

# barnet first

**BARNET**  
LONDON BOROUGH

FREE of charge

Community Plan  
consultation issue  
July 2003  
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## Barnet's Community Plan

### A vision for the borough's future

Fill out the Community Plan  
questionnaire and enter our free prize draw -  
see inside for details

# firstthingsfirst

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A message from the Leader of Barnet Council, Councillor Victor Lyon

The Community Plan affects everybody living and working in Barnet. It sets out a bold common vision for the future of the borough and reflects the most important issues affecting local people. It provides a strategy for tackling these by getting different agencies to work together for the same goals.

The aim of the Community Plan is to improve the lives of everyone in the borough. It looks at ways to develop responsive services that meet the needs of residents, businesses and visitors to Barnet. But the plan is not just about the council. It is a blueprint showing how a wide variety of agencies from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors can work

together to tackle some of the problems faced within the borough. Working alongside each other in a co-ordinated way means that knowledge and expertise can be shared for the benefit of the community.

Barnet Council has long recognised that many problems cannot be solved by organisations working on their own. By having effective partnerships with local organisations and groups so much more can be achieved, helping to deliver better services to the community.

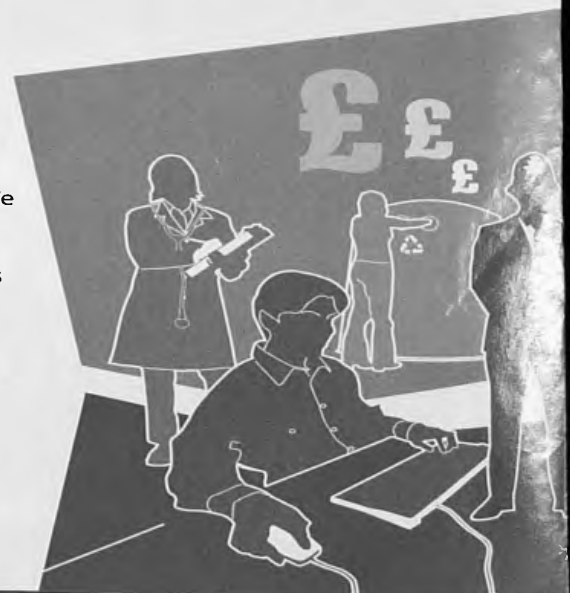
We look forward to receiving your feedback.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Victor Lyon  
Leader of Barnet Council

## Putting the Community First

A large number of local groups have been extensively involved in putting together the draft Community Plan but we still need your views so that they can be reflected in the final document. We want to find out about the priorities of people who live and work in Barnet, so that the services provided in the future genuinely meet the aspirations and needs of the borough's diverse community. The full draft Community Plan has been sent to local groups and organisations and their views, together with your feedback, will be fed into the final plan to be published in the autumn.



# The Local Strategic Partnership

**T**he council has established a Local Strategic Partnership - or LSP - to make sure that key agencies and institutions involved in the plan work together as effectively as possible. The LSP has brought together representatives from local businesses and agencies, and will oversee their responsibilities for particular tasks within the plan.

A forum made up of local community groups and organisations with an interest in Barnet will also have an opportunity to comment on the progress of the plan.

## Members of the LSP

- Julie Abbott, Partnership Manager, Employment Service
- Chief Supt Sue Akers, Borough Commander, Metropolitan Police
- Leo Boland, Chief Executive, Barnet Council
- Joyce Chiwela, Manager, Barnet Multi-Cultural Community Centre
- Averil Dongworth, Chief Executive, Barnet Primary Care Trust
- Nicole Francis, Policy and Partnership Adviser, Learning & Skills Council
- Julie Hawkins, Chief Executive, Barnet Voluntary Service Council
- Marilyn Hawkins, Principal, Barnet College
- David Lockett, Barnet Vice-Chairman, North London Chamber of Commerce
- Councillor Victor Lyon, Leader of Barnet Council
- Tom Nathan, Commercial Director, Brent Cross Shopping Centre
- Paul O'Connor, Chief Executive, Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust
- Professor Dennis Parker, Dean of Business School, Middlesex University
- Susan Read, Director, Barnet Education Business Partnership

## Want to know more?

A copy of the full draft Community Plan is being sent to a wide range of organisations, businesses and voluntary and community groups for consideration and comment.

If you would like to see a copy of the full draft Community Plan:

- ▶ Visit Barnet Council's website at: [www.barnet.gov.uk/communityplan](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/communityplan)
- ▶ Ask to see a copy at your local library
- ▶ Contact Andrew Nathan, Corporate Performance Office, Barnet Council, Building 4, North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1NP. E-mail [andrew.nathan@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.nathan@barnet.gov.uk), telephone 020 8359 7029.

# Tell us what you think

**Y**our views on our draft Community Plan are important to us. While many of the objectives set out in the plan are long-term goals that will not be achieved overnight, the results of this survey will be used to determine shorter-term priorities for developing services and future investment.

For example, Barnet Council will use your feedback to help decide the services it provides next year and its longer term improvement plans. The timing of the survey has been prepared to ensure that your views will inform next year's budget setting process.

## Enter our free prize draw

Complete the questionnaire on the centre pages of this special edition of Barnet First and return it freepost to the address shown on page 8. If you include your name and address and return your questionnaire by **12 September 2003** we'll enter you into our free prize draw to win one of three **£50 shopping vouchers**.

# Our Priorities

After initial consultation with a wide range of organisations, the Local Strategic Partnership have come up with a draft list of key priorities that they feel are most important to the local community, and which can be achieved through organisations working together.

## A Secure & Supportive Community

Fear of crime and anti-social behaviour is one of the biggest concerns of local people, even though crime in Barnet is amongst the lowest in London. The council, the police and a number of other agencies are working together to create a safer community where local people can feel more confident and take pride in the area in which they live.



## A Healthy & Caring Community

Both the council and our partners in the health service are committed to providing responsive services that meet patients needs. We also want to address all the factors that cause ill health and help provide high quality services for everyone. In addition to this, we need to ensure that vulnerable people have access to the care they need and that we look to help individuals take responsibility for leading healthier lifestyles.



## A Learning Community

Learning throughout life opens up lots of opportunities for employment and personal development. We are committed to providing quality learning opportunities for everyone – from before school through to adulthood. We will work with young people to ensure all their needs are met.



## Environmentally Responsive Community

Barnet's environment is one of the most attractive in London and we want to make sure that it is protected and kept clean for our future generations, and that housing is available for all sectors of the community.



## Fostering An Enterprising Community

Making sure that Barnet's economy prospers is essential and we recognise that there is much that can be done to help businesses to flourish within the borough. There are a number of ways we will be addressing this - from transport to learning facilities, plus also making sure that the physical infrastructure meets the needs of business.



## Our Vision for Barnet is a place:

- where people want to live and work
  - where residents receive first class services
  - Where successful communities are working and thriving
- and as a result
- Where the quality of life continues to improve



*continued from previous page*

communities of choice  
(i.e. making our communities places  
people want to live)

**v) Fostering an Enterprising  
Community**

*(Please tick the most important in this category)*

- Major investment in infrastructure (i.e. land, buildings and technology) and regenerating key areas including Brent Cross, Cricklewood and local housing estates
- Getting the borough moving - improving transport and accessibility
- Ensuring a good climate for business
- Fostering enterprise through learning opportunities in school/college and the workplace

**3.** From the five main priorities, please indicate which are the two most important to you. *(Write 1 in the box next to your top priority and 2 next to your next highest priority).*

- A Secure & Supportive Community
- A Healthy and Caring Community
- A Learning Community
- An Environmentally Responsive Community
- Fostering an Enterprising Community

**4.** Do you have any comments on the priorities and issues above? *(Please write in the space below).*

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**5.** Please let us have any other views. *(Write in the space below).*

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**6.** On the whole do you think that Barnet is a better place to live than one year ago? *(Please tick as appropriate).*

- Yes
- Not changed
- No
- Don't Know
- Have lived here less than one year

**7.** It would be helpful for us when analysing the results of the questionnaire if you could provide your postcode in the space below.

Postcode:  
.....

## About you

Finally in order to make sure our services are equally accessible to everyone we would like to ask some questions about yourself. Your answers will be used to help us analyse the information you have given us and will be kept strictly confidential.

8. Which age group do you fall in to?

- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65+

9. Are you:

- Male
- Female

10. What is your ethnic origin?

### Asian or Asian British

- Bangladeshi
  - Chinese
  - Indian
  - Pakistani
  - Japanese
  - East African Asian
  - Asian – Other (please specify)
- .....

### White or White British

- British
  - Greek Cypriot
  - Turkish Cypriot
  - Irish
  - White – Other (please specify)
- .....

### Black or Black British

- Black – Caribbean
  - Black – African
  - Black – Other (please specify)
- .....

- Mixed
- Asian and white
- Black African and White
- Black Caribbean and White

Other Mixed (please specify)

.....

Other Ethnic Group (please specify)

.....

**Thank you for completing this questionnaire.**

**Please detach the questionnaire from Barnet First and follow the folding instructions overleaf.**

**Please return by 12 September 2003.**

### 11. Optional:

Please indicate whether you wish your questionnaire to be included in the prize draw. (Tick and complete as appropriate).

- YES, I would like to be entered into the prize draw
- NO, I would not like to be entered into the draw

If YES, please complete your full name and address below. (Please write in the space below).

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T A P E H E R E

F O L D H E R E

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N11 1BR

F O L D H E R E

Over the next three pages we talk to some of the key partners on the Local Strategic Partnership about what the priorities in the draft Community Plan mean for their organisations and for Barnet residents.

## Tom Nathan, Brent Cross Shopping Centre and Chair of the Local Strategic Partnership

**T**he Community Plan will help to give us a direction to work towards, says Tom Nathan, Commercial Director of Brent Cross Shopping Centre.

Tom is also the Chair of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), which brings together a variety of organisations, which includes representatives from the public and private sector and local businesses. The idea is that these groups will work together to tackle some of the key problems within the borough and look to how they can make improvements in the future.

"We are already making progress in a number of areas and looking at how we can attract businesses into the borough", says Tom. "Barnet has such a diverse community and we need to ensure that the skills people have, match the employment opportunities available. We also want to ensure that there are provisions in place for people to learn new skills and create new opportunities for themselves."

In the twelve months that the LSP has been established, it has specifically looked at provisions for young people, such as leisure,



education and employment within the borough.

*"Barnet is a great place, and we want to build on our strengths to make sure that we create a thriving and vibrant community in which to live, work and play."*

## Chief Superintendent Sue Akers, Metropolitan Police



**S**afer communities and a future where the fear of crime is vastly reduced, is a key objective for Barnet police. The Community Plan is a vital document in achieving this for the people of the borough, says Chief Superintendent Sue Akers, Barnet Police's borough commander.

The police, the council and other agencies have been working closely on the plan, which sets out a strategy for creating a safer community where local people can feel confident and take pride in the area in which they live.

"Even though crime figures in Barnet are amongst the lowest in London, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour is one of the biggest concerns of local people," said Sue. "We've had some stunning successes tackling these problems but the police and the agencies we work in partnership with are not complacent and we aim to do even more."

*"The Community Plan is a vital document and by working yet more closely with our partners we hope to make Barnet even safer."*

New tools and facilities to combat crime are already making an impact. Barnet Council has a state-of-the-art CCTV control room up and running and it has extended its network of crime-busting surveillance cameras to cover even more of the borough.

The police have a new community police centre on the Grahame Park estate. Meanwhile, a new mobile CCTV unit, set up by the council and local police, can monitor crime hotspots at very short notice.

## Councillor Brian Coleman, Barnet Council's Cabinet Member for Environment

**B**arnet's environment is one of the most attractive in the capital and the council has a primary role in ensuring it is kept clean and green for future generations. It takes its duties very seriously and has a key role to play in delivering the priorities of the Community Plan.

"Graffiti-free buildings, litter-free streets, clean parks. These are what the public demand and that's exactly what we intend to give them," says Barnet Council's Cabinet Member for Environment Cllr Brian Coleman.

Barnet Council has already unveiled its state-of-the-art CCTV control centre and extended its network of surveillance cameras to tackle graffiti vandals. The innovative town keeper scheme, which has been praised by the Government, is also dealing successfully with urban eyesores in shopping areas.

Now Barnet is trailblazing a borough-wide service that focuses on preventative and enforcement action to reduce anti-social behaviour and improve the street scene.

Cllr Coleman tells Barnet First: "As well as sorting out problems quickly we must deal with the louts and vandals that spoil the environment in the first place. Our new Street Enforcement Officers will do just that by using all the powers available to identify and prosecute offenders at every available opportunity."

The council's neighbourhood wardens and neighbourhood management officers will join forces to create the Street Enforcement team.

Unlike their predecessors the Street Enforcement Officers will not be restricted to a particular patch or ward, says Cllr Coleman. Officers will patrol where they are most needed and will be able to deal swiftly with problems such as untaxed and abandoned vehicles. This flexible force will be backed up by Barnet Council's mobile anti-graffiti and fly-tipping units.

*"The new Street Enforcement Officers will have a pivotal role in ensuring we deliver the very best streets, parks and open spaces for the whole of the community," says Cllr Brian Coleman.*



## Marilyn Hawkins, Principal of Barnet College



**H**aving a vibrant learning community is vital to Barnet's continued prosperity and access to a wide range of educational opportunities can transform people's lives. Barnet College is at the vanguard of the drive to make even more opportunities available. Learning throughout life opens opportunities for employment and personal development. The

## Julie Hawkins, Chief Executive of Barnet Voluntary Service Council



**T**he Community Plan has the potential to make a real difference to the lives of people in the borough, says Julie Hawkins, Chief Executive of Barnet Voluntary Service Council (BVSC).

BVSC has played a crucial role in developing the Community Plan and championing the needs of local voluntary and community service providers, as well as local people. It has participated in most of the workshops and discussion groups, which developed the plan.

"It provides a shared vision of a better Barnet and a clear strategic direction for working together to tackle key local issues over the next

few years," says Julie, stressing its importance. "I hope its legacy will be that key issues and concerns identified by local residents have been tackled and that a real difference has been made to the quality of life for everyone who lives, works or visits Barnet."

She believes the voluntary and community sector is central to a democratic, socially inclusive society and locally fulfils an increasingly vital and vibrant role, complementing those services provided by councils and other public organisations. The five themes of the Community Plan reflect the importance of this role. "In addition to ensuring a diversity of service provision, the voluntary and community sector plays a key role in promoting and building communities, reaching out to under represented communities and enhancing their capacity to make decisions affecting their lives."

Community Plan gives a common vision on how the council and other providers can deliver quality learning opportunities for young and old alike, from pre-school to school through to adult learning.

"Developing learning and other opportunities in the community has been a key priority for Barnet College for many years, and so the college is delighted that learning is so strongly featured in the

Community Plan," says Marilyn Hawkins, principal of Barnet College.

"The college is not an organisation based in classrooms – it has always striven to be accessible to everyone, and to proactively encourage people to come forward and take part in learning, whether in a church, school or community centre."

The sector has faced the challenges of rapid social and political change but it is now benefiting from a greater recognition of the contribution of local voluntary organisations and community groups.

The Community Plan is a blueprint for how different agencies from different sectors can work together to meet the diverse needs of people in the borough and Julie sees it as a important step forward: "There is a growing recognition that today's problems cannot be solved by organisations working independently. By working together we are better able to identify and prioritise improvements for our borough and involve more people to shape the future."

**The BVSC offers a range of services and advice to voluntary and community groups. For further information see their website at [www.barnetvsc.org.uk](http://www.barnetvsc.org.uk). The BVSC can be contacted on 020 8446 6624 or email [admin@barnetvsc.org.uk](mailto:admin@barnetvsc.org.uk)**

***"There are many agencies working in Barnet to enhance opportunities for local people, and it's only by working together that a coherent approach can be achieved, for the clear benefit of our communities."***

For further information on Barnet College see their website at [www.barnet.ac.uk](http://www.barnet.ac.uk). Barnet College can be contacted on 020 8440 6321 or email [info@barnet.ac.uk](mailto:info@barnet.ac.uk)

Are you a Barnet resident who finds it difficult to communicate in English? Do you need an interpreter to help you talk to council staff? Our professional interpreters can help over the telephone and can be contacted on **020 8359 6114**. This service is free and confidential. You can also call us if you require Barnet First in Braille, large print or on audio tape.

Αν θέλετε περισσότερες πληροφορίες για αυτή την έκδοση, παρακαλούμε ελάτε σε επαφή μαζί μας στο (020) 8359 6114 κάθε Δευτέρα από τις 2.00 μ.μ. έως τις 4.00 μ.μ.

**Greek**

Bu yayınlı ilgili daha geniş bilgi edinmek isterseniz, hafta içinde çarşamba günleri öğleden önce saat 10.00 ile 12.00 arasında (020) 8359 6114 numaraya telefon edip bizi arayabilirsiniz.

**Turkish**

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**Gujarati**

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**Chinese**

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**Somali**

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**Farsi**

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**Bengali**