

barnetfirst

issue 39 November/December 2009



High street hideaways
celebrating our local shops

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Barnet First is your magazine, bringing you news and features about what your council is doing for you. For editorial or advertising queries, or to make comments about the magazine, please contact Jade Asije on 020 8359 7737 or jade.asije@barnet.gov.uk

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

Photography by Mike Langton, Simon O'Connor, Antonisia Schroder and Mike Godleman.

Leader's column



Several pages of this edition of Barnet First are devoted to our coming budget round. We will be consulting residents widely over the coming months. This is partly down to our commitment to involving the public wherever we can in developing the council. But it also reflects the difficult choices that have to be made this year. We want to make sure that, as much as possible, we are following the priorities set by Barnet residents as we prepare for coming years.

Barnet is an efficient council with services rated either three or four stars alongside very low administration cost. This means that some of the services we will have to make cuts to are doing fine work and are appreciated by the people who receive them. Public consultation is important but will not let politicians duck difficult, and let's face it, at times unpopular decisions.

This magazine hopefully explains where your money goes, how Barnet compares to other councils in London and how you can influence next year's budget.

I hope as many of you as possible take the time to attend our events or send us your views.

On a more cheerful note, this month's redesigned Barnet First highlights just a few of the local shops and traders that we are lucky enough to have in Barnet. I hope you will join me in doing your festive shopping locally this year, and do all you can to support your local high street.

Mike Freer

News in brief

Blue badge crackdown



Officers from the council's Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) have been out in force at Brent Cross Shopping Centre to crack down on the illegal use of disabled parking blue badges.

The operation, run jointly with Barnet Police, was the latest council initiative to tackle the misuse of blue badges, which is a crime that costs the taxpayer thousands of pounds every year.

Previous operations have led to fixed penalties, arrests and, for some of the most serious offenders, court summons. However the last operation resulted in just two fixed penalties being issued for misuse – a result which officers believe may be down to a higher public awareness of the council's zero tolerance approach to illegally using the badges.

For more information on parking please visit www.barnet.gov.uk/parking

The best of Barnet Tales

We had dozens of entries for our latest competition when we asked residents to tell us a tale about a

Barnet area or person. To read the winning stories visit: www.barnet.gov.uk/barnet-tales

Barnet Music Service tunes up for Barnet One Voice at the Royal Albert Hall



1500 children from 30 Barnet primary and secondary schools, bands, orchestras and music centres will take part in the massive Barnet One Voice concert on 29 April 2010.

The concert will represent music from across the borough and will include Barnet's own performance of Bizet's Carmen in the second half. If you know a young person who sings or plays an orchestral instrument and would like to play in one of Barnet's music centre groups or sing in a choir, please email lynn.holman-fox@barnet.gov.uk, or visit www.barnet.gov.uk/barnet-one-voice

We want your views on how to deal with waste



Barnet residents are invited to give their views on how best to deal with the future management of waste across north London.

A draft version of the North London Waste Plan (NLWP) has been issued for consultation until 24 November.

Copies of the draft plan are available in local libraries and council offices. You can also download a copy at www.barnet.gov.uk/waste-plan-consultation

Intern scheme launched for school, college and university leavers



A council intern scheme has been launched for school, college and university leavers to tackle 'first job syndrome'.

The scheme will hopefully help young people who can't get their first job, because they don't have experience of a working environment.

Young people will have the opportunity to work in a range of services across the council, increasing their knowledge of local government and developing their skills.

Under the intern programme no wages will be paid, although lunch and travel expenses will be covered.

For details of how to apply please visit www.barnet.gov.uk/interns

Providing a voice for people with learning disabilities



A new 'Parliament' has been created for people with learning disabilities to help develop services and discuss health provision and employment prospects in Barnet.

The 'Barnet Learning Disability Parliament' has been set up along the same lines as the UK Parliament, with nine different Barnet-based 'constituencies' from the different learning disability providers in the borough.

Set up by the Barnet Peoples Choice, a community organisation, the Parliament involves people with learning disabilities from The Space, Flower Lane, Norwood, Tamarisk, Harold Court Community Residential Team, Rosa Morrison, Barnet Mencap and the Community Support Team.

For further information please visit www.barnet.gov.uk/learning-disability-parliament

New skatepark launched at Friary Park



Young skaters got the chance to show off their skills with the opening of Friary Park's new £30,000 skatepark.

The skatepark, which was created as a result of listening to what young people in the area wanted, is the first stage in a facelift for play facilities at the park.

Later this year Friary Park is set to benefit further with an extra £20,000 boost to replace some of its older play equipment.

To have your say on play in your area, please visit www.londonplay.org.uk/naturalplay

Shaping the future of the borough



If you want your say on how Barnet develops over the next 15 years, this is your chance.

Meetings will be held across the borough for those who would like to discuss any issues with

planning officers, and residents can also write in with their comments.

Paper copies can be viewed at libraries in Barnet and the council planning reception at Barnet House. More detailed information can be obtained from the Core Strategy Direction of Travel document on our website at www.barnet.gov.uk/planning-consultations

Library makeover complete



The final library to benefit from Barnet Council's £1.24 million library improvement programme has reopened.

South Friern Library on Colney Hatch Lane has welcomed visitors back

after undergoing a complete rebuild to improve the building's facilities and access.

The enlarged library building, which has increased from 380 to 410 square metres, now boasts free Wi-Fi internet access along with a number of personal computers available for residents to reserve and use free of charge.

A teen area stocked with the latest books, DVDs and CDs including study materials for key stage three and GCSE exams, has also been installed along with a designated children's section providing reading and learning materials for the 0 – 11 age range.

The library will open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays between 9.30am – 1pm/2pm – 5pm and Wednesdays between 10am – 1pm/2pm – 8pm.

For more information on this and other libraries visit www.barnet.gov.uk/libraries

Protect your home from burglars



Targeting burglars is a priority for Barnet Police. As winter approaches, the hours of darkness are increasing and crime prevention tactics are a key way to help reduce the number of burglaries in the borough.

Borough Commander Neil Basu said: "Every officer at Barnet is committed to tackling the menace of burglary. We are working in partnership with a variety of organisations to help make Barnet as safe as possible, but our most effective partners in fighting burglary are Barnet's own residents. By using some simple crime prevention tactics to make your home more secure, you can help us reduce crime and make Barnet a safer place to live."

For key tips on reducing crime visit www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention

Christmas and New Year waste and recycling collection dates

All services will operate as normal apart from:

Friday 25 December and Friday 1 January 2010 - there will be no collections. Residents will receive information on Friday 18 December advising them of the revised collection dates.

Saturday 26 December and Saturday 2 January 2010 – there will be no collection of the green bins for green garden and kitchen waste.

All collections return to normal from 4 January 2010

www.barnet.gov.uk/recycling-christmas-newyear-collections

Your chance to reduce Council Tax

Or raise it, or spend it differently.

Barnet Council is launching an extensive consultation with residents on Council Tax and other budget matters. Public meetings will be held by the council's budget and performance overview and scrutiny committee, and a series of Leader Listens events will discuss council spending as a key theme.

“...the role of residents in prioritising our work is key”

There will also be an online 'budget setter' allowing residents to see what impact 'cutting' or 'increasing' spending across different departments would make to their Council Tax.

The coming year is likely to present an especially difficult budget for councils across the UK, due to the economic situation facing the country. Twin pressures of restrictions to public spending and a growing demand for key council services are also presenting councils with real challenges.

Councillor Lynne Hillan, Cabinet Member for Resources, commented:

“Advances in healthcare and changing lifestyles have given us an older population with complicated medical needs. Barnet Council is committed to supporting as many of the people who receive our



**MORE CHOICE,
BETTER VALUE**

care services in their own homes as possible, but this care has to be supported by the tax payer. It puts pressure on other council budgets.”

As landfill tax increases the cost of disposing of household waste increases. This will see year on year rises in the cost of burying such waste in landfill sites. If Barnet simply collects and processes waste over the next five years in the same way it currently does, disposal costs will rise by 75 per cent.

Councillor Hillan added: “We will be making difficult choices over the next few months and the role of residents in prioritising our work is key.”

www

Have your say on the council's budget 2010/11
www.barnet.gov.uk/budget



“I am very satisfied with the work that has been done and I’m over the moon”

Odd jobs done for free

A £52,000 financial boost from the council has allowed the Handyperson Scheme run by Age Concern Barnet to expand its services. Barnet First has been speaking to 79-year-old Finchley resident Avis Wootton about what a difference the scheme is making to older people's lives in the borough.

The scheme provides a handyman, or woman, free of charge for older residents in the borough to do those odd jobs that older people struggle to do themselves. The only cost to residents is the parts needed to do the job. As handyman Michael Hill says: “Some of the jobs will seem small to you or me, but they make a difference to our customers. To them it's the world. Some of our customers can hardly move and the job we do is enabling them to live independently in a safe environment.”

Avis lives on her own. Both her two children live outside London and are able to visit

**PROMOTING
INDEPENDENCE**

her only occasionally. She is fiercely independent and was delighted to hear about the service. She said: “I am very satisfied with the work that has been done and I'm over the moon. I know a lot of older people who are frail. They may need a bit of a push to call the scheme but I think it is wonderful.”

The Handyperson Scheme will do any small jobs around the house, but it is not able to undertake major plumbing, gas or electrical work.



To contact the scheme, call 020 8150 0963 or email handy.acb@btconnect.com

For more information on this service visit

www.barnet.gov.uk/home-improvements

You can play your part in helping Barnet through the recession by doing your festive shopping in the borough.

There are a great range of shops from super stores to specialist boutiques.

These are just seven, spread across Barnet. Shop early, shop local!

1. Mays Pet Shop

195 Mays Lane, EN5 2DY
tel: 020 8441 1314

If you're looking for a pet, or a place to get yours groomed, look no further. With rabbits, hamsters and singing birds, this place is sure worth a visit. Open 9am – 6pm Monday to Saturday.

2. Jennie Mann

63a Church Lane, London N2 8DR
tel: 020 8365 2284

Originally just a florist, it now sells a range of products including candles, lamps and jewellery specially chosen from across Europe and South East Asia, and has a beauty salon on the premises - ideal for ladies who lunch.

Open 8.30am – 5.30am Monday to Friday,
8.30am – 4pm Saturday and late night Thursdays.

3. Retro Bloke

47 Church Road Hendon NW4 4EB
tel: 020 8203 8868

A mixture of vintage and recently released albums and video games, this is any man's idea of heaven. Open 11am – 6pm Monday to Saturday.

Celebrating



High street hideaways

4. Grahams

134 – 136 East End Rd, London N2 0RZ,
tel: 020 8883 6187

One of the most upmarket butchers in north London, Grahams sells only organic and free range meat sourced mainly from the Orkney Islands, while also having a wide range of cooked products and an in-house catering service. Open 8am – 5pm Tuesday to Friday, 8am – 4pm Saturday and 8am – 1pm Sunday.

5. Da Vincenzo

210b Ballards Lane, N3 2NA tel: 020 8346 1960

Run by Vincenzo himself, this delightful Italian deli sells some products you're not going to find in any supermarket. From specialist Italian cheeses to authentic pasta and sauces.

Open 8am – 6pm Monday to Saturday
and 10am – 5pm Sunday

6. Carmellis Bagel Bakery

128 Golders Green Road, NW11 8HB
tel: 020 8455 2074

This Kosher bakery is family run and sells a range of patisseries, wedding cakes and bagels all made on the premises. Famous London-wide, it often stays open round the clock.

Open 6am – 1am, Monday to Friday, 24hrs Thursday. Times vary Friday and Saturday.

7. Scrummagers

2 St. Albans Road, Barnet EN5 4JX
tel: 020 8441 6462

A range of luxury and novelty, art deco furniture, this store will leave you wanting more. Open 10am – 5pm Monday to Saturday. Closed Thursdays and Sundays.



To find out more about your local town centre visit
www.barnet.gov.uk/town-centres



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7

**CLEAN, GREEN
AND SAFE**

Community spirit brings garden **alive**

For years Angela Bowers had looked out of her window and seen an overgrown and unused piece of land staring back.

“It was a mess of the normal stinging nettles and wild blackberry,” the retired hairdresser from High Barnet explains.

“It was a bit of an eyesore and I was just looking out the window one morning thinking, that’s such a mess, should I...?”

Deciding the small island which sits in the middle of her cul-de-sac would make an interesting project, Angela phoned the council and asked if she and a group of her neighbours could take ownership.

“They said if you think you can do something with it, go ahead,” Angela recalls.

Now six years on, residents of East View have transformed the former weed-ridden plot into a thriving community garden.

“It’s been a great way of bringing the community together,” Angela says with a sense of achievement.

“As the years went by it progressed and people were patting me on the back saying it was a delight to look at.”

Neighbours were asked if they could donate plants and any other interesting items which could be used on the island.

With many families living in the area, children were also encouraged to become involved with the project by painting and decorating many of the island’s features including plant plots and decorative stones.





Angela (right) with a green fingered neighbour

“they said if you think you can do something with it, go ahead”

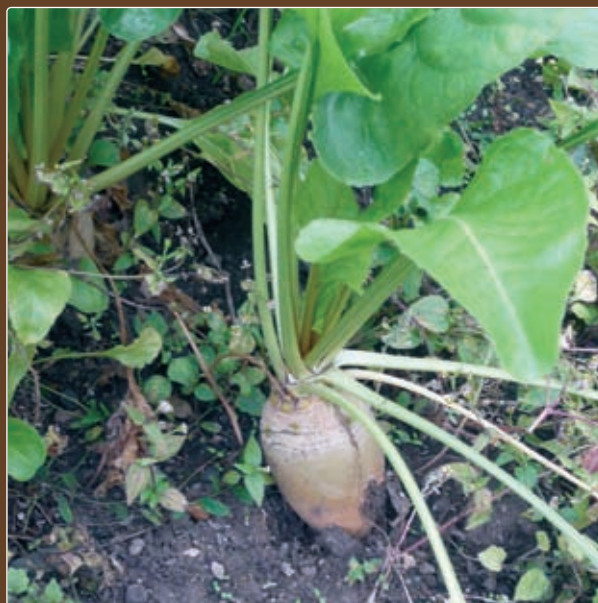
Persuaded by friends to enter this year’s council-run Barnet in Bloom competition, judges were impressed by the strong sense of community spirit shown in the garden’s creation. They awarded it ‘most outstanding garden overall’ for the second year running.

“I think last year I was a bit numb and didn’t really expect anything out of it,” Angela says with a smile. “But to be chosen a second time ups it and I’m very excited and absolutely delighted that the judges felt we were worth a second win.”

Angela and her neighbours are now proposing to take over the running of another piece of disused land nearby to develop another new community garden.



To view a video about the community garden visit www.barnet.gov.uk/bib



Closer than you think

Whether it’s for growing vegetables, nurturing plants or simply relaxing on a Sunday afternoon, setting foot on your own allotment could be a lot closer than you think.

Depending on where in the borough you’d like to start digging, it’s possible you could be setting up your own potting shed within the space of just three months.

With over 1100 full size plots across the borough, Barnet Council’s allotment waiting times are far below the London average.

As more people try to cut their ‘food miles’, reduce their shopping bills and decide to grow their own, allotments have fast become one of the capital’s most sought-after possessions.

Plots are available to everyone and it doesn’t matter whether you’re a green fingered expert or looking to harvest your own strawberries for the very first time – we can help you get growing.

If you would like to find out more about renting an allotment visit: www.barnet.gov.uk/allotments

My first day at

Your child's first day at school is a milestone a parent never forgets. One mum shares her daughter's memorable first few days.

Geraldine Lee, 34, from High Barnet, whose daughter attends Foulds Primary School, says:

“Seeing how well Kira's settled into school makes me so proud. As a baby she was really clingy and would cry for an hour when I left her at nursery. Eventually she loved it, but I was worried how she'd find school.

It's strange seeing my once shy baby growing into a confident child

Watching Kira try on her uniform for the first time made me realise how quickly she's grown up.

It doesn't seem like two minutes since I was holding her in my arms. Now here was my baby wearing a uniform – she looked too grown up.

Kira walked in holding mine and my husband John's hands. The teaching assistant greeted us and after a kiss and cuddle Kira went inside. I kept my emotions in check; Kira's very sensitive and I knew if she picked up my anxiety it might set her off.

I busied myself with work at home but my mind kept drifting off to Kira in her classroom. Soon it was 12noon and time to collect her.

Kira greeted me with a smile and was buzzing with the new school rules on our walk home.

By 7pm she was asking for bed. A week later she still really loves it. It's strange seeing my once shy baby growing up into this confident, independent child but I feel happy there's no other place she'd rather be.”

**A BRIGHT FUTURE
FOR CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE**



What's on
in Barnet
November
December

Now's the time to apply

- if your child was born between 1 September 2005 and 31 August 2006 you need to apply for a 2010/11 primary school place
- from 1 September 2009 you can apply online at www.barnet.gov.uk/school-admissions or email school.admissions@barnet.gov.uk to request an application pack
- the closing date is 8 January 2010
- you'll be posted a letter on 16 April 2010 to notify you of a place (or from 4pm on 16 April 2009 if you applied online).

For help or advice contact a member of the Admissions Team on 020 8359 7651



The Little Shop of Horrors musical

Dates: 10 – 14 November

Cost: £12 (£10 concessions)

Location: The Bull Theatre

For tickets visit

www.ticketsource.co.uk/ffbos

Christmas Past and Present

Date: 6 December – 6 January 2010

Location: Church Farmhouse Museum

Visit www.churchfarmhousemuseum.co.uk

for information on other events

Creative Routes 2008 – a celebration of young artistic talent in Barnet

Date: 4 December – 10 January 2010

Location: artsdepot

The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus – a magical festive tale

Date: 4 December – 3 January 2010

Cost: All tickets £5

Location: artsdepot

Chanukah

Join in with traditional songs and enjoy traditional foods as each evening (except Sabbath) the electric Chanukah is lit.

Date: 11 – 19 December

Location: Brent Cross Shopping Centre

Visit Santa

This year it will be absolutely free to visit Santa and receive a gift. And once again, Brent Cross has the Gift Tree, offering shoppers the opportunity to buy gifts for disadvantaged children and young people in Barnet.

Date: 12 November – 23 December

Location: Brent Cross Shopping Centre.

Grottos will also be at the Spires and Broadwalk shopping centres.

Visit their websites for further details.

www

For further details on what's on in Barnet visit www.barnet.gov.uk/whats_on

Meet your members

Note: All codes are 020 unless otherwise indicated

Brunswick Park Ward

Lynne Hillan (Con) 8445 5101
 cllr.l.hillan@barnet.gov.uk
 (Deputy Leader of the Council)

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) 8364 8782
 cllr.l.mcfadyen@barnet.gov.uk

Charlie O-Macauley (Lab) 8200 7826
 cllr.c.omacauley@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details: Every Saturday at Burnt Oak Library and Customer Service Centre, 99 Watling Avenue, Burnt Oak HA8 10.30 – 11.30am

Childs Hill Ward

Jack Cohen (LibDem) 8446 7940
 cllr.j.cohen@barnet.gov.uk
 (Liberal Democrat Group Leader)

Monroe Palmer (LibDem) 8455 5140
 cllr.m.palmer@barnet.gov.uk

Susette Palmer (LibDem) 8455 5140
 cllr.s.palmer@barnet.gov.uk
 (Liberal Democrat Deputy Leader)

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 6503
 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
 Second Saturday every month, Hollickwood School, Sydney Road, N10 1.30 – 3 pm

Barry Rawlings (Lab) 8445 6416
 cllr.b.rawlings@barnet.gov.uk
 (Deputy Leader of the Labour Group)

Surgery details: First and Third Saturday, South Friern Library, Friern Barnet Road, N11 10.30am – 12noon. Other Saturdays Friern Barnet Library, Friern Barnet Road N11 3DS 10.30 - 12noon

East Barnet Ward

Terry Burton (Con) 8368 8264
 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) 8444 3834
 cllr.a.mcneil@barnet.gov.uk

Alison Moore (Lab) 8343 0306
 cllr.a.moore@barnet.gov.uk
 (Leader of the Opposition)

Colin Rogers (Lab) 8346 9887
 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

Darrel Yawitch (Con)
 cllr.d.yawitch@barnet.gov.uk

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

Finchley Church End Ward

Mike Freer (Con) 8359 2059
 cllr.m.freer@barnet.gov.uk
 (Leader of the Council)

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, Avenue House, East End Road 7 – 8pm (except August)

Garden Suburb Ward

Andrew Harper (Con) 8201 9527
 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) 07831 286 558
 cllr.d.cohen@barnet.gov.uk

Melvin Cohen (Con) 8209 0166
 cllr.m.cohen@barnet.gov.uk

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

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

Tom Davey (Con)
 cllr.t.davey@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
 (Deputy Mayor)

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

Anthony Finn (Con) 8202 9689
 cllr.a.finn@barnet.gov.uk

Matthew Offord (Con) 8202 5319
 cllr.m.offord@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details: First Monday every month, Hendon Library, The Burroughs. 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, 3 Stapylton Road, Barnet, EN4 3.30pm – 4.30pm

Bridget Perry (Con) 8441 5683
 cllr.b.perry@barnet.gov.uk

Wendy Prentice (Con) 8364 9249
 cllr.w.prentice@barnet.gov.uk
 Surgery details: Third Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet Library, 3 Stapylton Road, Barnet, EN4 10.30am – 12noon

Mill Hill Ward

Wayne Casey (Lib Dem) 8906 8189
 cllr.w.casey@barnet.gov.uk

Jeremy Davies (Lib Dem) 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
 (Call 8959 5182 for dates)

Oakleigh Ward

Sachin Rajput (Con) 8449 3610
 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 Friem Barnet Library, Friem Barnet Road, N11 10.30am – 12noon

Totteridge Ward

Brian Coleman (Con) 7983 4366
 cllr.b.coleman@barnet.gov.uk
 (Mayor)

Alison Cornelius (Con) 8445 5886
 cllr.a.cornelius@barnet.gov.uk

Richard Cornelius (Con) 8445 5886
 cllr.r.cornelius@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) 07983 358 910
 cllr.d.webb@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details: Third Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet Library, 3 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, 3 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: Every Saturday at Community Focus, the artsdepot, Tally Ho Corner, North Finchley 10.30 – 12noon

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

Woodhouse Ward

Geof Cooke (Lab) 8344 2596
 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: Every Saturday at Community Focus, the artsdepot, Tally Ho Corner, North Finchley 10.30 – 12Noon

Contacting your MPs

Chipping Barnet

Theresa Villiers

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

Hendon

Andrew Dismore

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

Finchley and Golders Green

Dr Rudi Vis

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

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

Correction: In the Sep/Oct 09 issue under Spotlight on your Ward, Woodhouse College is in Woodhouse Road rather than Woodhouse Lane. The councillor surgery is held at Community Focus and not Customer Focus, Wingate and Finchley FC is in Summers Row not Summers Lane and Eric Morecombe lived in Torrington Park and not Totteridge Park. In addition, Woodhouse councillors were stated as Underhill councillors, which was incorrect.

For information on councillor surgeries and meetings visit www.barnet.gov.uk/councillors or call 020 8359 2024

Working hours

Mandy Sethill, 54, has worked as a trading standards officer at Barnet Council for 14 years. She lives in Whetstone with her husband and has two grown up daughters.

Q What attracted you to the role?

A I thought it was a great way to use my law degree and to work with people. I really liked the fact I wouldn't be desk bound and every day would be different.

Q Describe your main responsibilities?

A Complaints drive a lot of my work. Test purchasing is another area where we see if underage children are illegally sold alcohol, tobacco, knives or spray paint. I also support local businesses by making them aware of the law.

Q What do you like most about Barnet?

A I've lived here for 27 years and think it's a fantastic place for families. I really like the fact you can be in town in 20 minutes and have green space on your doorstep.

Q What is the best and worst part of your job?

A The best is the kick I get out of getting a good result for consumers who've been scammed. The worst is inputting the huge amount of admin from each case onto our database.

Q What has been your most satisfying prosecution?

A Successfully prosecuting a Barnet man who'd fraudulently sold flights to Florida. When the holidaymakers had turned up at the airport the flights didn't exist and they were out of pocket to the tune of £8,000. The magistrate found against him and made him pay back every penny. The families were delighted.

Q What sort of strange enquiries do you get?

A Anything from investigating strange cures for swine flu to alternative forms of Viagra and a stick which is meant to cure cancer.

Q What's the most unusual case you've ever dealt with?

A Explaining to an upset consumer that she couldn't demand her money back because she'd failed to find a man on a singles holiday. Another time I had to placate an irate aunt who'd gone crazy at the sight of seeing her 14-year-old nephew trying to buy alcohol. It wasn't until we were outside the shop I could explain her nephew was part of a covert operation testing underage alcohol sales!



For more information visit

www.barnet.gov.uk/trading-standards