

# barnetfirst

issue 58 July 2014



## **Alfresco exercise**

**See inside**

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## Contacting your council

### Corporate Customer Services

tel: 020 8359 2000

email: [first.contact@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:first.contact@barnet.gov.uk)

Contact us and we will identify the correct service or person you are looking for.

### Street-based services

tel: 020 8359 4600

Covering refuse collection, holes in the road, abandoned vehicles and graffiti.

### Parking enquiries

tel: 020 8359 7446

[www.barnet.gov.uk/parking](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/parking)

### Planning and licensing advice

tel: 020 8359 3000

### Social Care Direct

tel: 020 8359 5000

### Out of hours emergencies

tel: 020 8359 2000

Barnet First is published by Barnet Council's Communications Team. Please email us on: [barnet.first@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:barnet.first@barnet.gov.uk)

### Or write to us

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North London Business Park, Oakleigh  
Road South, London N11 1NP

### Privacy

Barnet has revised its Privacy Statement. If you want to know more visit:

[www.barnet.gov.uk/privacy](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/privacy)

## Leader's column



**W**hen one is elected to the Council it is very easy to be tied up in procedure and financial concerns. Whilst these are of course important, they are not the things that motivate most of us. It is all too easy to forget how successful the council has been in getting things done, in difficult times. Barnet remains for most of us a great place to live and work. The aim has to be to improve the parts of the borough that need regeneration and protect the quality of life in the rest of Barnet. We are recognised nationally as a high achieving borough and the Chancellor's recent visit emphasised just that achievement and ambition.

The new system of committees, within the council, will be working to make sure that we do keep those things that residents rely on, up to the high standards that are expected.

Councillors of both parties will have to make choices, fairly and transparently. The post-2015 government will be committed to dealing with the debts accumulated in the past and will pass some of that pain on to local government. At a time of reduced funding and increased costs in looking after children and the old, we will have to do things differently if we are to succeed.

I am up for that challenge, as are colleagues. We have a vision of Barnet as the best place in London to live, study and work. Let's keep that ambition in mind.

Yours

Richard Cornelius

# news in brief



## Chancellor's support for Barnet regeneration

George Osborne, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pledged his support for the Grahame Park regeneration project and Brent Cross Cricklewood during a recent visit.

The visit came following his statement of support for the two projects in the Budget in late March.

Mr Osborne visited Brent Cross Shopping Centre and viewed the wider Brent Cross Cricklewood regeneration site. Cllr Richard Cornelius, leader of Barnet Council, and council staff made the case for a new fast Thameslink station at Brent Cross, cutting the journey time into Kings Cross to just eight minutes.

In Grahame Park the Chancellor was able to see the work currently being undertaken to regenerate Colindale and discuss plans to bring forward the demolition of the central 1970's concourse block.

The Chancellor's budget speech highlighted Grahame Park as likely to receive extra funding from central government to support the building of new homes.

For more information visit: [www.barnet.gov.uk/chancellor](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/chancellor)



## Make sure you keep your vote

The biggest change to the electoral registration system in nearly 100 years starts this summer.

In the coming weeks all Barnet residents will receive a letter explaining the new, more secure, system of Individual Electoral Registration, which is being introduced to replace the old Victorian system where the 'head of household' registered everyone living in a property. Now, each individual will be responsible for registering themselves.

Many Barnet residents will automatically move onto the new electoral register but some will need to take action to register under the new system.

Andrew Travers, Chief Executive and Returning Officer, said: "Look out for the letter as it will tell you if you have been automatically transferred to the new register or not. If you have not been transferred, you will need to provide some additional information and the letter will tell you exactly what you need to do."



For more information visit [www.gov.uk/yourvotematters](http://www.gov.uk/yourvotematters)



## news in brief



### 100 years on... Barnet remembers

This year marks the centenary of the outbreak of World War I, known as the Great War because of the vast numbers of people killed in action between 1914 and 1918.

Many commemorative events are taking place across the country, and Barnet residents are invited to attend the major events for the borough.

On Sunday 3 August at 4pm, a Civic Service of Commemoration and Reconciliation will be held at St John the Baptist Church in High Barnet, at which there will also be representatives from Barnet's twin towns in France and Germany. All residents are invited to attend.

Later that month, on Thursday 21 August, a commemorative stone will be unveiled in Lodge Lane, Finchley, to mark where Private John Parr lived. Private Parr is recognised as the first Allied soldier to die in action, killed near Mons in Belgium on 21 August 1914.

Other events will follow including laying stones to commemorate the borough's two Great War Victoria Cross winners.

For more information visit  
[www.barnet.gov.uk/commemorations](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/commemorations)



### Community-spirited residents honoured with Civic Awards

Barnet residents who have made a significant contribution to life in the borough were honoured at the council's annual Civic Awards ceremony.

A total of 25 nominees were recognised at the special ceremony held at Hendon Town Hall in April.

Six of the nominees judged to have made an outstanding contribution were presented with a framed vellum.

The vellum winners were:

Amratlal Depala, who was recognised for his leadership and charity work for a local religious group.

Sunethra Goonewardene, in acknowledgement of her work as a founding member of the voluntary group, Barnet Borough Sight Impaired.

Clive Hailey, for his work with the Scouting movement.

Valery Owen, for her outstanding contribution to the Royal British Legion and Poppy Appeal fundraising efforts.

Dr Nathubhai Shah MBE for his contribution as founder of the Jain Network.

Pollyanna Tucker, for her charity work raising funds for Barnet Carers Centre.

For more information visit  
[www.barnet.gov.uk/civic-awards](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/civic-awards)



## news in brief

### **Businesses rewarded for making Smart Swaps**

The Healthier Catering Awards give recognition to businesses that make changes to food preparation to reduce the amount of salt, fat and sugar.

Meals eaten outside the home tend to be higher in fat, sugar and salt, with about 40 per cent of calories coming from fat. Over 75 per cent of families eat out at least once a week, so restaurants and food outlets play a key role in providing quality food.

Mr Karakus (below), owner of Meral's in Cricklewood, the first business to be awarded the Smart Swaps Silver award in Barnet, said: "Making the changes to how I make dishes was easy. It's not costly and the food is tasty. I care about the food I make and know how important it is for my customers to know what's in the meals I serve."

Local businesses that make 'Smart Swaps' by exchanging unhealthy for healthy ingredients are awarded with a certificate and award sticker to be displayed in their window.

Cafes and restaurants across London have reported that having a recognised logo that shows customers healthier choices are available has been good for business.

The Healthier Catering Commitment is an initiative run by Barnet and Harrow's public health team in conjunction with Re, a joint venture between with Barnet Council and Capita plc. Over 30 businesses in the borough have already signed up to the scheme.

More information can be found online at [www.barnet.gov.uk/healthycatering](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/healthycatering)  
email: [foodsafety@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:foodsafety@barnet.gov.uk) or  
call the Food Team on 020 8359 7995.



# Upcycling is the new recycling

**T**he Barnet Furniture Centre (BFC), Barnet's first upcycling charity, is celebrating the first anniversary of Boutique @ BFC, its boutique shop in Friern Barnet.

BFC helps the community and the environment by collecting unwanted furniture, free of charge, from around the borough to be stripped, repainted and sold on by a dedicated team of staff and volunteers. This means that tonnes of items are diverted from landfill each year.

At the Boutique and BFC warehouse you'll find an Aladdin's cave of useful items like mattresses, tables, chairs, and white goods, as well as hand-picked vintage and retro pieces, antiques and unique hand-made accessories. The furniture is sold at a cheaper price to residents on lower incomes.

BFC is currently looking for **volunteers** with **DIY, upcycling, carpentry or customer service experience** to join the team.



For more information visit [www.barnetfurniturecentre.org](http://www.barnetfurniturecentre.org) and [www.boutiquebfc.co.uk](http://www.boutiquebfc.co.uk) or call 020 8361 6802



## Meet Barnet's new MYPs

**F**our pupils have been elected to represent Barnet as Members and Deputy Members of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP). The pupils were elected by more than 11,000 of their peers from across the borough's schools.

Joshua Awoderu, 15, from Ashmole Academy, topped the poll after he campaigned to improve access to fitness facilities. Joshua will serve as Member of the Youth Parliament alongside Nikhil Malkan, 15, from London Academy, who campaigned to increase access to work experience opportunities for young people.

The two new Members of the Youth Parliament will be joined by Afagh Mulazadeh, 16, from Copthall School, and Emily Otvos, 15, from The Channing School, who will both serve as Deputy Members for the Youth Parliament.



During their one-year term, the young residents will have the opportunity to influence national and local politicians, business people and community leaders on behalf of their constituencies in forums across the country.

For more information visit [www.barnet.gov.uk/uk-youth-parliament](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/uk-youth-parliament)



# Pupils give new Orion School a Gold Star

The new Orion School opened its doors to 600 excited pupils this term.

The newly relocated school on Grahame Park Way is required to support the rising demand for school places within the borough. Once at full capacity the school will house 1,100 pupils.

Included in the newly built school is a professional theatre, dance and recording studio, which form the Gold Star Centre.

The state of the art facilities will be shared with nearby Goldbeaters School, which together with The Orion make up The Gold Star Federation.

The indoor facilities, as well as an outdoor all-weather pitch, will also be available for the local community to use.

The new £15 million school will also include a 21-place Autism Spectrum Condition Unit and 52-place nursery.

Chris Flathers, Head of The Orion and Goldbeaters Schools, said: "It is amazing to see everything take shape from the germ of an idea to the finished building. It is stunning, everything I could have dreamed of for our fantastic community of learners."

Between 2009 and 2013 the council has spent £88 million on permanently expanding or rebuilding primary and secondary schools and is committed to spending an additional £49 million for further expansions across the borough.

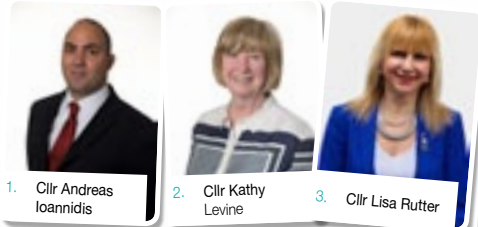
The council is also building Millbrook Park School in Mill Hill East with its development partners as well as permanent expansions at Martin, Moss Hall, Brunswick Park, Menorah Foundation, and Oakleigh primary schools.

These expansions will create around **1,500 new permanent primary school places** in the borough and form part of the council's £60m investment strategy to provide **more than 3,300 new primary school places**.



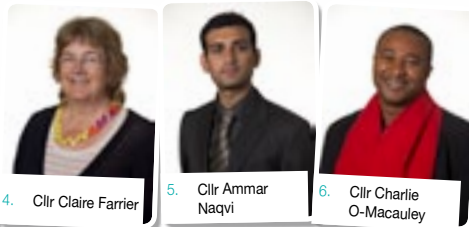
# Meet your new councillors

## Brunswick Park Labour/Conservative



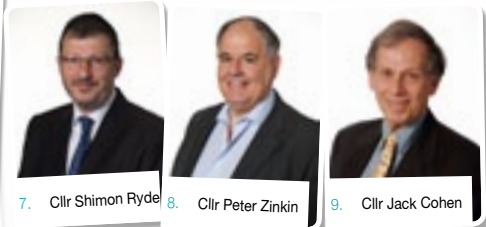
1. Cllr Andreas Ioannidis  
2. Cllr Kathy Levine  
3. Cllr Lisa Rutter

## Burnt Oak Labour



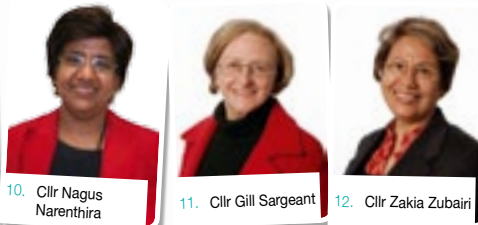
4. Cllr Claire Farrier  
5. Cllr Ammar Naqvi  
6. Cllr Charlie O-Macauley

## Childs Hill Conservative/Liberal Democrat



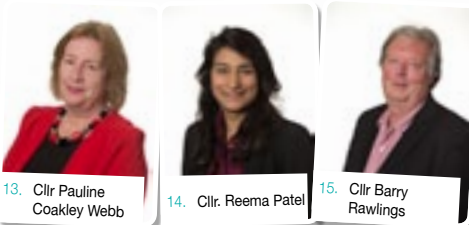
7. Cllr Shimon Ryde  
8. Cllr Peter Zinkin  
9. Cllr Jack Cohen

## Colindale Labour



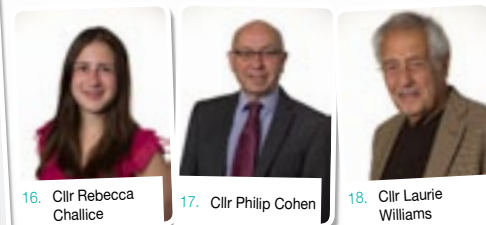
10. Cllr Nagus Narenthira  
11. Cllr Gill Sargeant  
12. Cllr Zakia Zubairi

## Coppetts Labour



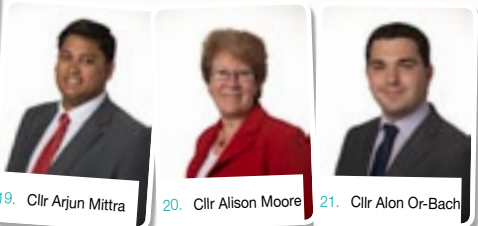
13. Cllr Pauline Coakley Webb  
14. Cllr Reema Patel  
15. Cllr Barry Rawlings

## East Barnet Labour



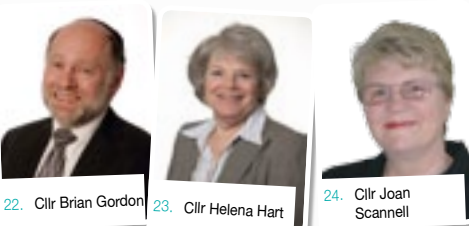
16. Cllr Rebecca Challice  
17. Cllr Philip Cohen  
18. Cllr Laurie Williams

## East Finchley Labour



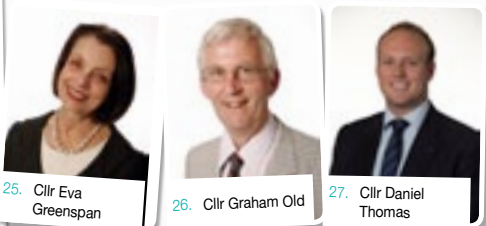
19. Cllr Arjun Mittra  
20. Cllr Alison Moore  
21. Cllr Alon Or-Bach

## Edgware Conservative



22. Cllr Brian Gordon  
23. Cllr Helena Hart  
24. Cllr Joan Scannell

## Finchley Church End Conservative



25. Cllr Eva Greenspan  
26. Cllr Graham Old  
27. Cllr Daniel Thomas

## Brunswick Park Labour

1. Cllr Andreas Ioannidis  
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2. Cllr Kathy Levine  
cllr.k.levine@barnet.gov.uk

### Conservative

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## Burnt Oak Labour

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5. Cllr Ammar Naqvi  
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6. Cllr Charlie O-Macauley  
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## Childs Hill Conservative

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8. Cllr Peter Zinkin  
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### Liberal Democrat

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## Colindale Labour

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11. Cllr Gill Sargeant  
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12. Cllr Zakia Zubairi  
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cllr.r.patel@barnet.gov.uk
15. Cllr Barry Rawlings  
cllr.b.rawlings@barnet.gov.uk

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17. Cllr Philip Cohen  
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18. Cllr Laurie Williams  
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20. Cllr Alison Moore  
cllr.a.moore@barnet.gov.uk
21. Cllr Alon Or-Bach  
cllr.a.or-bach@barnet.gov.uk

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cllr.b.gordon@barnet.gov.uk
23. Cllr Helena Hart  
cllr.h.hart@barnet.gov.uk
24. Cllr Joan Scannell  
cllr.j.scannell@barnet.gov.uk

## Finchley Church End Conservative

25. Cllr Eva Greenspan  
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26. Cllr Graham Old  
cllr.g.old@barnet.gov.uk
27. Cllr Daniel Thomas  
cllr.d.thomas@barnet.gov.uk

## Garden Suburb Conservative

28. Cllr John Marshall  
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29. Cllr Gabriel Rozenberg  
cllr.g.rozenberg@barnet.gov.uk
30. Cllr Daniel Seal  
cllr.d.seal@barnet.gov.uk

## Golders Green Conservative

31. Cllr Dean Cohen  
cllr.d.cohen@barnet.gov.uk
32. Cllr Melvin Cohen  
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33. Cllr Reuben Thompstone  
cllr.r.thompstone@barnet.gov.uk

## Hale Conservative

34. Cllr Thomas Davey  
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35. Cllr Hugh Rayner  
cllr.h.rayner@barnet.gov.uk
36. Cllr Kitty Lyons  
cllr.k.lyons@barnet.gov.uk

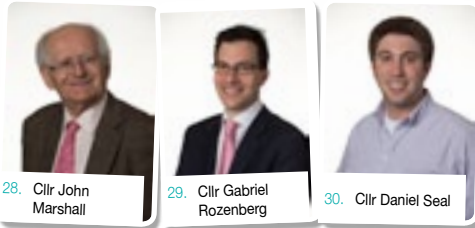
## Hendon Conservative

37. Cllr Maureen Braun  
cllr.m.braun@barnet.gov.uk
38. Cllr Anthony Finn  
cllr.a.finn@barnet.gov.uk
39. Cllr Mark Shooter  
cllr.m.shooter@barnet.gov.uk

## High Barnet Conservative

40. Cllr David Longstaff  
cllr.d.longstaff@barnet.gov.uk
41. Cllr Bridget Perry  
cllr.b.perry@barnet.gov.uk
42. Cllr Wendy Prentice  
cllr.w.prentice@barnet.gov.uk

**Garden Suburb  
Conservative**



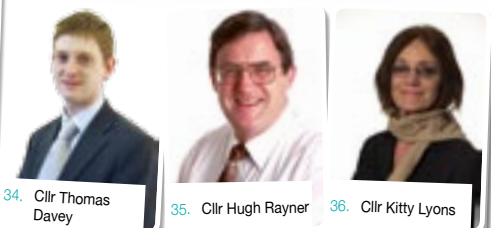
28. Cllr John Marshall  
29. Cllr Gabriel Rozenberg  
30. Cllr Daniel Seal

**Golders Green  
Conservative**



31. Cllr Dean Cohen  
32. Cllr Melvin Cohen  
33. Cllr Reuben Thompstone

**Hale  
Conservative/Labour**



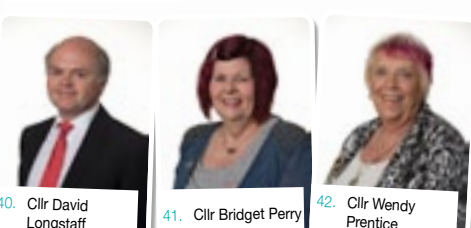
34. Cllr Thomas Davey  
35. Cllr Hugh Rayner  
36. Cllr Kitty Lyons

**Hendon  
Conservative**



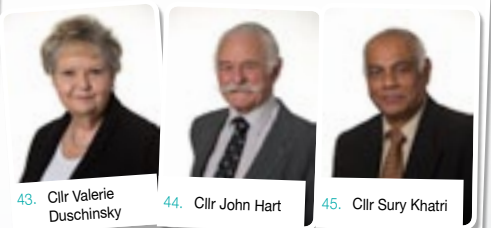
37. Cllr Maureen Braun  
38. Cllr Anthony Finn  
39. Cllr Mark Shooter

**High Barnet  
Conservative**



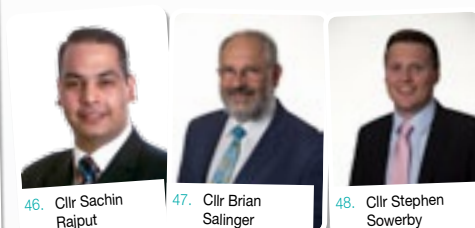
40. Cllr David Longstaff  
41. Cllr Bridget Perry  
42. Cllr Wendy Prentice

**Mill Hill  
Conservative**



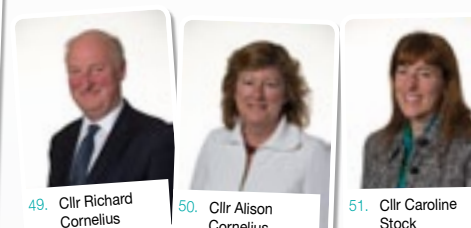
43. Cllr Valerie Duschinsky  
44. Cllr John Hart  
45. Cllr Sury Khatri

**Oakleigh  
Conservative**



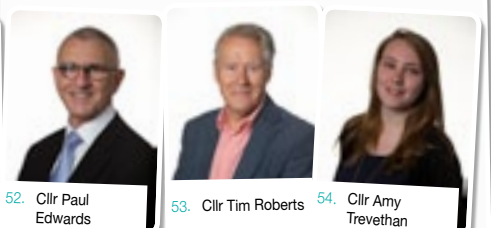
46. Cllr Sachin Rajput  
47. Cllr Brian Salinger  
48. Cllr Stephen Sowerby

**Totteridge  
Conservative**



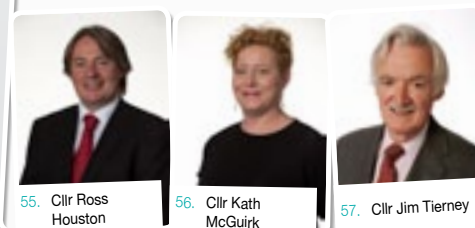
49. Cllr Richard Cornelius  
50. Cllr Alison Cornelius  
51. Cllr Caroline Stock

**Underhill  
Labour**



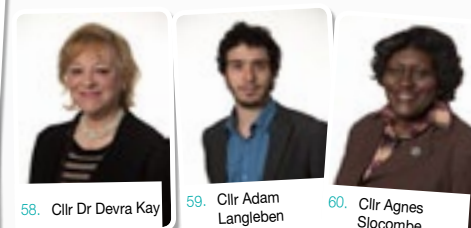
52. Cllr Paul Edwards  
53. Cllr Tim Roberts  
54. Cllr Amy Trevethan

**West Finchley  
Labour**



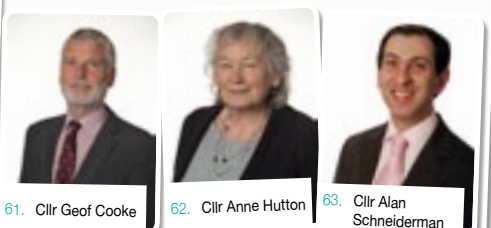
55. Cllr Ross Houston  
56. Cllr Kath McGuirk  
57. Cllr Jim Tierney

**West Hendon  
Labour**



58. Cllr Dr Devra Kay  
59. Cllr Adam Langleben  
60. Cllr Agnes Slocombe

**Woodhouse  
Labour**



61. Cllr Geof Cooke  
62. Cllr Anne Hutton  
63. Cllr Alan Schneiderman

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61. Cllr Geof Cooke  
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62. Cllr Anne Hutton  
cllr.a.hutton@barnet.gov.uk  
63. Cllr Alan Schneiderman  
cllr.a.schneiderman@barnet.gov.uk

# 50th Mayor sworn into office

**C**ouncillor Hugh Rayner has been sworn in as the 50th Mayor of Barnet.

Cllr Rayner's wife Susan will be his Mayoress and the Deputy Mayor will be Councillor David Longstaff. He takes over from the previous Mayor, Councillor Melvin Cohen. Councillor Rayner has represented Hale ward since being elected to Barnet Council in 2006.

During his mayoral year, Councillor Rayner has chosen to support the Barnet Association for the Blind and the RAF Museum Hendon.

The new Mayor said: "This is a tremendous honour and I am very much looking forward to what I am sure will be a very busy year."

"As a retired RAF serviceman I am particularly looking forward to the World War One commemorations as well as meeting the many residents who make Barnet such a diverse place."



For more information visit  
[www.barnet.gov.uk/barnet-mayor](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/barnet-mayor)



# Council adopts new model of governance

**B**arnet Council has moved to a new committee system of governance.

The new system aims to increase transparency and will involve more councillors on important decisions.

Committees will be made up of cross-party, elected councillors from across the borough. They will each have a chairman and decisions will be reached on a majority basis.

"We are still only half way through a decade of austerity and there are many tough spending decisions ahead. However we are committed to dealing with these challenges in as open a way as possible.

"By having a cross-party committee system, alternatives can be proposed and debated openly.

"I hope this wider openness will encourage a broader and properly informed debate about the future of the council and the borough."

Councillor Richard Cornelius  
 Leader of the Council

# Consultation and engagement

The council has just published a new Consultation and Engagement Policy, part of the commitment to being as open as possible when changing and developing services. The new policy makes it clear just how and when the council will involve residents in developing services.

A key part of the new policy is an expanded Citizens' Panel. The panel will now be expanded to 2,500 Barnet residents, chosen to be representative of Barnet's population. This group will be consulted regularly throughout the year on changes to services, and will also be consulted on major developments at the council. The council is also committed to working with service users in focus groups, to develop a much deeper understanding of their experiences.

## Transparency Charter

Barnet Council has published a new transparency commitment at [www.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.barnet.gov.uk). The council aims to be a pioneer for open data. The council is establishing a new facility for publishing 'raw data' making it available for residents to use for research or business purposes. The council currently publishes a range of information including senior salaries, expenditure over £500 and Member expenses.

The council is committed to reporting back to residents who have taken part in consultations. Results are regularly published on the council's website with the most recently published results being:

- Residents' Perception Survey 2014
- North Finchley Town Centre Project
- Draft Equalities Policy
- Barnet's new charter with the local voluntary and community sector
- NHS Health Checks.

As part of a review of council spending and priorities the council has already consulted with residents about their wider views of life in the borough and the priorities for the council. These findings have been fed into the planning for new council services and priorities for the coming five years.

OPM, an independent research company, spoke to residents across the borough as well as particular groups of service users such as the learning disability service, youth services and older people.

Generally, residents were surprised by the scale of savings the council still had to make. They valued the good quality of life available in Barnet, particularly the high quality of schools and parks, and wanted this available to all residents.

You can find details of this consultation at: [engage.barnet.gov.uk/consultation-team/call-for-evidence](http://engage.barnet.gov.uk/consultation-team/call-for-evidence)



WE ASKED,  
YOU SAID,  
WE DID.



## Council announces new savings gap

Barnet Council has confirmed it is likely to have to save another £72 million from its budget over the next five years.

This level of saving will be needed to meet growing demand for council services with a continued reduction in central government funding.

The new 'spending envelope' was set at the first meeting of the council's new Policy and Resources Committee on 10 June, and options for making that level of savings will now be agreed in the council's new committees (see page 10).

Councillor Richard Cornelius, Leader of Barnet Council, said: "Obviously councils have to live within their means and officers have been preparing a budget outline for the new council. A likely saving of £70 million was first outlined last year and officers have been carrying out a review of all council spending over the past 12 months, developing options for how the council could meet the financial challenge." Options will now be considered by the new cross party committees.

Councillor Cornelius continued: "The challenge for councils is clear. We will either do things differently or just do less. If we want to protect services to the most vulnerable residents, we will have to come up with new ways of running council services.

It is worth stressing that these sorts of decisions will have to be taken by all of the newly elected councils across the country. The difference in Barnet is that they will be fully discussed in public through cross-party committees."

**"Barnet is in a better position financially than many others because we have not put off difficult decisions in the past. I think it is important that we are able to face up to difficult decisions again if we are to protect the quality of life in the borough and make sure our services are available to those who most need them."**

## New service helps people plan for later life

**O**lder people can now access a new free service enabling them to make key decisions about their future and plan for the challenges ageing can bring.

Age UK Barnet's new Later Life Planning team gives advice across a broad range of areas affecting older people.

Later Life Planning provides a 'one stop shop' for older people to help them make more informed choices about their future to enable them to keep healthy, active and independent.

Jenny Jean-Charles, one of the advisers, explains: "Whether it's a specific urgent concern with welfare or benefits, housing or support services or you want to find out about local social and leisure activities you may want to join, we are here to help. We aim to help people embrace later life."

Funded by Barnet Council, the Later Life Planners team is based at the Ann Owens Centre in East Finchley and advisers are available from 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Anyone aged 55 and over, who lives in Barnet can access the service by phone or email and there are also drop-in and pre-booked surgeries. Clients can speak confidentially to staff or volunteer advisers about their personal circumstances and concerns on a one-to-one basis.

Watch out for Later Life Planners around the borough as Age UK Barnet brings the service to other venues through their partnerships with community, faith and cultural groups.



For more information, visit [www.ageuk.org.uk/barnet](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/barnet) or call Later Life Planners on 020 8432 1417



## How are we doing?

**B**arnet Council has published its third annual round-up of the successes and challenges in adult social care.

The Local Account sets out how well social care services are performing and what the council is planning to do next to develop and improve these services.

Some of the highlights in 2013 included the opening of dementia cafes and the Safe Places scheme for people with learning disabilities, enhancing the wide range of activities for older adults through our Neighbourhood Services, and launching the Emergency Planning service for carers.

Copies of 'How are we doing? Your local account of adult social care in Barnet in 2013', are available at libraries on the council's website at [www.barnet.gov.uk/local-account](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/local-account)

### Locals get cancer advice at pop-up shop

Almost a thousand Barnet residents visited the 'Get to know cancer' shop in The Spires shopping centre in June. Just over 70 were referred to their GP for further advice and about 50 were referred to other services such as stop smoking and walking groups. For more information visit [www.gettoknowcancer.org](http://www.gettoknowcancer.org)

# Helping to reduce repeat offending

As part of Barnet Council's work to help reduce the numbers of crimes committed by re-offenders, a special project was launched in 2012 to bring together a number of teams and agencies.

The Integrated Offender Management programme is designed to break the cycle of repeat offending by working to change the behaviour of offenders.

This programme brings together the council, police, probation service, Jobcentre Plus, housing teams, mental health workers and substance misuse specialists.

Co-ordination with all these organisations means offenders are now receiving practical support that is specifically tailored to them.

One offender who has benefited from the project is Lee (not his real name).

Lee is in his 30s, has difficulty reading and writing, is in casual work from time to time but has been a prolific offender in the past.

Thanks to the IOM programme he now attends a weekly work club run by the probation service, has learned how to use a computer and by working with a

specialist Jobcentre Plus advisor he has put together a CV.

Lee is now applying for two jobs every week and spending time in the work club is helping him overcome many of the difficulties he has faced.

This kind of work is helping to translate into fewer people becoming victims of crime in Barnet.

Between April and September 2013 the number of residential burglaries recorded in Barnet fell by 336 when compared to the same time last year.

It is estimated that around 60 of those were a result of the reduced criminal activity of offenders who have come into contact with the programme.

Overall in Barnet there were over 700 fewer residential burglaries and more than 350 fewer robberies in the 12 months up to February 2014 when compared to the same period last year.

For further information on the Integrated Offender Management programme visit:  
[www.londoncrc.org.uk](http://www.londoncrc.org.uk)



# what's on



## Join in the mission to transform Barnet Sunday 24 August, 12noon – 4pm

**L**ove Barnet was started in 2012 by a group of locals who want to celebrate everything we love about the area and to create a community forum to tackle what needs improving. Our mission is to make Chipping Barnet a vibrant market town and a place of peace and beauty.

So far Love Barnet has de-cluttered much of the pavement furniture along the High Street, updated the church garden in the town centre, improved some local shop-fronts and championed new businesses and the new market. But there's much more to do and we want everybody in the community to have a say and become involved in creating a town with a unique history and heritage, a happening buzz and the best of food, culture and shopping right on our doorstep.

In 2014, Love Barnet is:

- working with The Spires to create a Family Friendly Zone at the heart of the shopping experience (by 24 August)
- running a Love Barnet Festival in The Spires (24 August)
- opening a pop up shop to showcase local talent in association with The Eleanor Palmer Trust, Barnet College and 1 to 1 Flooring called Number 89 (8 September)
- fundraising £10,000 to employ a Town Team Manager to take the work of Love Barnet forward (by 25 December).

To find out more, visit: [www.lovebarnet.co.uk](http://www.lovebarnet.co.uk) or join our mailing list by sending your contact details to [friends@lovebarnet.co.uk](mailto:friends@lovebarnet.co.uk) or follow us on twitter at [love\\_barnet](https://twitter.com/love_barnet)



### Summer activities for the family at Directme

**Directme is Barnet Council's free online directory of year-round activities for residents.** This summer there is a range of activities to entertain kids, and lots of other options for young people, carers and families. Anyone can submit an entry on Directme using the simple online form. You can access the directory on [www.barnet.gov.uk/directme](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/directme)

### Clive Summer 2014

Date: Saturday 19 July

Time: 7pm,

Ages: 13-25

Prices: £5 advance booking/ £6 on the day, available on [www.artsdepot.co.uk/music/clive-summer](http://www.artsdepot.co.uk/music/clive-summer)

Box Office: 020 8369 5454

This event is going to be a fun-packed club night for young people with learning disabilities, their friends and families. There is going to be an open-mic so people can wow the crowd with their singing abilities.

### Summer Reading Challenge 2014 'The Mythical Maze'

Date: Saturday 12 July to  
Monday 8 September

The challenge is for children, aged 4 to 11, to read six books over the summer holiday. They can read whatever genre they like: fact, fiction, picture books, joke books, or comics, as long as they are borrowed from the participating libraries.

The participating libraries are:  
Chipping Barnet, South Friern, Mill Hill, East Barnet and North Finchley.

Find out more at [www.barnet.gov.uk/summerreadingchallenge](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/summerreadingchallenge)

# Working hours

Lewis Pearce has worked for the council for over 18 years as its Senior Mayoral Support Officer. Prior to joining Barnet he served in the Coldstream Guards for 23 years. In June he started working for his 20th Mayor when Councillor Hugh Rayner was sworn into office.

## What does your job involve?

We provide a seven day a week service to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Mayoral representatives. It's not just about driving them and making sure they arrive at official engagements in time – my role also involves looking after the Mayoral regalia and robes, keeping the Mayoral car clean and roadworthy, assisting at functions and events, looking after the Mayor's Parlour and advising the Mayor on protocol.

## Is there a typical day for the Mayor's Office?

No! Every day is different. There are no set hours – we work to the Mayor's diary. One minute you can be at a school assembly, and the next you're at a Royal Garden Party, or the Mayor is welcoming royalty to the borough.

## How many engagements are covered each year?

The Mayor's Office can receive up to 900 invites in a year, and the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Mayoral representatives attend around 500 between them. So, on average, well over one a day.

## What's the most memorable event you've attended?

The one that sticks in my head was several years ago when the then Mayor, ex-Cllr Andreas Tambourides, was attending an event

at Brent Cross. We were on our way to the function when a group of young people tried to grab the Mayor's chain. I had to protect the Mayor (and the chain) until security arrived and the youths were apprehended. After that we carried on as normal and completed the engagement.

## How far afield have you travelled with the Mayor?

Most of our engagements are within the M25, either in Barnet or one of the other 32 London boroughs. However, we often attend the annual Army Reserve and Cadet Units training camps and have visited Salisbury Plain, Norfolk and Sussex.

## Why do you think the role of the Mayor is important in Barnet?

The Mayor's role is important because it is the focus of borough identity, unity and pride, officially recognising success and excellence, and supporting individuals and organisations throughout Barnet.

## What's the best thing about working for the Mayor's Office?

I love the variety of the job. One minute the Mayor's chatting to school children, and the next meeting royals. No two days are the same. It's such an enjoyable job.

