

YOUR VIEWS ON
BARNET FIRST P3

DISHING UP HEALTHY
SCHOOL MEALS P5

A CLEANER
GREENER BARNET P8

BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH

Barnetfirst

issue 17 august/september 2005

WE HAVE LIFT OFF!

'SPACE WEEK' AT WHITEFIELD SCHOOL



www.barnet.gov.uk

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A FEW WORDS FROM THE LEADER

This is the first edition of Barnet First since I became the Leader of Barnet Council.

I feel both delighted and privileged to have been elected by my fellow councillors to lead the borough in which I was born, where I was educated, and where I have lived (in Friern Barnet) for the past 23 years.

I want to start by acknowledging the hard work of my predecessor, Councillor Vic Lyon, who, during his three years as the Leader of the Council, worked tirelessly to improve services for the people of Barnet.

I am committed to picking

up where Cllr Lyon left off and have already identified my five key objectives during my time in office. I want us:

- To deliver first class services without significant increases in council tax
- To turn the plans for the regeneration of our four biggest housing estates and Cricklewood into a reality
- To maintain the high standards within our education service
- To make people feel safer both in their homes and when they are out and about within the borough
- To ensure that we preserve and enhance what is best about Barnet.

There is already a lot of excellent work going on in Barnet and I am convinced that if we all continue to work together we really can achieve the very best for our borough. I look forward to leading the council towards these aims and getting out and about and meeting as many of you as possible in the forthcoming months.

Remember that the next issue of Barnet First is due out at the end of September. In the meantime I hope that you enjoy reading this edition!

Councillor Brian Salinger
Leader
Barnet Council



Barnet First is your magazine, bringing you news and features about what your council is doing for you. For editorial and advertising enquiries, or to make comments, please contact Rachel Tansley by telephoning 0208 359 7795 or e-malling: rachel.tansley@barnet.gov.uk

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Copies of Barnet First are delivered to every home in the borough. Local authority and postal boundaries do not always coincide. If you live outside of the London Borough of Barnet and receive Barnet First we apologise. But we hope you enjoy reading it nonetheless.

Barnet First is printed on environmentally friendly paper and can be recycled after use.

The cost of designing, print and distributing each magazine is 10 pence per issue.

Barnet First is also available in large print or on audio tape.

Barnet first – your views

A big thank you to everybody who took the time to fill in the satisfaction survey that was included in the last edition (June/July) of Barnet First.

The full results are still being collated but initial analysis shows that you like what we're doing, with the majority of you (over 80%) saying that Barnet First was your preferred method for receiving information about the council.

You also told us that you like receiving Barnet First every two months, with information about services and news about the borough as the top subjects that you want to read about in future issues of the magazine.

Local regeneration, crime prevention, news from council meetings, how your council tax money is spent and service improvements were also suggested by you as ideas for future articles and we'll be

doing our very best to ensure that we incorporate your wishes.

We are constantly trying to improve the magazine so you should continue to see some changes over the next few issues. We also plan to carry out a second readers' survey next year to make sure that you still like what we're doing!

Remember, Barnet First is your magazine, aiming to tell you what the council is doing for you. If you have any comments or feedback please send them to: barnetfirst@barnet.gov.uk or telephone (020) 8359 7795.

Congratulations to Edgware resident Marsha Leaman who was the lucky



winner of £50 in M & S vouchers for giving us her views about Barnet First. Her name was pulled from the hat by Councillor Brian Salinger, the new Leader of the Council.

In brief

Attention blue badge holders

Important changes have been made to the Blue Badge Scheme in Barnet.

The council will no longer be writing to badge holders to remind them when their badge is due for renewal.

Holders are now advised to check the expiry date on their badge and to apply to the council for reassessment at least six weeks before the badge expires.

Ring 0208 359 4131 for an application form or visit council offices at Hendon Town Hall in The Burroughs or Barnet House in High Street, Whetstone.

Barnet first – your green magazine!

You may have noticed that the last two issues of Barnet First have looked a little different?

Well that's because we've decided to make the magazine more environmentally-friendly.

Barnet First is now printed on 100% recycled newsprint produced from used newspapers and magazines. The pulp is bleached without the use of chlorine chemicals.

The look of the magazine may have changed but hopefully the quality of the articles hasn't.

We hope that you enjoy reading Barnet First. Please recycle it when you've finished. Remember, anything that's not recycled ends up as landfill – and that's a waste!

See page 9 for an update on recycling.

Happy 50th birthday!

Don't miss the chance to visit Church Farmhouse Museum's 50th Anniversary exhibition, which runs until September.

From transport to Troika pottery, and from gadgets to ghost stories, this celebration of the museum places particular emphasis on past exhibitions, many of them based on the private collections of local residents, and virtually all unique to Church Farm.

The museum, a former farmhouse located on Greyhound Hill, Hendon, was built in 1660 and is now a Grade II* listed building. It opened as a museum for and about Hendon in 1955 and in 1965



expanded its range of exhibits, becoming the museum for The London Borough of Barnet.

The museum is open Monday to Thursday, 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 5.30pm and

Sunday 2pm to 5.30pm. It is closed between 1pm and 2pm and all day on Fridays. Admission is free.

The museum offers a continuous programme of temporary exhibitions on local and social history, crafts and decorative arts. There is a free audio guide to the house, a local history room and a museum shop.

For more information check out our website:

www.barnet.gov.uk/cultural_services/museums or call 0208 203 0130.

In brief

Barnet Multi-Faith Forum

The Forum celebrated its first full year this summer with the support of the Leader of the Council, Brian Salinger. As well as fostering inter-faith relations, the Forum is recognised by the Council as representative of all local faith interests, helping to shape regeneration schemes and public services from a faith perspective. These include services for children and young people, dealing with racial harassment and emergency planning. For further information or if you would like to lend a hand, please phone the Chair, Bernd Koschland, on 020 8203 5527.

Is your child going to school?

Parents in Barnet can now be fined if they do not send their children to school regularly.

Under new Government legislation the council's education welfare team can now issue Fixed Penalty Notices to a parent whose child has poor school attendance, is stopped on a truancy sweep or has unauthorised holidays from school.

The Notice requires the parent to pay £50, which doubles to £100 if it's not paid within 28 days. Failure to pay within 42 days could lead to prosecution in a Magistrates' Court.

Councillor John Marshall, Barnet Council's Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning, says: "We believe that any absence from school is detrimental to a child's education and should be avoided if at all possible."

Face lift for Barnet's parking service

Major changes are set to shake up Barnet's parking service, to make it more user-friendly, customer focused, and to ensure the parking rules are easier to understand.

The council is looking into the following proposals:

- To provide more stability in the cost of resident parking permits – to address residents' concerns over continued increases year after year
- To make available free visitor vouchers for every household with a resident parking permit - to help residents deal with additional parking needs
- To review all Controlled Parking Zones in a rolling programme by consulting with residents and businesses - to ensure they still meet their needs and still provide the

benefits envisaged when they were implemented

- To review giving drivers a "grace" period after their pay and display ticket has expired - to alleviate the annoyance felt by drivers when they get a Penalty Charge Notice minutes after their ticket has run out
- To introduce an observation period for loading/unloading in areas where this is allowed - to help local businesses with their deliveries as they will have a clear time period to show that they are loading or unloading, so that any confusion over why they are parked in a restricted area will be removed

- To introduce the "Moovit" scheme which allows drivers of vehicles loading/unloading to be paged if away from their vehicle – to also help local businesses with their deliveries
- To appoint a customer care manager as the first point of contact for customer correspondence and appeals - to ensure we deliver a better quality service to our customers.

Cabinet Members still need to consider these proposals in detail. Once (and if) approval has been given, Barnet First will keep you posted about the changes to the service as they happen.

Deaf residents benefit from Wendy's year as Mayor

Two deaf residents in Barnet are set to directly benefit from the work of the borough's former Mayor, Councillor Wendy Prentice.

Councillor Prentice, whose year-long term as Mayor ended in May, raised over £35,000 for her chosen charity, Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, during her year in office.

She chose the charity as she wanted to help a cause that involved both people and animals and, in particular,

because there are two people in Barnet who will benefit directly from the money raised.

During her term in office the Mayor attended a range of fundraising events including sponsored cycles, jumble sales, coffee mornings, and the Mayor's walk, as well as attending some 100th birthday parties.

She lists her most memorable moments as two concerts involving The North London Orchestra and international pianist, Bobby Chen, which contributed to her charity appeal. She also pinpoints her visits to schools where she was especially touched by some of the curious questions asked by children such as "how old was she?", "did she live in a palace with servants?"



Greeting members of the Territorial Army when they returned from Iraq.



Highlights of Councillor Prentice's year as Mayor included meeting triumphant members of Barnet Football Club after they won the Conference.

and "where did she buy her necklace"!

Reflecting on the past year Councillor Prentice, who is still a councillor for the High Barnet ward, says: "It has been an honour to be able to spend this time as Mayor and represent the borough.

"It was a rewarding and challenging experience that I will not forget."

Healthy food on the menu

Barnet's schools are leading the way when it comes to dishing up healthy food.

Pupils at 15 of the borough's primaries are now tucking into homemade food cooked by kitchen staff each day, using almost entirely fresh produce.

A further three schools will join the scheme in September and if the trial is successful it could eventually be extended to all Barnet schools.

Barnet is believed to be one of the first London boroughs to trial such a scheme.

Food now being served up includes sausages with Yorkshire pudding, homemade salmon fish cakes, vegetarian lasagne, shepherd's pie, chunky vegetable crumble, freshly baked bread, oaty apple and sultana crumble and freshly made muffins.

The changes follow meetings between the council and head teachers in response to calls from governors and parents for changes to be made to the menus. The scheme also follows on from Jamie Oliver's work in Greenwich, and in anticipation of soon-to-be-announced Government improvements to school meals.

Councillor John Marshall, Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning, says: "We all want to ensure that our children are eating healthy, well balanced meals from an early age, not just at home but at school as well.

"Historically Barnet has always spent more than most councils on its school lunches, and has always tried to serve up healthy meals, but this is the next step in our drive to improve our service even further."

Schools taking part in the pilot are: Underhill Infants and Underhill Juniors in Barnet; Clitterhouse Infants and Clitterhouse Juniors in Cricklewood; Church Hill in East Barnet; Broadfields, Goldbeaters and Woodcroft in Edgware; Manorside in Finchley; Holly Park in Friern Barnet; Blessed Dominic and The Orion in Grahame Park; Bell Lane in Hendon; Courtland and Fairway in Mill Hill; Brunswick Park in Southgate; and Queenswell Infants and Queenswell Juniors in Whetstone.



Don't lose your right to vote

Your electoral registration form should be delivered to your home in early August.

Whether or not you are eligible to vote, we still need you to tell us by 28 October if the details about your household on the form are correct.

If they are, you can register by post, telephone or online. Details of how to do this are included with the form.

If they are incorrect, you need to amend the form and return it to us by post.

We need a response from every property. If the form shows that you are already registered, you should not assume that your name will be carried forward to the updated register.

Remember, if you do not register, you cannot vote. Full council elections are due to be held on 4 May 2006.

For more information contact the helpline on 020 8359 5577, email ero@barnet.gov.uk or visit the Electoral Registration Office, Colinhurst House, 168 Station Road, Hendon NW4 3HA.



Introducing Your Councillors

Barnet has 63 councillors, or elected members, who represent particular areas of the borough, known as wards. There are 21 wards and all have three councillors who each serve for four years.

For more details visit:

www.barnet.gov.uk/local_democracy/councillors_wards

BRUNSWICK PARK WARD

LYNNE HILLAN (Con)

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 2nd Saturday every month,
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DANIEL HOPE (Con)

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CLAIRE FARRIER (Lab)

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 10.30am-12noon

CHILDS HILL WARD

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 10.30am-12noon

PAUL ROGERS (Lab)

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 10.30am-12noon

SOON-HOE TEH (Lab)

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EAST BARNET WARD

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 Also 3rd Saturday every month,
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EAST FINCHLEY WARD

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FINCHLEY CHURCH END

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GOLDERS GREEN WARD

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 Sports Centre, 12noon-1pm

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 Sports Centre, 12noon-1pm

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 Saturdays, 331 Ballards Lane, North Finchley, N12, 10-11.30am

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(020) 8731 9680
 cllr.a.schneiderman@barnet.gov.uk
 Saturdays, 331 Ballards Lane, North Finchley, N12, 10-11.30am

In brief

Have you got a noisy neighbour?

Barnet Council is available on its emergency hotline (020 8359 2000), from 8pm Friday to 7am Monday to "troubleshoot" when neighbours cause a noisy problem. This enables Environmental Services to concentrate the council's resources at times of high demand, while continuing to be available to callers during office hours.

The council dealt with just under 5000 requests for help last year, ranging from car alarms and bonfires to noise from pubs and parties. Where possible staff seek to settle the situation amicably, but may have to resort to formal action.

New powers will create a cleaner Barnet

The first measures of the new Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, which came into force in June, will help the council in its mission to create a cleaner, greener Barnet by tackling those who selfishly harm the environment.

The Act now makes it an offence to fly tip; sell more than two cars on the highway; repair vehicles on the road as part of a business operation; drop litter including cigarette ends and chewing gum; and drop litter in lakes, ponds and watercourses.

Fixed Penalty Notices can now be issued for dropping litter anywhere in the open air and abandoning a vehicle. The council also has powers to deal with people handing out leaflets without prior permission.



Thing of the past? The new act will give the council increased powers to deal with fly-tippers

Penalties for fly tipping have been increased, so a person convicted could now face a fine of up to £50,000 or a year in prison. The council is also considering increasing the

Fixed Penalty Notice charge from £50 to £75.

Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Matthew Offord, says: "We already have a good track record in taking action against those that blight our local environment and these new powers will allow us to go further.

"We are serious about making appropriate use of them to protect the law-abiding majority of people who are made to suffer because of the actions of a few."

First school gets solar panel



Pupils at St James' Catholic High School, Colindale, are the first in the borough to receive some of their electricity directly from the sun via a solar panel.

The system covers a roof area of 11.5 square metres and generates over 1200 kWh of electricity per year, which will save the school about £75 on energy bills and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by over 500kg.

For the past two years, the council has worked with the school on a range of environmental projects including a recycling scheme and a vegetable garden. The school is now looking to install a wind turbine.

The council is continuing to look at using renewable energy technologies and it is hoped that this partnership will result in more renewable energy systems being installed in new school buildings planned for Barnet.

Barnet's Mayor meets his twin!

Barnet's Mayor, Councillor Andreas Tambourides found out about life in Ramat Gan during a recent cultural exchange to Barnet's twin town.

Cllr Tambourides, his wife Joanna and Councillor Eva Greenspan were officially invited to the Israeli city by its Mayor, Mr Zvi Bar and the President of Ramat Gan Foundation and Foreign Relations, Mr Moshe Meron, with the hope of bolstering already strong relations between the two areas.

During his stay the Mayor visited a number of different places including Bar Ilan University, Sheba Medical Centre, The Holocaust Museum and Western Wall in Jerusalem.

Councillor Tambourides was very impressed with different aspects of the Ramat Gan community, picking up, in particular, on the standards of educational excellence and health facilities.



He said: "It is always refreshing and informative to open a window onto different cultures and countries and I am sure the experiences we have had in Ramat Gan will benefit our work in Barnet."

In brief

Recycling on target!

Barnet's recycling rate has surged since compulsory recycling went borough-wide and the garden waste scheme was extended to another 44,000 households in March. Latest figures show that over 25 per cent of the borough's rubbish is now recycled, a huge leap from the 16 per cent recorded before the radical new scheme started in 2004. So a big "well done" to all residents who are doing their bit. Everyone is encouraged to continue recycling as much as possible so that together we reach our 30 per cent target.

And Barnet's recycling effort is gaining accolades. London Mayor Ken Livingstone recently praised the compulsory recycling scheme, saying that should it prove successful in increasing recycling, he would like to see it extended across London.

The sky is not the limit!

Pupils at Whitefield School in Cricklewood certainly had their heads in the clouds when they spent a week learning about space.

A visit from the Nova/Starchaser rocket, accompanied by two rocket scientists who work on its space programme, launched the event.

Standing at 11 metres tall, the Nova/Starchaser 4 was the largest rocket ever to be flown from the UK mainland when it was launched in November 2001. It is now used as a centrepiece in the Starchaser Educational Outreach Programme.

Students at Whitefield School have been looking at the space theme since June 2004 when two of their teachers, Lorraine Mulcahy and Catherine Halliwell, spent a week working with specialists at NASA in Florida looking at innovative ways of teaching children.



what's on



Your guide to what's happening in Barnet during August and September

Leisure/Pastimes

50 Years of Church Farmhouse Museum
Until 4 September

HADAS archaeology in the Museum Garden
6 & 7 Aug

The Colin the Clown Show
7 Aug

An Exhibition of Exhibitions
24 Sept - 20 Nov
From the Great Exhibition to the Millennium Dome. Free entry. Details/opening hours/times of events: 020 8203 0130.

'A Flavour of the Fifties' exhibition
Until 31 Oct
Barnet Museum, 31 Wood Street Barnet. Free entry. Details/opening times: 020 8440 8066.

'Battle of Britain Weekend'
17 & 18 Sept

1-31 Aug. Indoor and outdoor activities; 17 & 18 Sept. 'Battle of Britain Weekend'. RAF Museum, Grahame Park Way, NW9 5LL. Free entry. 020 8358 4849. www.rafmuseum.org



New Barnet Amateur Gardeners and Floral Art Society Autumn Show

11 Aug. 8pm. Informal practical gardening, floral art workshops and question time. Lyonsdown Hall, 3 Lyonsdown Road. Free entry; 3 Sept. 2pm. New Barnet Amateur Gardeners and Floral Art Society Autumn Show. St John's Church Hall, Mowbray Road. Entry 50p. 020 8449 8836.

Historical and 'ghostly' walks in High Barnet and Hadley. £5, accompanied under 12s free. 020 8440 6805.

Barnet and District Local History Society talk
2 Sept, 8pm
'Victorian Women in Interior Design' by Jean Fletcher. Church House, Wood Street, Barnet. 020 8440 8066.

'History of Finchley, Electronically' talk by Hugh Petrie
29 Sept, 8pm
The Finchley Society, Drawing Room, Avenue House, 17 East End Road, N3. Non-society members welcome. Free entry.

London Wildlife Trust (Barnet Group) events. Details John Rogers 020 8959 7274 /central office 020 7261 0447.

NW London RSPB Group events call 020 8958 1193.

Arts

'Outrageous Wallpapers' exhibition
Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture, Middlesex University's campus, Cat Hill EN4 8HT. Free entry. Details/opening times 020 8411 5244. www.moda.mdx.ac.uk

The Barnet Open (mixed art exhibition)
25 Aug - 15 Sept
Free; 24 Sept. 8pm. Cleo Laine and John Dankworth and Friends. £20/£18 slips; 29 Sept. 8pm. James Seabright and Newnham Green Arts - Barb Jung. £15/£12 slips; 27 Sept. 7pm. Half Moon 'Blow Back' play. £6; 29 Sept. 7.30pm. Sankalpam 'Psyche' dance. £10/£8 conc. [artsdepot](http://artsdepot.co.uk), 5 Nether Street, Tally Ho Corner, North Finchley N12 0GA. Box office 020 8369 5454. www.artsdepot.co.uk

Salsa Live!
10 Sept, 8.30pm
£9/£7.50 conc. (class 7.30pm, £2 plus entry); 15 Sept. Band Night, 8.30pm. £6; 18 Sept. Jazz on Sundays, 8pm. £8.50/£6.50 conc.; 25 Sept. Jo Collins and friends, 8.30pm. £7/£5 conc. Chicken Shed Theatre, Chase Side, Southgate, N14 4PE. Box office 020 8292 9222. www.chickenshed.org.uk

Arts & Crafts Fair plus The Franklin St. New Orleans Jazz Band
17 Sept, 10am-4.30pm
St. Paul's Church Hall, The Ridgeway, Mill Hill Village, NW7. Entry £1

Summer Festivals

Friern Barnet Summer Show
19 - 21 Aug
Friary Park, Friern Barnet Lane, N11. Entry £3 adults/£1.50 children & senior citizens. Details 020 8445 8388.

Watling Festival
11 Sept
Montrose Park, Watling Avenue, NW11. £1 admission, 50p children/conc. Details 020 8959 8595.

Under 18s

All aboard for the Reading Voyage



16 July-17 Sept
Children's FREE national summer reading challenge and events (Reading Voyage Pirate Library Trail, Reading Voyage Art, Pirate Pandemonium and Voyages on the net) in libraries across the borough. Details in libraries or 020 8359 7779.

Free events
Until 31 Aug
(Watersports, catering, camping, first aid and much more). Southgate and Barnet Sea Cadets, Osidge Lane, Southgate. Details 07961 287441/email turnipog@hotmail.com

Summer Drama School
8-12 Aug. 11am-3pm
Ages 11-19. £65; 11 Sept. 3pm. Obelon Arts 'Three Singing Pigs'. Ages 3-9. £5; 18 Sept. 3pm. Tam Tam Theatre 'The Dream Tree'. Ages 3-8. £5; 25 Sept. 3pm. Blind Summit Theatre 'Spaceman'. Ages 6+. £5 [artsdepot](http://artsdepot.co.uk), 5 Nether Street, Tally Ho Corner, North Finchley N12 0GA. Box office 020 8369 5454. www.artsdepot.co.uk



Youth Music Centre Enrolment (2005/2006)
26 Jun, 3pm
The Tea House, Northway, Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW11. Call Jane Barnett on 020 8343 1940/email mail@youthmusiccentre.org.uk

'Tales From the Shed'
From 9 Sept, Fridays and Saturdays 9.30am & 11.15am
Interactive Children's Shows for the under 7s. Entry £5 adult/£4 conc.; child £3.50/£2.50 conc. Chicken Shed Theatre, Chase Side, Southgate, N14. Box office 020 8292 9222. www.chickenshed.org.uk

Showstoppers Performing Arts School
Summer Schemes for ages 4-16. Details/to book call Sarah Macmull on 020 8444 9129 or 07979 574364.

Miscellaneous
Sponsored swim in aid of NSPCC and The National Autistic Society
10 Sept, 10am
Oakleigh Park School of Swimming, 100 Oakleigh Road North, Whetstone, N20 9EZ. Details 020 8445 1911 or visit school.

Two hour Information Session on Working with Children
14 Sept
Freephone 0800 389 8312 to find out more.

Jewish Military Museum
Harmony Way, off Victoria Road, Hendon, NW4 2BZ. Visits by appointment 020 8202 2323/email headoffice@ajex.org.uk www.ajex.org.uk

Contacting your council

For general enquiries, or if you know the name of the person or section you want to speak to, call our main switchboard on **020 8359 2000**.

For more detailed enquiries on council services please get in touch with first.contact@barnet.gov.uk:

Telephone: 020 8359 2277
BT TextDirect: 18001 020 8359 2040
Fax: 020 8359 2197
Email: first.contact@barnet.gov.uk

A-Z of services in Barnet

A

Abandoned vehicles

020 8359 7399

Adoption

020 8359 5705

B

Barnet Homes

0800 389 5225

Barnet Homeseekers

020 8359 4797

Barnet Housing Aid Centre

020 8446 2504

Blue badge parking permits

020 8359 4208/4131

Business rates

020 8359 2735/2163

C

Council housing repairs

0800 389 5225

Cemetery and crematorium

020 8346 0657

Children's Information Service

0800 389 8312

Community centre bookings:

Cheshir Hall, Garth Hall

and Spur Road

020 8359 5258

Grahame Park

020 8200 3014

West Hendon

020 8359 5411

Watling

020 8959 2259

Council Anti-Fraud Hotline

020 8359 2007

Council recruitment

020 8288 2319

Council tax enquiries

020 8359 2608

Customer care unit

020 8359 4600

E

Education service

020 8359 7618

Electoral services

020 8359 5577

Emergency council telephone service

020 8359 2000

F

First Contact

(for all general enquiries)

020 8359 2277

Fostering

020 8359 6274

H

Hospitals:

Barnet and Chase Farm

0845 111 4000

Edgware Community

020 8952 2381

Finchley Memorial

020 8349 6300

Housing and Council Tax benefits

0208 359 2111

L

Leisure centres and swimming pools:

Barnet Copthall

020 8457 9900

Finchley Lido

020 8343 9830

Hendon

020 8455 0818

Barnet and Burnt Oak

020 8201 0982

Church Farm

020 8368 7070

Compton

020 8361 8658

Queen Elizabeth

020 8441 2933

Libraries

020 8359 7770

M

Mobile library service

020 8458 1139

N

Noise nuisance

020 8359 7997

P

Parking permits

8359 7580/1/2

Parks and open spaces

020 8359 4600

Planning applications and enquiries

020 8359 3000

R

Recycling facilities

020 8359 7400

Refuse collection

020 8359 4600

Registry office

020 8731 1100

S

Social Services for the elderly

020 8359 2440

Special collections

(bulk refuse collection)

020 8359 5043

Switchboard

020 8359 2000

T

Trading Standards

0845 404 0506

Y

Young people's advice line

020 8492 7332

Youth and Connexions service

8359 7819/7831

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 Area Forums 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, apart from Cabinet or Council meetings. Further information can be obtained by contacting Democratic Services.

August

- 1 Cabinet Overview & Scrutiny
- 2 Chipping Barnet Area Environment Sub-committee
Finchley & Golders Green Area Environment Sub-committee
Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee
- 9 Chipping Barnet Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 10 Hendon Area Planning Sub-committee
- 11 Finchley & Golders Green Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 24 Planning & Environment Committee
- 30 Cabinet
- 31 Audit Committee
Tackling Crime & Housing Overview & Scrutiny

September

- 1 Resources Scrutiny Committee
- 5 Finchley & Golders Green Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 6 Chipping Barnet Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 7 Hendon Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 12 Cabinet Overview & Scrutiny
- 13 Council
- 19 First Class Education & Children Overview & Scrutiny
- 20 Cleaner, Greener, Transport & Development Overview & Scrutiny
Supporting the Vulnerable in our Community Overview & Scrutiny
- 21 Planning & Environment Committee
- 26 Cabinet Resources Committee
- 27 Chipping Barnet Area Environment Sub-committee
Finchley & Golders Green Area Environment Sub-committee
Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee
Cabinet Equalities Committee
- 28 Barnet Area Forum
Finchley Area Forum
Hendon Area Forum
- 29 Hendon Area Planning Sub-Committee

Could you open your door for a child?

Barnet Council's fostering service is still looking for families that can give a child a home.

Over the last two years the council has increased the number of local foster homes available to our children from 120 to 180 – but more are still needed.

"Barnet is an extremely diverse borough and the council is currently looking for carers of all backgrounds to match the needs of its children," says fostering team manager, Rosie King.

"There is a national shortage of foster carers and Barnet is no exception. We are currently looking for about 40 more carers."

Despite many myths to the contrary, foster carers can be married, single or divorced and may or may not have children of their own, although it helps to have experience of working with children. Anyone aged 21 or over can apply to foster.

Very often fostering is temporary, in most cases the children return to their own families.

"Stability and the child's friends and identity are very important to them, whenever

possible we try to keep them within the borough so that their schooling is not disrupted," says Rosie.

"Although the needs of children are always our first concern we know that we can only meet their needs by taking good care of our foster parents."

The council's latest recruitment drive "Open a door for a child" aims to promote fostering as a positive choice for people who want to offer a safe, secure and stable home to children while their own parents are unable to look after them.

"Fostering is not an easy option as the children who need homes may have been maltreated or traumatised by their experiences," says Rosie.

"We need foster carers who are able to support children in these circumstances and give them an opportunity to thrive."

Our current carers tell us that they find fostering a very worthwhile and rewarding job. The job satisfaction to be gained from giving a child a better start in life is obvious but the financial incentives exist too.

New Barnet home.

She initially contacted the council's fostering team last year and after a nine-month assessment period she began looking after her first child – in January.

"I have always wanted to work with children," Temi told Barnet First.

"I did a law degree but decided not to pursue it."

"So I thought about what I really enjoyed doing and decided to apply to become a foster carer."

"I am enjoying every second of it!" she added.

Christine's story

Seventeen years after becoming a foster carer and over 40 children later, Christine still loves fostering.

"I couldn't do it if I didn't enjoy it," she told Barnet First.

"It is so rewarding seeing the changes you can make to the child's life and to watch their progress."

"But it is a full time job and people shouldn't do it if they have any doubts."

Christine decided to apply to become a foster carer after seeing a recruitment campaign run by Barnet Council.

"It made me stop and think," she said.

"We had room in the house, which is important because the child needs his or her own space, and I liked having children around so I made the first phone call to find out more and it went on from there."

She now looks after children aged between three and 13 (she no longer cares for babies) and says some of the children only stay for a few days while others have stayed with her for two years.

She has four daughters herself – aged 23, 20, 18 and 15 – and says their support is invaluable.

"I certainly couldn't do it without having 100% commitment from the rest of my family," she adds.

Our fostering allowances vary from £326 to £537.

"Our foster carers are very valuable to us and we need people to come forward now to

help us give children a good start in life," adds Rosie.

If you are interested in becoming a foster carer, call 0208 359 6274 for more details.

Temi's story

Law graduate Temi began fostering in January this year after she decided that a career in the legal profession was not for her.

Since then she has already looked after a number of children, ranging in age from six months to 13 years, and says she is thoroughly enjoying it!

Temi, who has a 15-year-old daughter, says that she decided to become a foster carer because she loves children and is always having her friends' sons and daughters round to her

