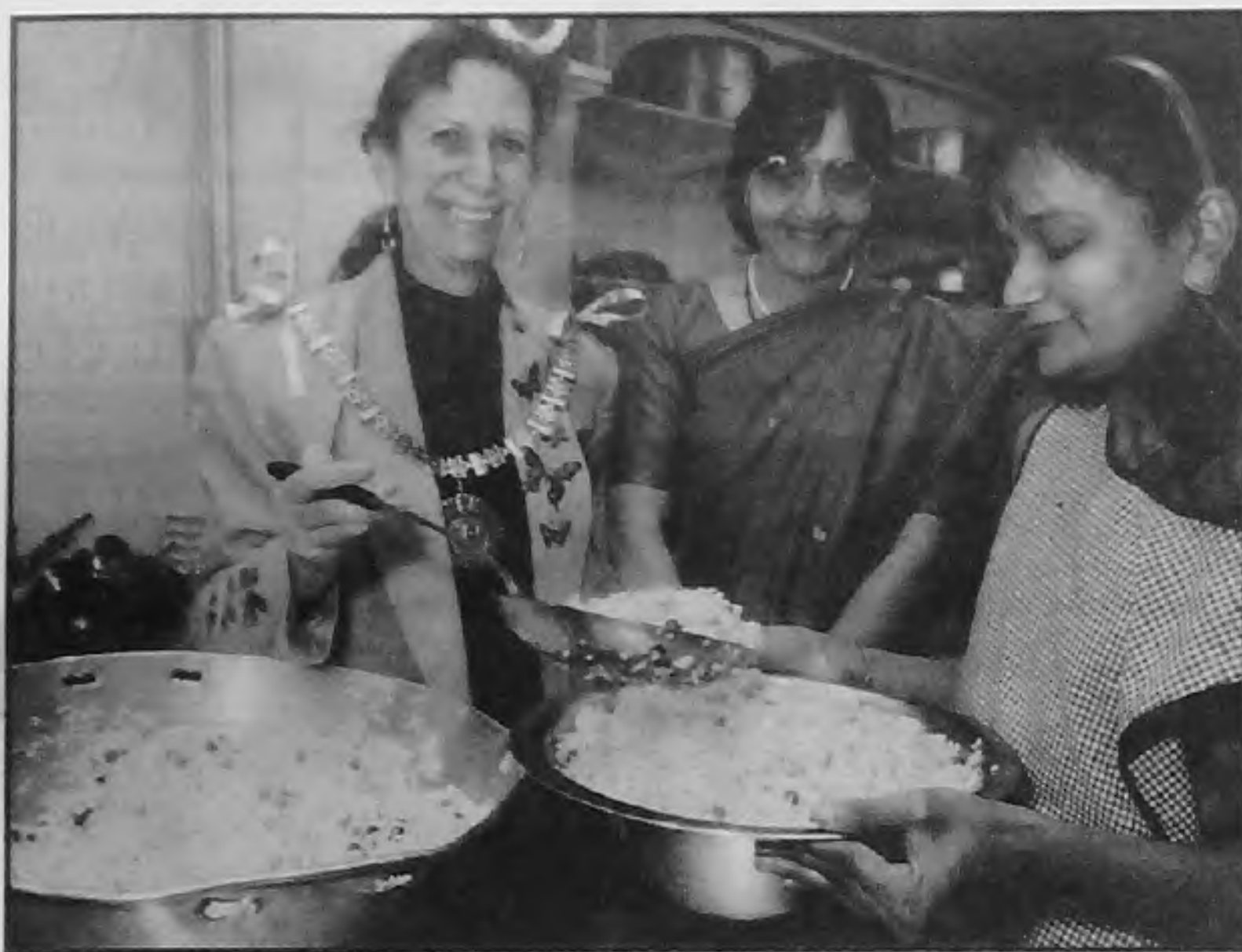


community NEWS

BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH

YOUR FREE NEWSPAPER
PRINTED AT NO COST TO
BARNET COUNCIL

ISSUE No. 7 March 1996



Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Susette Palmer officially opened the Depala Care Centre in East Finchley at the end of January. The centre is funded by the council and offers day care mainly for Asian elderly people. From a place of worship to providing meals, the centre offers a life-line to residents with a friendly, welcoming and stimulating environment.

"It is quite clear to me as I visit organisations in the borough that without the liaison between Barnet and the voluntary sector we could not possibly provide the standard of care and the quality of life that we could wish for Barnet citizens. This is a centre to be proud of," said the Mayor, Councillor Susette Palmer.

Our picture shows the Mayor helping to prepare lunch at the centre with Purima Meswani (centre) and Chandan Shah (right).

MORE FOR LESS FROM YOUR COUNCIL

Your business-like council, despite having over £14m taken by the government from what it believed it needed to spend this year, is improving services and slashing the government's expected Council Tax bills by over 30 per cent. The government was predicting Council Tax payers throughout the country would face up to ten per cent rises in their bills this year.

"My message is that it is more for less from Barnet. The government increases national problems we have to tackle and takes away the money for us to do the job. Despite this, for the people of this borough we have won. We are giving more for less and will continue to do so", said Council Leader, Councillor Alan Williams.

Economy Measures

This council has worked hard to introduce economy and efficiency

WE CUT GOVERNMENT COUNCIL TAX BILLS TARGET

measures. "We have wiped millions off administration costs and saved money through economy and efficiency measures wherever we can.

Savings boosted

"This has meant we can build up savings - we can release money which was previously spent on other things to improve services for the people of this borough and keep down Council Tax bills," said Councillor Williams.

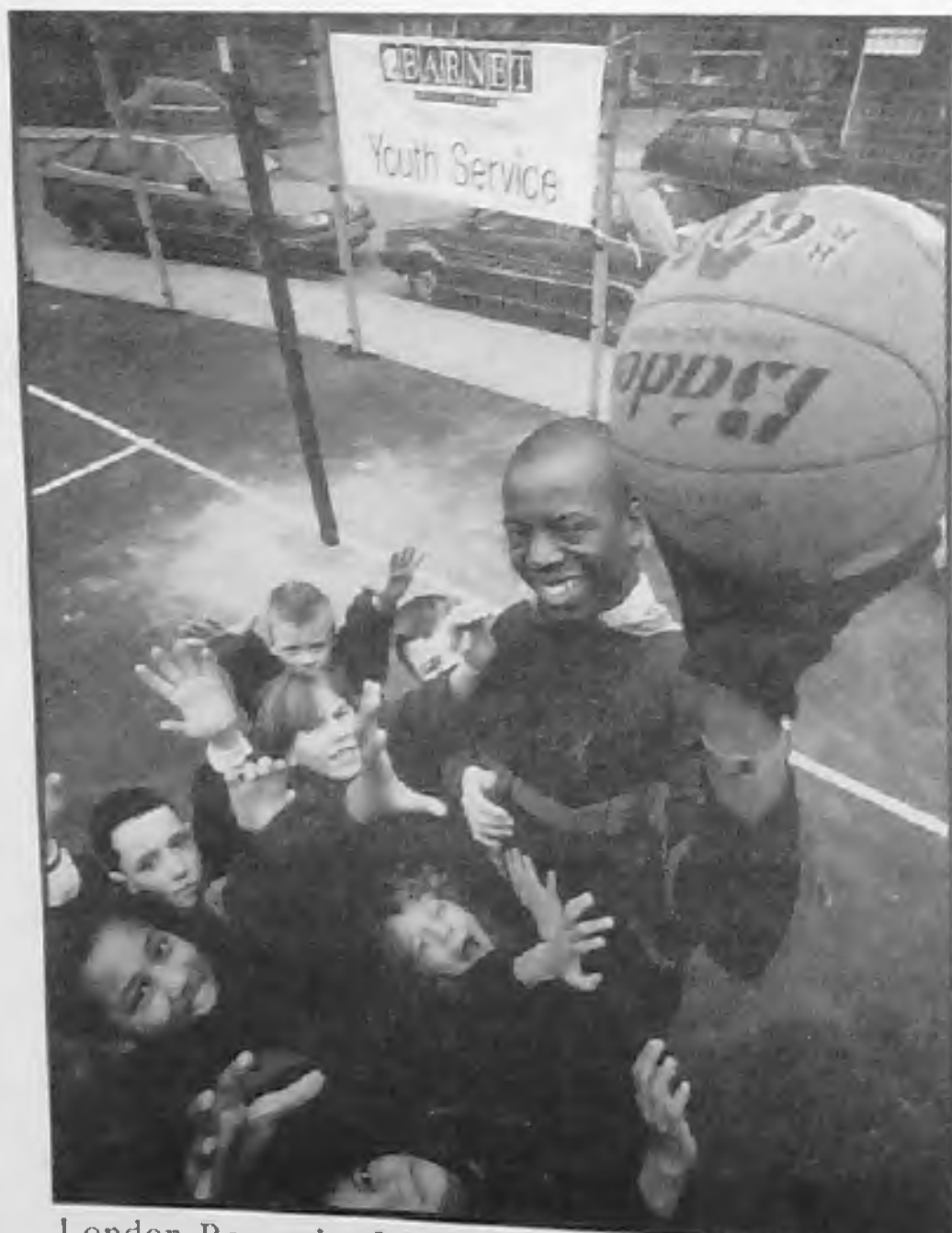
"Your council has also been able to boost the amount of money it can keep in reserve to meet problems, the borough

may face in the future. Despite the government taking away from us over £14m this year - the money which is owed to the people of this borough - we have been able to cut the increases in the amount of Council Tax our residents are forced to pay," added Councillor Williams.

The government believed that Barnet, having lost over £14m off what it needed to spend and not being allowed to raise money to protect the repair and maintenance of schools, local homes and facilities for older people.

continued on page 2

ON THE BALL...



A new play area for football, basketball and other games created by a tenant and council partnership in West Hendon opened in January.

Barnet Council's housing department and youth service has transformed a semi-derelict piece of land into a much-needed and safe recreation area for young people called the Ball Park.

Tenants came up with the idea and your council backed their initiative, paying to completely refurbish the area in Tyrrel Way, West Hendon, and put in a new all-weather pitch and high fence.

Local residents and the West Hendon Youth Action Panel attended the opening by Councillor Gina Marks, Vice Chair of Housing Committee.



Leader of Barnet Council, Councillor Alan Williams, ushered in the Chinese New Year at a ceremony at Colindale's Yaohan Oriental Shopping Centre last month.

Speaking on Spectrum's international radio link-up, Councillor Williams made a New Year wish for "well-being and prosperity" for Barnet's Chinese community, the largest in London.

Councillor Williams coloured one of the eyes of a traditional Daruma doll, a symbol of good luck, before helping to distribute presents to excited youngsters in the crowd.

COMMUNITY NEWS CONTACTS

Barnet Council, The Town Hall,
The Burroughs, Hendon NW4 4BG

Editor George A. Bennett

Graphic Designer David Malcolm

Business Manager Adrienne Davis

Editorial Co-ordinator Susan Segar

Please telephone the 24-hour hotline number
0181-359 2325 with any comments or
suggestions you have about Community News or
if you have a problem with its delivery.

Please leave your name and a contact telephone
number with your message.

Ham & High

Advertising Cath Kaplan 0171 433 6250
Jo Revitt 0171 433 6206

Production Jane Gibbons 0171 433 6211

Project Co-ordinator Helen Bull 0171 433 6247

BEEF BAN TO STAY

The banning of beef from school dinner menus - imposed on all Barnet's schools last December - is to stay.

Councillors have taken the decision after studying the results of a survey of parents asking whether they wanted the ban to continue or be lifted.

A decisive majority of 65 per cent supported the council's decision and wanted the ban to be kept with only four per cent against. A further 22 per cent had no strong view either way.

Every school returned a majority for keeping the ban - the highest pro-beef

vote was just 13 per cent.

The consultation involved all of the borough's nearly 29,000 schoolchildren served by TeamBarnet Catering, and their parents, with over 46 per cent returning the questionnaire.

The ban was introduced in response to the confusing messages from scientists and the government.

Views are divided on whether eating beef and beef products could lead to a human disease.

Parents will be consulted again if any significant new evidence or information is brought to the council's attention.

continued from page 1

back into local services all councils would have to raise extra cash through Council Tax.

The government believed that Barnet, having lost over £14m off what it needed to spend and not being allowed to raise money to protect the repair and maintenance of schools, local homes and facilities for older people, would have to raise Council Tax bills up to or over 10 per cent.

"They were wrong. We have drawn up a plan, in line with our four-year programme to create a better Barnet for us all, which means that Council Tax bills will be nearly four per cent less than the government expects.

"We have achieved this by listening and working with the community, delivering the services they need and want and with a massive crackdown on bureaucracy which, in town hall costs alone, has saved over £2m," said Councillor Williams.

EFFICIENCY MEANS MORE FOR LESS FOR BARNET

As the drive for economy and efficiency continues, the council is predicting more major savings in the year ahead.

Council Tax figures for the coming year have been produced after the borough and its residents bear the costs of other organisations serving the area like the police, fire brigade, waste authorities and others.

All these organisations have also faced cuts in the amount government allows them to spend to meet essential services.

"Without our economy and efficiency drive and the way we have analysed the way services are provided to make sure we are meeting need and there is no waste in Barnet, the government after taking away over

£14m from the people of the borough could have been right in expecting Council Tax bills to be over 10 per cent higher this year.

"We were not prepared to allow that to happen," added Councillor Williams.

The bills for each band in the borough will be based on a band D level of £636.85.

COUNCILLOR HILLMAN FIRST LABOUR MAYOR OF BARNET

Councillor Ellis Hillman, Mayor of Barnet in 1994/95 and active in local government in London for over 35 years, has died aged 67.

Councillor Ellis Hillman, Labour Councillor for Colindale since 1986, died in January in

hospital where he had been admitted for heart by-pass surgery.

"This is a tragic and major loss for Barnet - and the whole of London. Ellis Hillman devoted over 35 years of his life to protecting the interests of the people of London.

"He was an outstand-

ing Mayor for Barnet - his multi-cultural, multi-denominational approach took the mayoralty equally to all parts of the community he was dedicated to serving.

"As Barnet's Mayor he was committed to making the office and all it stood for accessible to

all. He brought a dignified but purposely informal approach to every event he hosted and attended and will long be remembered as a Mayor - and politician - of the people he represented," said Councillor Alan Williams, Leader of the Council.

BARNET COMMUNITY NEWS

The **Ham&High** have been contracted to sell and produce the London Borough of Barnet's own free newspaper -

the Barnet Community News.

Barnet is one of London's largest boroughs - with an overall population of around 300,000, and the Community News will be distributed to just about everybody in the Borough.

(Guaranteed 95% distribution)

For the advertiser trying to reach residents of Barnet, **Community News** offers the most effective route, providing saturation coverage, high interest and high retention.

It will be kept, read and used by nearly everybody in the Borough of Barnet.



Ham&High



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ADVERTISING
CALL HELEN 0171 433 0000

BARNET BACKS TEACHERS' PAY

Barnet will protect the future of our young people. This was the message when your council decided to meet the costs of the teachers' pay award in full.

The government-approved pay award, which some councils are expected to be unable to meet, will cost Barnet an extra £540,000 this year.

Together with other pay awards, this has meant your council has had to find another £926,000 in the year the government reduced the amount the council can invest in services by over £14m.

Last year and this year, Barnet will spend millions more on education for young people than the government settlement.

"We have found ways of doing things better while targeting the services the people of this borough need and at the same time boost our reserves through economy and efficiency.

"Our drive for quality

COUNCIL VOWS TO PROTECT EDUCATION

services based on what we can all afford means we can use reserve funds to support the teachers at our schools without attacking our short and long term aims for a better future for the whole community.

"This council, for the first time in over three decades, now has a four-year plan to which every service and every member of staff works as we all strive to deliver better value for money. This blueprint sets out a better Barnet for us all," said Councillor Joan Ryan, Chair of Policy and Resources Committee.

Because of good housekeeping and a crack-

down on bureaucracy, the council is able to use £4.9m from the money it holds in reserves against £4.5m last year.

"Reserves, the money we put aside to meet unexpected developments, has continued to grow since we have introduced new business efficiency and value for money ideas.

"It would be wrong not to continue this drive for efficiency and economy - it would be equally wrong not to continue to invest in maintaining and improving the excellence of our schools when these businesslike measures were paying off."

GOVERNMENT 'IGNORED NEEDS' ON HOMES AND SCHOOLS

The government has refused to listen to reason over what it is allowing Barnet to spend on maintaining schools and homes and invest in regenerating run-down areas of the borough.

This was the message from Council Leader Alan Williams who led a delegation to local government minister David Curry in a bid to get him to think again on what the council is allowed to spend.

"It was made clear the minister and his advisors had already made up their minds - there seems to be no room for manoeuvre. We put a reasoned all party case but got the impression no-one was

listening," said Councillor Williams.

Councillor Williams said the government had cut the amount Barnet can borrow this year by nearly £3.5m to just £1.35m.

"We have to plan ahead on a three year cycle. This government decision must not stop new schemes being introduced to repair schools, create new affordable housing and economically regenerate our borough."

Councillor Williams said the minister indicated he will not use his discretionary powers to look at Barnet's needs to spend on urgent work to improve schools, homes and the work which must be done to breathe new

life, hope and prosperity into the run-down areas of the borough.

The government's decision was on Barnet's Basic Credit Approval, the amount the council can raise each year on the financial markets.

Pictured as the delegation prepares to leave for Westminster are (left to right) Councillors Sheila Scott, Deputy Conservative Leader, Rudolph Vis, Chair of Budget, Financing and Performance Review Executive Committee, Councillor Jack Cohen, Liberal Leader, Jeremy Jaroszek, Director of Finance, Max Caller, Chief Executive and Councillor Alan Williams, Leader of the Council.

Homeless people in Barnet could be given access to suitable private sector homes in a new initiative launched by your council in partnership with Barnet Housing Aid Centre.

The Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme will offer a high standard of homes inspected by the council while offering incentives to landlords taking part.

Advantages for the landlord are free contracts, tenancy advice, advertising, speedy processing of housing benefit claims by the council and a guaranteed deposit. Barnet Housing Aid Centre is currently looking for suitable landlords to join the scheme.

NEW HELP FOR HOMELESS

Rooms, flats and bedsits will all be offered under the scheme to qualifying single homeless people or couples without children aged 18 to 35, on low incomes or eligible for housing benefit.

"This is an exciting scheme which will improve the opportunity for single homeless people and couples aged 18 to 35 to gain access to suitable accommodation at a time when there is much demand

for such homes in Barnet," said Councillor Allan Turner, Chair of Housing Committee.

"We are also determined to promote good practice in the private sector in the borough and this scheme will benefit good landlords as well as tenants," he added.

Anyone wanting more information should contact BHAC at Friern Park Centre, 1 Friern Park, North Finchley or on 0181-446 2504.

TECHNOLOGY - IT'S WORKING FOR YOU

Barnet is making technology work for you. The latest developments in information systems and technology are being introduced to cut costs, reduce the number of labour-intensive administrative jobs and free up more money for investment in front-line services. The council will spend more time dealing with residents.

Councillors on the council's committees will decide if money-saving ideas go ahead.

"Some of the computer systems we have inherited are out of date. But we will not be replacing equipment until it really has reached the end of its useful life or we are convinced new technology will free up

our staff to deliver services to residents.

"There will be no new technology for the sake of it in Barnet - the case for every new investment has to be proved against strict guidelines delivering more for less money for the people of Barnet," added Councillor Alan Williams, Leader of the council.

FORGET 40 ... LIFE BEGINS AT ROSEACRES



At Roseacres we provide the kind of life you would like to enjoy in your own home in comfort and luxury. We pride ourselves on the caring, cheerful and lively atmosphere and offer a wealth of activities (with facilities to match) to keep body and mind stimulated - the emphasis is on choice, from music, art therapy, talking books, singalong and parties, to relaxing in one of our beautiful and elegant lounges and anticipating the next wholesome meal.

Set in beautiful landscaped gardens, redesigned for easy strolling, Roseacres lets you live your life as independently as you are able to, with the confidence and reassurance that first class professional care is there for your needs 24 hours a day. This month we are also starting a day-care service with tailor-made facilities. All this at affordable fees too. We welcome all enquiries - please phone Maria on 0181-445 5554.

Roseacres, 80-84 Chandos Avenue, Whetstone, London N20 9DZ
Telephone 0181-445 5554



EFFICIENCY PAYS OFF FOR BARNET TENANTS

Your council's housing team is introducing new schemes to tackle homelessness and overcrowding and is keeping rents low through efficient management this year.

This year's housing budget includes savings through good management and practical measures for fighting

LOWEST RENT RISE IN BOROUGH'S HISTORY

homelessness, despite the loss of £700,000 in government subsidy.

Rents will rise by 1.3 per cent, which is less than half the rate of inflation, and for the first time ever the council consulted with tenants before introducing the rise.

From the savings the housing department has achieved, the council is able to appoint new housing officers to speedily deal with homelessness applications and make even more savings.

Your council wants to maximise the use of private accommodation to house young single homeless people and couples without children and others who fall through the council housing net.

Money will be spent on a private sector housing strategy, including a voluntary registration scheme for landlords and a rent deposit scheme.

In another move where your council is acting after consulting with residents, trade down scheme incentives have been increased - with payments between



Cllr. Allan Turner

The council's policy of reducing the number of homeless families housed in bed and breakfasts has not only saved £320,000 which can be spent on other services but also improved the quality of temporary accommodation for these families.

Your council is committed to working with tenants and leaseholders to provide an even higher quality of service, giving residents an important say in future action plans. The Tenants Initiatives Scheme, which is funded from tenant rents, will continue to give all council residents the opportunity to enhance and improve their environment.

£1,500 and £4,000 depending on the size of the homes freed for families by tenants moving to homes which better suit their needs.

The mutual exchange scheme will also be enhanced at a cost of £36,000, with more up-to-date information available at borough libraries plus five computer touch screens installed in housing offices.

All these measures are aimed at reducing the number of overcrowded households in the borough.

The council will also cement the partnership with housing associations working to maximise development opportunities in Barnet by introducing a coordinated development strategy.

Quality Service

Guarantees will also be announced during the year to guarantee for residents the high quality service the council is determined to provide in areas like housing repairs and applying for a council home.

"We will continue to provide a high quality service that tenants and leaseholders have come to expect from Barnet Council during what will be a challenging year in the fight against homelessness and the drive to eliminate overcrowding," said Councillor Allan Turner, Chair of Housing Committee.

"We will be building on the important strides forward we have made this year, particularly in the increased influence residents are having on council action through the new Housing Consultation Forum and the value placed on tenant and leaseholder views in developing policies," he added.

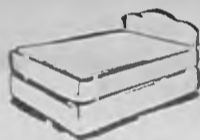
Get Your Name on Arts Data Base

Barnet Council's Arts Office is calling all local people, groups and organisations who are involved in the arts to join their new arts information database. It will contain details on artists, performers, venues, arts groups, bands, classes, and all sorts of other useful information and will be available as a free service.

The council hopes to be able to improve services by finding out who's doing what in the borough's arts scene, and that everyone will benefit whether its more bookings, clients, sales or commissions for artists and groups or better local arts networking.

Details and forms are available from the Arts Office on 0181-359 3152 or pick one up from your local library enquiry desk.

**SAVE UPTO
50% ON BEDS**



FREE LOCAL DELIVERY

HENDON BED CENTRE

226 WEST HENDON BROADWAY, LONDON, NW9 7ED

0181 203 6880

OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY 10AM TO 6PM



**FOR THOSE SEEKING A NEW DIMENSION
IN EATING OUT**

7 LONG LANE,
FINCHLEY CENTRAL,
LONDON N3 2PR
0181 349 4386

3 HILL STREET,
RICHMOND,
SURREY TW9 1SZ
0181 332 2322

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
ADVERTISING ON THESE PAGES PLEASE
PHONE HELEN ON 0171 433 0000**

**X.U.K!
EASTER**



SUMMER

Heaven for your little angels
a "Godsend" for your Devils!

DAY CAMPS 3 - 13 years

(Finchley & Edgware)

RESIDENTIAL CAMP 5 - 13 years

(Suffolk)

**(3 - 17 years) PHONE FOR DETAILS
AND COLOUR BROCHURE**

SECUREBASE

SECURITY PRODUCTS & ARCHITECTURAL
HARDWARE

SAFES SUPPLIED & INSTALLED
DOOR REPLACEMENT • KEYS
LOCKS • GRILLES • ACCESS CONTROL
DIGITAL LOCKS • ENTRYPHONE SYSTEMS
ALARM SYSTEMS • ENGRAVING SERVICE



FREE SURVEY AND
ESTIMATE
112 HIGH ROAD, EAST FINCHLEY, N2
FAX: 0181-365 2788



0181-442 0660



OPEN 8.00am - 7.00pm

THE MOUNT SCHOOL

Mill Hill London NW7 2RX
Girl's Independent Day School 5 - 18

- ★ Recognised as efficient by ISJC
- ★ Small classes
- ★ Wide range of subjects offered
- ★ New laboratory block
- ★ Affordable fees

Places are sometimes available throughout the year at all levels

Telephone Admissions Secretary for details

on 0181 959 3403 or
Fax No: 0181 959 1503

The Mount School aims to provide a high standard of education
and care for its pupils - Charity No 392593

COUNCIL PROTECT RENT SERVICE

The council will oppose any bid to privatise the local rent officer service in its determination to protect residents from unfair rents.

The council disagrees with plans to have fair rents for tenants set by estate agents who might profit from higher rents.

Councillors believe any attempt to take the service out of publicly accountable control could lead to a loss of local knowledge and a conflict of interests.

The council has told the Government the bor-

WILL FAIR

ough wants Barnet's rent officer service in Torrington House, Finchley, to remain a public body.

The Department of the Environment is reviewing the structure of the rent officer service nationally and is asking for the views of local councils.

The rent officer service is independent with the number of rent officers and their pay controlled by the Department of the Environment but accommodation and support staff provided by Barnet Council.

Rent officers decide

Efficient management of the housing budget means that council tenants will only have to pay rent rises of an average 1.3 per cent, less than half the rate of inflation. This money raised, which is only used for council housing, and does not affect Council Tax or other council spending, is reinvested in improving local homes.

what is a fair rent, taking into account local market rents.

They also decide whether people on housing benefits are being asked to pay more than they should be by landlords.

New duties given to officers from this year include setting fair rents when asked for by tenants before tenancies are taken up and providing suitable local rent levels for housing benefit calculations.

HELP FOR TENANTS TO MOVE HOME

An improved mutual exchange scheme introduced by the council will help tenants move to new homes which better suit their needs and ease overcrowding.

The council is increasing the opportunities for tenants to move through mutual exchange.

Barnet is spending £36,000 extra to improve and promote the service for tenants and give them accurate, up-to-date information in a user-friendly way.

More tenants have been using mutual exchange to move in recent years, as the demand for family housing in Barnet has grown. Barnet Council is London's second biggest user of Homeswap, a national exchange scheme.

Among the improvements Barnet will make are easier to read information available at all borough libraries and the introduction of five computer touch screens.

The touch screens will be installed at major sites and will produce an

immediate print-out on any number of selected homes asked for by the tenant.

Also to improve future access to the scheme for borough families, all transfer applicants will be automatically registered for Homeswap unless they ask to opt out. Under present arrangements they are given a form to fill out and return.

The trade down cash incentives scheme will also be extended to help older council tenants living in homes too big for their needs to exchange with families to reduce overcrowding.

"This is part of the council's drive to make the best possible use of existing housing stock to give our tenants quality housing which suits their needs," said Councillor Allan Turner, Chair of Housing Committee.

"These new measures will increase the opportunities for tenants to move into more suitable accommodation," he added.

RESIDENTS HAVE THEIR SAY

Residents' Associations in Barnet are continuing to develop and are playing an ever-growing role in helping shape the way your council runs its housing service for tenants.

With the Housing Consultation Forum and co-opted tenants on the Housing Committee there has never been a better time to get started.

All associations start from a meeting of two or

three enthusiastic people who care about where they live. The past year has shown how much influence you as residents have on policies the council develops with the help of tenants.

The more associations there are in Barnet, the stronger the voice of tenants will be.

Your council gives grants to new residents' associations and to help existing associations with

running costs. The money can be used for newsletters, photocopying and other administrative costs.

The council can also help train residents to run their associations more effectively. There are council Residents Participation Officers to guide you towards starting your association - how to publicise your meetings and how to get people along to take part. They can also tell you about the

enormous benefits to you of successful residents' associations and support you once your association is formed.

For more information, please telephone Janett Plummer or Mo Ali on 0181-359 4864.

YOUR MONEY - YOUR CHOICE

Your council has invested over £250,000 on schemes tenants and leaseholders said they wanted.

These include changing a car park to a new seating area and replanting overgrown and unsightly pieces of land.

Because of the success of this listening and learning approach, called the Tenants' Initiatives, there is another £200,000

being spent from April this year.

The council listened to the views put forward by the Housing Consultation Forum in deciding on how the schemes you put forward would be assessed.

Tenants who know of an area on their estate which could be improved, for example to provide a new children's play area, or which needs more street lighting or traffic calming measures, are urged to

have their say. The council wants to know about things tenants want done.

The council will be listening to residents' associations or housing officers who will be putting up tenants' ideas.

In April, the Housing Consultation Forum will look at all bids before the Housing Committee announces the successful schemes to be complete before the end of March 1997.

Do you have an empty home? It could earn you money

Barnet Council is urgently looking for properties to let. We will consider all properties: any size, any condition, anywhere in the borough of Barnet.

Please call us as soon as possible for further information on **0181-359 4863 (24-hrs)**

Barnet College

SUMMER ENROLMENT



**MONDAY 15 APRIL 1996
4.30-8.00PM
AT OUR RUSSELL LANE CENTRE**

Study part time

DAY

Antique Furniture Restoration · Assertion Skills (men & women)

Discovering London · Return to Learning · Watercolours

DAY OR EVENING

Antiques (level 2) · English as a Foreign Language · First Aid · Floral Art · Food & Wine · Hairdressing · Life Drawing · Machine Knitting · Stained Glass · Wordprocessing

EVENING

Assertiveness Training(women) · Car Maintenance · Computer Aided Design · Desktop Publishing · Drawing & Painting · Essential Food Hygiene Certificate · 50+ Sports & Recreation · Keyboarding · Life Drawing · ITEC Anatomy & Physiology · Millinery · Model Engineering · Picture Framing · Pottery · Public Speaking · Return to Learning · Textile Crafts · Woodwork

... to name but a few! Come along to Enrolment and discover a class to suit you.

ALSO ... programmes in Adult Basic Education, ESOL and Flexible Learning enrol throughout the year.

For further information telephone 0181 275 2816/7 or 0181 361 5101 ext 303.

WOOD STREET BARNET EN5 4AZ TELEPHONE 0181 440 6321
RUSSELL LANE LONDON N20 0AX TELEPHONE 0181 361 5101
STANHOPE ROAD LONDON N12 9DX TELEPHONE 0181 445 6068

BARNET 2000

In the run-up, there will also be a series of workshops giving you a chance to put your ideas and options for the agenda. There will be five key themes of the conference:

- the governance of Barnet - concentrating on open government, social responsibility and participation
- the economic health of Barnet - including town centres, business concerns, education and employment
- sustainable living and development - to include transport and Local Agenda 21 (see this page)
- young people, healthy lifestyles, careers, technology, education and the future
- community care and health - linked to social responsibility and citizenship.

There will be separate pre-conference events for young people, but if you would like to take part in one of the other four workshops, please telephone, write or fax your preferred theme to:

John May,
Corporate Public Consultation Officer,
Barnet Council, The Town Hall,
The Burroughs, Hendon NW4 4BG

Tel: 0181-359 2027 Fax: 0181-359 2480

It may not be possible to include everyone who wishes to take part this time. If that is the case, we will let you know as soon as possible and advise you of other ways in which you can shape the agenda of the main event including using video boxes, suggestion boxes in schools and libraries and, for members of the council's Consultation Forums, a further series of workshops.



Local resident Lara Akilapa was all smiles when she was presented with a certificate and books by Councillor Jo Salsbury. Lara was the lucky winner in an art competition run by Barnet in the Friary Park area of the borough, which is the first to take part in an initiative to promote a green neighbourhood for all - Local Agenda 21. Following the Earth conference in Rio in 1992, where national governments recognised the need to care for the environment and that the earth's natural resources should be used carefully, local Agenda 21s were set up.

In the Friary area a steering group has been set up to look at how its local environment can be improved, what issues are affecting it and how they can deal with them.

Your council is also putting together a Local Agenda 21 strategy, pulling together all the environmental issues affecting the whole borough and how the environment can be improved. It is hoped to start another Local Agenda 21 in the Victoria Park area. To encourage school children to look at their environment, which is also part of their national curriculum, the council ran a poster competition which reflected what Local Agenda 21 was all about.

BARNET 2000

A three-day conference in July will bring together all sectors of the community as the council plans to build a better borough for the next century.

Barnet 2000 will mobilise the whole community in planning for the next century and beyond - residents, the voluntary sector, business, schools, school children and youth.

The event, the biggest of its kind ever staged in Barnet, will demonstrate that as a community we are braced for the challenge of change.

Barnet 2000 will show the whole community is working as one to set a new agenda for the 21st century.

"It is the most ambitious and will be the most rewarding conference held in the history of the borough," said Councillor Joan Ryan, Chair of Policy and Resources Committee.

The three day non-stop round of conferences, workshops, fringe activities and evening entertainment, will take place from Friday 12 July to Sunday 14 July. The conference and festival will be centred on the Middlesex University complex and adjoining parkland where a community festival will be held.

"Barnet 2000 will see local people having their say on building a better Barnet for us all. Not just short-term measures, but

plans which will impact on all our lives for decades to come.

"The young, older residents, families with young children will have their say in debates and workshops alongside specialists and experts in every aspect of our local lives. A major youth conference will also be held where young and old alike will have their say on setting the agenda for change.

"Barnet 2000 will lead to the council producing a new four-year plan encompassing the best innovative ideas and long-term targets developed during these three days of open debate," added Councillor Ryan.

The council is also planning evening entertainment, special Barnet 2000 newspapers and activities for all sectors of the community to support this important event.

In the weeks and months leading to the Barnet 2000 event, representatives from the community will come together to discuss ideas to come under the spotlight in the three days of debate.

"There will be a non-stop round of conferences and agenda for change workshops during the day and sometimes into the evening. We are encouraging organisations in the borough to organise their own events and will also be planning family entertainment throughout the event.

"This conference will give the people of Barnet a voice in our long-term future - and demonstrate the role of Barnet in London and the UK as a whole," added Councillor Ryan.

The council will be urging all sectors of the community to play a part in Barnet 2000. Within

weeks, residents associations, special interest groups, the business community and community associations along with those in the voluntary sector will be invited to nominate those to take part in debates and also send groups to attend.

This is a Barnet conference for Barnet people. This is the chance for everyone to have their say on Barnet in the 21st century.



Cllr. Joan Ryan

TAKE IT HOME

Barnet is calling on residents to think when they take their recyclables to the borough's recycling banks, otherwise all their good work will be for nothing.

At the moment some people are taking material to the banks in carrier bags, bin liners or boxes but instead of disposing of them in the litter bins at or near the sites, or taking them home again, they are dumping them by the side of the banks. Some residents are also dumping their household and garden waste at the sites.

Barnet can recycle glass containers, newspapers and magazines, tins and cans and textiles at most of its recycling centres. At the moment it cannot recycle plastic or cardboard.

"The litter bins are

emptied every day at each site but having to clear away empty bags and boxes and other domestic rubbish completely defeats the object of trying to make Barnet a greener borough. It also ends up costing Barnet more money than it saves from recycling," said Councillor Stan Cross,

Chair of Public Works Committee.

"I am making a plea to residents to put their litter in the bins or take it home. If you have a large amount of household or garden waste take it to the waste recycling centre at Brent Terrace, off Tilling Road, Cricklewood," he added.

Door to Door

There are now more than 70 recycling sites in the borough which can take everything from cans to glass bottles, newspapers to magazines, tins to textiles. Residents can even take books to an Oxfam bank on one site. Recycling in the borough has increased and your council is keen to meet the Government's target to recycle 25 per cent of all household waste collected.

From April over a fifth of the borough will be benefiting from a trial scheme to collect clean waste paper and cardboard door-to-door.

The household Collection Service is being piloted in five areas around the borough.

The trial areas cover 25,000 homes and it is estimated that these are producing 180 tonnes of paper per week.

WHAT'S ON

We welcome contributions to What's On.

Write to: The Editor, Community News, Barnet Council, The Town Hall, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BG.

We reserve the right to shorten entries and no responsibility can be accepted for the accuracy of information supplied for the column.

Until Easter 1996

Exhibition - Oldest surviving ex-RAF steam engine

Painted in its original Air Service Constructional Corps livery. Find out about 'railways' in the RAF. The Royal Air Force Museum, Grahame Park Way, Hendon, NW9. Phone 0181-205 2266

Until end of 1996

Exhibition 'Leon Greenman - Auschwitz Survivor 98288'

The life of a British citizen and holocaust survivor. The Jewish Museum, 80 East End Road, Finchley, N3. Details. 0181-349 1143

1 - 20 April

Finchley Art Society

Exhibition of paintings at Chipping Barnet Library, Stapylton Road, Barnet. Also 15 May, 7.30pm, demonstration 'Landscape in Watercolour' by Jan Robertson, Cary Room, Trinity Church Centre. Details, 0181-445 6835

TeamBarnet Leisure Management, Barnet Copthall Centre, Hendon, NW4.

Sports Development - children's courses, 1-14 April, multiactivity programme for ages 4-7 and 8-13. A range of courses for adults and children is available all year round. For details contact Sports Development on 0181-203 3788

3 - 8 April

Cottle Sisters New Generation Circus

Victoria Park, Ballards Lane, Finchley, N3. Wed-Fri, 5pm & 7pm; Sat & Sun, 2pm & 5pm; Mon, 11am, 2pm & 5pm. Booking office on site.

6 April - 2 June

Exhibition 'The Fascination of Fans'

Hundreds of fans dating from mid-18th century to the present from all over the world. Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon, NW4. Tel. 0181-203 0130

9 April, 8pm

Amateur Geological Society, 'The Wonderful World of Microfossils'

talk by Dr Giles Miller. Also 14 May, 8pm, 'A Mineralogical Ramble through Wales' talk by Dr Bob Symes. St Margaret's United Reformed Church, Victoria Road, Finchley. Details, 0181-446 7698/346 1056

10 April, 7.30pm

Milldon Art Society, slide lecture on Turner & Constable

presented by Pam Wright at Harwood Hall, Mill Hill Broadway, NW7. Details 0181-346 7481. Also 4-11 May, Milldon Art Society Exhibition, Hartley Hall, Mill Hill, NW7

11 April, 8pm

New Barnet Amateur Gardening & Floral Society,

Lyonsdown Hall, Lyonsdown Road, New Barnet. "Unusual Hardy Plants" talk by Mrs Patricia Liechti. Also 9 May, 8pm, talk on floral art "Flowering Malodies" by Mr Douglas Howard. Details 0181-440 3312.

18 April, 8pm

Dorfler Memorial Lecture:

Jewish interpretation of scripture seen through the eyes of a Christian Hebraist - Piet van Boxel. Leo Baeck College, 80 East End Road, Finchley. Details, 0181-349 4525

18 April & 16 May, 7.30pm

Barnet Federation of Tenants' and Residents' Association Meeting.

Cheshir Hall, Foster Street, NW4

7 - 18 May

Exhibition - Open Embroidery

including patchwork and quilting. Chipping Barnet Library, Stapylton Road, Barnet. For details and entry forms phone 0181-445 8388

12 May, 2-6pm

The Church End Festival,

Avenue House Grounds, Finchley. Details 0181-359 4478

20 - 25 May

Exhibition of paintings at Broadwalk Shopping Centre, Edgware. Details 0181-445 8388

25 May, 9am - 7.30pm

Family Holiday Association Fete,

The Central Square, Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW11

27 May

Barnet Carnival,

Byng Road Playing Fields, Byng Road, Barnet. Details 0181-449 6084

The Old Bull Arts Centre,

68 High Street, Barnet

The Old Bull has regular

performances in The Theatre and Studio, with special events on Sunday afternoons for children and also runs practical classes and an educational programme. For further information phone the Box Office on 0181-449 0048

Choice independent advocacy project

wants to recruit Barnet people to act as volunteer advocates. Volunteers will work with individuals who may be having difficulties with community or health services. If you have been a service user, or feel you have an understanding of the issues of representation, please contact Helen at Choice, Hyde House, The Hyde, London NW9 6JT. Tel. 0181-201 3436

British Epilepsy Association

meets third Monday of every month, 7.30-9.30pm, at Trinity Church Hall, Nether Street, Finchley, N12. Details 0181-445 8724

Barnet 18 plus group

is open to anyone between 18 and 29 years of age (inclusive) and meets from 8.45pm Sunday evenings at the Bull & Butcher Pub, High Road, Whetstone, N20. More information phone 0181-361 2827

Sunday Afternoon Club

meets every third Sunday between 3pm & 5pm in Golders Green Parish Church Hall (St Albans) (opposite the bus station at the junction of North End Road and West Heath Drive). It is a social club for anyone in the area over 65, people of all races and creeds are welcome. Details. 0181-455 4525/458 5846

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (Potters

Bar and Barnet Group). For details of events and activities phone Stan Bailey 01707 646073

Walks/Activities with Barnet Leisure Services

For more information and meeting points phone 0181-359 3052.

14 April, 2pm

See the bluebells of Arrandene, Mill Hill, learn some folklore and superstitions associated with the plants found on this site

6 May, 2pm

Launch of Coppetts Wood Nature Trail to celebrate National Walk in the Woods Day

6 May, 2pm

National Walk in the Wood Day - discover the ancient woodland of Scratchwood, a remnant of Middlesex Forest

19 May, 11am

Bird life and old hedgerows (London Wildlife Trust to lead)

19 May, 2pm

Waterside walk at the Welsh Harp, taking a look at the wetland birds (bring binoculars)

26 May, 10.30am

Birds at the Mill Hill Old Railway Nature Reserve (London Wildlife Trust to lead)

9 June, 10am

Stroll along the Dollis Brook from Mill Hill East to High Barnet

24 April, 7.30pm

Barnet Racial Equality Council.

Seminar on Asylum and Immigration Bill. Guest speakers from JCWI, Refugee Council, Paddington Law Centre and Immigration Advisory Service.

Details 0181-445 6051.

29 May - 1 June, 8pm

Sondheim musical 'Into The Woods' performed by The Association Amateur Dramatics Group at The Old Bull Arts Centre. To book, phone Box Office 0181-449 0048

9 June

Watling Festival, Montrose Playing Field. If you want to perform, have a stall, are able to help out at this lively new community festival, call 0181-959 8595.

Rotary

Rotary is a worldwide organisation of over 1.2m members in 154 countries with over 90 years' service to humanity. It is made up of business and professional people who meet regularly for fellowship, undertake charitable and humanitarian projects at local, national and international levels. Rotary encourages honesty and fairness in all walks of life and works towards peace and understanding. There are a number of Rotary clubs in the local area. Further information can be obtained by contacting Reg Mudd, 0181-445 6031

Barnet Chamber of Commerce - Forthcoming Events

16 & 23 April, 21 & 28 May. Barnet Network Lunches. 18 April 7.30pm. Women Today - Self assessment, the new personal taxation system. 22 April 7.30pm. NLEC 4th Anniversary Dinner. 22 May 7.30pm. North London TEC and Barfield Enterprise Training. Please phone 0181-343 3833 for more details.

Your council committees at work

2 April
Development and Protection Committee

15 April
Golders Green and Temple Fortune Town Centre Forum
Golders Green Library, Golders Green Road, NW11

17 April
Policy and Resources Committee

17 April
Barnet Town Centre Forum
New Barnet Community Centre, 48 - 50 Victoria Road, New Barnet

18 April
Compulsory Competitive Tendering Executive Committee

18 April
Direct Service Organisations Executive Committee

22 April
Housing Consultation Forum

23 April
Area Development and Protection Sub-Committees

24 April
Edgware, Burnt Oak and Mill Hill Town Centre Forum
Burnt Oak Library, Watling Avenue, Burnt Oak

30 April
Council Meeting

1 May
Inspection Advisory Panel
Hammerson House, The Bishops Avenue, N2

7 May
Council Annual Meeting

List of Committee Meetings at The Town Hall, Hendon for the period 2 April - 27 June 1996

8 May
Development and Protection Committee

15 May
Environmental Forum

20 May
Housing Committee

21 May
Education Committee

22 May
Metropolitan Police and Barnet Community Consultative Group North Road Community Centre, 230 Burnt Oak Broadway

28 May
Area Development and Protection Sub-Committees

30 May
Compulsory Competitive Tendering Executive Committee

30 May
Direct Service Organisations Executive Committee

3 June
Education Consultation Forum (venue to be confirmed)

5 June
Grants Committee

6 June
Economic Development and Land Executive Committee

10 June
Recreation, Leisure and Arts Committee

11 June
Social Services Committee

12 June
Development and Protection Committee

17 June
General Executive Committee

18 June
Public Works Committee

19 June
Personnel Executive Committee

20 June
Budget, Financing and Performance Review Executive Committee

24 June
Family Care Sub-Committee

26 June
Policy and Resources Committee

27 June
Allotments Advisory Panel



Disabled Access



Loop system

£2m BOOST FOR

BARNET'S SCHOOLS

Your council is spending an extra £2m on education this year as the borough launches new projects and initiatives to meet head-on the challenges which changing needs and demands are making on our schools. The budget this year increases from last year's record £125.5m to nearly £128m.

High on the list of priorities for the coming year is the borough's continuing support for nursery schools with two more classes due to join the four already opened.

"The nursery programme has met with widespread approval from parents and youngsters who are at last getting the start in life they deserve and have a right to expect", said Councillor Anne Jarvis, Chair of the Education Committee.

Primary schools are to get extra long-term help to cope with urgent building repairs and a rising demand for places. They will also benefit from major projects to raise standards in reading, writing and



Cllr. Anne Jarvis

Barnet backs teachers' pay award. See page 4

arithmetic.

Homework clubs and centres and holiday playschemes are to be set up to help raise standards and support working parents.

The biggest range of new initiatives is reserved for children with special educational needs.

Topping the list are the soon to be opened Church Farm School for older children with behavioural difficulties, new facilities for secondary autistic pupils and more help for those

with moderate learning needs at the reorganised Northway and Oak Lodge Schools.

A new unit for youngsters with special language needs will come on stream at Childs Hill School in September, the new Summerside Hearing Impaired Unit opens officially in April and systems will be in place this year to target Special Educational Needs resources even more efficiently to meet changing demands.

Efficiency will be the

key word as a new series of Quality Service Guarantees (QSGs) is launched laying down high standards to be met by those providing support services for schools, many tailored to meet individual school needs.

"We are determined to continue to provide the finest possible education for all our children.

"By building on the partnership the council has with schools, parents, governors and the community in general, we

Your council has saved enough through last year to protect residents from the Government had demanded through the

Because the council has protected services from bureaucracy it has saved millions and is by over £4.9m from reserves.

This has also enabled the council to amount the Government expected Council cent.

To protect and improve services next £240m - the maximum amount before measures to stop councils breaking the

LEISURE &



Cllr. Katherine McGuirk

will be working together to target resources where they are needed most, raising standards and getting the best value out of every penny we spend," said Councillor Jarvis.

A new combined na swimming pool are pounds more this y

The council will spend £11.7 m compared to £11.1m last year to continue to expand and protect services while making efficiency savings.

Swimmers will benefit when the new Finchley Lido pool with attractions including sprays, jets, slides and a river run opens this spring.

The council will also spend £25,000 to expand the Open for Learning service to make libraries even more useful to families and students, backing up the decision to loan out CD Roms in borough libraries.

Councillors have also agreed a £56,162 grant to boost the Old Bull Arts Centre.

The Old Bull Arts Centre is the only full-time venue providing a quality arts programme of music, theatre, exhibitions and other activities open to the whole borough.

Families will benefit from a major £150,000 spending programme to enhance playgrounds in the borough with new imaginative equipment for youngsters.

A £150,000 schedule of work to transform parks by improving cafes, toilets and infrastructure is also planned.

A miniature reserve, picnic area and toddlers adventure playground will be created at Barfield Avenue, N20, at a total cost of over £100,000

£16m

Barnet will be cleaner, brighter and safer next year with over £16m being invested in maintaining everything from roads to recycling, street lighting to cleansing and refuse collection to sewers.

"The budget for Public Works reflects the importance this council places on maintaining our streets.

"Services will be maintained and enhanced to meet our quality service guarantees," said Councillor Stan Cross, Chair of Public Works.

"For the first time in ten years we have been able to increase spending on maintaining the boroughs roads.



Cllr. Stan Cross

"We have promised to meet and maintain high standards. Through good financial management we have created a budget

which meets these guarantees but also paves the way for new initiatives," he added.

The council's Public Works Committee covers everything from recycling to street cleaning, parking control to road safety, drainage to street lighting.

"Everything we do effects the residents of the borough. We have maintained and improved services and are keeping the promises in our quality service guarantees for street cleansing, street lighting, roads and pavements and refuse collection," he added.

will protect local environment for all

This year will see an additional £75,000 being put into the traffic safety programme and the 'greening the borough' policy for roads will improve the streets we all live and work in through planting on roundabouts, roads and other open spaces.

This year also sees the formation of the Ward Officer Service, bringing together the Parks Rangers and District Officers into a team which will get them back onto the streets and in touch with residents.

Over the next two or three years the council will

be bringing in new initiatives like home composting to increase the quantity of waste recycled and kerbside recycling collections are also being looked at.

More controlled parking zones will be introduced following public consultation and a new site at Summers Lane in North Finchley will be modernised and reopened.

In the longer term bus priority and cycle paths will be introduced in the borough in an effort to promote public transport.

The council is investing £50,000 in town centres.

MILLIONS MORE FOR YOUR SERVICES

ough economy and efficiency measures
 the worst of a £14m cut in spending the
 the level of grant to Barnet.
 services while cutting down on wasteful
 d is able to support spending next year
 o improve services while slashing the
 Council Tax bills to rise by over 30 per
 xt year, your council will spend up to
 before the Government steps in with
 he limits it sets.

ARTS GETS £11.7m

nature reserve and children's playground and a
 re among council plans to spend over half a million
 s year to boost arts and leisure facilities.

EXPANDING SERVICES TO MEET LOCAL NEED

The council will also be spending £285,000 on major improvements to parks and open spaces in Burnt Oak and injecting £20,000 to improve facilities at Barfield, Friern Barnet Central and Rathbone allotments.

Barnet will also be spending £50,000 on a programme of play and leisure facilities for teenagers.

The council is spending £326,410 more than last year on aid to arts, borough libraries, museums and mobile libraries.

The council's plans for a bigger and better arts and leisure service to families will be strengthened by employing an additional Arts Officer.

The new officer will work with groups to develop arts work in the community and promote music and community festivals.

The Arts office is also investigating possible sites and funding to create a major new performance venue in the borough.

Among other plans to improve the variety and quality of leisure for Barnet residents planned this year are:

- Working to help community groups develop new festivals.
 - Greening of the borough initiatives including landscaping, flower beds, tree planting and improving parks.
 - Bringing new life to parks by using redundant buildings imaginatively for park cafes, for example. Further Friends of Parks schemes will also be promoted to encourage resident involvement.
 - Giving children and teenagers a real say in the shape of play facilities created by the council.
 - Asking families what play area facilities they want and consulting them on proposed events in parks.
- Even more people are expected to be attracted to parks and open spaces as a result of a programme of community events, festivals, concerts and playground improvements being delivered and the creation of new park cafes.
- "We are delivering an exciting wide range of improvements and new services to residents through prudent use of our resources," said Councillor Katherine McGuirk, Chair of Recreation, Leisure and Arts Committee.

Home care, travel for the elderly and meals in the home are among services set to be boosted as Barnet spends over four million pounds more on social services next year.

The council is spending £58.9 m compared to £54.5 m last year.

The drive to enhance and improve frontline services by identifying efficiency measures is underpinned by a new computer system for homecare services, costing just £18,000 to run but freeing up £230,000 for investment in other services.

An extra £2.1 m will be spend on adult services in next year's budget as the growing range of quality services developed over the last year in social services is expanded.

Among the improved services are an extension of the disabled travel scheme at a cost of £58,000.

A new social worker will be employed to extend services to children with sensory impairment and a total of £64,000 will be provided to enhance the youth justice service.

An extra £31,000 will also be spent on meals in the home service to increase the number of meals provided to the

Waiting... for views

One of Barnet's biggest consultation exercises will take place in April when practically every resident in the borough will have their say on changes in waiting restrictions on the roads in Barnet.

The council has done a metre by metre assessment of every yellow line in the borough to find out if the waiting or loading restriction is necessary or if new ones should be put in to improve safety.

"This is the first time that Barnet has reviewed its waiting and loading restrictions and we want to make sure we get it right," said Councillor Stan Cross.

"As well as the public, the emergency services, police and public transport operators are being consulted about the proposed changes at a special Traffic Management Liaison meeting before the public consultation," he added.

Residents will be able to visit exhibitions, with staff on hand to answer any questions, as well as having the opportunity to put their views to the council through questionnaires.

EXTRA £4M FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

Asian community and an extra £29,000 on the welfare benefits service.

Barnet wants to provide wider access to benefits advice and encourage people to take up all they are entitled to.

Barnet's commitment to helping those who are least able to pay is reinforced by a decision not to increase the £1.50 charge for home care to people on income support.

Essential repair work will be completed at the Leys home for learning difficulties in Barnet, with a further £65,000 being spent.

Kitchens at Springwood, Perryfields, Lonsdale and Leaside homes will be refurbished at a cost of £62,000.

A playgroup for homeless children at The

Croft will be able to take more children with an extra £46,000 cash injection and a Homeless Action in Barnet day centre provided at a cost of £280,000.

The highest standards of service will be ensured by Quality Service Guarantees in care planning and assessment, day and residential services and transport.

Information to residents about what social services are available will be boosted by improved leaflet distribution and a Health and Social Care Infolink to identify services for the public will be available on computer at borough libraries.

Work will continue to provide affordable child care and to help people with disabilities develop



skills to get jobs.

Plans to help people with learning disabilities to live independently in homes in the community with care support will also be developed. The council will work with the health service to ensure the highest standards are maintained for those receiving care outside hospital and those with mental health problems.

Another aim is to develop a family centre in west Barnet in partnership with the voluntary sector. Up to 10 extra children will also be placed in foster homes locally as money saved is reinvested.

"We are spending more on a variety of quality services for people of all ages in our community," said Councillor David Williams, Chair of Social Services Committee.

Nearly £2m backs voluntary sector

The council continues to support the voluntary sector despite the government slashing nearly £14m off what the borough can spend.

"Over the last two years the Grants budget, which gives financial help to the voluntary sector, has risen to over £2 million," said Councillor Richard Soer, Chair of Grants Committee.

"Although we have lost millions this year on what the government allows us to spend on front line services we have still managed to maintain our commitment to the voluntary sector.

"We are giving support through grants of nearly £600,000 more than in 1991/92 before this council took over.

"This council is committed to making sure that the residents of Barnet do not face huge Government cuts in their service and



especially those who offer important and necessary help in the voluntary sector," he added.

Spending on grants will be nearly £2 million this year.

With the support of the council, the voluntary groups in Barnet play an important role in providing a range of community-based local services.

In setting high levels of support for the voluntary sector your council has

- recognised organisations are having to adapt to a rapidly changing environment caused by national factors such as
- higher levels of need and dependency among older people.
 - increasing pressures upon all community care resources
 - increasing demand for help coping with problems such as
 - poverty, homelessness, unemployment and racial discrimination
 - changes in the ethnic make-up of the borough's population, requiring services which are linguistically and culturally sensitive
 - higher expectations from service users for quality services which are accessible to all, and to have a say in how they are provided
 - changes in the availability of volunteers and the level of responsibilities placed upon them

MAKE A DATE TO DISCOVER YOUR RIGHTS

Your council, often in collaboration with the Benefits Agency, holds regular benefit advice surgeries and advice days in various locations throughout the borough to help those in need find out about their rights.

We are holding advice sessions at the locations and times set out below.

Advisors will be available to give advice on:

Housing and Council Tax Benefits

Education Awards

Council Tax and Community Charge collection and recovery
1st and 3rd Tuesday of month, United Reform Church, Chesterfield Road, Barnet. 9.30am-11.30am

1st and 3rd Tuesday of month, The Valley Centre, Dollis Valley Way, Barnet. 12.30pm-2.30pm

2nd and 4th Tuesday of month, Mill Hill Employment Services. 2.00pm-4.00pm

3rd Tuesday of month, Sangam Advice Centre, 210 Burnt Oak Broadway. 2.30pm-4.00pm

1st and 3rd Wednesday of month, Benefits Agency Office, Raydean House, 15 Western Parade, Barnet 9.30am-3.30pm

2nd and 4th Wednesday of month, Benefits Agency Office, Middlesex House, 29-45 High Street, Edgware 9.30am-3.30pm

Thursday, every week, The Housing Office, Stag House, 94 Burnt Oak Broadway 2.00pm-4.00pm

1st and 3rd Thursday of month, Finchley Employment Services, 40 Ballards Lane, Finchley 9.00am-12noon

2nd and 4th Thursday of month, Hendon Employment Services, 2a Rundell Crescent, Hendon 9.00am-12noon

Friday every week, The Housing Office, 17 The Concourse, Grahame Park Estate 10am-4.00pm

Friday every week, The Housing Office, Hyde House, The Hyde, Colindale 2.00pm-4.00pm

DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR BENEFITS

Older Barnet residents could be missing out on thousands of pounds in benefits they are entitled to, your council believes. The council is helping residents to apply for state benefits they are entitled to but because of the confusing government benefit system are missing out on.

This helps not just individual families but the whole Barnet economy by increasing the spending power of residents.

Complex application forms and lack of advice put many older people off claiming Income Support money they should be receiving. This is a crucial benefit because it also means the person or couple entitled to it can qualify for a number of other benefits and help.

Pensioners are the biggest group of people who either do not claim what they are entitled to or claim less than they could, according to official statistics.

Council staff have been working hard to encourage pensioners to claim everything they can.

The key to unravelling the complex benefits maze for pensioners is to get good advice.

BARNET WORKING FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

Apart from help from council benefit advisers, Citizens Advice Bureau and other advice agencies offer help and support.

The CAB has a home visiting service for people aged 65 or over who are referred by a statutory or voluntary agency, which offers useful advice on those long, difficult to understand claim forms.

The government takes into account age, disability and income when deciding on who is eligible for Income Support and how much money they should receive.

Claimants have to live in the UK, have less than £8,000 in savings and work less than 16 hours a week.

The Department of Social Security ignores Attendance Allowance and Disability Living Allowance when calculating what Income Support pensioners should receive. In many cases getting these benefits can lead to more Income Support, and this is a common area where pensioners are missing out.

Pensioners can also earn up to £15 a week and have savings between £3,000 and £8,000 if they are living in the community and not lose out on Income Support.

Personal possessions like cars, furniture and family belongings are normally ignored by the DSS, as are house values,

life insurance policies and compensation payments.

The government has announced important new rules coming into force from April this year raising the amount of money people in residential and nursing homes can have. These pensioners will be able to have savings between £8,000 and £16,000 before Income Support is reduced.

Elderly people should also check whether they can claim bigger Income Support payments because they are getting Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance.

Residents should always seek further help and advice before making a claim.



Private Residential Home

A quality of life is present at Clovelly, in a homely atmosphere where the contentment of residents is paramount.

- Qualified staff (24 hours)
- Long/short stay
- Lifts to all floors
- Occupational therapy
- Special diets catered for
- Extensive gardens & patio
- Beautifully decorated rooms
- Varied home cooking

For further information & brochure contact:

Tel: 0181-445 6775/1175

Fax: 0181-446 8986



Proprietor Mrs F. Thorn RGN
81-85 Torrington Park,
North Finchley, London, N12 9PN

Ham & High Series

Ham & High BROADWAY WESTMINSTER Highbury & Islington Express

For more information call Helen on **0171 433 0000**

COUNCIL KEEPS PLEDGE TO WAR PENSIONERS

Barnet has increased the statutory award for war pensioners by another £10, keeping the pledge made to veterans in June 1995.

The amount of war pension which will be ignored when calculating housing benefit and council tax relief now stands at £30 - three times more than it was this time last year.

War veterans were penalised by being denied access to the full benefits offered by the borough to the rest of the community until the council began making changes last year.

Last summer Barnet doubled the statutory award and promised more to come.

"This council will never forget the debt we owe to our war veterans and we have always been unhappy at the way mean-spirited government policies and the previous council combined to take away their rights," said Councillor

Rudi Vis, Chair of the Budget, Financing and Performance Review Executive Committee.

"The government reduced its relief to war pensioners and left local councils to make up the difference.

"For the second time in a year this council has stepped in to reverse the previous policy," added Councillor Vis.



Cllr. Rudi Vis



Local resident Tina Hodgson and her guide dog Alex met The Mayor, Councillor Susette Palmer when she presented her with a cheque for £1040. Tina raised the money for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

The council has unveiled a new package of measures to boost efforts to help those residents most in need in an anti-poverty drive planned for the coming year.

Highly successful Benefits Advice Surgeries are to be expanded.

The surgeries - set up in libraries, shopping centres and housing offices - have already helped thousands of residents claim benefits they never knew they were entitled to.

Added support is to be given to those who want to appeal to Benefit Appeal Panels and to encourage the most vulnerable in the community make full use of the whole range of available benefits including council tax and housing benefit.

ANTI-POVERTY DRIVE TO HELP COMMUNITY

Help is also on the way for war pensioners and war widows who for the second year running will be getting a further £10 increase in the amount of pension allowed without affecting benefits.

Barnet's anti-poverty strategy will be breaking new ground as initiatives on benefit take-up, debt counselling and rate relief for non-profit making local organisations help support those in the community who have a right to it and need it most.

"By targeting specific benefits and giving personal advice direct

to residents we have helped them get a staggering £120,000 they were entitled to in only six months.

"We are confident that we can build on this success and help many more people who in turn will be able to play a bigger part in the economic life of the borough," said Councillor Vis.

Hard on the heels of the latest accolade, the winning of a Charter Mark to financial services, new Quality Service Guarantees are being introduced to improve still further efficient, value-for-money services.

SAFETY FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Your council took to the stage in February in a bid to cut down on minor accidents which can cause long-term problems for older residents.

Broken bones in older people are often caused by accidental falls and to show how these can be avoided, Barnet Council put on a light-hearted drama production - 'As Time Goes By'.

The show was put together by the council's Accident Prevention

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Unit and the Health Agency's Health Promotion Unit. Throughout the week the production visited clubs and day centres around the borough. It focused on one character who had recently been sent home from hospital after falling at home fracturing her hip.

As she lives on her own, it showed how difficult it can be to cope and looked at what help and services are

available.

Statistics prove that the most common causes of accidental injury in older people are falls, resulting in major bones breaking such as hips, thighs, arms and collar bones.

Community Focus, chosen for this year's Mayor's Charity Appeal, helped produce the backdrops used in the show and an information exhibition also travelled with it.

Ham&High Series Supplements 1996

Watch out for these forthcoming supplements and features:

Weddings.....	19 April
Homes of Distinction.....	10 May
Summer Schools.....	17 May
Training & Job Fair 96.....	14 June
Education.....	30th August
Jewish New Year.....	13th September

If you would like your business to appear in any of these successful supplements, call the advertising department for further details:

0171-433 0000

THE GRANGE HOME FOR THE ELDERLY 33 Woodside Grange Road London N12 8SP

Excellent 24 Hour care in Beautiful Surroundings, Lift, 3 Lounges, Hairdressing, Occupational Therapist, En-Suite Facilities, Viewing Always Welcomed

Contact:
Mrs Parsons, RGN, SCM, NDN
Tel: 0181-446 5378

STAGECOACH THEATRE ARTS SCHOOLS



Here's a way to spend weekends that'll have your 6 - 16 year olds buzzing. Enrol them in your local Stagecoach school where they learn to act, sing and dance. The skills they learn aren't just for the stage. They develop confidence, self reliance and self-esteem. A Stagecoach training is a training for life. There's no interview or audition. Enthusiasm is all they need. To find out more about your local Stagecoach schools in Highgate & Wood Green, & Easter & Summer courses

call: **0181 361 8999**





Watling Festival for community

Your council is mobilising the local community to have a say on plans for a Watling Festival planned for Sunday 9 June in Montrose Playing Field.

The local community has called for a Watling Festival which your council would like to support.

The Festival would be an action-packed day of fun for the whole family.

A Watling Festival Committee is now being formed with representatives from the community, traders, residents' associations and local schools.

Your council will be giving all the support it can to ensure this first festival for Burnt Oak becomes an annual event at Montrose Playing Field of which the whole community can be justly proud.

The council is matching funds raised by the committee to support the event up to £2,000.

It is expected that the Community Festival Committee will want to see the widest possible range of events and attractions possible - including music, dance and drama from local schools and arts groups, sports events, food, craft and charity stalls and our local traders playing a major part in showing the goods and services they have for the local community they serve.

With everything from sport to the arts and all age groups of the community taking part, this Festival will set the scene for a new era of summer fun in Montrose Park.

Those wishing to support this event in any way should contact Lloyd Gee, Arts & Service Development, Educational Services, Friern Barnet Lane, London N11 3DL.

COUNTRY CENTRE OPEN FOR ALL

Building on its success as Barnet's premier environmental education site, the Denis Bland Centre is to take on a new role - and a new name.

The Centre earned its reputation for its work teaching primary school children how to enjoy and respect the environment and learn the ways of the countryside.

Now after 20 years the seven and a half acre site it to be opened to secondary schools, colleges, youth, community and specialist groups.

The expansion has come about as a result of work and fund-raising by the Friends of the Centre and the council promoting the new developments.

The centre was named after Denis Bland who was its first Manager and Advisory Teacher when it opened in 1975.

It will be re-named 'The Barnet Countryside Centre' to show its future role. The old name will survive in the grounds which are to be called 'The Denis Bland Nature Reserve'.

"More and more

Nature on all our doorsteps

people recognise how vital it is for the whole community to be aware of and protect the environment," said Councillor Anne Jarvis, Chair of the Education Committee.

This centre will now be able to share what it has to offer with the whole community.

Work is already underway to meet the needs of

the expected influx of new visitors.

New all-weather paths and toilets are being installed and the opening times extended to meet the needs of residents.

The Barnet Countryside Centre will still keep its educational role but will become better known to the whole community as a new public amenity.

£10,200 BOOST FOR FOREST

A successful community forest idea which gave schools, volunteers and community groups a stake in creating a greener Barnet has been given a £10,200 cash injection.

Your council has agreed to put the money

into supporting the Watling Chase Community Forest.

Last year a community woodland was planted at Whittings Hill in a partnership between the council and local residents.

ARTICLES FOR SALE

Sell things fast through the

Ham & High

USUALLY
~~£21.15~~

ACTUAL
SIZE
3X1
20 WORDS

NOW ONLY **£15** INC.



USUALLY
~~£28.25~~

ACTUAL
SIZE
4X1
30 WORDS

NOW ONLY **£20** INC.

Private advertisers only, one word per box. Please post coupon to:
Ham & High, 100A Avenue Road, NW3 3HF
or telephone **Eve** on **071-433 6203/3888**

Please insert the enclosed advertisement in theSection.
commencing on Friday forweeks.
Please find enclosed a cheque/postal order for.....
Please charge my Barclaycard/Access/Amex No
Expiry Date

NAME

ADDRESS.....

TELEPHONE No



WESTMINSTER
Ham&High

Ham&High

BROADWAY
Ham&High

Highbury & Islington
Express

Your shop window displayed across North London

Property Express

Call 0171 433 3888 for Property advertising



HISTORY ON OUR DOORSTEP

The beauty and grace of ancient classical ships brought Barnet's Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon, to life during February and March in the form of intricately carved wooden models by local model-maker George Fantides.

The exhibition - Classical Ships - was the first and only time these beautiful models would be on display in Britain before going abroad.

Since 1974 George Fantides, who runs a barber's shop in Hendon, has been putting together this unique collection of ships covering 3000 years of maritime history.

The next exhibition at the Museum is all about the history of Fans and opens on the 6 April until 2 June.

Our picture shows George Fantides (centre) confronted by warring invaders during the exhibition.

in Barnet, in partnership with Barnet Health Agency, voluntary groups and service users.

The council has now decided to invest almost another £89,000, increasing spending to £189,170

compared to £100,270 last year, to meet the increased needs created by a rise in the number of people with AIDS in Barnet.

The council will apply to the government to fund its increased spending on

people with AIDS and HIV through the Aids Support Grant.

The council will also strengthen support to people with AIDS and HIV by:

Increasing grant aid to

READ ON

NEW LOOK FOR TOTTERIDGE LIBRARY

A new-look Totteridge Library will mean even better conditions for library users and create a new base for community events.

Your council has given the go-ahead to repair and redecorate the library.

The ground floor will be transformed and then be used for library activities and community

events and for community groups to book meetings.

Building work is set to start in August and will include electrical and lighting repairs, outside wall and roof repairs, heating and water works

and new floors and windows to bring the building up to the standards the council now demands.

"This renovation work will both improve the condition of the library for users and create a new meeting place for community groups," said Councillor Katherine McGuirk, Chair of Recreation, Leisure and Arts Committee.

IN TOUCH WITH EUROPE

An information link to Europe has been unveiled by your council at Hendon Library.

The European Relay service was launched by Chair of Recreation, Leisure and Arts Committee Councillor Katherine McGuirk.

The library now offers a feast of useful information all in one spot.

Europe is becoming increasingly important for

business and jobs in the borough and there is a great demand from children for further Euro facts to help them with their school work.

The library's European Relay offers up to date information about the European Commission and its work and advice from trained staff is also available.

As a member of the European-wide exchange of information, the council

has set up an information display including leaflets, pamphlets and books.

The European Relay system has been set up to meet the demand for information from people within the community. Barnet's membership of the relay means it can get advice and information when needed from the EC and Barnet residents can get copies of a wide range of EU publications and official documents.

HELP FOR THOSE WITH HIV AND AIDS

Barnet's social services is continuing to spend more to help people with AIDS and HIV in the borough.

Over the last two years the council has put more money into providing support to those who need

voluntary groups by £10,000.

Providing extra community care packages to people at a cost of £40,920.

Spending £30,000 more on day care costs for children.

Employing an extra social worker.

Barnet will also apply to the Barnet Health Agency to create a new HIV prevention outreach worker next year at a cost of £25,900.

COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

Telephone Numbers: all codes are 0181- unless otherwise indicated. No appointments are needed for those councillors holding regular surgeries. At Bank Holidays, surgery times may change. Please ring beforehand to check.

Political groups are indicated in an abbreviated form (Lab) = Labour (Con) = Conservative (LD) = Liberal Democrat

ARKLEY WARD

Anita Campbell (Lab) 440 2703 1st and 3rd Monday every month 8-9pm
 Pam Coleman (Lab) 449 6254 St Stephen's Church Hall, Bells Hill, Barnet
 Linda McFadyen (Lab) 440 6254 Every Saturday 10am-12noon
 104 East Barnet Road, East Barnet

BRUNSWICK PARK WARD

Don Goodman (Con) 368 0383 2nd Saturday every month 10.30am-12noon
 Rene Palmer (Con) 368 7800 Monkfrith Boys' Club, Osidge Lane, N14
 John Rawles (Con) 368 3522 (Tel. 449 7345 - Chipping Barnet
 Conservative Association)

BURNT OAK WARD

Rosemary Carney (Lab) 959 6757 Every Saturday 10.30am-12noon
 Allan Turner (Lab) 952 2106 Burnt Oak Library, Watling Avenue, Edgware
 Alan Williams (Lab) 906 0576

CHILDS HILL WARD

Jack Cohen (LD) 445 3981 1st Thursday every month 7-8pm
 Jonathan Davies (LD) 203 6690 Childs Hill Library, 320 Cricklewood Lane,
 Susette Palmer (LD) 455 5140 NW2

COLINDALE WARD

Gill Sargeant (Lab) 455 1070 1st Saturday every month 2-3pm
 David Williams (Lab) 343 1082 St. Augustine's Church (small lounge),
 Grahame Park, Colindale, NW9

EAST BARNET WARD

Usha Chopra (Lab) 449 3231 1st Monday every month 7-8pm
 New Barnet Residents' Association
 48-50 Victoria Road, New Barnet
 Anne Jarvis (Lab) 449 9001 Every Saturday 10am-12noon
 Richard Soer (Lab) 441 0170 104 East Barnet Road, East Barnet

EAST FINCHLEY WARD

Helen Gordon (Lab) 444 2761 Every Saturday 10-11.30am
 Joan Ryan (Lab) 444 6400 Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane, N2
 Rudolf Vis (Lab) 444 4051

EDGWARE WARD

Julian Czarny (Con) 958 6999 Contact councillors direct or Hendon
 Malcolm Lester (Con) 349 2595 Conservative Association
 Joan Scannell (Con) 959 5921 Tel. 959 1446

FINCHLEY WARD

Eva Greenspan (Con) 203 1598 Contact councillors direct or Finchley and
 Barbara Langstone (Con) 445 5443 Golders Green Conservative Association
 Leslie Sussman (Con) 346 6775 Tel. 445 4292

FRIERN BARNET WARD

John Carter (Con) 343 4005 Contact councillors direct by telephone 7 days
 Brian Salinger (Con) 368 1329 a week or through the Chipping Barnet
 John Tiplady (Con) 445 5734 Conservative Association Tel. 449 7345

GARDEN SUBURB WARD

Frank Davis (Con) c/o Finchley & Golders Green Conservative
 Association or write to 20 Connaught Drive,
 London NW11 6BJ
 Mohammed Khamisa (Con) 458 1996 Contact councillors direct or Finchley & Golders
 Roy Shutz (Con) 883 1205 Green Conservative Association Tel. 445 4292

GOLDERS GREEN WARD

Melvin Cohen (Con) 346 2550 Contact councillors direct or Finchley &
 John Hedge (Con) 203 0137 Golders Green Conservative Association
 Michele Moulin (Con) 203 2895 Tel. 445 4292

HADLEY WARD

Mark Hayball (Con) 0956 343070 3rd Saturday every month 10.30am-12noon
 Liz Mammatt (Con) 361 9720 Chipping Barnet Conservative Association,
 Kanti Patel (Con) 446 6639 163 High Street, Barnet Tel. 449 7345

Liz Mammatt 1st Saturday every month 10.30am-12noon
 New Barnet Residents' Association, 48-50 Victoria Road, New Barnet
 Tel. 441 7044

HALE WARD

Andrew Dickie (Lab) 906 2807 Every Saturday 10am-12noon
 Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue

Leslie Pym (Con) 959 5484 Contact councillors direct or
 Sheila Scott (Con) 906 0825 Tel. 959 1446
 Fortnightly on Mondays 6.30pm
 Hendon Conservative Association,
 2 Apex Parade, Selvage Lane NW7 3JT

HENDON WARD

Edward Bunn (Con) 906 2793 Contact councillors direct or Hendon
 Anthony Finn (Con) 202 9689 Conservative Association
 Fred Poole (Con) 203 0813 Tel. 959 1446

MILL HILL WARD

Wayne Casey (LD) 203 8189 Every Saturday 1-2.30pm
 Jeremy Davies (LD) 202 6105 Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue
 Sheila Gottsche (LD) 959 3990 Last Saturday every month 12noon-1pm
 Canada Villa, Pursley Road, Mill Hill

ST PAUL'S WARD

Kitty Lyons (Lab) 346 6843 Every Saturday 11am-12.30pm
 Katherine McGuirk (Lab) 346 8255 331 Ballards Lane, Finchley
 Jim Tierney (Lab) 346 3359

TOTTERIDGE WARD

Kevin Edson (Con) 446 8343 Contact councillors direct or Chipping Barnet
 Victor Lyon (Con) 446 4423 Conservative Association
 Victor Usher (Con) 445 4248 Tel. 449 7345

WEST HENDON WARD

Nicholas Kissen (Lab) 200 9861 1st and 3rd Saturday every month
 Gina Marks (Lab) 959 0525 10.30am-12noon
 Agnes Slocombe (Lab) 202 4074 West Hendon Clinic, West Hendon Broadway
 (entrance in Perryfield Way)

WOODHOUSE WARD

Stan Cross (Lab) 444 9178 Every Saturday 11am-12.30pm
 Mel Packer (Lab) 361 4540 331 Ballards Lane, Finchley
 Jo Salsbury (Lab) 444 4482



Councillor Katherine McGuirk, Chair of Recreation, Leisure and Arts Committee, unveils the new European Information stand at Hendon Library. The stand holds information on the European Community and what membership can offer to Barnet residents (see page 14).

CLUB PLAN HOPES

Young people who have been without a youth club for over ten years could soon have their own community centre.

Barnet councillors are looking at a partnership deal with Hendon Football Club which would create a new youth centre.

The plans follow months of talks between the council and the football club. The new youth centre would, if approved by councillors, form part of the club's plans for its council owned Claremont Road site.

The youth centre would be provided within the football clubhouse and open four nights a week as well as offering a daytime meeting place for a whole range of community groups and organisations.

The council has targeted the area for action in the last two years, building on projects to up-grade homes and schools as well as opening a new sports centre.

Plans for the area are included in the council's major 'Cricklewood and West Hendon Initiative'.



Ringin' the changes... Mayor of Barnet Councillor Susette Palmer unveils the newly-restored former East Barnet Town Hall bells. The bells' new home is in front of the Barnet Museum, Wood Street, Barnet.

BUILDING A BETTER BARNET

HAVE YOUR SAY - AND HELP YOUR AREA

The first wave of improvements will soon be felt across the borough after councillors gave the go-ahead for immediate action to revitalise Barnet's town centres.

The council agreed the package after studying the feedback from Town Centre Forum meetings and fact-finding walkabouts by forum members and council officers.

Forum members had asked for a number of short and medium term projects designed to kick-start the programme to breathe new life into town centres and pave the way for major long term projects.

Top of the list for urgent action was the need to up-grade the appearance and amenities in town centres and improve car parking.

The first results of forum decisions are already having an impact and work will start soon to get rid of fly-posting and graffiti.

High priority is to be

You have views on your town centre - and we want to hear them. If you have a contribution to make to your council's successful town centre initiative, there are vacancies on some of the town centre forums. Town Centre Forum members should be representatives of business, residents, community or amenity groups. If you can attend five evening meetings a year and can devote a little extra time to support your town centre you could be part of an important and growing success story.

The forums are playing a valuable role in creating ideas for the revival of our town centres and working with the council to transform the local economy. If you would like to play a part in any of the forums covering Chipping, New and East Barnet, Edgware, Burnt Oak and Mill Hill or Golders Green and Temple Fortune, please telephone Des Welton, Economic Development Unit, on 0181-359 2862.

given to keeping streets clean, tree planting, and landscaping, improving public toilets, repairing pavements and providing better seating areas.

Also in the pipeline are plans tailored to meet the special needs of each town centre including targeted marketing and promotion campaigns.

"All our Town Centre Forums deserve to be congratulated on the progress that has been made in such a short time," said Councillor Andrew Dickie, Chair of the Economic Development and Land Executive Committee.

"The forums have taken off and started to deliver the real benefits they and the local community have been

looking for.

"The results of meetings and walkabouts have provided a rich store of information which we can now draw on to lay the foundation for the future long-term success of our town centres," he added.

These first practical steps will have a big impact on the look of our town centres, making them more attractive areas for both shoppers and traders.

Barnet's Town Centre Forums have a critical role to play in bringing together in partnership the local community, traders and the council to reverse the decline and restore confidence to the borough's town centres.

Each forum has put

together its own checklist of short-term priorities for action.

Town centre by town centre the first fruits of the forum meetings and discussions are quickly becoming a reality.

The council will make

funds available and has prepared a timetable for work to begin at once with more projects coming on stream in the next few months

"This is only the beginning. What we are doing together now will

help the community become aware of the future potential for their local centre and the role they can play in bringing back real prosperity," said Councillor Dickie.

"The next step is encouraging investment, creating real jobs and meeting the challenges of the future with confidence.

"Building on the success of the forums so far there is good reason to be confident that the local community, the council and private and voluntary groups - all working in partnership - will deliver the goods," added Councillor Dickie.

DIGGING DEEP FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

Youngsters from Manorside and Tudor Schools in Finchley had the opportunity to do their bit for the environment at the beginning of March.

The schoolchildren planted young saplings including hawthorn, hazel, field maple, rose, holly and willow in earth which had been removed from the new Finchley Lido site and put into land in the Glebelands Open Space off Summers Lane, Finchley.

The planting was just one of the projects your council has started as part of Local Agenda 21.

Our picture shows the children, aged ten and eleven, from the two schools digging deep for the environment.



Barnet has answered the call from residents to raise the profile of both the parks rangers and district officers by combining the services to create the new Ward Officer Service.

Each ward, there are 20 in the borough, will have two dedicated Ward Officers. The main duty of one of the officers will be to patrol the parks and open spaces in each ward. The other will keep an eye on the roads and pavements in each ward ensuring that highway legislation is enforced.

They will be available for residents to discuss problems, from litter to vandalism, holes in the road to abandoned vehicles.

Officers will be a link between residents and the council and will become familiar figures in their area.

The service will be up and running on the 1 April and leaflets showing which officers are responsible for each ward will be available to residents in local libraries and council offices.