>	<p>Officers have been monitoring the feedback following the implementation of the pilot closure. A request from the police has been received to remove the planters, and this is being actioned.</p>

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		feedback from local residents and the Town Team, can the Cabinet Member confirm when the responses will be measured as set out in the strategy and a decision made on the future of this trial.		
26.	Cllr Grover	Households in the lower part of Wildwood Road in Garden Suburb have suffered significant flooding on multiple occasions over the past few years – usually occurring over the summer period. The consequence of the torrent of water which cascades down Wildwood Road during violent summer storms is that it overwhelms the capacity of the drainage system. Therefore, creating more gullies, as has been suggested by officers, is unlikely to solve the problem. However, officers appear reluctant to consider alternative measures that may be possible. Is the Cabinet Member for the Environment willing to make a site visit to hear from the concerned residents directly? This may inject some urgency into efforts to find a solution to a desperate situation.	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	The reported flooding of July 2021 at Wildwood Road has been included in the formal Section 19 investigation which is currently ongoing and will be published mid 2024. Although there is no quick win solution, the flood alleviation options for Wildwood Road will be looked into as part of this investigation. Officers are happy to organise a site visit with residents as part of the ongoing investigation.
27.	Cllr Sargeant	Can I ask the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care to thank all those who helped organise the Silver	Cabinet member for	I am immensely grateful to Age UK, council officers, our voluntary sector partners and our residents for their work to make Silver Sunday and Silver week such a success. Our partnership with Age UK Barnet to create an Age Friendly Barnet

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		<p>Sunday event, his reflections on the Age UK survey of older residents in Barnet and how it may shape our working as a council going forward.</p>	<p>Adult Social Care</p>	<p>meant that the Age Friendly survey was well publicised and accessible for our older residents and has meant we have had an excellent response rate (1037 surveys completed) and it will therefore provide some valuable intelligence. There is a strong message from residents on accessibility and travel. The survey indicates that older residents perceive their ability to access the borough's outdoor spaces declines as they age, and female respondents highlighted the availability of public toilets. This is already a key priority and something we will be looking at addressing with partners. Ease of accessing public transport also diminished and was a theme of discussions of the focus groups, which highlights that public transport can do more to be age friendly. There are also some stark differences between male and female respondents, and between white and black, Asian and minority ethnic respondents on their perception of employability. We also recognise that our oldest residents reported concerns regarding ease of access to local health services and a lack of confidence with digital technology. The council has a valuable role in acting as an advocate and driver of change with our partners in response to these messages. We can see ahead of us work with Transport for London on making public transport more accessible and age friendly (example of training bus drivers to move off more slowly and brake carefully). We can also leverage our role as a key partner in the integrated care system and through overview and scrutiny of the health services to ensure local services are fit for purpose for older residents. The feedback on employability will be used to further inform our work on employment, training and skills and considered in the context of our economic development plans. We are keen to dig into more of the nuance of the survey result and consider all council programmes through this lens to ensure they best meet the needs and wishes of our older residents.</p>
28.	Cllr Grover	<p>Irresponsible parking by users of Lime Bikes, such as blocking the pavement, is happening with increasing regularity in Garden Suburb and other wards in the South of the Borough.</p>	<p>Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change</p>	<p>London Councils and Transport for London are looking at options for a single, pan-London contract for electric bicycle hire which will include regulation and enforcement. The details are being developed and they hope to have a proposition for boroughs to consider later this year. If this contract proceeds and the council decides to participate, this will replace individual borough/operator</p>

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		Lime Bikes are very responsive in dealing with this, but they do not have an agreement in place with Barnet that would, for example, create designated parking points and generally regulate their bikes' use within the Borough. Such agreements are already in place with Brent and Camden. Are we working towards such an agreement in Barnet?		agreements. If it does not, the council will decide what approach to take itself as part of work on a new Transport Strategy.
29.	Cllr Woodcock-Velleman	After a difficult few months, Sacred Heart Primary School in Whetstone were given a 'good' result in their OFSTED inspection having previously received 'inadequate' last year. Will the Leader congratulate the school in working diligently to return this result and thank the education team from the council for the support they provided the school?	Leader	Yes well done to the leaders, staff and governors of Sacred Heart who worked closely with BELS and Council Officers to ensure the areas for improvement were acted upon rapidly following their Inadequate judgement. It was pleasing to see that the whole school community rallied round the school. It is very rare for Barnet schools to receive an Inadequate judgement from Ofsted so hugely pleasing that the school was re-inspected so quickly and able to inform their community that they were a Good school before the summer holidays. The Council is very proud of them.
30.	Cllr Wakeley	At the Save Our Edgware meeting on the 12 th of September, you quite rightly said that you did not want to lay out a position of the matter of the Broadwalk Development because, as a senior cabinet member and deputy leader of the council, you did not want to influence colleagues on the planning committee. Do you therefore think it was right for the Leader to say during Cabinet in	Cabinet member for Housing & Regeneration	<p>The Leader's comment relates to his understanding that Cllr Thomas is supportive of the Edgware development, and the CiL it could bring in, highlighted by the fact that the planning framework for the development was put in place under Cllr Thomas' Conservative administration, including the proposal for a tower block of 35 storeys which could have been even higher as no restrictions were put on height in that planning framework.</p> <p>In contrast, the current Labour administration has made it quite clear to the developers that a 35 storey tower block is unlikely to be acceptable – the developer has brought this down to 29 storeys in the latest iteration of the development.</p>

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		response to a question posed by Cllr Thomas that he is <i>“looking forward to your strong support for bringing in the CiL from the Edgware development?”</i>		It is also important to remember that, were it not for the Labour Group, the last Conservative Council would not have reviewed the level of CiL at all. The review that finally took place was called for by Labour councillors for years, and it found that between £15-25m could have been raised through CiL if the Conservatives had not taken so long to review the levels. That is the bill that the last Conservative Council has left us with.
31.	Cllr Cooke	Do you agree with me that the new S10 (North Finchley-Harrow) and S1 (North Finchley-Walthamstow) Superloop express bus services being introduced by the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, will be a big improvement of the borough's orbital transport links but there will still be much to do under Barnet's Long-Term Transport Strategy, currently under development.	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	<p>We have supported the Mayor's Superloop proposals.</p> <p>The Superloop is a welcome step in addressing Barnet's orbital public transport links and a real alternative to car use for trips between some key destinations. We recognise it doesn't address all of the borough's orbital transport needs.</p> <p>The council has worked with Transport for London to produce an orbital bus study looking at ways of filling the gaps and making existing services run more efficiently – officers are discussing how to take this work forward with them.</p> <p>We are also working on other orbital public transport projects like the West London Orbital rail scheme.</p> <p>All this work will inform development of a new Barnet Transport Strategy which will set a clear direction for future work.</p>
32.	Cllr D Cohen	Why does the Cabinet believe 500 people have signed a petition against the planters on Golders Green Crescent?	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	I have read the petition. Police monitoring has been part of the consultation design. The police have monitored and have requested a removal of the planters which is now being implemented.

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33.	Cllr Monasterio	Can the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Arts and Sport update us on the Barnet's bid to be London Borough of Culture	Cabinet member for Culture, Leisure, Arts & Sports	We are working with Hemingway Design on the submission of our Borough of Culture Bid for 2027. Having launched a successful comms campaign and survey earlier in the summer called 'Our Barnet Canvas' we have had over 1,000 respondents which has reflected the views of those living, working and studying in the borough the majority of whom have backed our bid and shared their ideas for the programme. In addition to this we have carried out an in person engagement programme reaching the youth, community, cultural and heritage sectors across borough as well as establishing a borough of culture working group involving core partners such as the FE, University and national portfolio organisations in the borough. Emergent themes have explored the green heart of the borough, the history of faith and tolerance in the borough as well the role of culture as a connector from the east to the west of the borough. We are working towards the fast approaching submission deadline in November 2023.
34.	Cllr Zinkin	At the last council meeting, Cllr Schneiderman took responsibility for the planters put on Golders Green Crescent when they are not in his remit, do you or the rest of cabinet know who's responsible for them?	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	Council Cabinet has collective responsibility. Individual portfolios are set out in the constitution.
35.	Cllr P Cohen	Can I ask the Leader to congratulate Year 4 and the school leadership of St Mary's CofE school in East Barnet? Their campaign against littering and flytipping locally has been an inspiration and led to the council helping to arrange a litterpicking day for the students, just as my ward council colleague Simon Radford was	Leader	Yes, many congratulations to the staff, governors and pupils at St. Mary's CE Primary School in East Barnet for their work to improve their local environment. They are a credit to our borough. All our Barnet schools work very hard to instill in their pupils, an understanding of the importance of protecting their local and global environments.

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		also delighted to be subject to a grilling from Year 4 on the environment that our honourable friends on the Conservative side of the chamber could learn some tips from!		
36.	Cllr Grocock	How many antisocial behaviour incidents must be reported before cabinet realises that the Golders Green Crescent planters were a bad idea that was not supported by the Police or the Community Safety team?	Cabinet member for Community Safety Participation	The Planters in Golders Green are currently subject to a trial, which was the consequence of the Golders Green Town Centre Strategy which was approved in 2020 by the previous Conservative Administration. The evidence of that trial will be reviewed before a final decision is made.
37.	Cllr McGuirk	Would the Cabinet Member for a family friendly Barnet join me in congratulating Barnet schools on achieving record A level results, even though the Government has been pressurising an overall fall in grades?	Cabinet member for Family Friendly Barnet	Over the last six years, A-Level results in Barnet have consistently been in the top 5% of the country and provisional A-level results from 24 of the 25 Barnet schools with a sixth form show that students are, this year, once again set to be celebrating examination success. 81.6% of students achieved an A* to C grade (above the national average of 75.4%). 63.4% achieved an A* to B and 37% A* to A. The percentage awarded an A* to A is 9.8 percentage points higher than the national average (27.2%) and is 7 percentage points above the London average (30%). I congratulate all the students who worked so hard, and the parents, teachers and non-teaching staff who supported them in securing such wonderful success
38.	Cllr D Cohen	How much money is being spent on replacing the stolen vegetation and clearing up the graffiti on the planters?	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	The planters have as yet not required additional funds for their upkeep.

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<p>39.</p>	<p>Cllr Chakraborty</p>	<p>Can I thank the Cabinet Members for Health & Wellbeing and Adult Social Care for their work regarding Barnet's Mental Health Charter which was launched last week. Can I ask how residents were engaged in its formation, and the practical impact we hope to see on their lives.</p>	<p>Cabinet member for Adult Social Care & Cabinet member for Health & Wellbeing</p>	<p>Barnet residents were involved in coproduction of the Mental Health Charter from its early stages. Our Voluntary Care Sector (VCS) partners, working with council officers from adult social care, public health and family services, organised a series of workshops and meetings to gather residents' feedback and inform early drafts of the Charter content. Over 230 residents representing Barnet's diverse communities took part in the co-production and engagement, and around half of them were under 25, with around 80 of these being children and young people under 18.</p> <p>The whole process was led by a steering group of residents with lived experience of mental health issues and accessing services, voluntary sector colleagues and council officers.</p> <p>The first draft of the Charter was created incorporating all of the feedback received from residents.</p> <p>Subsequently residents were invited to further focus groups to review the content of the Charter with a particular focus on the language used, with refinements made as a result.</p> <p>The Charter is intended to be aspirational, and it is a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to creating a more supportive and inclusive community. Via working closely with key Council partners, statutory bodies and businesses, asking them to sign up to the Charter and to 'pledge' their support, we hope to promote understanding, empathy, as well as reduce the stigma associated with mental health. The Charter will advocate for change at the local level resulting in improved mental health services and support structures. The Charter can empower individuals to become mental health advocates, raising awareness and influencing the change for communities, where individuals feel safe discussing their mental health challenges.</p>
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40.	Cllr Wakeley	Due to the increased public scrutiny and interest in the Broadwalk Shopping Centre development as well as the gravitas and density of the development, would the Deputy Leader consider extending the public consultation beyond the 21-day period to ensure full public participation is allowed?	Cabinet member for Housing & Regeneration	The public consultation will be extended to 42 days in line with current practice for all major planning applications across the Borough. All comments and representations received before a decision is made by the Strategic Planning Committee will be taken into account (including those received after the 42 day period).
41.	Cllr Farrier	Getting girls and women into sport - especially those sports traditionally seen not as 'women's games' is vital - for women's health, and to show the next generation of girls that they do not have to limit their aspirations. I know that Barnet Council has - with excellent timing - launched an initiative to get more girls and women playing football, coinciding with the Lionesses run to the final of the World Cup. Can the Cabinet Member for Culture Leisure, Arts and Sport update on what progress the initiative has made.	Cabinet member for Culture, Leisure, Arts & Sports	<p>The council working with community sports organisations and the Middlesex Football Association has launched a campaign to get more women and girls playing football. This includes setting up new sessions in the borough, working with local clubs like the Barnet Nightingales, & raising awareness of the opportunities to play. On 20 August 2023 the council and Middlesex FA ran a Women and Girls Footballs festival that included a screening of the World Cup Final. Over 250 participants attended. Since then, the Council continues to promote footballing opportunities for women and girls across the Borough, this was showcased in the 50th anniversary Professional Footballers Association awards book launched on 29 August 2023.</p> <p>We recognise the female game is growing and participation numbers will continue to rise. It is estimated that numbers will rise by 400% in the next 10 years. Therefore, there remains a commitment to provide women and girls with further opportunities to get active and give football a go in Barnet as we continue to work closely with the Middlesex FA in order to deliver legacy sessions. We have also engaged with GLL, the council's leisure provider, to bring more football sessions to our Leisure Centres across the Borough. We also will soon be launching a public funding stream for local clubs, coaches and community groups to help strength the female player pathway in Barnet at a grassroots level.</p> <p>In addition to the above we will be working with local community groups and the</p>

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				<p>Barnet Multi Faith Forum to help support players. Middlesex FA's Equal Games Ambassador will be working with the Council to run a number of coaching workshops for women so we have more female coaches in the Borough to support and inspire players.</p>
42.	Cllr Rich	<p>The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing will be aware that there have been more than 100 cases of Measles in London in the first six months of this year, compared to only around 50 in the whole of last year. This is linked to immunisation rates in London of around 75 per cent in contrast to the WHO recommendation of 95 per cent. What is Barnet Council doing to increase immunisation rates?</p>	<p>Cabinet member for Health & Wellbeing</p>	<p>London has seen an increase in measles cases over the last 6-9 months however, in Barnet, we have only had three cases thus far. MMR vaccination rates have been low in Barnet and London and have been slowly increasing locally (increase of 2% since last year).</p> <p>As it currently stands, MMR uptake in Barnet is at 77% (this is uptake of a 2nd dose among 5 years old), the highest in North Central London but still far from WHO recommended coverage of 95%.</p> <p>We have been running a Community Vaccine Champion (CVC) programme for the last 18 months, working with voluntary and community sector grantees. Health Ambassadors from the CVC programme continue to engage with their communities to dispel vaccine myths, increase vaccine uptake and improve health outcomes.</p> <p>Funding has been extended for three specific community groups where immunisation uptake remains low: the Somali group Centre of Excellence, Belifted – working with young children, and the Romanian Eastern European Hub. We also have ongoing work to increase vaccination uptake amongst Orthodox Jewish Communities and are working closely in collaboration with London Jewish Health Partnership to develop communications strategies. A Public Health Measles letter was sent to parents before schools broke up for summer holidays and a follow-up letter to parents and headteachers on return to school, in September. This letter has been translated to 7 different languages. We will deliver a Health protection webinar for schools mid- October . In addition, a</p>

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				<p>communication toolkit will be sent to further education settings to promote vaccination uptake of MMR, MenACWY and HPV.</p> <p>NCL NHS ICB and the school immunisation team are gathering data to identify the 20 primary schools with lowest vaccination rates. It is planned to organise outreach vaccination clinics for these schools.</p>
43.	Cllr Innocenti	Does this administration recognise the hugely positive impact that Forest School has on primary school children of all ages? What more can we do to ensure that as many children as possible in Barnet can participate in Forest School activities during their primary school years?	Cabinet member for Family Friendly Barnet	Our children in Barnet schools benefit hugely from Forest School activities. The child-centred inspirational learning process, offers opportunities for holistic growth, supporting play, exploration and supported risk taking. Schools have seen the increased confidence and self-esteem of pupils through the learner inspired, hands-on experiences in the natural settings. We regular share the benefits of Forest School through training with schools and the sharing of good practice in meetings.
44.	Cllr Perlberg	Can I ask how our application to become a Borough of Sanctuary is progressing, and how being a borough of sanctuary will help with community cohesion, given the counterproductive Home Office policy of concentrating asylum seekers in relatively few, mass occupancy, settings?	Cabinet member for Community Safety Participation	<p>The Borough of Sanctuary Strategy is due to go to Cabinet on the 12th December and an application to become a Borough of Sanctuary will be submitted following approval. Borough of Sanctuary accreditation is an acknowledgement not only of the work that the council has done to respond to the needs of those seeking sanctuary in the borough, but also the residents and community groups who have opened up their services and, in the case of the Homes for Ukraine scheme, their homes to those who have moved to Barnet.</p> <p>Becoming a Borough of Sanctuary will enable community cohesion by communicating a positive vision of welcome and opening up opportunities for relationship building between receiving communities and sanctuary seekers, for example by joint refugee week celebrations. It will also enable the local authority to work with other councils to collaborate to challenge the Home Office on policy that is not of benefit to sanctuary seekers or existing communities. Accreditation will give formal acknowledgement to the strong relationships that already exist between sanctuary seekers and receiving communities and will also provide an</p>

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				opportunity for increased understanding between those moving into the borough and existing residents.
45.	Cllr Lemon	Can the Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration clarify whether funding will be available for the redevelopment of Stanhope and Holmesdale Houses?	Cabinet member for Housing & Regeneration	As approved by the Housing and Growth committee, Barnet Homes are in the process of carrying out an extensive resident engagement exercise with the tenants and leaseholders of Stanhope House and Holmesdale House in N11 regarding the future of the blocks. Part of that consultation exercise is seeking resident's preferences regarding either heavily investing in the blocks or decanting them and redeveloping on the existing site. Whilst the engagement exercise with residents has been a very positive process to date, it would not be appropriate to pre-empt the outcome. That said, should resident opinion overwhelmingly favour redevelopment of the site, options regarding funding the redevelopment would be comprehensively explored at that point.
46.	Cllr K Gurung	Burnt Oak has CPZ in place for 7 days a week from 8am-6:30pm. The six months experimental period ends in November. Can Barnet Council consider changing to 5 days instead of 7 days?	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	As part of the experimental process officers will review all of the responses received and consider requests made as part of that review. Recommendations will then be made by way of Chief Officer Decision on the future of or any amendments to the scheme.
47.	Cllr Radford	Will the Leader join me in congratulating Ros Howarth, a local resident of the Bevan Estate in East Barnet, for her work with me to try and finally find a resolution to the saga of the Jester pub? After years of inaction and neglect under the previous regime, I am delighted to see the proactive, co-operative approach from the Council to finally getting a planning submission where residents can finally have their say on the	Leader	The Council's Urban Design team have been in contact with the Architect about an amended scheme. We hope it will not be too long before we are able to consult on an appropriate redevelopment of the site. Once a revised scheme is submitted, it will be the Local Planning Authority who undertakes a further round of public consultation. Thank you to Ros and Cllr Radford for all your hard work which has helped us start to see progress on this issue. We certainly congratulate Ros!

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		current owner’s plan, and I look forward to more signs of this progress in the coming months.		
48.	Cllr Ambe	Cabinet currently receives a report on what proportion of the work force falls within any of the protected characteristics within the equality act. In the interests of equality and diversity, can both Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive data on what proportion of the wider workforce including managers hold protected characteristics as defined by the 2010 Equalities Act on a quarterly basis.	Cabinet member for Equalities, Voluntary & Community Sector	The council currently produces a “dashboard” showing various aspects of our workforce, broken down by certain characteristics. This is updated annually. The council also provides an annual Equalities report. More regular updates can be provided to Cabinet and Overview & Scrutiny if requested by members. However, the process of producing timely information about the workforce will become considerably easier once the new IT system is in place, and it is recommended that this matter be reviewed once the system is “live” in 2024.
49.	Cllr Mitra	What investments is the Council making in East Finchley to improve roads and pavements	Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change	For the 2023/24 year Carriageway Investment Strategy - £727,165 NRP Carriageway - £335,020 - part of this work is within Hampstead Garden Suburb Ward NRP Footway - £85,850
50.	Cllr Radford	Can I ask the Leader to thank officers for their willingness to work with their colleagues in Enfield to best manage the local effects of larger events in Trent Park? It is only by close cooperation and proactive communication with residents that we can make sure that events can	Leader	Thank you for the kind words and I similarly thank them. Officers will continue the cross borough partnership with Enfield Council to ensure that antisocial parking due to major events at Trent Park is managed.

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		safely take place and that residents are not unduly inconvenienced.		
51.	Cllr Mitra	Can I ask the Cabinet Member for Community Wealth Building, reflecting on media reports ministers are considering to working-age benefits what the likely impact on Barnet residents may be and what the Council can do to offer support?	Cabinet member for Community Wealth Building	The details of changes the Government proposes to make to the benefits system are still unclear, and so the impacts of changes cannot be assessed at this stage. The council will, of course, monitor proposed changes as further announcements are made. The council is already working on a range of measures to reduce poverty across the Borough, and this work will continue.
52.	Cllr Radford	Can I ask the Leader to welcome the advent of a new traders association which is being proposed for East Barnet village? With new signage secured thanks to a successful bid to North Area Committee, it is great to see the community pull together to show our pride in the two villages in East Barnet ward and that the local economy can still succeed despite the headwinds of online shopping and a national economy unfriendly to small businesses.	Leader	The Council welcomes any new traders association in its town centres. They can be an effective vehicle for representing local economic needs and achieve more as a collective for the town centre. Barnet's business engagement officer is reaching out the new association to ensure there is dialogue with the council. Thank you to all those businesses involved in setting up a new association in East Barnet