

community

NEWS

BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH

YOUR FREE NEWSPAPER
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BARNET COUNCIL

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BUILDING A BETTER BARNET

MORE QUALITY HOMES FOR US ALL



Better existing homes - and more new ones. This sums up your council's drive to provide better housing for all in Barnet.

Fighting borough homeless crisis

Housing associations, home-owners with sub-standard properties and private landlords are being urged to work with the council in a new partnership to build new homes and improve existing ones.

All these new developments, part of the council's housing strategy, will improve the quality of housing across the borough and have a major impact on Barnet's

homelessness problems.

Even before launching this new partnership at work strategy your council was already embracing the best possible policies to provide more homes and continually improve existing ones.

Now this new plan

harnesses the power of housing associations, under-used and sub-standard homes owned by private landlords and continues to tackle the need to support those who cannot afford to bring their own properties up to acceptable standards.

The latest plans for working with big housing associations will make the best use of the land and money the council is allowed to use for new homes.

A group of housing associations will work with the council on a masterplan to get the best out of any available money and land.

Full story page 7.

MUCH MORE THAN BOOKS

Keen to get more young people to use its libraries, your council staged a number of events of special interest to them as part of London Library Week and National Youth Work Week.

Hendon Library held a make-up session with products donated by the Body Shop. Make-over artist Elizabeth Barmak, left, gave Claire Drinkall some ideas for her wedding day next year. Full story: back page.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Hospital shock: Council fights for Edgware p3

Building a better Barnet: Youngsters have their say p6

Team Barnet: Delivering your services pp8 & 9

DRIVE TO PROTECT ALL OUR TOMORROWS

The council is calling on residents to join forces to save and improve the environment by thinking globally - and acting locally.

Your council wants the whole community to work together to reduce environmental damage and pollution.

This latest council initiative follows the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro which produced a global

action plan for the 21st century - later to be called Agenda 21.

Each local authority has been asked to set up by the end of next year its own Agenda 21 plans.

Barnet has now set up a pilot scheme in the Friary Park area, the results of which will be vital in setting out the council's plans for the whole borough.

A packed meeting last

month saw the launch of the plan - and gave local people in the Friary Park area a voice in setting an environmental programme for the next century.

Launch pad for this drive is the council's Environmental Consultative Forum which has already played a major role in highlighting what needs to be done in the borough.

Following this last meeting a group of local people have now formed a steering group, chaired by Councillor Jo Salsbury.

Pictured below are Dr. Mayer Hillman, Senior Fellow Emeritus, Policy Studies Institute and Chris Church of the United Nations Association with Councillor Joan Ryan, Deputy Leader of the Council.



Together 70 years

Colindale residents Doris (92) and Syd (91) celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in September. They were joined at their party by the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Susette Palmer, and over a hundred relatives and friends.



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Ham & High

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Fair deal for all

MEETING new challenges following the major successes of last year and changes in the law has led your council to launch an updated version of its Corporate Plan.

WE HAVE PULLED DOWN THE BARRIERS

The plan - a four-year long-term strategy for quality, value-for-money services introduced last year - acknowledges Barnet Council's achievements so far and promises to carry on the job of bringing new hope and prosperity to everyone in the borough.

"It has been a year of success - a year in which we have pulled down the barriers between the council and the people it is here to serve. A year when equality and equal opportunities have become the keynote to everything we do," said Councillor

Joan Ryan, Chair of Policy and Resources Committee.

"We are starting to deliver - but we still have a long way to go. There are still those in our community who are disadvantaged, there are still those who have slipped through the net of benefits," said Councillor Ryan.

When launched last

year, the Corporate Plan made clear that giving all residents an equal voice in running the borough and open local government formed the basis of a new democracy in Barnet.

Working in partnership with the community and the business sector, the strategy is designed to bring new life and prosperity to all parts of the borough.

The plan confirms the council believes in:

- equal opportunity for people from all of Barnet's communities
- improvement in people's quality of life and the economic regeneration of the borough
- the use of resources for the benefit of all residents, in particular the poorest and most vulnerable
- the ability of local people and communities to control their own lives
- the value of public service by democratically accountable local government

■ partnership working with Government departments, other agencies, business and community organisations

■ developing the council's capability to anticipate and manage change.

It confirms the key aims of the council as open local government, providing efficient, high quality, value-for-money services and building a safe environment with a thriving local economy.

Your council has reconfirmed its commitment to keep all services subject to compulsory competitive tendering - which forces councils to hand over local services to the lowest bidder - within the control of the borough.

"Open local government means two-way communications. We are telling the people of this borough frankly and honestly what we are planning for all our futures," said Cllr. Ryan.

Slashing bureaucracy frees £11m extra cash

BARNET'S ^{no-}nonsense approach to council spending has meant savings of nearly £11 million as wasteful bureaucracy is slashed freeing valuable extra cash for front-line services for the whole community.

The crack-down on Town Hall spending has produced the savings from the amount the council had originally expected to spend last year.

Councillor Rudi Vis, Chair of Budget, Financing

and Performance Review Committee, explained that these savings came in a year when the Government had already cut the amount the council was allowed to spend by millions of pounds.

"We have had to make every pound count as we have fought to improve the services the people of this borough have a right to expect.

"We have proved that

even with a tough spending limit imposed by Government it is possible to continue improving and expanding services. However harshly the Government treats us, we are determined priority areas like education, social services, our parks and open spaces and environmental issues will be protected," said Councillor Vis.

During the year your

council increased spending on schools by millions to reach a total of nearly £112 million and boosted the social services budget to almost £47 million.

Roads, pavements and the environment received over £2 million extra, recreation and leisure another £1 million, and over £300,000 in new money was given in grants to support local voluntary groups.

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)

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HOSPITAL SHOCK

A DANGEROUS gamble with the lives and health of local people could be taken if the accident and emergency unit at Edgware General Hospital is closed.

That is the conclusion of a shock report, produced for Barnet Council by London Health Emergency, after former Health Secretary Virginia Bottomley refused to listen to the case for saving the hospital. It shows plans by Barnet and Brent and Harrow's Health Agencies and the Health Authority are seriously flawed.

"This report reads like a doomsday book. It sets the scene for a disaster waiting to happen," said Council Leader Councillor Alan Williams. "The Government's consultation has been a sham."

"This council, with the overwhelming backing of the people of Barnet and the whole of North London, will carry on the fight to stop what we know will be a disaster for the people of the borough if the Government does not think again."

The council is hoping that Virginia Bottomley's successor, Stephen Dorrell, will now look at the facts in the report and overturn his predecessor's decision.

"Stephen Dorrell has at least left the door open

'Disaster waiting to happen at Edgware,' says Council Leader

for further negotiations. He is reported as saying that health authorities must show their plans respond to public opinion in their area and ensure the patient's voice is heard. We hope he means it," added Councillor Williams.

The report includes a ten-point condemnation of plans to switch accident and emergency services from Edgware General to Barnet General Hospital following modernisation and expansion.

"The borough needs two full district hospitals. But the Government has turned its back on local people's wishes in its determined efforts to see our two local hospitals sacrificed on the altar

of ill-conceived internal market and opt-out hospitals," he declared.

The report questions the whole basis on which the Government and health authorities made their decisions.

"Even if the Barnet hospital site were developed - and its whole future depends on new funding - there would still be 20,000 accident and emergency cases which could not be handled," said Councillor Joan Ryan, Deputy Leader of the Council and Chair of Policy and Resources Committee.

"Fact after fact in this report shows how wrong it would be to close Edgware. The so-called new Barnet Accident and



The council's Leader and Deputy Leader, Councillor Alan Williams and Councillor Joan Ryan, in sombre mood after reading the damning report on the planned closure of Edgware General Hospital's accident and emergency unit.

Emergency Unit would not have enough acute beds to cope with the expected number of emergency cases from the 70,000 attending this year."

Figures show the cut in the Health Trust capacity will mean that a 45 per cent reduction in local acute beds and maternity beds will be slashed by more than 50 per cent.

COUNCIL LISTENS TO RESIDENTS -REJECTS FUNFAIR

Your council said "no" to a funfair at Victoria Recreation Ground after listening to the views of residents.

The council asked families in nearby roads in New Barnet whether they wanted the funfair, planned to run from November 3 to 5.

A resounding 66 per cent of the 320 people who replied presented objections to noise and disturbance from the funfair and the crowds it would attract.

Justified fears

Councillors on Recreation, Leisure and Arts Committee rejected the funfair because of the reasonable and justified fears of residents.

"This council always tries to consult local residents on issues affecting them. The message was clear - this funfair was not wanted for sensible reasons," said Committee Chair Councillor Katherine McGuirk.

Five-days fairs

Your council's policy is to allow one funfair a year in Cophall Complex, Friary Park, King George V Playing Fields, Victoria Park and Montrose Playing Fields for a maximum of five days.



They opened the doors to history

HUNDREDS of residents took advantage of Open House '95 over a weekend in September. Eight public buildings in the borough were opened up for residents to experience the architectural delights of some of these historical and unusual buildings.

Free tours by local guides gave visitors an insight into each building's history and design. They included: The Town Hall, Hendon; Church Farmhouse Museum, Hendon; Golders Green Crematorium and East Finchley underground station.

Pictured with Council Leader Councillor Alan Williams (right) at East Finchley underground is Bill Tyler of the Finchley Society.



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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.

25 November - 7 January
Exhibition 'Dolls Houses'. Selection of over two dozen dolls houses made during the past 150 years and **6 December - Twelfth Night**. 1850s furnished dining room at the museum will be decorated to celebrate a traditional Victorian Christmas, complete with tree, toys and cards. Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon NW4. Tel. 0181-203 0130
26 November, 7.30pm
Barnet Libraries Literary Supper. Speakers, Roy Hattersley, and local author Janina David. To book, phone 0181-359 3153

27 November, 2pm
UN 50th Anniversary Tree Planting. Hendon Park, near the avenue and Queens Road. NW4 entrance.
28 November, 10am - 3pm
Open day and Xmas Fayre at Silk Stream Day Hospital. Silk Stream Unit, Colindale Hospital, Colindale Avenue, NW9. Tel. 0181-200 1555
1 December
Tree Dressing Day in Friary Park, Friern Barnet Lane, N12. Pupils from Holly Park School will make art pieces to decorate a tree.
1 - 24 December
Christmas Grotto near Fountain area, Broadwalk Shopping Centre, Edgware. 1 Dec, 3-4.30pm; Mon-Sat, 11am-4.30pm; Sun 11am-4pm; 24 Dec 11am-3pm. £1 per child (40p of this to charity)
2 December
London Walking Forum and Ramblers Association Spiral Walks around London. Morning - Mill Hill Broadway to Golders Green (using Dollis Valley Green Walk). Afternoon - Golders Green to Belsize Park (using Camden/Hampstead Heath Link). For details phone 0181-359 3052

3 December, 2pm
Tree planting on Whittings Hill Open Space, Quinta Drive. Event supported by the Watling Chase Community Forest Project Team and Barnet Society planting trees for their 50 years anniversary
10 December, 8pm
Barnet Symphony Orchestra Concert. Works by Berlioz, Tchaikovsky, Dvorak. St John's Church, Friern Barnet Road. Tickets £5 (£2.50 juniors) incl. wine, refreshments, programme. For bookings phone 0181-205 2418
12 December, 2.30pm
Candle lit Carol Concert in Avenue House Grounds, East End Rd, N3. Choirs from St Mary and St Teresa's schools - hosted by Friends of Avenue House Park and The Finchley Society.
14 December - 11 January
An exhibition 'Kezfozas' - Handshake. A tape/slide programme and collection of photographs taken by members of Community Focus, Barnet's Art Centre for disabled people, during their journey through Hungary last year and recent drawings, paintings and needlecraft by

members. Hendon Library, The Burroughs, NW4 (Show transfers to Chipping Barnet Library, 15 January - 16 February)
18 December, 7.30pm
Christmas meal. Barnet Branch, British Epilepsy Association. Phone 0181-444 4453/445 8724
21 December, 7.30pm
Barnet Federation of Tenants' and Residents' Association Meeting. Cheshir Hall, Foster St, NW4
21 December - 14 January
Play with songs 'The Snow Queen' based on Hans Christian Anderson's story. The Old Bull Arts Centre, 68 High Street, Barnet EN5 5SJ. Tickets £6, £4 concession. 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
The Barnet Wind Ensemble is available to local charities, churches and other local organisations to help with fund-raising for worthy projects. If your group has

a project in mind and has access to a free venue suitable for a concert performance, please ring 0181-346 0203 for further details.
WALKS/ACTIVITIES with the Barnet Parks Rangers. For more information tel. 0181-359 5091
17 December, 2pm
Trees of Ancient Woodlands. Meet Scratchwood carpark, northbound A1 (1 mile north of Apex Corner)
7 January, 10am
A gentle 5 mile ramble around Totteridge. Meet Orange Tree Pub, Totteridge Lane N20
28 January, 6.30pm
Gala Concert with children from Barnet's three music centres, will include a specially commissioned choral work funded by the Business Education Partnership in recognition of 50th Anniversary of UNICEF. The Royal Festival Hall, The South Bank Centre, London. For tickets phone 0181-359 3111
Africans and Descendants Parents Association meet every third Sunday of the month. The Association of

Barnet Black Counsellors meet every last Friday of the month **Africans and Descendants Counselling Services** meet last Thursday of the month. For more details phone 0181-883 2691
Barnet Chamber of Commerce - Forthcoming Events
28 November
Budget Breakfast Briefing - NLCC in association with Berg Kaprow Lewis Chartered Accountants
28 November
Barnet Network Lunch
28 November
NLCC Seminar - Taking an approach that works wonders by Rabbi Lionel Blue
29 November
Hartley Booth MP will present the Government's view on the Budget
4 December
Barnet Network Meeting. Barnet Borough parking issues with Cllr Stan Cross
Please phone 0181-882 0180 or 0181-343 3833 for more details

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Councillor goes behind the scenes on animal welfare

THE health, safety and welfare of the animals in the borough was uppermost in Councillor Jack Cohen's mind when he spent a morning visiting a riding centre and boarding kennels last month.

Councillor Cohen, Chair of the council's Development and Protection Committee, is keen to make sure that riding stables, kennels and catteries, pet shops, and similar animal establishments, all meet Government standards for the care of animals.

"We owe it to them to make sure they are well cared for and are not overworked and abused," said Councillor Cohen.

Strict guidelines

"There are strict guidelines and laws and it is Barnet's role to make sure establishments follow them," he added.

Councillor Cohen joined Paul Burlison, from the council's Environmental Health Department and Michael Seton, a vet from the Corporation of London, when they visited Belmont Riding Centre in Mill Hill and Cottage Farm Kennels in Barnet.

The Environmental Health Department carries out a health and safety inspection separately from the veterinary check. At riding centres officers check that staff are suitably trained and have had a tetanus immunisation. They make sure there are adequate riding hats and tack and that none are damaged.

Commercial animal establishments are also checked for electrical safety, fire fighting / extinguisher maintenance, prevention of slips, trips and falls and to ensure if any hazardous chemicals are used they are handled correctly.

Employers work with the local authority on their safety policy and all have to go through a process of risk assessment and training.

The vet's report is

TRADE LICENSING IN THE SPOTLIGHT

different for each establishment. At riding centres each horse is checked for general health and any mis-management. The stables are also checked for:

- safe and secure construction
- good drainage
- adequate ventilation
- adequate lighting
- continual and clean water supply
- cleanliness
- no overcrowding
- adequate grazing

- feed and bedding
- exercise of each horse
- rest for each horse
- grooming and supervision of each horse.

The vet also checks that precautions are taken to stop the spread of disease, that the first aid kit is kept up-to-date, the premises are properly insured, that they are registered with their own vet and that the standard of management is good.

If the establishment

CHECKING ANIMAL CENTRES ARE SAFE FOR FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS



Belmont's resident stallion, Veldeke, receives a pat from Councillor Cohen.

meets both the Health and Safety and veterinary requirements, only then Barnet Council will issue the owner with a licence to continue trading for another year.

Kennels and catteries are checked in a similar way and must meet similar standards including:

- adequate exercise areas
- good ventilation

- high standard of cleanliness
- secure and safe construction
- adequate lighting and heating.

There should be suitable bedding which can be kept clean easily.

Water should always be available and each individual animal should be given food it is used to.

They should be visited

regularly and precautions taken to stop the spread of disease with isolation facilities available should an animal fall ill. A register must also be maintained of each animal kept and who they belong to.

"Where we have the powers to ensure animals are looked after, the role of our staff and the vets is vital," added Councillor Cohen.



Councillor Jack Cohen meets Maddy, the Great Dane, on his visit to Cottage Farm boarding kennels in Barnet.

HOW TO OBJECT TO PLANNING APPLICATIONS

BARNET has found the solution to a problem faced by many residents when they want to object to a planning application but don't know how to make their views known to the council.

A new guide on how to understand and comment on planning applications is to be given to everybody most likely to be directly affected by a new planning application near their home or business.

"Planning applications can be daunting and off-putting to residents who often feel that planning is a

minefield only experts can understand," said Councillor Jack Cohen, Chair of Development and Protection Committee.

"This leaflet is packed with information needed to enable residents to make their views known and help them get the answers they have a right to expect.

"We hope residents will tell us what they think of the new leaflet and if necessary we will produce new and expanded versions if there is a demand."

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BARNET YOUNGSTERS NOW HAVE THEIR SAY

Cricklewood in spotlight for change

Your council will be mobilising the whole community, residents and businesses large and small as it pushes ahead with plans to breathe new life, hope and prosperity into Cricklewood and West Hendon.

Despite having its partnership bid for much needed Government cash from the Single Regeneration Budget turned down, your council is forging ahead with plans to revive the fortunes of an area from Cricklewood Road in the south to Park Road in the north and including West Hendon Housing Estate and Hendon Broadway.

The council will be working closely with the whole community and outside major organisations including Hammersons, Rail-track and Barnet Health Authority in a partnership approach to the project.

The council is now producing a blueprint for action on which the whole community will be invited to have its say.

The council is determined to see the interests of all sectors of the community incorporated in the final plans.

Hungarian journey

Community Focus, the borough's art centre for disabled people and this year's Mayor's charity, will be showing a selection of its recent work at Hendon Library, The Burroughs, from Thursday, 14 December, to 11 January. The centrepiece is a stunning collection of black and white photographs taken by members during their challenging journey through Hungary last year called 'Kezfozas' (Handshake).

Youngsters from schools across the borough are having their say in building a better Barnet.

Young people have accepted the challenge of playing a part in bringing new life and prosperity into the borough by taking a full and active role in our new Town Centre Forums.

Now they are to send their own representatives to each of the forums to make sure young people's ideas on how to breathe new life into town centres are heard and taken seriously.

One school in each forum area has been chosen at random to provide a student to take part in these action for change groups. The student can then pass the latest developments to all the local schools.

All youngsters will not only become familiar with the work of the forum but also be able to pass back their own ideas and suggestions direct to the forum.

"Our forums are there to regenerate the economies of our town centres for the next generation. The youngsters in our schools are the next generation. They have a vital contribution to make in finding the right answers to the problems we all face," said Councillor Andrew Dickie, Chair of Economic Development and Land Executive Committee.

"We will all benefit by listening to our young people and learning about their hopes and fears for the future.

"The barriers which used to exist between council and residents also affected our young people who found themselves cut off from decision making," he added.

'ANSWERING PROBLEMS OF THE FUTURE'

Plans are already underway to increase the involvement of young people and local schools in the work of the forums including open competitions for town centre projects linked to class work.

"The young people already attending forums have increased the optimism and determination we all share to create a prosperous and thriving environment for the whole community," added Councillor Dickie.

Taking out the sting

ALL records were broken during this year's long hot summer when the council's pest control team dealt with the worst plague of wasps to hit the borough in living memory.

The council's pest control services were inundated with calls throughout the summer and destroyed almost 1,500 wasps' nests in July alone - four times more than last year.

The mild winter and spring was blamed for the huge increase in wasp numbers. More queens survived so more wasps



IT'S HATS OFF FOR

YOUTH WORK WEEK

YOU have to take your hat off to smiling Alberto Ortego. The happy ten-year-old was one of hundreds of Barnet children who got involved in a feast of fun-filled activities during National Youth Work Week.

Mayor Councillor Susette Palmer officially opened the week of fun

throughout the borough at The Compton Area Centre in Summers Lane, North Finchley. Story: back page.

were hatched. The demands for help from residents placed the Pest Control Team and support staff under great pressure but they still maintained a high level of service, guaranteeing the quality of the work done and, with a response rate of 88 per cent of calls answered within 24-hours, exceeding their own exacting targets.

The borough's Pest Control Team also has responsibility for keeping the borough free of rodents, controlling insects and pigeons as well as

dealing with special needs laundry and disposing of medical waste.

"It is easy to overlook what a valuable service is provided by our Pest Control Team day after day all the year round," said Councillor Jack Cohen, Chair of Development and Protection Committee.

"It must be reassuring for everybody that even in a crisis like this summer they can and will rise to the occasion and respond swiftly to meet the needs of our residents," added Councillor Cohen.

Your council committees at work

23 November
Budget, Financing and Performance Review Executive Committee

23 November
Road Safety Consultative Forum

27 November
Metropolitan Police and Barnet Community Consultative Group (Holy Trinity JMI School, Market Place, N2)

List of Committee Meetings at The Town Hall, Hendon for the period 23 November - 20 December 1995

29 November
Policy and Resources Committee

30 November
Allotments Advisory Panel

5 December
Area Development and Protection Sub-Committees

6 December
Planning and Building Control Consultative Forum

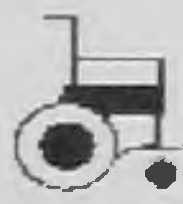
12 December
Council Meeting

14 December
Compulsory Competitive Tendering Executive Committee

18 December
Housing Committee

19 December
Inspection Advisory Panel

20 December
Development and Protection Committee



Disabled Access



Loop system



It's the worms' turn

Visitors to Friern Barnet Show this summer take a look at composters and wormeries for recycling household waste that the council will be offering to residents at a special price of £10.

They are part of a forthcoming pilot recycling scheme encouraging householders to do their bit towards making Barnet a greener borough.

New plan for more homes

A NEW Barnet Council strategy for partnership with housing associations could lead to more new homes and less overcrowding across the borough.

The council plans to work more closely in future with a small group of large housing associations to make the best use of the money and land available.

The number of housing associations with property in Barnet has soared over the past ten years and the council has worked with them on individual projects.

Now the council says greater benefits for residents could have been achieved if a group of housing associations had been working to a central masterplan with the council.

Advantages of the new approach for Barnet's residents would include:

- Ensuring new affordable homes are built each year.
- Attracting extra cash for low-cost housing and promoting housing need.
- Ensuring housing associations support tenant participation and other council policies.
- Encouraging housing associations to pump more money into Barnet projects by showing the council's commitment to new housing.

Crackdown on debt boosts Barnet income

FASTER invoicing and tough but fair collection methods are dramatically reducing the debts owed to Barnet Council. The total money owed has fallen by £800,000 since last year.

Service charges from leaseholders are being paid more promptly, with old outstanding debts collected by standing order and direct debit schemes introduced by the council.

"We have felt for a long time that all those who owe us money for special services should be treated the same way as our council tenants, who are expected to pay

their rents promptly," said Councillor Rudolf Vis, Chair of Budget, Financing and Performance Review Executive Committee.

The council crackdown on all old debts is also yielding dividends, with a tough approach to those who can pay but will not pay.

"Where residents have difficulties we will always try to reach agreements. If these agreements are not met we owe it to the whole community - the rest of the residents of this borough who are meeting their obligations - to pursue this money," Councillor Vis added.

Barnet is making major changes to the way it allocates council houses to meet the urgent needs of the whole community.

Vulnerable 16 and 17 year olds who are homeless or not properly housed will be able to get council homes for the first time.

This includes young

people leaving care at 16 who up to now have not been allowed to register for council homes.

The new rules will also make it possible for elderly owner-occupiers who can no longer cope in their homes to apply for sheltered housing.

Tenants who need 24-hour care and support could get an extra bedroom for a paid carer

Better housing for all campaign

THE council has launched a campaign to get better homes for all in the borough. Your caring council is urging private landlords to work in partnership with it for the same high standards of quality set for its own housing.

At the same time the council drive to make sub-standard private homes in the borough fit to live in is on course to overshoot the targets set for the year.

Homes have already been repaired and throughout the borough brought up to standard. Your council is currently working on a further 700 houses in urgent need of improvement.

Barnet says landlords must offer affordable homes in good condition to all members of the community.

Private tenants should be free from unfair eviction or harassment and people on benefits should be charged reasonable rents, according to the council

DRIVE TO MAKE POOR PRIVATE HOUSING FIT TO LIVE IN

strategy.

Apart from producing this new set of guidelines for private housing, Barnet also wants to encourage landlords to let their homes to people in need.

The council is also concerned about the number of empty private houses in the borough and wants these used for families without homes.

It wants to work with private landlords and agencies like Barnet Housing Aid to get the most out of the borough's housing stock.

The council's campaign has been backed by Barnet's Housing Consultation Forum.

It heard that a council survey found three per cent of Barnet's private housing is unfit to live in and a further twelve per cent is in a poor state of repair.

The worst conditions were found in bedsits, where 15 per cent were unfit and 16 per cent below good repair standards. The council is

using its enforcement powers to get landlords to make improvements.

Barnet ensures that legislation to maintain housing standards in the private sector is upheld and uses the grants system to help families improve their homes.

Excellent standards have also been set by your council in responding to residents with housing complaints and enquiries, with 75 per cent getting a response within 24 hours.

HOME FROM HOME FOR THREE FRIENDS

A UNIQUE new housing project for three women with learning disabilities has proved an outstanding success.

The Barnet Council initiative has kept the three friends together in a flat that offers both an excellent standard of care and all the comforts of home.

And to top it all, the cost-conscious council's high-quality scheme has actually saved the borough's residents money.

The three women lived in a residential home for seven years until it became inadequate to meet their special needs. They moved into their new home in the community in an ordinary Friern Barnet estate in May.

Caring Barnet listened to the women's views in adapting a home to meet their needs and their wish

to stay together. They chose the furniture and carpets they wanted themselves.

The kitchen units and light fittings are of a low design so they are within easy reach and the showers and toilets are fitted with special rails. There is also a garden where the women can sit out and keep their own plants.

"I feel happier and more independent here and glad to be living with my friends," said one of the women. A unique feature is that three carers provide the women with 24-hour support.

There is also an emergency call system linked up to social services so they can get help if it is needed.

The added bonus is

that it actually costs less to house the women in the flat - about £55,000 a year - than it would to keep them in care at around £80,000 a year.

The home is yet another success story for Barnet working in partnership with Christian Action and New Era Housing Associations. Funding also came from charities.

"This is a perfect example of the council's Housing and Social Services Departments working well together to make this unique project work.

"The women were given a major voice in setting up the project and we accepted their recommendations to give them the home they wanted," said Councillor David Williams, Chair of Social Services Committee.

GIVING FAMILIES HOMES THEY WANT

thanks to the shake-up.

Barnet will also help families who want to be rehoused for medical reasons. If the health of several members of the family is affected by housing conditions points will be awarded to each member instead of just one.

Other important changes include reserving flats for people with

learning difficulties and giving residents who turn down a home offer or lose an appeal the chance to apply again after 12 months.

Your council wants to reduce the number of families in bed and breakfast accommodation and to give more housing points to those with newborn children.

"We want to make

sure that our housing policies are not only fair but are seen to be fair," said Councillor Allan Turner, Chair of the Housing Committee.

"Housing needs are always changing and only by being alert to the demands of residents can we be sure of delivering the quality services people want and deserve," he added.

TeamBarnet - W



Meeting recreation needs of today

Barnet Council is determined to extend the range and scope of recreation throughout the borough with facilities and services which meet today's needs - instead of looking at what was acceptable a decade ago.

Rising to this challenge presents a major task for *TeamBarnet Leisure Management*. It is charged with meeting real and changing needs and, after extensive consultation, doing so within strictly controlled budgets, providing the best possible value for money for the whole community.

TeamBarnet Leisure Management was set up in 1991 to compete for contracts and was formed from a nucleus of staff at the council's swimming pools and stadiums after a major reorganisation of the service.

From the outset the team

was successful - winning the contracts for centre management and pitch letting.

The team has been in the forefront of implementing the council's policy of continually improving and expanding the range of activities offered to residents.

TeamBarnet Leisure Management continues to seek new opportunities to increase the use of the Cophall Pools.

Local people local jobs

HUNDREDS of staff in our *TeamBarnet* organisations deliver the services the people of the borough need. Despite their record of serving the people of the borough, we compete against outside organisations to keep their jobs. *TeamBarnet* Tendering (CCT).

DRIVING FORCE

Five years of continuous growth and profitable trading in tough market conditions has created a firm foundation for the future development and expansion of *TeamBarnet Vehicle Maintenance*.

The team has consistently produced trading profits every year since it was launched in 1990. *TeamBarnet Vehicle Maintenance*, our local team, gets the bulk of its business from the council's transport section, carrying out servicing and maintenance of vehicles and plant for other *TeamBarnet* organisations and other sectors of the authority.

Safe and sound

In schools and council buildings throughout the borough, *TeamBarnet Building Cleaning* is playing a vital role in protecting and enhancing the local environment.

The organisation, formed in 1989, again achieved profits last year.

Last year the team won contracts for four of the ten zones in the borough, with the largest contract starting in August this year.

During the last two years the organisation has increased turnover and as a result staff from 40 to 95.

CCT is a system which means your local services have to be offered to the outside bidders from anywhere in the country or even overseas.

"It is important in the run-up to the next CCT round that our services become leaner and fitter each year to compete," says Councillor Jo Salisbury, Chair of Direct Service Organisations Executive Committee. "We have done just that.

"Success in providing these services should not just be judged in pounds and pence," says Councillor Salisbury.

"The success of *TeamBarnet* last year was in meeting real need - and also doing it at the best possible value for money for the whole community," she declared.

"With the support of our



Councillor Jo Salisbury, Chair of Direct Service Organisations Executive Committee, at Mill Hill

staff we will protect local services from take-over by businesses with no interest in this borough other than the bottom-line profit and loss figures on a balance sheet.

"*TeamBarnet* services perform well - and are



OUR ROAD TO SUCCESS

SINCE it was formed 15 years ago, the *TeamBarnet Civil Engineering Organisation* has earned £286,000 for the borough and has been the driving force behind keeping our major highways and streets in the best possible condition

despite Government cut-backs on spending.

TeamBarnet Civil Engineering's operating performance is matched only by its ability to win and keep contracts. Year after year it has beaten target figures for turnover and

operating profits.

In less than ten years the organisation's turnover has grown from £1.24 million and a workforce of 57 to nearly £4.7 million last year delivered by a workforce of 78, creating more local jobs for local

people in the process.

Last year - one of its most competitive - Civil Engineering beat its forecast turnover figure by nearly £1 million - shattering a £4.3 million target to reach nearly £5.3 million.

DELIVERING

TeamBarnet is at work throughout your borough - delivering your local services with efficiency and economy.

TeamBarnet creates and protects local jobs for local people - and ensures the community is provided with

first-class services by people who really care.

These are just some of the *TeamBarnet* facts at a glance, highlighting the last financial year.

Staff and civic catering

Catering staff 25
Customers 200,000
Staff restaurants at Barnet House, The Town Hall, Hendon, Educational Services and Mill Hill Depot
Mobile refreshment service and function catering at Avenue House.

Special functions

Finger buffets 350
Fork buffets 60
Wedding receptions 12
Barmitzvahs 5

Education and welfare

Catering staff
Primary meals (Barnet Council) 3
Secondary school meals (Barnet Council) 3
Standard meals at Home (Barnet Council) 3
Luncheon Club meals (Barnet Council) 3
Kosher School meals (Private) 3
Kosher Meals on Wheels (Camden and Fulham, Waltham Forest and Grant Maintained catering contractors) 3

Christenings

3

Leisure catering

Catering staff 3
Relief staff 2
Customers 150,000

TeamBarnet Vehicle Maintenance

An MOT station was set up in July 1994.
A total of 3,462 services and

WORKING FOR YOU

People doing for us all

direct service (DSO) and direct labour (DLO) of this borough need. Local people doing local jobs. Borough, the Government says the local workforce must do their jobs under a system called Compulsory Competitive



Jo Salsbury, Chair of the Direct Service Organisation, launches the MOT service at Mill Hill Depot.

YOUR council's direct labour and direct service organisations are now trading under the *TeamBarnet* corporate logo.

"By trading under the *TeamBarnet* logo these services will become instantly recognisable to the people of Barnet and will be easily distinguished from private contractors," said Councillor Jo Salsbury.

The names Direct Service Organisation and Direct Labour Organisation were confusing and did not demonstrate that these organisations were part of the borough - and playing a vital role in it.

"Staff in our *TeamBarnet* organisations take a pride in their work and the services they provide - and we want the whole community to know *TeamBarnet* is working for them," she added.

TeamBarnet includes civil engineering, building maintenance, the organisation carrying out vehicle maintenance for the council, building cleaning, the teams managing the borough's leisure centres, staff and civic catering, the organisations providing catering at leisure facilities and education and welfare catering. They all had to beat off stiff competition during the year to keep existing contracts and win new ones.

"*TeamBarnet* is investing in all our futures - working for Barnet, creating local jobs and boosting the local economy," added Councillor Salsbury.

equipped, through quality and value for money, to beat off the bids for a takeover of Barnet from outsiders.

"*TeamBarnet* is working for you - the residents of the borough," added Councillor Salsbury.



After just four years, *TeamBarnet* Building Maintenance has secured its position as a highly successful local organisation consistently winning and keeping contracts.

Formed in 1991 by merging Housing Maintenance and Public Building Maintenance, *TeamBarnet* Building Maintenance plays a major role in maintaining and improving the council's homes, carrying out 77 per cent of all work on the borough's houses in 1994/95. In 1994/95 the workforce expanded to 89 to keep pace with the growing volume of business.

Menu for borough catering success

YOUR *TeamBarnet* caterers are at work throughout the borough meeting the needs of the whole community from children to older residents needing a meals on wheels service.

This dedicated team of local people meeting local needs faces year on year stiff competition from outside firms paying below average salaries and with no interest in the borough.

BEATING OFF COMPETITION

Despite this, our *TeamBarnet* caterers by cutting costs, improving efficiency and looking for new business have consistently provided outstanding value for money for the borough.

TeamBarnet staff and civic catering has been trading for six years.

TeamBarnet leisure catering works with the Cophall

complex providing good variety at competitive prices.

TeamBarnet education and welfare catering provided nearly 3.5 million meals for the borough's children in primary and junior schools, those using the council's community services and Barnet luncheon clubs.

KEEP YOUR LOCAL SERVICES

Council	420
Leisure (Barnet Council)	2,000,000
Leisure (Barnet Council)	1,000,000
Leisure (Barnet Council)	200,000
Private schools	18,000
(Camden, Hammersmith and Hertsmere)	75,000
Leisure contracts	39,000
	7

3 maintenance of numerous vehicles ranging from Escort vans up to 13-tonne gritting vehicles were carried out.

TeamBarnet Civil Engineering
Highways - minor improvements
Highways maintenance
Traffic management
Drainage

Workshops
Winter gritting
Sign manufacturing shop
Major emergency call-outs included the bombing near Tally Ho Corner, major roads accidents and flooding.

TeamBarnet Building Maintenance

- Working to help keep management of council homes in the borough by aiming to produce a successful bid in the forthcoming Compulsory Competitive Tendering exercise.
- Increasing income and turnover by winning two outside repair and redecoration programme contracts against stiff

- competition.
- The type of work carried out by your local team has been extended by the successful carrying out of water treatment schemes.
- Mechanical engineering services are provided for schools and Social Services.
- Emergency response service provided by the area maintenance teams.
- A good, reliable, out-of-hours standby service is provided.
- Successful completion of the annual interior decoration programme for the older and disabled residents of the borough.
- Major contractor used by the Housing Department

to work on replacing PVC windows of council homes.

TeamBarnet Building Cleaning

The team is responsible for cleaning:
Schools: Christ College, Garden Suburb, Brooklands, Frith Manor, Ravenscroft, Woodridge, Cromer Road, Queen Elizabeth Girls and Whittings Hill.
Libraries: Childs Hill, Garden Suburb, Golders Green, North Finchley, Totteridge and Chipping Barnet.
Social Services: Leaside Day Centre, Meadway Nursery and Rosa Morison.
Sheltered Housing: Garth House, Nansen Village, St

John's Close, Woodside Park, Kelvedon, Potteries and Vale Court.

TeamBarnet Leisure Management

These are some of the highlights of the last year:
Stadium sports courses 2,441 - up 44 per cent on the previous year
Under fives activity 10,595 - up 15 per cent
Attendances at Cophall Pools 551,084 - up 11 per cent
Attendances at the Cophall Complex - 80,413.

TeamBarnet Leisure Management also successfully staged:
The first 10-kilometre road race and fun run in

- association with the Mayor's Charity, Flightways Day Centre, which eventually raised £1,095.
- The Ministry of Defence's multi-event Sports Day embracing archery, athletics, cricket, football, netball, swimming and tennis. More than 4,000 competitors took part.
- Shree Kutch Leva Patel Community Festival attracting over 10,000 people.
- Annual fireworks display and bonfire run in conjunction with Mill Hill Rotary Club attracted over 6,000 people.
- London Broncos Rugby League Club continue to play at the stadium.

COUNCIL ACTS TO PROTECT HENRIETTA BARNETT SCHOOL

THE council has reluctantly been forced to take action to protect the long-term future of the borough's Henrietta Barnett School.

Councillors have agreed to start a process which could result in a compulsory purchase order for the school's Hampstead Garden Suburb site to secure it from a notice to quit issued by the site's owners, the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute.

This is the latest development in a long-running dispute with the institute over rent for the site.

"Even at this late hour we are asking the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute to see sense and come to a negotiated settlement.

"The council has a statutory duty to protect the school in the face of the institute's action to evict it from the site,"

'We cannot allow it to close'

said Councillor Rosemary Carney, Vice-Chair of the Education Committee.

Councillors called for all parties to find a negotiated solution which would secure the future for both the institute and the school.

Regular reports on the progress of negotiations will go before

councillors on the Education Committee.

Councillors also agreed that the compulsory purchase order would be withdrawn if the institute dropped the notice to quit issued to the school.

Just weeks ago the Department for Education and Employment came up with a £4 million-plus deal to meet

the rent demanded by the institute.

"The institute issued a notice to quit to the school in April this year and has failed to respond to the Department's offer," said Councillor Carney.

The hope is that the institute will come back to the negotiating table and look again at this generous offer for a realistic rent which would protect the interests of all parties without the need for compulsory purchase.



Gift of the gab

Cash boost for special needs children

An extra £1m is being spent on helping Barnet children with special needs following savings by the council's education department.

It means that the council can meet the needs of the growing

number of children needing special support in our schools without increasing the budget and without cutting services elsewhere.

The savings are the result of economy and efficiency measures as

well as a crack-down on waste. Additional cash has come from a cut in business rates and some funds from central Government.

The Education Committee had already returned the savings to

central funds when there was pressure on its special educational needs budget caused by the massive growth in the number of children in the borough needing help. This meant more money had to be invested in this vital area.

Two Woodhouse College students scooped the team winner's prize in the recent London Schools Debating Championships. Robert Rinder and Protima Deb were presented with their trophy by Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Susette Palmer.

Originally a Barnet competition promoted by the Oratory Group, it now draws teams from schools in 31 London boroughs.

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GOVT. RULES HIT FREE SCHOOL TRAVEL

Barnet Council has **condemned** Government rules which are forcing it to cut back on its free school travel scheme.

The scheme, introduced in September 1994, applied to all children joining secondary schools from that date and went further than Government requirements to provide free travel to religious or denominational schools.

But the Government insists that help can only be given if there are no suitable places at schools within two miles (three miles in the case of children over eight).

"We were phasing the new scheme in - and giving the opportunity to parents to choose schools to meet religious or denominational needs regardless of how close other suitable schools were," said Council Leader Councillor Alan Williams.

"We could not turn back the clock and introduce the scheme universally. Our new fair approach was opening up choice in education to a whole new generation and was welcomed by parents throughout the borough," said Councillor Williams.

The Government said the scheme must apply to all children in the borough

or it could not continue. It would not allow Barnet to phase in a scheme more generous than the one it replaced. But at the same time it would not provide the funds necessary to provide a universal scheme at a stroke.

Children currently getting free travel would continue to receive it until year 11. However, it will now not normally be provided if there are alternative school places nearer home.

Exam success for pioneer pupils

TWO Barnet pupils are the first in the country to pass a new 'A' level language course in another success story for the council's ground-breaking, quality education service.

Hem Mehta and Dhajash Padia, both 17, passed exams in Gujarati, the first in Britain to complete the new syllabus successfully.

Their achievement will help encourage youngsters nationwide to take up the Asian language course which is recognised by universities.



Pictured looking at one of the books with the Mayor (right) is Frau Margit Kreutzer, the Tempelhof twinning treasurer.

Hem Mehta, pictured right celebrating his success with his language support teacher, Anjuna Shah, is doing five 'A' levels in all including maths, chemistry, physics and Hindi.

Mrs Shah taught the pair voluntarily during lunchtimes at Ravenscroft School, Barnet.

Hem, of Colney Hatch Lane, Muswell Hill, is still studying for his other 'A' levels at Ravenscroft, while Dhajash of Grahame Park Estate is a pupil at Greenhill College in Harrow.



TWIN TOWN LINKS STRENGTHEN

MAYOR of Barnet Councillor Susette Palmer hosted a reception for visitors from Barnet's twin town of Tempelhof, a suburb of Berlin, at the beginning of September. For over 30 years the Friends of Barnet-Tempelhof have been visiting each other and forming lasting links with each area.

From the beginning Barnet and Tempelhof formed a book exchange and during the evening the Mayor was presented with German books for the libraries.

Morphou welcome

Morphou again set the seal on its twin town friendship with Barnet when the Greek Cypriot community in exile welcomed the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Agnes Slocombe, and Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Alan Williams and Councillor Joan Ryan, to Nicosia last month.

During a whistle-stop three-day visit, the Barnet party learned at first hand the difficulties being faced by this community in exile - and the value being placed on the links with Barnet.

Earlier this year Morphou became the first town to be twinned with Barnet in over 20 years.

Since the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974, the original Greek Cypriot inhabitants of Morphou in Northern Cyprus have left.

Ham&High Supplements 95/96

Watch out for these forthcoming supplements and features:

1995	
Christmas.....	1&8 December
1996	
Adult Education.....	12 January
Private Health.....	16 February
Education.....	15 March
Passover.....	22 March
Weddings.....	19 April
Summer Schools.....	17 May

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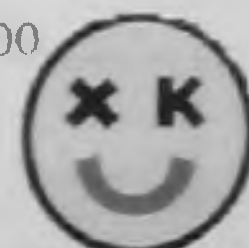
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HOME'S SUCCESS SHOWS BARNET VALUES AT WORK

PEOPLE with severe disabilities have settled successfully into the excellent new home their families wanted them to have.

Thanks to the council's caring approach the home, opened seven months ago, is already a great success story - and a fine example of Barnet Values being put into practice.

Matlock Close in High Barnet is the fruit of a close partnership between Barnet Council, housing associations, parents and residents.

Eight people have been given all the support they need to live in the community close to their families. Barnet Council sold the land to Notting Hill Housing Trust to build the home and Penta Housing provides the care staff.

The council and the housing association gave relatives a key role in setting up the project. And regular monthly meetings are held with them to ensure it con-

PARTNERSHIP WITH PATIENTS PAYS OFF

tinues to be what they want.

The home is a huge stride forward in the care of people with multiple disabilities because for many years there was nowhere in Barnet for them to go once they left their families. They either moved to a hospital or a residential care home outside the borough, miles away from relatives.

Each person at Matlock Close has a care programme designed to meet his or her special needs.

"I am delighted with the progress of this valuable project which fulfils our policy of improving people's quality of life," Social Services Committee Chair, Councillor David Williams said.

"This project shows how local people and agencies can work together to meet the

council's commitment to provide quality services to all our residents, particularly the most vulnerable."

It is another success for Barnet's policy of consulting residents and meeting real need.

MAYOR'S APPEAL GIVES PHYSIO UNIT A FACELIFT

Users of a physiotherapy unit will soon be enjoying comfortable new surroundings thanks to last year's Mayor's appeal.

The £15,344 facelift for Flightways Day Centre in Grahame Park will not cost the council a penny.

The cash to extend and refurbish the unit comes from generous donations to last year's Mayor's Charity Appeal, which raised money for the Friends of Flightways.

Flightways gets £15,000 donation

The work, supervised by the council, will start soon.

It will mean a bigger physiotherapy area, automatic closing doors and a new place to store equipment.

"The improvements will create more privacy for patients and a better

quality environment," said the Vice-Chair of Social Services Committee, Councillor Pam Coleman.

"As last year's Deputy Mayor, it gives me great pleasure to see the money raised by the council's charity appeal being put to such good use," she added.



100 not out

Arthur Parker celebrated his 100th birthday in style last month. He lives at the council's residential home, Chandos Lodge, on Grahame Park estate. Arthur was joined by the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Susette Palmer, and more than 50 friends and relatives.

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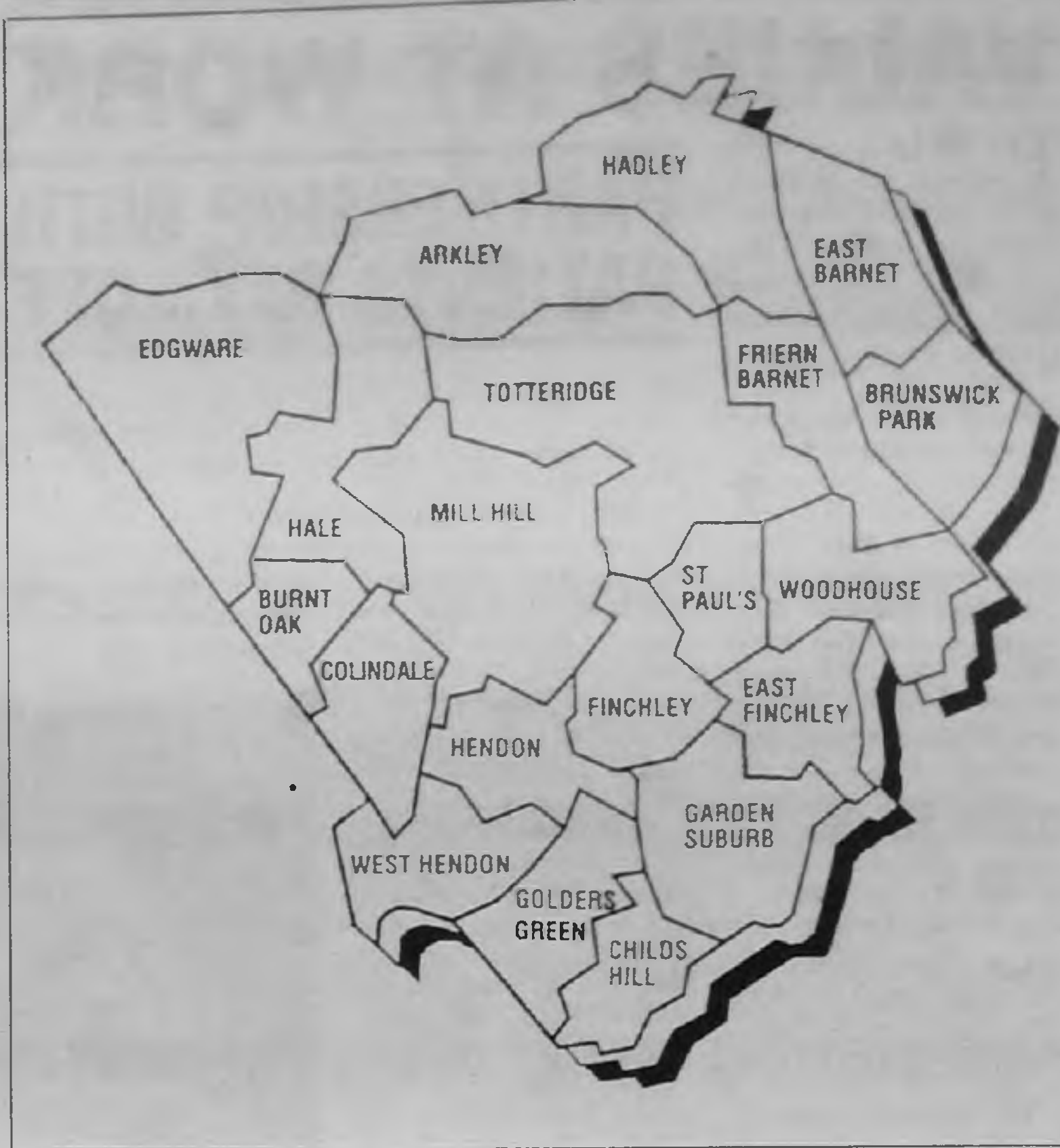
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From allotments to nature reserve

THERE will be something for everyone in an ambitious new council project which will transform a former allotments site.

Listening and learning Barnet Council is turning the land into a mini nature reserve, a picnic area and a toddlers' adventure playground.

Before deciding what to do, your council asked local families what they wanted at Barfield Avenue, N20. There was strong support for all three options so it was decided to do the lot.

The new scheme protects the wildlife

habitat for slow worms and lizards and new species will be encouraged to live there.

"This will now become a valued local amenity for local people, meeting a real need in the area," said Councillor Katherine McGuirk, Chair of Recreation, Leisure and Arts Committee.

Residents have already welcomed the council's plan to help them set up a Friends of the Reserve group to represent local users.

It will meet twice a year to ensure the reserve fits the needs of local people.

The London Reptile

and Amphibian Group and the London Ecology Unit will be involved in managing it.

There will also be a play area with equipment for under fives, safe surfacing and a picnic site with tables.

The council will clear brambles from the overgrown part of this site and there will be fencing, a gate and a dog grid to ensure dogs do not foul the play area.

"The council has listened to local people and conservation groups before devising an exciting project which will benefit all," added Cllr McGuirk.

Will your council pass the salt substitute?

TRIALS are being conducted by the council into a new alternative to road salt in a bid to cut corrosion and severe damage to street trees.

"Maintaining safe winter conditions for drivers and pedestrians is a top priority," said Councillor Stan Cross, Chair of Public Works Committee.

The council currently uses salt to de-ice roads and pavements in winter. Unfortunately it corrodes vehicles and metals and can harm or kill trees.

"Over the last few months Barnet has been looking at alternatives to discover whether they are both effective and safe," added Councillor Stan Cross.

Research has found a likely alternative in the form of a chemical IP32. It is environmentally-friendly, will not damage trees, has a low level of ammonia and will not corrode metal.

Over the winter months, trials of this chemical will go ahead in suitable areas around the borough.



POINTING THE WAY TO CLOSER LINKS WITH COMMUNITY

WITHIN days of opening, Barnet's first Action Point centre bringing council services even closer to residents was reporting brisk business from all members of the community.

This first Action Point, at the award-winning Chipping Barnet Library in Stapylton Road, Barnet, is the first point of contact for residents seeking information, services and advice from the council.

If this centre is the success the council is

predicting, other Action Points could spring up in libraries throughout the borough.

Action Point staff get expert advice for residents by being able to contact the best person in the council. The centre stocks all council leaflets, provides help with application forms and has telephone and fax links to provide fast answers to queries from residents.

Among the hundreds of inquiries dealt with within the first few days of opening were subjects as diverse as

neighbourhood noise, travel permits, Council Tax bands, the role of food inspectors, parking controls, care of older residents, school examination results, tree preservation, planning applications and drains and roads repairs.

"The launch of Action Point proves we are determined to pull down any barriers between Barnet Council and residents," said Councillor Alan Williams, Leader of the Council who is pictured with Councillor Katherine McGuirk.

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
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) 441 0170
1st Monday every month 7-8pm
New Barnet Residents' Association
48-50 Victoria Road, New Barnet
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 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 by telephone 7 days
of the week or through the Finchley
Conservative Association Tel. 445 4292

GARDEN SUBURB WARD

Frank Davis (Con)
Mohammed Khamisa (Con) 458 1996
Roy Shutz (Con) 883 1205
c/o Hendon South Conservative Association
or write to 20 Connaught Drive,
London NW11 6BJ
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) 203 2895
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
Leslie Pym (Con) 959 5484
Sheila Scott (Con) 906 0825
Every Saturday 10am-12noon
Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue
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 Hendon 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

BIGGEST EVER YOUTH ARTS FESTIVAL A HIT

THE biggest ever celebration of youth arts in the borough was a sparkling success.

The colourful two-week festival of fun-filled activities for youngsters was organised by the council youth service.

Dozens of different events were held during London Library Week and National Youth Work Week, 16-28 October.

Puppet making, dancing, cabaret, live music, circus skills and drama were all part of an exciting and attractive programme.

Your council also tried to find out how to encourage even more younger people to use the facilities on offer at borough libraries.

It was emphasised to 12-18 year olds in particular that borough libraries are free goldmines of information. Your council wants to encourage this age group to continue with their education.

The huge range of leisure and arts materials and information on computer available was publicised and explained to youth groups throughout the borough.

Displays to promote arts and craft workshops were put up in youth centres during National Youth Week.

The week was a showcase for young talent - but not everybody had to be a budding star to get involved. Youngsters also enjoyed activities like photography, face-painting and model-making.

Events to encourage youngsters to use the service were held at borough libraries and users of youth centres were asked for their views on libraries.

Your council will use

Library and Youth Work Weeks

this feedback to target services to meet the special needs of the young.

Among the exciting events during the two-week youth spectacular were:

■ An art and craft exhibition where youngsters displayed their own work at The Compton Area Centre.

■ Advice at North Finchley Library for young bands on making music.

■ The chance to make your own jungle, house or garage tape at Grahame Park Youth Centre.

■ A free show by The Musicians Union group MUzitech to demonstrate how pop, rock and funk works.

■ A drama and dance show by young people at Finchley Youth Theatre.



One of the council's events in London Library Week last month was a Salsa workshop at Grahame Park Library. The library was packed with hi-swinging, foot-tapping residents keen to get the hang of this Latin American dance.



GOOD FOOD AND FINE SPEAKERS

Barnet Libraries Literary Supper, now in its fourth year, will feature two contrasting speakers.

One is politician Roy Hattersley, equally well known as a biographer, essayist, columnist and novelist. The other is local author Janina David, whose third volume of autobiogra-

phy was published earlier this year by Barnet Libraries in association with JMLS Ltd.

There is still time to book your ticket for the event on Sunday, 26 November at The Town Hall, Hendon, which begins with a sherry reception followed by a buffet supper.

A BOOST FOR BARNET GOLF

BBETTER golf facilities are being teed up by Barnet Council - and it will not cost golfers a penny extra.

Your council plans to let a private company manage the three public golf courses and spend £15,000 each year to improve and maintain them.

But when Golf Learning Centres Ltd takes over running the courses at Bethune Recreation Ground, Oak Hill Park and Tudor Sports Ground, your council will still control prices for golfers.

No jobs will be lost because seven part-time attendants will transfer to the new employer and grounds maintenance staff will still work for the council.

Book returned to Hendon Library 55 years late

RED-FACED journalist David McKie has returned a book to Hendon Library - 55 years overdue.

The Guardian columnist decided to bring back the book due on 19 October, 1940, on the same day during London Library Week.

He was slightly wor-

ried that Recreation, Leisure and Arts Committee Chair Councillor Katherine McGuirk would enforce the fine.

But he had worked out that at the old fine rate of one old penny per week he should only have to fork out £11.92.

David discovered the library book called Exploring the Universe by

Henshaw Ward when he was clearing out piles of old books because he is about to move to a new home.

It had been borrowed by his parents and he had never opened its covers before. Soon after it was borrowed the family were evacuated from London because of the Second World War.

The book, about the origin of the universe, is too old to give to borrowers now but David promised to donate another book to the library service.

An interesting feature of the book is a warning inside about protecting it from bad weather or infectious diseases.

"It is appropriate that this book has finally come back to us during London Library Week, 55 years

after it was borrowed. One of our themes of the week is that libraries are forever. Youngsters can use them all their lives and need not stop doing so when they finish their studies.

"We are prepared to consider waiving fines for books overdue for more than 50 years," joked Councillor McGuirk.



Is she going to fine me? David McKie hands over the 55-year overdue book to Councillor McGuirk.

'Hands off our libraries' call

COMMUNITY groups are right behind Barnet Council's strong message to the Government to keep its hands off our libraries.

National Heritage Secretary Virginia Bottomley has asked for comments on plans to let private firms run public library services.

And she has been left in no doubt that your council is determined to protect a vital service from the peril of privatisation.

The Recreation, Leisure and Arts Consultation Forum have also given the proposals the brush off. It has urged concerned people to write to local MPs telling them to oppose any privatisation moves.