



Coming to a town
near you

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Production details

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Message from the Leader

You can't have missed the media coverage that Barnet got as a result of the publication of *The State of the Suburbs* report.

Commissioned by Barnet Council, the report confirmed several things we already knew like the fact that almost 85% of the British population choose to live in the suburbs.

But we need to look after our suburbs to maintain their attractiveness. This means making sure that we have good schools, good road infrastructure, adequate and appropriate housing supply and ample green spaces.

Traditionally, these soft features of city-suburbs have been left to potter along without much attention, but if you neglect these things then suburbs decline in their attractiveness.

Residents in Barnet will understand what I mean. Our hospitals are having difficulty coping, some of our roads are at gridlock and our schools are full. All of the things that make suburbs like Barnet great places to live are now under strain.

In Barnet we are trying to look at local solutions to help with infrastructural development without burdening our Council Tax payers and you can read about the Barnet Bond proposal on page three of this magazine.

We want more of the money that suburbs pay in tax going back to them and it's important to remember that this is a non-political approach. Suburban leadership is drawn from across the political spectrum but they are all suffering the same challenges.

Luckily those are the challenges of success and we need innovative local solutions to meet those challenges for now and for our residents of the future.

Councillor Mike Freer
Leader of the Council



The Barnet Bond – so what's the big idea?

With a population of nearly 340,000 Barnet is a successful city-suburb of London and well ahead of other boroughs in terms of its competitive economic performance.

The fact that Barnet is such an attractive place to live drives further growth, and the challenge for a borough like Barnet is to get on board with that growth and plan responsibly. Otherwise the growth will happen irrespective and the burdens placed on our infrastructure will render it unsustainable for our current and future residents.

The Barnet Bond or the Barnet Financing Plan as it's also known is a series of proposals or ideas as to how the council might raise funds to repay the borrowings required for this infrastructure. This is because there is very limited conventional public funding available locally for upfront investment in infrastructure.

Aside from direct funding for house building, virtually every other method of attracting direct investment from Government is not open to Barnet because deprivation and want attract Government funding while the potential for rapid economic growth does not. Ignoring the problem won't make it go away and the Barnet Financing Plan is about the council stepping up to the plate and planning responsibly.



So what's in the plan? Basically there is a list of suggestions that we want the Government to consider:

Stamp Duty – we want the Government to consider letting us keep some of this at local level

Ground lease negotiations – we are currently in negotiations with the developers of Brent Cross, and the council is willing to contribute this revenue to specific infrastructure projects

Car park levy at Brent Cross – if the operators of Brent Cross decided to charge for car parking (not something we support - but it is their decision) the council would ask to retain a proportion of these charges specifically for use on infrastructure projects such as reinvigorating local town centres.

The council understands that money for infrastructure cannot be found by increasing Council Tax so the Barnet Financing Plan is about finding an imaginative solution that does not additionally burden residents while providing a better quality of life for them. The council hopes that the Treasury will understand this point and give the council the freedom to plan responsibly for a sustainable Barnet into the future.

Silver award as Barnet blooms again

Barnet's drive to combat graffiti and keep our streets clean has been recognised by judges at a prestigious pan-London contest.

The borough won a silver award in the "large city" category at the London in Bloom awards last month, with judges particularly impressed by the lack of graffiti and litter.

The council's work to encourage biodiversity was also praised. Special mention was made of the project to ensure the survival of the valuable nature reserve at Darlands Lake in Totteridge.

Barnet Council's Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Community Engagement, Councillor Brian Coleman, said: "Barnet is well known for being an attractive place to live and work so it's extremely encouraging to see the whole community's efforts being rewarded.

"We are determined to ensure Barnet remains clean, green and safe and independent recognition like this demonstrates that we are on the right track."

The award was presented to Councillor Joan Scannell (pictured middle) and past Mayoress Sheila Lyon during the ceremony held at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium in Islington.



Don't lose your vote

Remember that if you're not on the electoral register, you can't vote at local and national elections.

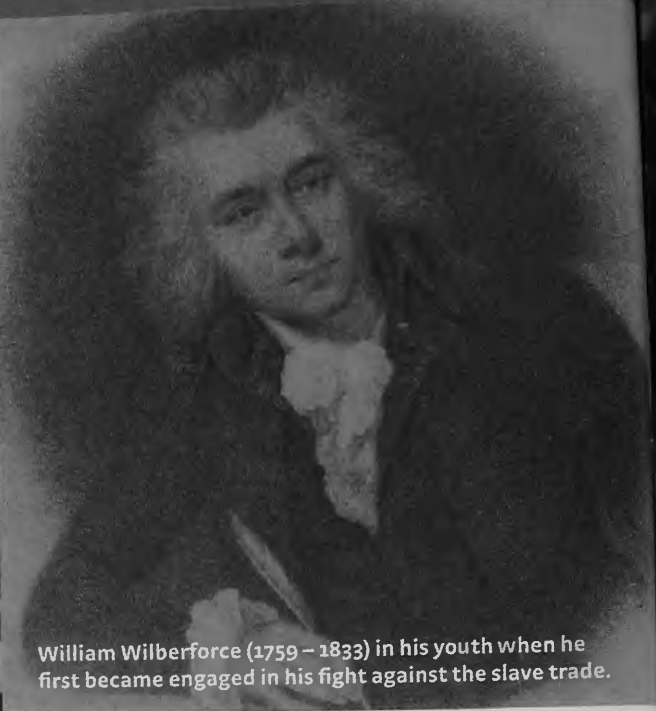
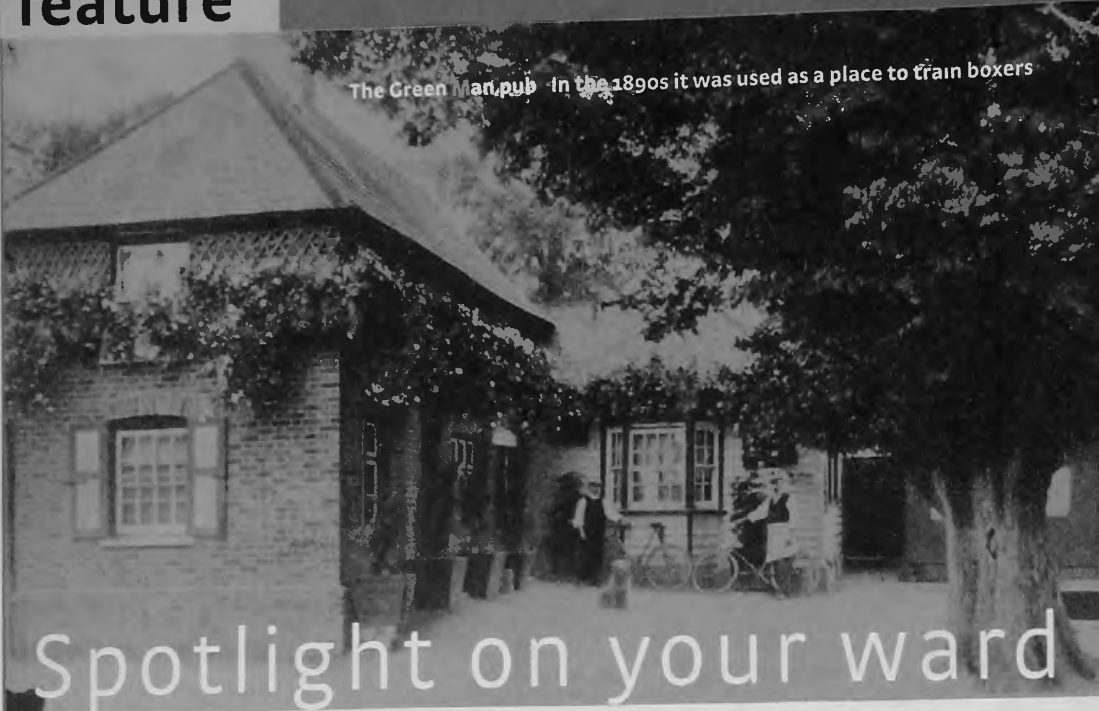
The law requires householders to complete and return the electoral registration form sent to them each year. If you have not yet returned your form, there is still time to do so before the closing date of 23 November.

A new register of electors is published annually on December 1 and a registration form was sent to every household in the borough in July. Those who had not returned their forms received duplicate forms in August and again in September.

Anyone aged over 18, and a citizen of the UK, EU, Ireland or a Commonwealth country can vote in the UK. Members of your household aged 16 or 17 should also be recorded on the form.

If you still have your form, you can send it by freepost back to the electoral registration team. Alternatively, call the team on 020 8359 5577, e-mail ero@barnet.gov.uk or visit Barnet Online at www.barnet.gov.uk.

The Green Man pub. In the 1890s it was used as a place to train boxers



William Wilberforce (1759 – 1833) in his youth when he first became engaged in his fight against the slave trade.

Spotlight on your ward

Hale

In this issue we turn the spotlight onto Hale ward, situated in the west of the borough.



The ward takes its name from a district called The Hale. The Hale (or Healh) has been known since at least 1294 and was divided into Upper Hale and Lower Hale. The name is probably derived from the Saxon word for heal, or corner.

What is now Mathilda Marks-Kennedy school was once a house called Maxwellton, and before that Shakerham Farm. It is an 18th century house and the oldest building left in Hale. The Green Man (known since 1751 and now a restaurant) was rebuilt in 1929. The inn was famous as a place for boxers to be trained in the 1890s and 1900s.

In 1873 the Convent of St. Mary at the Cross (Anglican), started just north of the Hale. The convent was a home for children and adults with incurable conditions.

A station was opened in the ward in 1906 on the Great Northern Railway, near to Mill Hill Station, but it closed in 1939.

The ward also includes Highwood Hill. This area is nationally famous for its connections with William Wilberforce, and Sir Stamford Raffles. Wilberforce is renowned for his role in the passing of The Slave Trade Act through parliament in 1807. Slavery had been considered illegal in England since the James Somerset trial in the 1770s, held before Lord Mansfield of Kenwood House. Wilberforce was key in bringing about an end to the British involvement in the transatlantic slave trade. He continued into the early 1820s to fight for the emancipation of slaves throughout the British Empire, but ill health eventually forced him to retire. He moved to Hendon Park in 1826 where he lived until 1831. He died in 1833 shortly before his ambitions were realised.

Stamford Raffles founded Singapore in January 1819. In 1825 he moved to a house called Highwood House in Highwood Hill, dying at the age of 45



Hendon Park. William Wilberforce bought the property, complete with 122 acres, in 1825 but left in 1831, when he was so ill he only weighed five stone.

Did you know...?

- With an area of 5.4sq km, Hale is Barnet's fifth largest ward
- It has a population of just over 15,550 people – making it the fourth biggest ward by resident numbers
- There are more semi-detached homes in Hale than in any other ward in the borough – 49.1% in Hale compared to a borough average of 31.2%
- More residents in Hale travel to work by car, van, motor bike or taxi than any other ward.

* Figures taken from 2001 census.

there in 1826. He is buried in St Mary's Church, Hendon. Like his friend and neighbour Wilberforce, Raffles was opposed to the slave trade. As the vicar of Hendon's (Theodore Williams) family had substantial investments in the West Indies, including slaves, Raffles was buried in an unmarked grave at St Mary's Hendon, which was only rediscovered in 1914 when the church was restored.

Highwood House was also the scene of an air disaster in October 1950. A B.E.A Dakota flying from Northholt on its way to Renfrew with 24 passengers developed engine trouble and crashed into Highwood House, a portion of the wing falling through the roof of a house called Highwood Ash. Twenty eight people, including the pilot, lost their lives. The only survivor was one of the stewards, James McKissick, who was flung 150 yards from the plane. His injuries were not serious and he was out of Edgware Hospital a fortnight later.

Running between the two estates is Nan Clark's Lane. This road is named after the licensee of the Three Crowns in the 1690s, which was closed in the 1890s and demolished in the 1930s. Her ghost appears on the lane, and it is said that she murdered or was murdered by a lover or husband, being either strangled or drowned.

In 1929 Hendon Council purchased Scratchwood, followed the next year by the Moat Mount estate, including what is now Mill Hill Golf Club. It was realised at the time that there was a good chance that Edgware would continue to expand with new housing developments. Both, with more than 200 acres of land, formed a part of the North Middlesex Green Girdle plan of 1932, a precursor to the Green Belt. The Moat Mount Camping Ground was laid out in May 1931 and remains today.

*** The information for this feature was provided by Barnet's Local Studies and Archives Centre, 80 Daws Lane, Mill Hill, NW7 4SL.**

Tel: 020 8359 3960 or email: library.archives@barnet.gov.uk

What's in Hale?

Parks

- Moat Mount Local Nature Reserve. Facilities include wildlife interest
- Scratchwood Local Nature Reserve
- Stoneyfields Park, Fairmead Crescent (children's play area, wildlife interest)

Schools

- Courtland School, Courtland Avenue
- Deansbrook Infants School, Hale Drive

- Deansbrook Junior School, Hale Drive
- Fairway Primary School, The Fairway
- Mathilda Marks-Kennedy Primary School, Hale Lane
- Mill Hill County High School, Worcester Crescent
- Northway School, The Fairway

Recycling bring banks

- The Fairway (opposite Fernside Avenue)

Your councillors

As with all of Barnet's 21 wards, Hale has three elected members, or councillors, who have been elected by the ward's residents to represent them. Councillors are elected for four years at a time.

Councillor Jane Ellison (Con) has been a ward councillor since 2006 and was also a Barnet councillor between 1991 and 1994.
Tel: 07976 257599
Email: cllr.j.ellison@barnet.gov.uk

Councillor Brian Gordon (Con) has been a councillor since 1998. He is currently chairman of the Hendon Residents Forum and the Tackling Crime and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
Tel: 020 8931 5062
Mob: 07931 300679
Email: cllr.b.gordon@barnet.gov.uk

Councillor Hugh Rayner (Con) has served the ward since 2006.
Tel: 020 8958 3364
Email: cllr.h.rayner@barnet.gov.uk

Meet your councillors

Barnet's councillors hold regular advice surgeries to give residents the chance to discuss any topics they wish to raise.

You can meet your Hale councillors on the first Thursday of every month, alternating between Edgware Library in Hale Lane and Mill Hill Library in Hartley Avenue. Please ring 020 8958 3364 for locations. No appointment is necessary.

Barnet people's involvement praised in inspection



A recent move by the council to give disabled people a say in the services they receive has been praised by inspectors.

The Commission for Social Care Inspection report highlighted the good work of the Physical and Sensory Impairment Partnership Board, which is co-chaired by a disabled person, and which has a published work plan for the next three years. The report describes the board as a 'clear driver for change'.

People with a physical or sensory impairment have seen practical improvements to the council's services through a series of workshops designed to engage and consult with disabled people and their carers.

There have also been 'process mapping' events where people describe the service they have received from the council. This has led to a reorganisation of the team in Adult Social Services to provide a better response to its customers.

The council's Director of Adult Social Services, Irene Findlay, says: "We want Barnet residents to have real choice and control over their lives and the services we provide and be able to give a view if we can improve further."

Barnet Adult Social Services short-listed for Skills for Care Accolade



Barnet Council has been nominated for the annual 'Skills for Care' accolade, under the category 'Best involvement of people who use services'.

People who use Barnet Council's learning disabilities services were involved in two initiatives called 'Choosing Your Staff' and 'What is Good Support?'

As part of this, people who use services take an active role in the recruitment of new staff and in their on-going training. Through these projects, the rights of people with learning disabilities have been recognised by improving their social inclusion and their personal choice.

The annual accolades are organised by Skills for Care, the workforce development body for adult social care in England, and celebrate best practice in social care workforce development.



Courtesy of John Birdsall Photography

Adult Social Services – Delivering Choice and Independence!

Every year, Barnet Council's Adult Social Services division works with around 7,000 people to assess and provide services to meet their social care needs.

In June, the council launched 'Delivering Choice and Independence', a radical and innovative programme that will provide users of social care services with greater control and choice over the support they may need.

The programme will change the way that Adult Social Services works to enable people to control the support they need. It will give them the opportunity to self-assess their own needs, so they can then decide how they would like those needs to be met and directly control the budget that pays for that support.

At every stage of the process, skilled and experienced help will be available to people in choosing appropriate and high quality services.

The programme is designed to personalise every individual's social care. For example, an active person who is assessed as having a mental health problem could spend their budget on allotment fees as an alternative to traditional therapy groups.

A group of older people who were becoming increasingly house-bound and isolated might choose to pool some of their social care budget on a taxi that allowed them to share a carer and meet up regularly for lunch as an alternative to a day centre.

Both of these examples, while very different, would reflect the individual's personal preference and would lead to a better outcome for them and improve their quality of life.



Ever thought about teaching?

With the demand for teachers increasing in the southern half of the country, it's become a tempting career choice that many graduates are considering.

For those who aren't quite sure, Barnet Council has been running one week taster courses giving an insight into the world of teaching, and ensuring new recruits fully understand what it's all about.

Open to graduates, it gives first hand experience, helping them decide if they'd like to continue on to the 12 month Graduate Teacher Programme.

Richard Yuan (pictured) began teaching at St James' Catholic High School in Colindale in September after completing the five day course and going on to do a 12 month teaching programme. He is one of many teachers who have benefited from the course.

"I'd recommend the taster course," says Richard. "It's especially useful when there's no other means of viewing or interacting with pupils."

He added: "I was working at the council and volunteered to help in the schools' work experience week. This gave me an insight into schools and that's how I decided I wanted to teach."

Barnet Council is one of five London boroughs that offer the taster courses. The last course was for people interested in teaching in shortage subjects in secondary schools, however the emphasis changes and future courses will be aimed at ethnic minorities or primary school teaching.

If you think teaching's for you, email teachertaster@barnet.gov.uk or write to Kristine Cronhelm, Building 2, North London Business Park, Oakleigh Rd South, N11 1NP.

Campaign targets rise in cigarette litter

Barnet Council was one of 10 local authorities which led the way in the UK's fight against cigarette litter dropped on the street in September.



Working in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy, the council promoted the message that dropping cigarette litter is illegal and can attract a fine of up to £80.

Posters depicting a camouflaged cigarette and the slogan 'however you disguise it, it's still litter' were designed and aimed to tell smokers that, if they drop their cigarettes, they face a fine.

Advertising at sites across the borough was supported by the distribution of free portable ashtrays at Brent Cross Shopping Centre and in several of Barnet's busiest town centres.

The campaign came at the same time as research commissioned by Keep Britain Tidy revealed that the level of cigarette litter on streets in England had increased by 43 per cent since the ban on smoking in public places was introduced in July.

Councillor Matthew Offord, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, said: "Here in Barnet, we are proud of our clean streets and have this year revolutionised our approach to street cleaning through our Clean Borough Strategy. But smokers have their part to play in maintaining Barnet's clean, green and safe reputation.

"It is against the law to drop cigarette ends, or any other litter, and offenders face a fine of up to £80 if caught. We want people to take pride in their borough and make sure their cigarettes are disposed of safely and tidily."

Website provides salvation for jobseekers

A rejuvenated website launched by some of Barnet's biggest employers is helping people across the borough get back into work and take advantage of education and training opportunities.

Barnetjobs.org.uk went 'live' at the end of June and was immediately put into good use at its launch event, with a group of teenagers, assisted by youth organisation First Rung, testing it out on board the mobile youth centre, Rolling Base.

Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Councillor Fiona Bulmer, who also attended the launch, said: "Barnetjobs is a great facility that will help anyone either looking for a job, or looking to progress further in their careers."

Visit www.barnetjobs.org.uk to explore your career options and access local vacancies.

The site is run by the Barnet Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), of which the council is one of the lead organisations.

Your cut out and keep ...

Guide to recycling in

How you can 'slim your bin'

Recycling of paper, cans and glass is compulsory in Barnet and is vital to reduce the amount of waste thrown into landfill every year – but the best solution is to stop producing so much rubbish in the first place.

Last year in Barnet, households threw out the equivalent weight of 17,500 double-decker buses.

By trying to reduce the amount of waste you produce, you will not only help us reduce the levels of rubbish that have to be sent to landfill, but will also help save precious raw materials, like oil and trees, which are used to produce and transport goods.

Councillor Matthew Offord, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, said: "Every household in Barnet should be able to find one or more ways of reducing the amount of rubbish they throw away. We have produced an easy-to-follow five step guide to preventing waste – see how many you can introduce into your regular routines."

TOP TIP 1:

REDUCE YOUR JUNK MAIL

Every year, the average household receives 400 pieces of junk mail. Save yourself the nuisance of receiving junk mail and help cut down on unnecessary rubbish by taking some simple steps. Register with the Mailing Preference Service to have your name and address removed from up to 95 per cent of mailing lists. Call 08457 034599 or visit www.mpsonline.org.uk. For more simple steps to reduce junk mail visit www.barnet.gov.uk/junk-mail

TOP TIP 2:

BE A SMART SHOPPER

An average family shopping trip can end up producing a massive amount of unnecessary packaging and waste. Take steps such as: avoiding disposable products like paper plates, buying products with no or little packaging, buying reusable shopping bags, taking unwanted items to charity shops, and buying recycled products. Find more tips at www.barnet.gov.uk/smart-shopping

TOP TIP 3:

REDUCE YOUR FOOD WASTE

A recent survey of the borough's household waste revealed that nearly a third of all rubbish thrown away is compostable food waste. The average household throws away between £250 and £400 of food every year. Taking action like making a list before you shop, making meals from leftovers and keeping your refrigerator at the optimum temperature of one to

five degrees Celsius, can make a big difference to the amount of food you throw away. And if you do have to throw away food, why not use the council's green garden and kitchen waste collection service or your own composting bin.

TOP TIP 4:

GET COMPOSTING

Composting is easy, good for the environment and produces compost rich in nutrients which is great for your garden. You don't need to be a keen gardener or have a large garden to make the most of composting. You can make the simplest form of compost from uncooked kitchen scraps, by using a council-subsidised compost bin or wormery. Bins are available for between £15 and £40 (call 08451 306090) while wormeries cost £20 or £30 and can be ordered by calling 01884 841515.

TOP TIP 5:

JOIN FREecycle

The Barnet Freecycle® group is a non-profit internet facility through which people in Barnet can exchange items they no longer need – completely free. Go to groups.yahoo.com/group/FreeCycleBarnet to find out more and join the group.

For more information on ways to reduce the amount of waste you produce, visit Barnet Online at www.barnet.gov.uk/waste-minimisation, call 020 8359 7400 or e-mail recycling@barnet.gov.uk

Recycling revolution

The council is already committed to achieving a recycling rate of 40 per cent by 2010 and councillors have agreed even tougher targets for the following years, culminating in a 45 per cent goal by 2013/4.

Cardboard and plastic bottle collection from houses will be included as part of the council's new recycling contract starting in autumn, after feedback from residents suggested support for widening the recycling service to encompass these materials.

Independent research was also carried out to gauge the impact on the recycling rate of introducing new services.

Councillor Matthew Offord, Cabinet

Member for Environment and Transport, said: "Recycling paper, cans and glass is part of residents' weekly routine now and they have told us they would like the opportunity to recycle more materials at the kerbside.

"So at the first available opportunity, we are providing collections from houses in the borough."

Existing services will continue to be offered and the council's high-performing refuse service will maintain weekly collections.

Services currently offered to residents:

- weekly black box kerbside collection of paper, food tins and drinks cans, glass bottles and jars, aerosols, mobile phones,

shoes, textiles, car and household batteries, foil, Yellow Pages and engine oil

- flats service – paper, food tins and drink cans, aerosols and glass bottles and jars
- weekly green garden and kitchen waste collection
- subsidised composters and wormeries
- Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre at Summers Lane
- Bring Banks – conveniently located at sites around the borough.

For more information on any recycling issues, visit Barnet Online at www.barnet.gov.uk/recycling or call 020 8359 7400.

n Barnet



Recycling FAQs

When will you start to collect plastic bottles and cardboard from the kerbside?

In autumn 2008, when our new recycling contract starts, we intend to start to collect plastic bottles and cardboard.

In the meantime you can recycle plastic bottles and cardboard at the Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre in Summers Lane, North Finchley and at the Tesco stores in Brent Cross and Colney Hatch.

What about other sorts of plastic?

Plastic products other than plastic bottles are harder to recycle. There is currently no stable outlet for these types of plastics and we don't want to collect something which we have no way of recycling. The best way to reduce the amount of plastics in your rubbish bin is to adopt some of the smart shopping techniques outlined opposite, such as buying fruit and vegetables which aren't packaged in plastic.

Is everything I put out for recycling really getting recycled?

Yes. Because your recycling is sorted by hand into different compartments of the collection vehicle, we only collect the items from your door which we can recycle. You can be assured that 99.5% of the items we collect from your door are recycled. What about that 0.5%? Well, that's the plastic bags we ask you to put textiles, household batteries and mobile phones into.

We get through a lot of beverage cartons such as tetra paks. Can we recycle these?

Beverage cartons, e.g. tetra paks, can now be recycled at the Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre in Summers Lane in North Finchley.

Can I have another black box?

Yes, if you are filling your black box we can give you another one. Contact ECT Recycling by telephoning 020 8371 3670 or emailing barnet@ectrecycling.co.uk.

I recycle everything I can but I'm still putting out lots of rubbish on collection day. What can I do to reduce this?

Start to try to reduce and reuse these materials with some of the tips suggested in this feature. Many of these tips will not only help the environment but also save you money.

I'd love to compost at home but we don't have a garden. Any suggestions?

Try a wormery, these can be kept indoors or on a patio. Wormeries house an active colony of Tiger Worms which naturally convert your kitchen waste into concentrated liquid plant food which is great for plants.

I'd like to start putting food into my green bin but I'm concerned it will smell?

Your green garden and kitchen waste is collected weekly so there shouldn't be odour problems. Smells are most likely to arise when your waste gets stuck at the bottom of the bin and doesn't come out when the bin is emptied. Try putting a layer of drier garden waste at the bottom of the bin or only putting in the drier kitchen waste. This will mean that the contents will fall out more easily when the bin is emptied.

What if I am physically unable to lift the Black Box?

Residents who have trouble lifting their black box can request an assisted collection from ECT Recycling, who will agree a mutually convenient collection point. To arrange an assisted collection please contact ECT Recycling using the contact details on page 8.

How can I make it easier for the recycling collectors?

You don't need a different box for each material but it does help the collectors if your box is tidy and materials are grouped together within the box. Please also make sure that tins and cans, glass bottles and jars and foil are rinsed clean.



Warm welcome as first tenants move into new homes

The first tenants to be rehoused as part of the regeneration of Grahame Park have moved into their new homes – and the milestone for the estate in Colindale was marked by a special welcome.

Bouquets were presented to residents Lisa Kingston and Kwai Man by Pam Lockley, Managing Director of PCHA, who will be managing the new homes on behalf of Genesis Housing Group. The two homes are the first of 32 new properties which are due to be completed by the end of the year.

Pam Lockley said: "We are delighted to welcome our first residents into their new homes. The completion of these properties marks the start of an 18 year regeneration project for the area which will see nearly 3,000 new homes built."

Lisa Kingston (pictured), the first resident to move in, said: "I watched my new home being built, it was very exciting to watch it take shape. I am very pleased with the house and I am sure that my family and I will be very happy here."

Councillor Anthony Finn, Barnet Council's Cabinet member for Regeneration, said: "I am very pleased to see new residents move into these new, high quality homes. Grahame Park is one of the largest housing regeneration projects in Europe and it is important that we celebrate milestones such as this. As a council we are fully committed to this project, the new homes will make a real difference to the lives of thousands of Barnet residents."

The homes have been designed by Levitt Bernstein Architects and built by Countryside Properties. Choices for Grahame Park, the Genesis-owned company is delivering the regeneration project in partnership with Barnet Council.

Work on the first major stage of the £500m regeneration scheme will get underway in the New Year.

Street Cleansing

Barnet's streets are among the cleanest in London and we aim to keep them that way.

Special attention is paid to our busy town centres, with dedicated Town Keepers in place in 19 different areas.

But all 833km of the borough's roads are mechanically swept on a four-weekly cycle.

Now you can see exactly when your road is due for its next clean-up by logging on to your council's website.

Visit www.barnet.gov.uk/street-cleaning-programme for more information.

Get on yer bike!

Barnet Council is expanding its programme of cycle training this year, extending free and successful courses to include older children and adults.

Over 1,000 Year Six pupils have been taught the skills they need to cycle safely on the road over the last three years.

Courses are offered over the Easter and summer holidays and half term breaks. In addition, one-to-one training is also available for secondary school pupils to cover their route from home to school as safely as possible.

And this year the council is responding to demand by introducing free courses giving adults the opportunity to brush up on their cycling skills through free courses as well.

Tuition is also set to start this year at Oak Lodge Special School in East Finchley.

Councillor Matthew Offord, Barnet's Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, said: "We want to build a strong and healthy borough and cycling is a great way for children to keep fit.

"If we can encourage more pupils to cycle to school we can also help cut congestion on our roads at the busiest times of day."



Councillor Matthew Offord with some of the more than 350 children to have completed cycle training this summer.

He added: "This year our successful training is being expanded, so adults wanting to travel in a more environmentally responsible way but haven't been in the saddle for a while can also benefit from this excellent coaching."

Cycling is an integral element of Barnet's Sustainable School Travel and Transport Strategy, which sets out how the council will promote more environmentally-friendly modes of travel and work to ensure we have the best transport infrastructure in place.

What's On In Barnet during November and December

Leisure/pastimes

Things That Go Bump in High Barnet

2, 3 and 4 November 7.30pm

Meet outside High Barnet tube (top of Meadway), EN5. A ghostly, ghoulish walk through High Barnet and Monken Hadley. Ideal for both adults and children. Prize for the best costume. Cost: £6, under 12s £3.

Arts

Arts and Crafts Fair

24 November 10am – 4pm

St Paul's Church Hall, The Ridgeway, Mill Hill, NW7. Thirty different stalls selling art and crafts. Refreshments, children's craft activities and raffle. Cost: adults £1, children free.

Music

New Members Wanted!

Wednesdays 8 – 10pm

All Saints Arts Centre, Oakleigh Road North, Whetstone, N20. The Da Capo Concert Band is 10 years old this month and is looking for new members. If you are a woodwind, brass or percussion player and would enjoy playing in a friendly, dynamic and challenging adult wind band, get in touch. Visit www.dacapoconcertband.org.uk, email: join@dacapoconcertband.org.uk or phone: 07760 243400 for more details. Termly membership fee applies.

Miscellaneous

Nearly New Sale

17 November 10.15am – 12noon

Finchley Sea Cadets Hall, 184a Long Lane, Finchley, N3. Barnet National Childbirth event with everything you need for your pregnancy, baby or young child. For further information call: 07960

521271. Cost £1, children free.

Brent Cross Diwali Mela

4 November 12.30pm – 5pm

Brent Cross Shopping Centre, Hendon, NW4. Celebrating the Hindu festival of Diwali. Bollywood dancing, Dhol drummers, workshops for children and parents. Details: 020 8202 8095. Cost: free.

The History of Money

28 November 7.45pm

St John's Church Hall, Friern Barnet Lane, N20. Talk by Richard Selby. Free light refreshments. Cost: members free, non members £2.

Barnet Plus Social and Leisure Group

Sunday nights 8.45pm

The Railway Tavern, 3 East Barnet Road, New Barnet, EN4 8RR. Social and leisure activities for 18 to 35-year-olds. More details: visit www.barnetplus.com or call Mark on 020 8361 2827. Cost: free.

Webwatch

What's new on Barnet Online?

- What to find out about commercial properties for sale and to let in Barnet? Then log on to www.barnet.gov.uk/commercial-property-properties-for-sale-and-to-let
- Save paper – complete your child's primary school admission on line at www.barnet.gov.uk/e-admissions
- Planning a special event? You can now view pictures of Barnet's register office on line: www.barnet.gov.uk/registeroffice-pictures
- Young people can now find out facts about drugs and alcohol at www.barnet.gov.uk/youth-drugs-alcohol

Council meetings – dates for your diary

Meetings are open to the public and are generally held at the Town Hall, Hendon starting at 7pm unless otherwise stated. The Residents Forums (which start at 6.30pm) meet at a variety of venues around the borough, and details can be found online, on our posters or by contacting the Democratic Services team on 020 8359 2031. Members of the public can ask to speak at most meetings. Further information can be obtained by contacting Democratic Services.

November

- 5 Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 6 Council
- 7 Planning and Environment Committee
- 12 General Functions Committee; Finchley and Golders Green Residents Forum
- 13 Hendon Residents Forum
- 14 Chipping Barnet Residents Forum; First Class Education and Children Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 15 Cleaner, Greener, Transport and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 19 Supporting the Vulnerable in our Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 20 Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee; Finchley and Golders Green Area Environment Sub-Committee; Chipping Barnet Area Environment Sub-Committee

22 Tackling Crime and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

26 Chipping Barnet Area Planning Sub-Committee

27 Hendon Area Planning Sub-Committee

28 Finchley and Golders Green Area Planning Sub-Committee

29 Resources, Performance and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee

December

3 Standards Committee

5 Audit Committee

10 Cabinet Resources Committee

11 Planning and Environment Committee

12 Licensing Committee; Cabinet

17 Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee

18 Council

What's open in Barnet

Refuse collection

Monday 24 December
Normal service
Tuesday 25 December
Collection will be on Saturday 22 December
Wednesday 26 December
Collection will be on Wednesday 2 January
Thursday 27 December
Normal service
Friday 28 December
Normal service
Monday 31 December
Normal service
Tuesday 1 January 2008
Collection will be on Saturday 29 December



Please place your wheeled bin on the boundary of your property by 6.30am on your scheduled collection day. For more information, call 020 8359 4600 or e-mail first.contact@barnet.gov.uk

Normal collections of refuse, black box and green garden waste and kitchen waste resume on Wednesday 2 January 2008.

Black box recycling

Monday 24 December
Normal service
Tuesday 25 December
Collection will be on Saturday 22 December
Wednesday 26 December
Collection will be on Wednesday 2 January
Thursday 27 December
Normal service
Friday 28 December
Normal service
Monday 31 December
Normal service
Tuesday 1 January
Collection will be on Saturday 29 December



- Please place your black box on the boundary of your property by 7am on your scheduled collection day.
- Use your black box to recycle aerosols, cans and tins, car and household batteries, engine oil, foil, glass bottles and jars, mobile phones, paper, shoes, textiles and Yellow Pages.
- Excess materials should be placed in clearly labelled carrier bags, next to your black box.

For more information or to order a black box, call ECT on 020 8371 3670 or e-mail barnet@ectrecycling.co.uk

Green garden and kitchen waste collections

Saturday 22 December
No service
Monday 24 December
Normal service
Tuesday 25 December
Collection will be on Saturday 22 December
Wednesday 26 December
Collection will be on Wednesday 2 January
Thursday 27 December
Normal service
Friday 28 December
Normal service
Saturday 29 December
No service
Monday 31 December
Normal service
Tuesday 1 January
Collection will be on Saturday 29 December



Please note - if your green bin is collected on a Saturday you will not receive a collection on Saturday 22 December or Saturday 29 December. Your next collection will be Saturday 5 January 2008.

You can recycle the following items in your green bin: grass clippings, prunings (up to 8cm in diameter), leaves, twigs, flowers, fruit and vegetables, meat and fish (but no bones or carcasses), eggs and egg shells, dairy products, tea bags, coffee grounds, pasta, bread, rice and noodles.

You can also leave your Christmas tree next to your green bin on your collection day.

For more information, or to order your free green wheeled bin, call the customer care unit on 020 8359 4600 or e-mail first.contact@barnet.gov.uk

council and when?



Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre, Summers Lane

The site will be closed on Tuesday 25 December, Wednesday 26 December and Tuesday 1 January. For more information, call the site on 020 8362 0752.

- You can recycle over 40 different materials at the site including plastic bottles and cardboard. General waste is also accepted.
- Normal opening hours are Monday to Saturday 8am to 4pm and Sundays and Bank Holidays 9am to 4pm.
- The site closes promptly at 4pm and gates will close to new visitors at 3.50pm.
- No trade waste is accepted at the site.
- Vans and vehicles with trailers by appointment only. Proof of address is needed.

Christmas trees recycling

You can recycle your Christmas tree in two ways. If you have joined the free green garden and kitchen waste service, you can leave your Christmas tree at the side of your green wheeled bin on your scheduled collection day. Alternatively, you can take your Christmas tree to the Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre, Summers Lane, N12 0RF. Place it into the green waste container for recycling.

Christmas card recycling

Don't let your Christmas cards go to waste. Place them in the special bins provided at local participating WH Smith, Tesco, Marks and Spencers and TK Maxx stores, local libraries or at the Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre in Summers Lane between 2 January and 31 January 2008. For a full list of stores accepting cards, visit www.woodland-trust.org.uk.

Customer Care Unit

The Customer Care Unit (020 8359 4600) takes residents' calls on street-based issues such as road and pavement subsidence, street lighting, street cleaning, refuse and recycling services. It will be open:

Monday 24 December:	8am-4pm
Tuesday 25 December and Wednesday 26 December:	closed
Thursday 27 December and Friday 28 December:	8am-6pm
Monday 31 December:	8am-4pm
Tuesday 1 January:	closed
Wednesday 2 January onwards:	normal opening hours (8am-6pm)

Libraries

All libraries will close at 1pm on Monday 24 December and remain closed until Thursday 27 December when normal opening hours will apply until 5pm on Monday 31

December. All libraries will be closed on Tuesday 1 January. Normal opening hours will resume on Wednesday 2 January.

Church Farmhouse Museum

The museum will be closed from Monday 24 December to Wednesday 26 December. It will be open as normal on Thursday 27 December, closed on Friday 28 December and then open again as normal from Saturday 29 December until Monday 31 December. The museum is closed on Tuesday 1 January and opens again as normal on Wednesday 2 January.

Local Studies

The Archives and Local Studies Service will be closed from Monday 24 December to Wednesday 26 December inclusive and Saturday 29 December to Tuesday 1 January inclusive.

Meet... your members

Note: All codes are 020 unless otherwise indicated.

Brunswick Park Ward

Lynne Hillan (Con)

8446 5954
cllr.l.hillan@barnet.gov.uk

Andreas Tambourides (Con)

8368 5417
cllr.a.tambourides@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Second Saturday every month,
Osidge Library, Brunswick Park
Road, N11
10.30am-12 noon

Lisa Rutter (Con)

8445 3829
cllr.l.rutter@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Last Saturday every month,
Osidge Library, Brunswick Park
Road, N11
2.30pm-4pm

Burnt Oak Ward

Claire Farrier (Lab)

8959 7908
cllr.c.farrier@barnet.gov.uk

Linda McFadyen (Lab)

Deputy Leader of the Labour group
8364 8782
cllr.l.mcfadyen@barnet.gov.uk

Charlie O-Macauley (Lab)

07796 284110
cllr.c.omacauley@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Saturdays, Burnt Oak Library,
Watling Avenue, HA8
10.30am – 12noon

Childs Hill Ward

Jack Cohen (LibDem)

8446 7940
cllr.j.cohen@barnet.gov.uk

Monroe Palmer (LibDem)

Liberal Democrat Group Leader
8455 5140
cllr.m.palmer@barnet.gov.uk

Susette Palmer (LibDem)

8455 5140
cllr.s.palmer@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First Thursday every month,
Childs Hill Library, Cricklewood
Lane, NW2
7 – 8pm

Colindale Ward

Danish Chopra (Lab)

8449 9046
cllr.d.chopra@barnet.gov.uk

Gill Sargeant (Lab)

8455 1070
cllr.g.sargeant@barnet.gov.uk

Zakia Zubairi (Lab)

8959 4091
cllr.z.zubairi@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Saturdays, Grahame Park Library,
The Concourse, Colindale, NW9
10 – 11am

Coppetts Ward

Mukesh Depala (Con)

8365 3614
cllr.m.depala@barnet.gov.uk

Kate Salinger (Con)

8368 1329
cllr.c.salinger@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First Saturday every month,
Friern Barnet Library, Friern
Barnet Road, N11
10.30am – 12noon

Surgery details:

Second Saturday every month,
Hollickwood School, Sydney
Road, N10
1.30 – 3 pm

Barry Rawlings (Lab)

8445 6416
cllr.b.rawlings@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First and third Saturday every
month, Peter Le Poer Church,
Albion Avenue, N10
10.30am – 12noon

Other Saturdays, Friern Barnet
Library, Friern Barnet Road, N11
10.30am – 12noon

East Barnet Ward

Terence Burton (Con)

8368 7366
cllr.t.burton@barnet.gov.uk

Robert Rams (Con)

8446 7291
cllr.r.rams@barnet.gov.uk

Joanna Tambourides (Con)

8361 9154
cllr.j.tambourides@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First Saturday of each month,
New Barnet Community Centre,
48-50 Victoria Road,
New Barnet, EN4
10.30am – 12noon

Third Saturday of each month,
East Barnet Library, 85 Brookhill
Road, East Barnet, EN4
10.30am – 12noon

East Finchley Ward

Andrew McNeil (Lab)

cllr.a.mcneil@barnet.gov.uk

Alison Moore (Lab)

Leader of the Opposition (Labour
group leader)
8343 0306
cllr.a.moore@barnet.gov.uk

Colin Rogers (Lab)

8444 7150
cllr.c.rogers@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Saturdays, East Finchley
Neighbourhood Centre, Church
Lane, East Finchley, N2
10 – 11.30am

Edgware Ward

Helena Hart (Con)

8371 0658
cllr.h.hart@barnet.gov.uk

Joan Scannell (Con)

8959 5921
cllr.j.scannell@barnet.gov.uk

Richard Weider (Con)

8958 0640
cllr.r.weider@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Last Tuesday every month,
Edgware Library, Hale Lane,
Edgware, HA8
5.30 – 6.30pm

Finchley Church End Ward

Michael Freer (Con)

Leader of the Council
(Conservative group leader)
8359 2059
cllr.m.freer@barnet.gov.uk

Eva Greenspan (Con)

8203 1598
cllr.e.greenspan@barnet.gov.uk

Daniel Thomas (Con)

cllr.d.thomas@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First Wednesday every month,
Finchley Church End Library,
Hendon Lane, N3
7.30 – 8.30pm

Garden Suburb Ward

Andrew Harper (Con)

8209 3981
cllr.a.harper@barnet.gov.uk

John Marshall (Con)

8445 2597
cllr.j.marshall@barnet.gov.uk

Jazmin Naghar (Con)

8458 2466
cllr.j.naghar@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Fourth Monday every month,
Fellowship House,
Willifield Way, NW11
6 – 7pm

Golders Green Ward

Dean Cohen (Con)

07887 778509
cllr.d.cohen@barnet.gov.uk

Melvin Cohen (Con)

8209 0166
cllr.m.cohen@barnet.gov.uk

Christopher Harris (Con)

07949 592512
cllr.c.harris@barnet.gov.uk

Contacting your MPs

Chipping Barnet

Theresa Villiers

Office: 163 High Street, Barnet, EN5 5SU
Tel: 020 8449 7345

Finchley and Golders Green

Dr Rudi Vis

Office: 38 Church Lane, East Finchley, N2 8DT
Tel: 020 8883 0411

Hendon

Andrew Dismore

Office: St. George's Lodge, 79 The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4 4AX
Tel: 020 8202 2122

Greater London Assembly

Member for Barnet and Camden

Councillor Brian Coleman

Office: City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA
Tel: 020 7983 4367

Surgery details:

Second Sunday every month, Golders Green Library, Golders Green Road, NW11
2.15 – 3.15pm

Fourth Sunday every month, Hendon Sports Centre, Marble Drive, Brent Cross, NW2
12noon – 1pm

Hale Ward

Jane Ellison (Con)

07976 257999
cllr.j.ellison@barnet.gov.uk

Brian Gordon (Con)

8931 5062
cllr.b.gordon@barnet.gov.uk

Hugh Rayner (Con)

8958 3364
cllr.h.rayner@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First Thursday every month alternating between Edgware Library, Hale Lane, Edgware, HA8, and Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, NW7 (call 8958 3364 for locations and times)

Hendon Ward

Maureen Braun (Con)

Mayor
8906 0447
cllr.m.braun@barnet.gov.uk

Anthony Finn (Con)

8202 9689
cllr.a.finn@barnet.gov.uk

Matthew Offord (Con)

Deputy Leader of the Council (Conservative group deputy leader)
8202 5319
cllr.m.offord@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First Monday every month, Action Point, Town Hall, The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4
6 – 7pm

High Barnet Ward

Duncan Macdonald (Lib Dem)

8344 2674
cllr.d.macdonald@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Second Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Library, Stapylton Road, Barnet, EN4
3.30pm – 4.30pm.

Bridget Perry (Con)

8441 5683
cllr.b.perry@barnet.gov.uk

Wendy Prentice (Con)

8364 9249
E: cllr.w.prentice@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Third Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet Library, Stapylton Road, Barnet, EN4
10.30am – 12noon

Mill Hill Ward

Wayne Casey (LibDem)

Deputy Leader of the LibDem Group
8906 8189
cllr.w.casey@barnet.gov.uk

Jeremy Davies (LibDem)

8381 0089
cllr.j.davies@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Saturdays, Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, NW7
10am – 12noon

John Hart (Con)

8381 0083
cllr.j.hart@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Selective Tuesdays, Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, NW7
6 – 8pm

Selective Saturdays at Canada Villa, Pursley Road, NW7
10am – 12noon.

Ring for dates.

Oakleigh Ward

Sachin Rajput (Con)

8381 0096
cllr.s.rajput@barnet.gov.uk

Marina Yannakoudakis (Con)

8445 8175
cllr.m.yannakoudakis@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Third Saturday every month, Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, N20
10.30am – 12noon

Brian Salinger (Con)

8368 1329
cllr.b.salinger@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First Saturday of every month at Friern Barnet Library, Friern Barnet Road, N11
10.30am-12noon

Totteridge Ward

Brian Coleman (Con)

8349 2024
cllr.b.coleman@barnet.gov.uk

Richard Cornelius (Con)

Deputy Mayor
8445 5886
cllr.r.cornelius@barnet.gov.uk

Caroline Margo (Con)

8371 9312
cllr.c.margo@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Third Saturday every month, Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, N20
10.30am – 12noon

Underhill Ward

Fiona Bulmer (Con)

8344 2672
cllr.f.bulmer@barnet.gov.uk

Daniel Webb (Con)

8349 2256
cllr.d.webb@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Third Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet Library, Stapylton Road, Barnet, EN4
10.30am – 12noon

Anita Campbell (Lab)

8440 2703
cllr.a.campbell@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First and third Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet Library, Stapylton Road, Barnet, EN5 2-3pm

West Finchley Ward

Ross Houston (Lab)

8343 7451
cllr.r.houston@barnet.gov.uk

Kath McGuirk (Lab)

8209 1462
cllr.k.mcguirk@barnet.gov.uk

Jim Tierney (Lab)

8346 3359
cllr.j.tierney@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Saturdays, 331 Ballards Lane, North Finchley
10 – 11.30am

West Hendon Ward

Julie Johnson (Lab)

8203 3531
cllr.j.johnson@barnet.gov.uk

Agnes Slocombe (Lab)

8202 4074
cllr.a.slocombe@barnet.gov.uk

Ansuya Sodha (Lab)

8959 6035
cllr.a.sodha@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Saturdays, West Hendon Community Centre, Marsh Drive, West Hendon, NW9
10.30am – 12noon

Monday 19 November, Hendon Library, The Burroughs, NW4

Woodhouse Ward

Geof Cooke (Lab)

8446 8407
cllr.g.cooke@barnet.gov.uk

Anne Hutton (Lab)

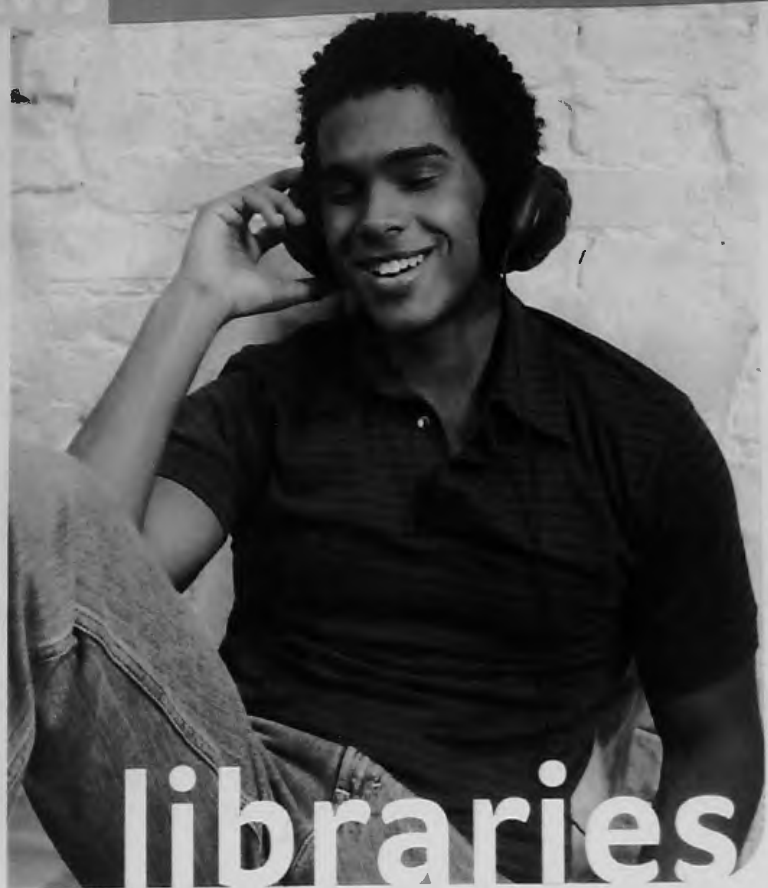
8883 0996
cllr.a.hutton@barnet.gov.uk

Alan Schneiderman (Lab)

8731 9680
cllr.a.schneiderman@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Saturdays, 331 Ballards Lane, North Finchley,
10 – 11.30am



libraries for Barnet

Over the past 10 years libraries across the country have been changing and evolving. Valued by many for their traditional services, they are more than ever becoming multi-purpose centres with a broader appeal to all sections of the communities they serve, such as providing health information in partnership with the Primary Care Trust.

You will, however, still find access to an up-to-date range of books and information and in addition an online library of over 450 reference books that can be viewed in any of our libraries or from home 24/7 by using the number on your library card. You can also use one of the 200 PCs available across the borough, with free access to the internet.

However if we want to appeal to as many people as possible it's essential we move with the times and offer the most up-to-date services supported by knowledgeable staff and the best technology, such as Wi Fi, for easy drop-in internet access.

Because of this we recently agreed an investment of £1.24m for our libraries, making six of them leading libraries (Burnt Oak, Chipping Barnet, Edgware, Golders Green, Hendon and North Finchley) and the remaining local libraries.

All libraries have, and will continue to host, a range of activities to suit all ages, but the six leading libraries will have a range of additional services, including face to face contact with council and community services; longer opening hours; Wi Fi, priority for full

access for disabled people, community facilities, technology-enabled self service and quick select collections. In addition, two of the local libraries at Grahame Park and South Friern will be replaced with modern, fully accessible facilities.

All libraries will benefit from a new computer system that will help make the best use of all our stock resources, including the mobile service, by making it easier to swap stock between libraries, keep track of what is most popular and identify any gaps in coverage.

Activities for children and young people are more popular than ever, but the involvement of local people, especially young people, is crucial to the developments we are planning. That's why we are setting up youth panels, linked with Barnet Youth Board, to co-ordinate activities run by and for young people.

Improvements will be happening over the next 12 months and will mean some libraries will be closed for a short period while work is being carried out.

As changes occur local information will be provided and up to date information posted on Barnet's website, www.barnet.gov.uk/libraries.

Town keepers roll-out continues

Nineteen of Barnet's busiest town centres now have a dedicated officer – or town keeper – to provide a complete street cleaning service.

As well as carrying out patrols and clearing litter, the town keepers make sure that problems like graffiti, abandoned vehicles, vandalism and fly tipping are promptly reported and cleared.

The introduction of the Barnet Clean Borough Strategy earlier this year paved the way for seven new town keepers to be installed in 2007, which would bring the total number in Barnet to 20. Six town keepers are now in place in Brent Street, Hendon Central, New Barnet, Burnt Oak, Temple Fortune and Childs Hill. Just one more remains to be installed, with the location being finalised now.

They will be assisted in their work to keep town centres clean by a new state-of-the-art road cleaning machine. The sweeper has increased suction and sweeping capabilities, and also uses less fuel and produces less pollution than previous models.

Councillor Matthew Offord, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, said: "When we launched the Clean Borough Strategy, we said that residents would notice a visible improvement in the quality of street cleaning and the level of enviro-crime being committed in Barnet.

"With the introduction of these new town keepers, we are delivering that quality. Town keepers are the council's face on the street, and have an excellent rapport with town centre businesses and visitors."

Barnet headteachers chosen for leadership roles

Two Barnet headteachers have been selected for top roles supporting struggling schools across the country.

Teresa Tunnadine, from The Compton in North Finchley, and Nick Christou from East Barnet have become two of only 30 secondary heads to be appointed by the National College for School Leadership (NCSL).

Both have been given the prestigious roles of National Leader of Education (NLE), and their schools designated a National Support School (NSS).

Councillor Fiona Bulmer, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, said: "Once again this is a testament to the first class teachers we have in Barnet.

"I am delighted that the excellent work that goes on in Barnet's schools is now going to be shared with the rest of the country."