

community

**YOUR FREE NEWSPAPER
PRINTED AT NO COST
TO BARNET COUNCIL**

ISSUE No. 1 February 1995

MORE VALUE FOR YOUR MONEY



TRIO OF FUN

Cheers - and it's a toast to Barnet's latest nightspot.

Grahame's alcohol-free bar has opened at Grahame Park Youth Centre with all the facilities to be expected from a swinging nightspot.

Read all about it on page 6.

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On the Home Front p7

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New hope for Cricklewood p11

Top Marks for Social Services p13

Councillors' Surgeries p15

All Council Tax payers in Barnet should be getting more value for their money next year. Despite massive government cuts which have slashed millions off what Barnet is allowed to spend, Council Tax bills are not likely to rise by more than five per cent - a maximum of 52 pence a week for a band D home.

With strict spending controls and a new approach to investing money where it really counts - for our children in education and in protecting the most vulnerable members of the community through social services - residents throughout the borough should be spared the cuts many local authorities have faced and should see services

Fair Deal Guarantee

improved.

Despite the cuts in government spending limits of over £11m compared with last year, the council is spending more than ever before on education, social services and targeted front-line services which affect every family and individual in the borough.

"Within the next few weeks we will be revealing a package of measures which will protect and improve services the people of this borough need, deserve and have a right to expect. In spite of the government's decision to cut our spending limits, we will improve services without heaping more burdens on the community by allowing Council Tax bills to escalate.

"Like every part of the community - our residents and businesses both nationally and locally - we

have got to learn to do more with less.

"We have set out in a four-year plan how we are going to achieve this. It is a fair-deal guarantee for all.

"I am sure the whole community will welcome our realistic approach to making every pound count - to improving services for us all while giving the best possible value for money and keeping bills to the absolute minimum," said Council Leader Alan Williams.

The council worked out it needed to spend £241m for this year taking account of inflation and the need to maintain service levels. The government has cut this budget by £11m. This is a loss of over £1.70p a week or £88 a year of spending power for every band D Council Tax payer in the borough.

ATTENTION



Barnet's Mayor Councillor Ellis Hillman 'reviews the troops' as he formally transfers the Freedom of the Borough to the Royal Logistics Corps now it has replaced the Royal Engineers at Mill Hill Barracks.

He was accompanied by Cllr Victor Lyon, last year's Mayor, who had signed the original Freedom of the Borough.

The council announced at the same time it is working with ex-servicemen's associations and countless other local organisations

to organise a parade and multi-denominational service at Hendon Park on 9 July to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of World War Two.

A meeting has already been held with local organisations which have pledged support for a parade and service which is expected to attract thousands.

Organisations wishing to play a part in this 'celebration of 50 years' peace' should write to Jerry Herring, The Town Hall, The Burroughs, Hendon NW4 4BG.

This is the first edition of your new community newspaper - the beginning of a new era of two-way communications between you and your council.

This first edition brings you up-to-date with the latest developments in your borough. Future issues will also feature what you and the community are doing to make this borough of ours a better place in which to live, work and play.

Your new paper is printed at no cost to the council - it will keep the whole community informed of what, together, we are achieving.

Please tell us what you think of it - and together we can make each issue better, more informative and share our common concerns and successes.

Councillor Alan Williams, Leader of the Council

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

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HAVE YOUR SAY

Council Listens to the Views of Residents

The council has kept its word - residents throughout the borough are being urged to work with us in our plans for all our futures.

A major breakthrough for Barnet has come with the setting up of Service Consultation Fora - groups of individuals who will work with councillors and officers of the council to make sure decisions meet the real needs of the community.

These groups meet a few times a year for informal discussions about what the council is doing and how our services can be made even better.

Informal Groups

These informal gatherings give representatives of the community the chance to have a real say in what the council is doing, why it is doing it - and if things could be done better.

Residents will learn at first hand what plans the council has 'on the drawing board' - and councillors and officers will be able to listen and learn from residents who will have first hand knowledge of the real issues

affecting the community.

The groups will have 'core' members who will take part in all meetings and group discussions. These 'core' members will include councillors and council officers, together with representatives of local community-based organisations and groups.

Frank Talks

To ensure the widest cross-section of views and an open and frank discussion of real issues, these groups will invite service users to take part.

As part of the council's commitment to open local government, the meetings

will be open to all residents - and anyone attending can take part in the debate.

There is already an Environmental Forum. Groups to discuss education, community care, council tenant and leaseholder services and road safety are about to begin their work.

Later this year there will be new groups launched.

These new groups need residents to play a full and active part.

New Groups

The new groups will be:

- Planning and Building Control
- Traffic, Highways, Street Cleansing, Drainage, Refuse

Collection and Street Lighting

Libraries, the Arts, Museums, Recreation, the Countryside and Amenities Services for Children and Families

If you would like to know more about taking part in this important listening and learning approach and feel you may wish to help the whole community by taking part, please contact John May, Barnet Council, on 0181-202 8282 extension 2027 or write to Consultation Fora, Barnet Council, The Town Hall, The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4 4BG.

The council, concerned over the facilities of the Deansbrook Day Centre in the grounds of Edgware Hospital, have asked the users what they think about our plans either to totally renovate and modernise the building or start from scratch on a new site. Their responses have been positive - and the council is still assessing their ideas.

Whatever happens once the responses of those taking part in the detailed consultation were analysed, there will be guarantees of a place at either a new centre or the totally modernised Deansbrook unit if it stayed on the same site.

If following the results of consultation it is found it is just not practicable to bring the existing building up to standard or this is not what users of the centre want, a new purpose-built centre will be built in Burnt Oak.

TOWN CENTRE TALKS

Your council has reiterated its commitment to open government by allowing the public to have their say on the future of North Finchley town centre.

Councillors, council officers and representatives from business and residents' groups have been meeting since March last year to discuss ways of improving the centre. Now residents can join the forum.

It has not been possible to invite residents before because of the limited space in the building being used. It is now based at North Finchley Library and it is hoped residents will attend to see how the forum works and to express their views. Everyone is welcome. Future meetings will be announced in Community News.

ALEXANDRA PALACE ICE RINK



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AT A GLANCE

HISTORY OF BOROUGH

The publication of 'Barnet, Edgware, Hadley and Totteridge' by borough archivists Pamela Taylor and Joanna Corden completes a trilogy recording the history of the Borough of Barnet in pictures.

This selection of 16 local photographs and drawings is available, price £12.95 at all libraries in the borough as well as the Local Studies Centre in Egerton Gardens, Hendon and Church Farmhouse Museum. The earlier two volumes in the series 'Finchley and Friern Barnet' and 'Hendon, Child's Hill, Golders Green and Mill Hill', are also still available price £11.95 each.

CATALOGUE FOR BLIND

Barnet's blind and visually impaired are to have easier access to tapes of books thanks to a new project by the council and the Barnet Borough Talking Newspaper.

The scheme will now enable people to access the catalogue of tapes of books in the borough's libraries.

MUSIC SALE

There will be a music sale of ex-library stock at Hendon Library, The Burroughs, NW4 4BQ on 3 and 4 March (9.30am-5pm) and 6 March (9.30am-8pm). Records, cassettes and CDs of all kinds of music including indie, plus music books and scores are included.

GRASS CUTTING

The grass-cutting contract, which was given by the previous council to an outside contractor, was terminated after complaints from residents and has now been won back by your own council staff.

Barnet's in-house team came up with the best price and service standards to win the contract to cover everything from maintaining flower beds to cutting grass on sports pitches from 10 April in some parts of the borough.

MORE SOCIAL WORKERS

The council has set up an extra social work team for children and families in the west of the borough to react to the growing number of children on the protection register.

In a full year the costs will be over £107,000 - money the council believes must be spent to protect children at risk in the borough.

INVESTING IN ALL OUR FUTURES

TARLING ROAD TRIUMPH

A new children's centre for under fives and their families, 23 homes, a new community centre and public open space have been created in the latest multi-agency partnership project completed by your council.

Known as the Tarling Road Partnership, the housing and community project brought together Barnet Council, Sanctuary Housing Association, the Old Barn Community Centre and developers.

Built on land owned by Barnet Council, the partnership has created a new community centre to replace the Old Barn in Tarling Road, a 25-place children's centre providing day care for children and support for their parents, 17 family houses and six flats surrounded by landscaped open space.

Meeting Rooms

The new Old Barn Community Centre provides the highest standards of leisure, educational and recreational facilities to residents in this part of the borough.

The new centre has several meeting rooms, fully-equipped kitchen and two large halls for major activities. It is expected to become a focal point in the community and will also provide a venue for a pre-school breakfast club and an after-school club for local youngsters. Holiday play schemes are also run at the centre.



Julie Fritz, who has moved into one of the new homes on the development, with baby Paige.

Partnership brings benefits for whole community

The Newstead Children's Centre, which your new council has opened following the closure of Kingswood Day Nursery two years ago, is a purpose-built complex offering children under five and their families specialist support and services.

Growing Need

"We are committed to improving and extending day care for under fives throughout the borough. This whole partnership development shows just what can be achieved when the council and the community work together to provide much-needed facilities.

Major Blow

"There is a growing need for day-care places throughout the borough and we are determined to do everything possible to increase the number of places available to toddlers and their families. The closure of Kingswood Nursery was a major blow to the children and families of the borough. This development together with our other initiatives is an important step in meeting the needs of the borough's toddlers," said Councillor David Williams, Chair of Social Services Committee.



(above) Mayor Ellis Hillman gets a helping push at the children's centre. (below) 'So this is how it works' says the Mayor, as two toddlers show him how it's done in the spacious new children's centre.

The new centre is dedicated to developing young children by working in partnership with their parents to provide a warm, stimulating environment.

The Newstead Centre has also been designed to meet the needs of parents and children with disabilities. Places at the new centre will be allocated to children needing support following an assessment carried out by Community Services with parents.

To make sure caring, stable relationships are built up at the centre, each family will be allocated a 'keyworker' who will plan with parents how services can be tailored to meet specific needs.

Under Fives

A large playroom with all the latest 'under-fives' facilities will be used Monday to Friday by children between two and five. A smaller playroom will be 'home' to the family group where children will attend with parents.

On Wednesdays this room will be used by support groups for parents and carers and their children. At the end of the week a "Nurture Group" will be provided for children.

MORE NURSERY PLACES PLEDGE

Every toddler in Barnet deserves the start in life only well-structured, professional nursery education can provide - and the council is determined to turn the tide and provide it.

"This year marks the beginning of a programme of investment in nursery education which will mark a new era in the borough. It is only the beginning.

"We believe there have been decades of under-funding of nursery education in Barnet - and we are determined to give as many toddlers as possible a good start in life.

"We cannot do it overnight - we must tackle the crisis in nursery education we have inherited ward by ward - school catchment area by school," says Councillor Anne Jarvis, Chair of Education.

The number of nurseries will be increased and improved over the next four years as part of the council's four-year corporate plan to bring new and improved services to the whole community.

A start has already been made with the expansion of 13 nursery places in each of the two daily sessions at Brookhill Nursery School, East Barnet and Barnet Hill Primary School, Mays Lane, Barnet.

Brookhill School now has 75 children and Barnet Hill School now has 52 children in each daily session.

It is planned over the next three years to expand annually by two nursery classes each of up to 26 places per daily session.

"We are investing in the future of the borough and the adults of tomorrow every time we open a nursery," said Councillor Anne Jarvis.

WHAT'S ON

We welcome contributions to the What's On column. 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.

COLLECTOMANIA

4 February - 9 April
A special exhibition - to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Church Farmhouse as a museum - of unusual collections including bears, bus and train tickets, dolls, fans, jigsaws, matchstick models, newspapers, postcards, Victorian jewellery, Wedgwood, etc.
Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon, NW4.
Tel. 0181-203 0130

During the exhibition a programme of special events is being arranged by the Friends of Church Farmhouse Museum. All events will take place at 2.30pm on Sundays:

26 February
To celebrate Shrove Tuesday, Philippa Rudge shows how to make crepes Suzette, blinis, stuffed pancakes and Scotch pancakes - with a chance to taste them all!
5 March
Clement Kryslar uses a projector to enlarge sections of gemstones and minerals revealing their intricate and beautiful structure.
26 March
Rosalind and Martin Pulver, well-known local collectors, writers, lecturers and broadcasters will identify and date objects brought to them at the museum. Visitors may bring not more than two pieces for identification and no furniture or very large objects.

SPRING 1995 WEDDING FAYRE

2 April, 11am-4pm
Organised by Barnet Council and The Hendon Times Group. Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley. Free admission. Tel. 0181 203 0411, ext. 252

'IN THE MOOD'

6 May
VE Day 50th Anniversary Concert in aid of the Barnet College Educational Trust at Barnet College, Wood Street Centre. For further details phone 0181-275 2807

THE OLD BULL ARTS CENTRE

68 High Street, Barnet EN5 5SJ.
Regular performances in The Theatre and Studio, with special events on Sunday afternoons for children. The Old Bull also runs practical classes and an educational programme. Phone the Box Office on 0181-449 0048.

8 March, 8pm
Hendon Horticultural Society. Mr N Miles will give an illustrated talk on 'The Gardens at Capel Manor'. St Mary's Church House, Greyhound Hill, Church End, NW4

WALKS

26 February, 2-4pm
See the wintering birds and plantlife at the Welsh Harp with the Barnet Rangers. Meet at Woodfield Park, Cool Oak Lane, West Hendon

5 March, 10am-12noon
A family event to explore bridleways and roads by bike. Meet the Countryside Management Service Rangers at Radlett Railway Station.

25 March
Family event co-ordinated by Stevenage Artscape. Ring 0438 353795 for further details. Meet at Sheney Park Trust car park.

EVENTS IN AID OF THE MAYOR'S APPEAL

10 March
Band Concert by the Royal Logistics Corps at the Inglis Barracks, Bittacy Hill, Mill Hill. Tickets £5 adults, £2 children. Details from Captain Duxbury on Tel. 0181-346 2611

11 March
Sponsored swim at Copthall. Details from Mary Phillips, tel. 0181-445 9426

19 March
10km road race and 2km fun run at Copthall Sports Complex. Information from Mike Lockwood or Mel Parker. Tel. 0181 203 4187

8 April
Civic Charity Gala at Main Hall, Middlesex University, The Burroughs, Hendon NW4. Details from Rosemary Jude, tel. 0181-959 8055

This is your newspaper and we want to promote community activities. Please send us details of your forthcoming events

16 March, 7.30pm
Barnet Federation of Tenants' and Residents' Association Meeting. Cheshir Hall, Foster Street, NW4

29 March, 7.30pm
'Grants and Voluntary Organisations', Cllr Richard Soer and Cllr Mel Packer, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Grants Committee. An open forum to meet the groups the council supports, discuss council priorities and some of the issues which most concern the voluntary sector. Committee Rooms 1 & 2, The Town Hall, The Burroughs, NW4. Call 0181-202 8282, ext 2081 for more information.

Barnet Chamber of Commerce holds regular lunchtime and evening meetings. For further information please phone 0181-343 3833.

Your Council at Work

A full list of council meetings is on page 8. All meetings are open to residents.

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PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

BLUEPRINT FOR A BETTER BARNET

“The needs of our residents are changing - and the amount of money the government allows us to spend in meeting those needs is being eroded year on year.

We must be imaginative in the way we harness all our resources to meet real needs - and provide services of which the whole borough can be proud.

With unlimited money, any council can provide quality services.

But lack of money is no excuse for providing second-best, unimaginative services which do not meet the changing needs of those they are designed to serve.

We are committed to embracing the challenge of change and providing the best possible services even when we face diminishing resources.

Councillor Alan Williams,
Leader, Barnet Council



TOP NOTCH AWARD

Barnet's Careers Service has received a top notch award from the North London TEC for its commitment to developing and training staff.

Gill Kelsey, Assistant Principal Careers Officer, (left) and Peter Stevens, Careers Service Manager, proudly display the

plaque which was presented by Mike Nixon, Chief Executive of the TEC.

Barnet is the first Careers Service in London to receive the "Investor in People" award. The council's Chief Executive's Department and Environmental Health section are also working towards the award.

WANTED: REGISTER OFFICE IDEAS

Your council wanted your views on plans for centralising register office services at Hertford Lodge adjoining Avenue House in East End Road N3.

If the plans go ahead following consultation with residents and users of the Avenue House complex, they will make register office services more accessible to the whole borough and dramatically improve facilities for wedding ceremonies.

The council has been worried for some time about the poor standard of facilities offered at register offices in Burnt Oak Broadway and Wood Street, Barnet.

The existing two register offices are based in the northern and western edges of the borough and have been found to be inconvenient for many residents.

Burnt Oak register office has been a particularly disappointing wedding venue for many couples. It is not attractive for arrivals and departures and does not provide a suitable atmosphere for photographic sessions.

If agreed following consultation, the Burnt Oak Broadway offices will be closed and Wood Street, Barnet office will only be used for weddings. All other services would be centralised at Hertford Lodge.

Your new council has set out its programme for change in a four-year blueprint which will guide the way services are targeted to meet real need.

We will do this by questioning all old-established principles. "We will contain costs, improve the quality of services and target our resources where they can do the most good.

"We do not accept - and have never accepted - that providing the best must always cost more. As we have already begun to show, major improvements in services, and their accessibility for the whole community, can often be achieved by doing things differently. By assessing the need and tailoring services to meet that need, we are determined to give residents what they want and deserve at a price we can all afford," said Council Leader Alan Williams.

Open local government and giving all residents an equal voice in the running of the borough is a keynote of the new approach to democracy in Barnet as set out in a new Corporate Plan.

Equal access to services,

Meeting your real needs

a fair and reasonable allocation of resources where they are most needed and the acknowledgement of the right of all residents in the borough to be heard and contribute to the way their money is spent is seen as marking a new era in Barnet.

The council has already begun a process of consultation and local forums to ensure its decisions on all issues reflect the concerns and demands of residents. Question time has been introduced at all committee meetings.

A 15-page 'fair deal for all' Corporate Plan strategy plots an approach to creating and maintaining services within a set of 'values' to which all council staff will be expected to work.

The Corporate Plan covers every area of the council's work - from education where there is a commitment to make it possible for every child to be given the chance of achieving the highest possible level of achievement to social services and housing.

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Cheers - it's Grahame's



Mayor of Barnet Councillor Ellis Hillman and Shadow Minister for London Nick Raynsford raised a glass to the borough's latest swinging nightspot - Grahame's, a new alcohol-free bar for 14 to 21-year-olds.

Grahame's, at Grahame Park Youth Centre, Corner Mead, Colindale, features latest disco lights and sound equipment, spacious dance floor, carpeted bar area - and a full range of non-alcoholic cocktails.

Open from 8pm till 11pm every Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the club has been developed by Barnet Council's Youth Service at a cost of £80,000 with the support of the Milly Aphorp Trust, John Lyons Trust, fund-raising by local youngsters and the contributions from countless local organisations, individuals and clubs.

"This exciting project would not have been possible without the support of all these individuals and organisations. It is a wonderful example of partnership at work for the good of the community," said Councillor Alan Williams, Leader of the Council.

Alcohol-Free Bar The 'In Place' for youth fun

The success of Grahame's would come from the fact that working with local young people and their youth workers the new council had been able to provide, in partnership with others, what they asked for and what would work at Grahame Park.

"This is their club - and the young people it is designed for will play a major part in setting their own programme for fun and relaxation.

"This council has set out in its four-year plan how we will bring new hope, prosperity and dignity to all sectors of the borough with key policies to support the

young and their families in the areas of education, recreation and the world of work.

"This development, this partnership at work, is an example of just what can be achieved when the whole community is mobilised to get things done.

"The young people of this borough need and deserve our support - and will continue to get it from this new council," added Councillor Williams.

Councillor Williams urged all the borough's young people to take advantage of the wide range of facilities on offer in all the council's youth centres.



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FIRST STEP ON PROPERTY LADDER

FROM a two-bedroom flat in Barnet to a three-bedroom home with garden for them and their two young daughters and new baby twin boy and girl.

This was the dream come true for one couple who seized the opportunity of the Do It Yourself Shared Ownership Scheme run by the council and its partner Notting Hill Home Ownership.

Before the birth of their new twins, bank worker 28 year old Michael McDade and his wife full-time mum Karen aged 23, lived in a two-bedroom flat in Barnet with daughters Sophie aged 18 months and 6 year old Sarah.

When they heard about Barnet's plan to help people buy a house through the scheme they applied immediately.

They bought a 25 per cent share in their £72,000 home which means they have an £18,000 mortgage, paying rent on the rest to Notting Hill Home Ownership.

Under this pioneering Barnet Council scheme

tenants can choose a home anywhere in England. A housing association buys the property and sells a share to the former council tenant. The share you buy can be between 25 per cent and 75 per cent, depending on what families and individuals can afford.

The share of the home can be bought with a mortgage or with savings and tenants pay rent for the share they do not own. Tenants can buy a bigger share of their new home from the housing association over the years and end up owning the home outright.

Barnet Council sees this as ideal way of helping families get on the property-owning ladder without the problems and stress of coping with excessive mortgage payments. Council tenants can also claim an incentive payment of up to £1,200 to help with legal and survey fees.

Help, advice and guidance on taking part in the scheme is available from Frances Cross on 0181-446 8511, extension 4863.

Housing Office meets need

Following consultation with residents, a new local housing office has been opened on Grahame Park. The service is the same as at Stag House and residents can ask about:

- rent
- repairs
- tenancy
- caretaking and cleaning
- moving from one home to another
- problems with your neighbour

Residents are also able to get information on the major building works on their estate, housing benefit and other welfare services.

The Grahame Park Housing Office is at 17 The Concourse, London NW9 5XA. Repairs telephone no. 0181 205 1299. The opening times are: Monday - Thursday, 9am-5.15pm and Friday 9am - 5pm.

Following this new development, the advice shop at 5 The Concourse has now closed.

HOME FROM HOME

Council crackdown on graffiti

Your council has pledged to clamp down on graffiti and vandalism which plagues many of the borough's housing estates and costs thousands of pounds to remove and repair.

"We are working with residents and the police to show those responsible we won't stand for this wanton vandalism and that we will do all we can to stop it," says Councillor Allan Turner, Chair of the Housing and Environmental Services Committee.

"All council tenants deserve to have their homes free of graffiti and vandalism and we are fully investigating several options to ensure this happens," Councillor Turner added.

Barnet is now considering a mobile graffiti and vandalism squad to tour the borough daily, bidding for government money to help in the fight and having Park Rangers patrol Templewood Point, Childs Hill - one of the worst affected areas - on a six month trial basis.



FROM DEPOT TO DREAM HOME

Over five acres of a former depot have been transformed into Hendon Way homes development opposite the now famous Brent Cross Shopping Centre landmark.

This will provide 168 homes for Paddington Churches, Sutherland, Christian Action, West Hampstead and New Era Housing Associations.

Road improvements, a roundabout and a lay-by have improved road safety and minimised traffic danger for local residents.

Hendon Way comprises a mix of rented and shared ownership for single persons, families and wheelchair users and supported housing on a barrier free energy efficient development.

Children are catered for with a carefully planned play area. Gardeners benefit from a new access, car park and fence to their nearby allotments.

In keeping with the borough's environment there's a green corridor and landscaped extension. There is a mix of tenures and house types from one bedroom flats, two bedroom houses for shared ownership and three bedroom bungalows for special needs.

The next phase of two- and three-bedroom houses at Amber Grove, Hendon Way, will be released in June 1995.

For information, contact Sutherland Housing Association on 0181-453 1177.

HELP US MANAGE YOUR HOMES

Your council is committed to providing services residents need and want. To do this we need your views.

The Housing and Environmental Services Committee wants two secure tenants to come to their meetings. This means tenants will have a say in making policies. It will help us in our short and long-term planning.

The Housing and Environmental Services Committee decides how your council manages the homes our tenants live in. This includes how much rent they pay, how we do repairs and how much we spend on general improvements to

Tenants need to play part in Housing Committee

your homes and estates. This is a challenging time in housing management everywhere as Compulsory Competitive Tendering (CCT for short) is well under way. So much is happening that your council needs your views to make sure we are doing what you want.

The committee meets about six times a year. These are evening meetings in The Town Hall, Hendon and finish by 10pm at the latest.

A tenant representative is also able to

attend the Housing Services Consultation Forum. This is an important new way of consulting with tenants, leaseholders and other residents about how we manage the housing service.

Any tenant who would like to represent other tenants and go to the committee meetings should apply for an application form from Residents' Participation Officer, London Borough of Barnet, Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone,

London N20 0EJ, tel. 0181-446 8511, ext 4864.

You should have been a secure tenant of Barnet Council for five years or more and your application should be supported by the signatures of 20 secure tenants who agree to the nomination.

Closing date for applications is 31 March 1995 - don't delay. Apply today and play your part in helping the council continually improve our housing services.

Democracy at work

PULLING DOWN THE BARRIERS

Putting names to faces

The council has reinforced its commitment to open government by ensuring staff wear their name badges at all times.

Councillor Linda McFadyen, Chair of Personnel Committee, gave her backing to the scheme and stressed the need for everyone to play their part.

"Everyone working for Barnet Council, including the councillors, are working for the residents so we must ensure we are easily identifiable and ac-

countable for our actions. There will be no more faceless or nameless bureaucrats at Barnet," Councillor McFadyen said.

The scheme also enables us to tighten security across all council buildings and work sites as staff not wearing their badges will not gain access to private areas.

Staff unable to wear badges, such as those working down sewers or up trees, will still carry them for security reasons. ■

Your council has fulfilled its promise of opening up the decision making processes of the authority to the whole community.

The council has introduced question time at council committee meetings when residents can put their views directly to councillors.

"This development is long overdue in Barnet. We promised the authority would now be an open, listening and learning council and that is what we have now achieved," said Deputy Council Leader Councillor Joan Ryan.

The council is also setting up service-based consultation groups of residents and councillors from across the borough and increasing consultation and market research.

The new approach strips away any Town Hall secrecy and gives all residents an equal voice in the borough's decision-making processes.

"We are pulling down the barriers which for too long have distanced councillors and the decision-making processes from residents. We want to hear, through the consultation groups, what residents feel before decisions are reached.

"The Chair and Vice-Chair of each service committee will serve on the consultation groups alongside local residents. Each of these forum meetings will be held before the council committee meeting, so that the views and needs of the community can be fed into them," she added.

"These meetings will be held at least three times a year to link in to and have a major impact on the decision-making processes.

"We are not in the business of paying lip service to open local government - we are committed to listening and learning.

"The people of this borough deserve to be heard - and they have a right to help shape the policies which will impact on the whole community.

"This council does not pretend it always knows best - our policies must and will always take account of the needs and aspirations of the community," added Councillor Ryan.

Major steps have already been taken in stripping away secrecy.

Officers working on committees now have to convince chairs that it is absolutely vital discussions take place in secrecy before the press and public are excluded.

"The whole community has welcomed our open approach to local government - and I am sure those special interest groups and individuals who have been denied the opportunity of putting questions to councillors at meetings will be equally delighted that they are at last being given the chance of getting a fair hearing," added Councillor Ryan.

Until now, the council has not allowed the residents to ask questions at committee meetings. Now residents submit questions for any committee to the council seven working days before the meeting. Question time lasts for 30 minutes at the beginning of each meeting and up to 20 questions are accepted.

The borough-wide consultation groups, designed to give hands on involvement and power in the decision making process to residents, discuss the service and its budget and receive information about the quality, standards and accessibility of services.

The groups will also discuss complaints and how these have been dealt with and present their views on new ideas before they go to committee.

Your council committees at work

List of Committee Meetings at The Town Hall, Hendon for the period 27 February - 9 May 1995

All these meetings are open to residents. All meetings, unless otherwise stated, will begin at 7pm

27 February
Policy & Resources Committee

28 February
Area Planning Sub-Committees

6 March
Housing & Environmental Services Committee

7 March
Grants Committee

8 March
Grants Committee (adjourned)

9 March
Special Council Meeting - Mayoralty 6.30pm

9 March
Special Council Meeting - Council Tax

14 March
Education Committee

15 March
Town Planning & Research Committee

16 March
Land & Buildings Executive Committee

20 March
Recreation, Leisure & Arts Committee

21 March
Social Services Committee

23 March
Direct Service Organisations Executive Committee

23 March
Compulsory Competitive Tendering Executive Committee

28 March
Public Works Committee

29 March
Personnel Executive Committee

30 March
Budget, Financing & Performance Review Executive Committee

4 April
Area Planning Sub-Committees

5 April
Policy & Resources Committee

19 April
Town Planning & Research Committee

25 April
Council Meeting

27 April
Direct Service Organisations Executive Committee

27 April
Compulsory Competitive Tendering Executive Committee

9 May
Council Annual Meeting



Disabled Access



Loop system

HAVE YOUR SAY

Your council wants you to have your say and influence the council's decisions. Open government in Barnet means all sectors of the community having a chance to play a full part in the policies and final council committee decisions which will shape the short and long-term future of this borough of our's.

These are just some of the ways you can help build a better, more democratic future for us all:

- Question time at committees
- Petitions - where residents can put their views in writing to our committees
- Deputations - where residents can speak to committees or a council meeting about a particular issue
- Public consultation groups which are being set up for each of our main service areas
- Public meetings, surveys and questionnaires on particular issues affecting you.

Come along to our council, committee, sub-committee and panel meetings to listen to the discussion and hear the

decisions made. The dates of these meetings are available at The Information Centre, The Town Hall, Hendon and your local libraries as well as in your Community News. The dates of our council meetings are also advertised on public notice boards throughout the borough by main road junctions, park entrances and close to civic buildings.

Everyone living in Barnet may ask the Chair of any of our committees a question at the beginning of every committee meeting. Any business in Barnet can also ask a question.

You may ask a question about any of the council's services or about issues affecting Barnet.

If you wish to ask the Chair a question, send your question to the Chief Executive by 10am seven clear working days before the meeting. Councillors need time to consider your question and prepare a reply. If you are not sure which committee should consider your question, send your question to the Chief Executive and he will advise you. ■

OPEN FOR BUSINESS



BARNET MEANS BUSINESS

Barnet Council launched its new economic development strategy and plan for breathing new life into the borough at The Town Hall, Hendon.

The launch, which marked the beginning of a major consultation programme with businesses, the voluntary sector, community groups and individuals, sets out a programme of action to boost business, create new jobs and protect the borough's high streets.

A packed meeting heard how the council intends putting teeth into its economic development plans - and delegates offered support and highlighted particular areas of concern in the borough among the business community.

Pictured at the event marking a new approach to the council and business community in partnership for the long-term economic good of the whole borough are (left to right), John Lindsay, Chief Executive of Barnet and Enfield Enterprise Agency, Councillor Alan Williams, Leader of the Council, Councillor Rudolph Vis, Mike Nixon, Chief Executive of the North London Training and Enterprise Council and Ken Shoults, Chairman of Barnet Chamber of Commerce.

DRIVE FOR MORE JOBS AND BETTER FUTURE

Barnet is open for business - and your council is determined to see every sector of the community benefit from new hope and prosperity in the borough. This is the message to the business community from Councillor Joan Ryan, Chair of Policy and Resources Committee.

"The days of sitting on the sidelines, watching our local businesses crumble through lack of support to get decent transport, match training and education with necessary jobs skills are over.

"The need for action is now. The opportunities for changing the short and long-term prospects of the borough have never been better.

"This council has the will, the support of residents, partners in the businesses and voluntary sector. We are determined to bring new hope to the borough and attack with every means at our disposal the blight of unemployment and deprivation from which some areas of the borough have suffered for so long.

"The new council and business are now working as one for the good of the whole borough, and this will bring with it new jobs and affordable housing," said Councillor Ryan.

The council has already launched a blueprint for change, the four-year Corporate Plan, which shows the determination of the new council leaders to protect and improve the quality of life for those most in need.

"These policies will increase the spending power of residents in need - boosting business for the local suppliers of goods and services.

"We are saying to all businesses this new council wants to work with you and Barnet is a good place to do business in. Barnet Council is on your side if it is good for the whole community," added Councillor Ryan.

The new council has now set up systems for talking to new and potential firms thinking of setting up business in Barnet.

"This means saying we have got a lot to offer - and if you help bring new life to those neglected areas of the borough blighted by years of being ignored we will help you," added Councillor Ryan.

A 'listening and learning' approach was enabling the council to respond to the needs of employment-creating business.

"We are dedicated to working hand in hand with our partners in the business community to raise realisable expectations of a decent standard of living, quality affordable housing, educational standards for all which meet the needs of employers and a pride in being part of a borough where equality and fairness are the keynotes of policy.

"The council will be at the heart of the drive for change and will harness the combined resources, power and commitment of all its partners to build a better Barnet," said Councillor Ryan.

To show what can be achieved, the council has produced an economic development plan which asks for the views and ideas of businesses and other groups throughout the borough.

The plan, which is only a first step before getting the 'rebuilding Barnet' package right sets out to:

- Revive the commercial base of the borough, focusing on high street



Cllr. Joan Ryan, Chair of Policy & Resources Committee

shopping centres.

- To reduce economic disadvantage within the borough.
- To improve skills training.
- To improve the local transport infrastructure.
- Using the council's planning powers, wherever possible, to prevent green field site development and discourage retail parks.
- Forging closer links with the business community, in particular working closely with the Chamber of Commerce.
- Working with local businesses and workers co-operatives to help them stay in the borough and expand.
- Reviewing and developing our services in a way employers find helpful.
- Exploiting our knowledge of the area and its potential to encourage new business to start up and others to move to Barnet.
- Maximising our national government and EU funding and involving local people in how it is spent.
- Exploiting tourism potential.
- Pursuing research into the local economy, liaising closely with partners and other suitable bodies.
- Acting as an advocate for the interests of the Barnet area, continuing to foster links with all the council's partners, particularly the voluntary sector.
- Helping local people to have access to quality training and secure employment.
- Strengthening the representation of both sides of industry in education training and economic policy making.

We need Brussels support

Your council's new economic development plans for breathing new life into the borough call for action to get the borough back to work and bring new hope to those who need help in getting new skills.

As part of this drive for a fair deal for all your council is calling for nearly £65,000

from European Social Fund, local money from the council and the Milly Apthorp Trust of nearly £80,000 to expand the Pathways Employment Service run by MENCAP.

This plan is also in line with the council's community care plan which says the aim of services for those with a learning disability was to enable them to play their full part in the



community," says Chair of Social Services Committee, Cllr. David Williams.

TOURISTS TOLD 'COME VISIT BARNET'

Barnet wants tourists - £40m worth of them.

With them they would bring more jobs, more investment in the leisure industry and pressure on the government for a fair transport deal for North London.

With its partners in the tourism and leisure industry, your council has been at the centre of a drive to form a Barnet Tourism Association with key people and firms

from throughout the borough.

A new group of people who were called together at a council conference will now work on a plan to make the borough a top tourism attraction.

"This is a major step forward for Barnet. I am delighted that so many prominent individuals and businesses in the borough have joined forces to put Barnet firmly on the tourism

map and in the process create jobs and boost local businesses," said Councillor Anita Campbell, Chair of the Recreation, Leisure and Arts Committee.

At the first meeting of the group the council outlined a blueprint for a thriving tourist industry in the borough in the late nineties and beyond.

"Now the working group with their specialist recreation, leisure and

business knowledge and skills will set out just what needs to be done to turn the borough into the top tourist attraction in North London - and beyond," added Councillor Campbell.

Research has shown Barnet's tourism industry is ripe for development - with a current shortage of hotel accommodation needed to meet expected demand for existing and new recreation and leisure facilities.

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BUSIEST LIBRARIES IN LONDON

Barnet's library service is simply the best in London - that is the view of users who made literally millions of visits to local branches last year.

Users made nearly three million visits and borrowed over 3.6 million books during 1993/94 - nearly 12 books per person - making the library service the most popular in the capital.

In the last few months, nearly 190,000 residents have taken advantage of the latest improvements at the borough's 17 libraries.

All the borough's libraries now have videos for hire as well as recorded music either on CDs or cassettes.

As part of the continuing programme of improvements introduced by your new council, access to the libraries has been improved with ramps for the disabled at Church End, Mill Hill, North Finchley, Golders Green, Osidge and Friern Barnet.

A new mobile library means that the council's familiar blue and white vans are now able to visit

more sites throughout the borough.

Attractive Environment

New carpets, furniture and modern redecoration at Friern Barnet, Mill Hill and Golders Green have made the libraries even more attractive.

Booming business at the libraries has prompted the council to invest even more in books and other lending material and improved presentation through easy to follow signing and new shelving has made the vast stocks

of books, music, videos and study easier for all members of the family - the young, older residents and students.

Coffee Lounge

By April this year, Grahame Park Library will also have a new

look - with more space for studying and an attractive coffee lounge area.

The popular Burnt Oak library has also been entirely re-designed to bring the children's collection downstairs so that the Pre-School Playgroup Association

and countless other community groups can use all the facilities on the first floor.

Pop into your local library today - the service is designed for you and the whole community. ■

LIVING HISTORY

This April marks the 40th anniversary of the opening of your council's Church Farmhouse Museum - four decades of fun and learning which has seen over 400 exhibitions and half a million visitors at this historic building.

Last summer it was necessary to restore the museum roof. The museum re-opened on 25

July with the exhibition 'Lewis Carroll in Wonderland' which attracted 5,234 visitors, placing it firmly in the top six most popular exhibitions ever held at Church Farmhouse.

A special exhibition is currently running to celebrate the activities of collectors in the borough. Many have lent material to the

museum in the past, others have never shown their treasures before. Items ranging from fans to sea-side pottery and from teddy bears to Victorian advertisements, taking in stamps, phone-cards and souvenir teaspoons will be on show at the 'Collectomania' Exhibition until Sunday 9 April. ■

JUST THE TICKET

Parisian style tailored to meet the needs of the people of Barnet has arrived in the borough.

The council has pulled off a deal for a whole range of new street furniture, including bus shelters and public conveniences - at no cost to the borough.

These stylish toilets and shelters which include public information panels have already started appearing on the streets of Barnet following the deal with J.C. Decaux of Paris.

Poster panels have internal illumination and provide the council with free notice boards to publicise borough news.

The French company also sell advertising space on the equipment to national and local firms.



GOVERNMENT SHUNS

The green and pleasant land image of Barnet promoted for over 30 years has worked against the borough as the government delivered a thumbs down to your council's bid for much-needed regeneration cash.

The whole community - businesses, residents, community groups, special interest groups and potential investors - had joined in a bid for realistic support under the government's Single Regeneration Budget Bid scheme to bring new hope and decent living standards to those areas of the borough blighted by poor housing, lack of employment prospects, higher than average crime rates and transport links which had cut them off from the main stream of the community.

"This is a 'we don't care about you' blow from the government. The whole Single Regeneration Bid process seems to have been a sham.

"We mustered the goodwill of communities and businesses large and small to put forward workable proposals for Cricklewood and Grahame Park. Our bids met the government criteria - our bids had the backing of the whole community following the biggest consultation process in the history of the

OUR BID FOR LIFELINE CASH

Council and partners go it alone to build new hope

borough.

"We showed real need - real commitment from our partners. The government has shown total disregard for real needs, proven needs," a disappointed Councillor Alan Williams, Leader of the Council, says.

Despite the setback your council is determined to press ahead with plans to revitalise the borough.

Work with community

"We will be looking at every way possible to work with the community and our business partners to bring these plans to fruition with or without the help of the government.

"The council will continue to act as an advocate, champion and facilitator for those wishing to do business in the

borough. We have introduced a fast-track system to give the business community immediate decisions. We have put real muscle behind our economic development ideas with a new department dedicated to working with the business community and harnessing inward investment from the UK and targeting all available funds from the Economic Union," added Councillor Williams.

New homes and jobs

The council's regeneration plans submitted to the government would have brought new businesses, housing, recreation and leisure facilities to Cricklewood and West Hendon. The plans would have meant dramatically

improving the borough from Burnt Oak through Colindale, West Hendon, Golders Green to Childs Hill.

Unfair decision

"This savage and unfair decision to reject our Single Regeneration Bid will not stop the process of bringing a new future to blighted parts of the borough.

"With or without government support, our priorities and that of the whole community and our business partners will bring new hope, prosperity and decent, affordable housing," added Councillor Williams.

Following detailed negotiations with partners, the council plans to consult the whole community on ambitious new plans to develop the Cricklewood area.

Only the best will do for the people of Barnet - and your council guarantees it. Within months, vital services from education to refuse collection, street cleaning to vermin control, will start being covered by a Quality Service Guarantee.

These guarantees set out what the council will provide, when the services will be available, the standards of those services - and what the council will do within prescribed timescales to put things right when they go wrong.

"We are not talking about citizens charters - we are not talking about meaningless facts and figures on a graph once a year.

"These Quality Service Guarantees set out a framework for service delivery in Barnet - they make a promise to our residents that only the best will do," says Councillor Joan Ryan, Chair of Policy and Resources Committee and Deputy Leader of the Council.

The council's four year plan for all our futures sets out a blueprint for a new era of service provision in Barnet. Quality, value for money services residents need and want have gone under the spotlight as part of a new consultation and listening and learning era in the borough.

"Before introducing the contracts we will be carrying out quality checks on all our services. We will make sure that the promises made in our Quality Service Guarantees - what the commercial sector would call customer contracts - can and will be met.

ONLY THE BEST WILL DO



"We will be listening to the needs of users to make sure that existing services are designed to meet the real needs of our residents - and the guarantees will commit us to meeting those needs.

"Backed up by our formal complaints procedures, hot lines for services which enable residents to get things put right quickly and efficiently when they do go wrong, these Quality Service Guarantees will mean that standards will improve," says Councillor Ryan.

For too long, says Councillor Ryan, service providers have hidden behind a wall of deliberately created confusion on what residents can expect. This has made it difficult to complain - or get things put right when they go wrong.

Ham&High Supplements 1995

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DRIVING FORCE

Councillor Jo Salsbury gets her hands dirty as she helps test the brakes, oil, lights and emission levels of residents' cars at Barnet Council's first MOT centre.

The centre at Mill Hill Depot, Bittacy Hill, which

recently received Department of Transport approval, carries out MOT testing on cars, vans and small lorries.

Residents, traders and businesses use the centre with charges ranging from £26.10.

TOP MARKS FOR OUR SOCIAL SERVICES

Barnet's Social Services is ahead of the field in providing services residents need and want.

A report from the Social Services Inspectors shows that by the end of September 578 older people were receiving care at home who otherwise would have qualified for residential care.

"We are now spending £1.5m on additional homecare to meet the needs of these people. I am delighted that in Barnet at least this aspect of care in the community is really now beginning to work," said Councillor David Williams, Chair of Social Services Committee.

With new funding, there has also been a shift to community instead of institutional support for other adult groups.

"We are now providing this important home support in nine mental health cases compared with just one last year and for 12 more people with learning disabilities.

"In recent months we have also made tremendous progress in providing specialist support for people with physical disabilities.

Step Forward

"We have made only four residential placements compared with 75 community care packages - a major step forward for Barnet," said Councillor Williams.

A care scheme jointly funded by Barnet Council and operated by the Disability Association for the Borough of Barnet (DABB) has provided help for 18 people with physical disabilities to stay in their own homes.

New Teams

A major development for the borough has been the setting up of a new social work team at the Royal Free Hospital. "This team, providing invaluable support to the community, has only

been made possible through a partnership with the Health Agency and the hospital.

"We have also funded voluntary organisations providing specialist day care for mentally frail Jewish and Asian elder people. These partnerships are a key part of this council's policy of maximising on the available support in the community," added Councillor Williams.

Advocacy Help

Among other new initiatives, a sensory impairment strategy and the funding of CHOICE, an independent advocacy organisation, are seen as opening up services for the whole community.

"We are determined, through these types of initiatives, to see equal access to all our services. This goes hand in hand with our new development of a wider range of services providing day

care for ethnic minorities and more personal, specially tailored home-care," added Councillor Williams.

The report also highlights that housing association accommodation for people with physical disabilities included 23 wheelchair flats and two mobility bungalows with a further seven homes on schedule for this year.

To test the quality of services, there have been widespread surveys and consultation, including special visits to the housebound to get their views on potential new homecare services.

The council is exploring ways of funding a new carers central training and resource centre. There are plans for 25 new full-time respite care places for older people, including specialist care for older Jewish people.

Home & High

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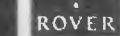
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INFORMATION AT FINGERTIPS

Everything residents ever needed to know about health and social care services in the borough is now right at their fingertips with a unique information system.

Health and Social Care infoLINK lists several thousand groups and organisations who offer health and social care services to the public.

"Everyday our residents need to know information about who provides which service in our borough," said Councillor David Williams, Chair of Social Services, at the launch of the Health and Social Care infoLINK system.

"This service gives them just what they need, right at their fingertips," he added.

Barnet Council has worked in partnership with Barnet Voluntary Services Council, Barnet Health Agency and the Community Health Council, with funding from the council and health agency on getting the system linked in to the current infoLINK system.

"This project proves how our residents can really benefit when organisations throughout

the whole community get together and swap ideas and information," added Councillor Williams.

The infoLINK service currently lists over 7,000 groups and organisations offering information from places of worship to council services, recycling to entertainment all over the borough.

With the addition of Health and Social Care infoLINK, the system will hold a comprehensive list of information.

It is available in all Barnet Council libraries, at offices in Barnet House, Whetstone, Educational Services at Friern

Barnet and at the Information Centre in The Town Hall, Hendon and offices of BREC, DABB and BBVSC.

It is intended to make the information readily

available to members of the public, carers, the voluntary sector, health and social services professionals and to ensure that the information is equally accessible to

members of ethnic minority communities. A system to ensure that information is regularly and systematically updated is also to be developed.

Help for Carers at our Libraries

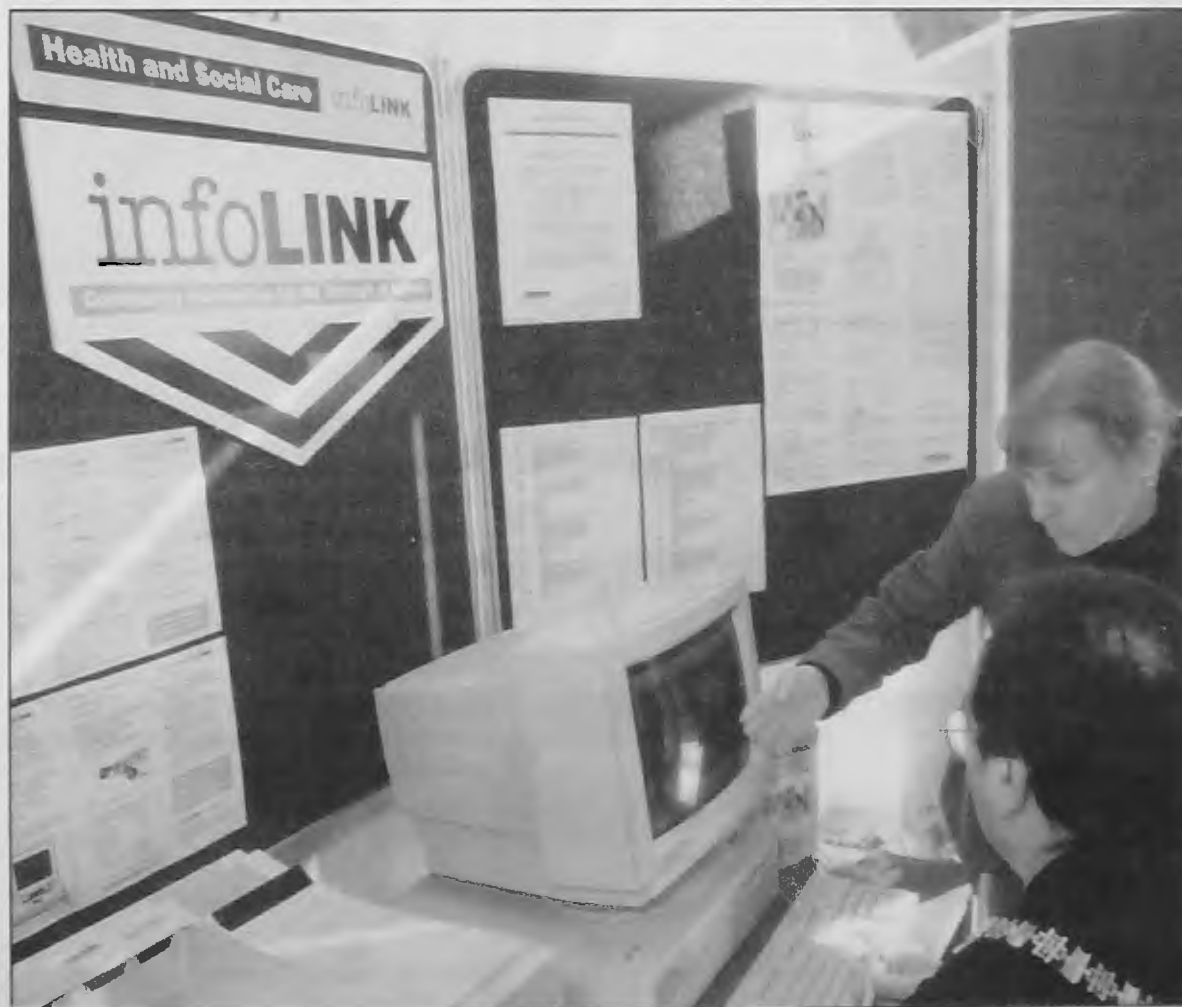
A new service to help carers of people with dementia is to be set up in two of Barnet's libraries.

Videos, leaflets and books will be available giving carers easy access to information and advice on the illness.

"There are already books and leaflets in the libraries but it is not always easy for items of interest to be identified," explained Councillor Katherine McGuirk, Vice-Chair of Recreation, Leisure and Arts Committee.

"After meeting with carers and the health authority we agreed to provide a more comprehensive and accessible stock which will be developed with help from the Alzheimer's Disease Society," Cllr McGuirk added.

The scheme will be set up later in the year at two libraries in different areas of the borough where there are high proportions of older people.



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.

ARKLEY WARD

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

BRUNSWICK PARK WARD

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

BURNT OAK WARD

Rosemary Carney (Lab) 959 6757
 Allan Turner (Lab) 952 2106
 Alan Williams (Lab) 906 0576
 Every Saturday 10.30am-12noon
 The Labour Hall, Back Lane, Burnt Oak
 24 hour answerphone 951 5771

CHILDS HILL WARD

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

COLINDALE WARD

Ellis Hillman (Lab) 202 7792
 Gill Sargeant (Lab) 455 1070
 David Williams (Lab) 343 1082
 1st Saturday every month 2-3pm
 St. Augustine's Church (small lounge),
 Grahame Park, Colindale, NW9

EAST BARNET WARD

Usha Chopra (Lab) 449 3231
 Anne Jarvis (Lab) 449 9001
 Richard Soer (Lab) 449 2410
 Every Saturday 10am-12noon
 104 East Barnet Road, East Barnet

EAST FINCHLEY WARD

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

EDGWARE WARD

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

FINCHLEY WARD

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

FRIERN BARNET WARD

John Carter (Con) 343 4005
 Brian Salinger (Con) 368 1329
 John Tiplady (Con) 445 5734
 Contact councillors direct or Finchley
 and Friern Barnet Conservative Association
 Tel. 445 4292

GARDEN SUBURB WARD

Frank Davis (Con) 455 0403
 Mohammed Khamisa (Con) 458 1996
 Roy Shutz (Con) 455 2248
 Contact councillors direct or Hendon South
 Conservative Association
 Tel. 202 7484

GOLDERS GREEN WARD

Melvin Cohen (Con) 346 2550
 John Hedge (Con) 203 0137
 Michele Moulin (Con) 205 0531
 Contact councillors direct or Hendon South
 Conservative Association
 Tel. 202 7484

HADLEY WARD

Mark Hayball (Con) 0956 343070
 Liz Mammatt (Con) 361 9720
 Kanti Patel (Con) 446 6639
 3rd Saturday every month 10.30am-12noon
 Chipping Barnet Conservative Association,
 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
 Sheila Scott (Con) 906 0825
 Contact councillors direct or
 Tel. 959 1446
 Fortnightly on Mondays 6.30pm
 Hendon North Conservative Association,
 2 Apex Parade, Selvage Lane NW7 3JT

HENDON WARD

Edward Bunn (Con) 906 2793
 Anthony Finn (Con) 202 9689
 Fred Poole (Con) 203 0813
 Contact councillors direct or Hendon South
 Conservative Association
 Tel. 202 7484

MILL HILL WARD

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

ST PAUL'S WARD

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

TOTTERIDGE WARD

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

WEST HENDON WARD

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

WOODHOUSE WARD

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

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

In a class of their own



Education Chair, Cllr Anne Jarvis, tucks into a healthy and nutritious lunch at Livingstone School in Baring Road, New Barnet. Cllr Jarvis said: "School meals are increasing in popularity in Barnet because parents are realising there is no substitute for their excellent value, high quality and convenience."

Young help in drugs fight

Young people are being recruited by the council to help fight the growing drugs problem in the borough.

"We are doing all we can to stop the spread of

drug abuse among our young people - but if we are to get it right we must also seek the help and advice of those we are trying to help," says Councillor Anne Jarvis, Chair of

Education Committee.

A new drugs youth worker is being appointed who will work with young people offering help and advice before they become involved in drugs.

RENT-A-SEAT SCHEME

Your Accident Prevention Unit has identified a growing need in the borough for infant car seats and has come up with the baby rent-a-seat scheme.

Barnet is working in partnership with Barnet Healthcare NHS Trust on the scheme, which will run for an initial period of a year.

The seats, bought with

funding from the Health of the Nation Budget and Milly Apthorp Trust, will be hired out for an initial cost of £15 through the Grahame Park Clinic Loan Scheme.



PLANNING A BETTER FUTURE

Pupils at The Compton School in Finchley turned developers when they pitted their wits against fellow classmates in a competition to design a small housing estate.

Over 150 pupils, aged 12 to 13 years old, were given the chance to have their say on how they would like their environment to look in the competition organised to mark the start of work on a new classroom block at the school.

Education Committee Vice-Chair, Cllr Andrew Dickie, was on hand to present the top three entries with their prizes - books on architecture plus

gift tokens.

He is pictured with the winning group from class 8N - left to right are Natalie Paine, Kelly Sanders, Maradonna Dos Santos, Alex Carroll and Nicola Collinson.

Work on the classroom block has now started with the council investing £680,000 in six new classrooms for the teaching of geography and history. Work will be completed this year.

Cllr Dickie praised the ingenuity and imagination of pupils who split into groups of five to design an estate with shops, open space and leisure facilities to provide for ten homes.

MARCH 31 is Education Day in Barnet - a celebration of the achievements of our schools.

Our schools throughout the borough will be holding a wide variety of events for mums, dads, the whole family and pupils.

Our MEP Pauline Green will launch this start to the spring term on 30 March at Ravenscroft School when MPs and school governors will be entertained by pupils from our schools.

Watch out for posters in schools, at your libraries and throughout the borough announcing what's on at a school near you on 31 March. Let's all celebrate the achievements of our local children and their schools.

BREAKFAST AT BURNT OAK

Youngsters at Woodcroft School, Burnt Oak, tuck into breakfast before tackling the rigours of a tough day of learning. Head Teacher Pat Brown has introduced a breakfast club - and for just 50p up to 30 youngsters a day enjoy fruit juice, cereal and 'something hot' provided by the council's inhouse catering team.

