

barnetfirst

The council magazine bringing you news and community information

issue 72 December 2017



Season's Greetings from Barnet:
Let's recycle right this Christmas -
page 22

Our primary schools are more popular than ever

Last year every parent who applied got a place for their child



Online applications are now open,
closing date is 15 January 2018

www.eadmissions.org.uk

Leader's column

We're coming to the end of 2017 – yet another extremely busy and productive year. There are no signs however of things slowing down.

I'll start with some essential business first. Subject to the Planning and Resources Committee in December, we're just about to launch our consultation on the 2018/2019 budget (page 33). The budget gap between 2018 and 2020 is £41m, so this will inevitably mean some tough decisions to help balance the books.

We have a mix of proposals to make savings to services and to look at ways in which we can do things more cheaply; including options for Council Tax. I would like to encourage as many of you as possible to take part in the consultation, which runs until the middle of January.

The regeneration of Brent Cross Cricklewood (pages 28 and 29) took another step closer when the Planning Committee recently approved detailed designs for the new shopping centre. The scheme will be transformational, creating a new town centre, delivering up to 27,000 jobs, 7,500 new homes, new transport and infrastructure investment. It will also spearhead economic growth in the area.

At this time of year, we really want to try and make things that bit easier for local residents and businesses. It will be free to park in all pay-to-park bays and in the council's car parks every Saturday and Sunday throughout December. This also included Small Business Saturday (2 December), a day where consumers were encouraged to 'shop locally' and support businesses in their communities.

Christmas is a special time of year and we want people in Barnet to enjoy the festive period with family and friends. It is also the time of year when our more vulnerable and elderly residents can fall victim to the cold weather.

If you have an elderly or vulnerable neighbour, please check to see if they're ok and need any assistance (page 15). It might just mean a quick visit to the pharmacy on their behalf before the main festivities start. Every little bit helps at this time of year.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas.



Richard Cornelius



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Council contact centre open between Christmas and New Year.

If you need to contact the council over the festive period, our customer contact centre will be open as usual between Christmas and New Year (apart from 25 - 26 December and 1 January 2018, which are bank holidays). However, the out of hours service will still be answered 24 hours a day for emergencies. For details of your festive waste and recycling collections turn to page 22. For any enquiries, contact the council on tel: **020 8359 2000**. Adult Social Care Direct can be reached on tel: **020 8359 5000** or after hours on tel: **020 8359 2000**.

Contact us

Barnet First is a magazine filled with local news and community information for the borough of Barnet – issue 72, December 2017.

Alternative formats of Barnet First are available only upon request. If you would like a copy of Barnet First in large print or on tape, please email: barnet.first@barnet.gov.uk

Barnet First is produced by the London Borough of Barnet's, Corporate Communications Team.

To contact the editorial team, email: barnet.first@barnet.gov.uk

When you have finished reading our magazine, please recycle.



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news

Civic Award nominations now open



2017 Civic Award winners with the former Mayor of Barnet, Councillor David Longstaff.

Do you know someone who deserves recognition for all their contributions to the borough? If so, why not nominate them for a Civic Award.

Now in their 18th year, the awards are a chance for us to recognise and reward some of the amazing work done by community-minded people and groups in our borough.

The winners will be invited to attend a ceremony at the Town Hall in April 2018 where the Worshipful the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Brian Salinger, will present them with their award.

To find out more go to www.barnet.gov.uk/civic-awards

The deadline for nominations is 31 January 2018.

£17.5 million for fire safety works

Additional funding of £7.5 million has been agreed for fire safety works to be carried out across the borough, to ensure resident safety remains the number one priority.

The total cost of the works, which are being commissioned following the Grenfell Tower fire, is £17.5 million and includes funding of £10 million that was approved by Housing Committee in June.

Works include the removal of the cladding on the three tower blocks at Granville Road and Barnet Homes are currently working on a solution for a replacement system, with a view to installing this next year.

All buildings included in the programme are safe, with up to date Fire Risk Assessments. The works include replacing communal fire doors, installing new ventilation systems, additional signage to communal areas and improving access for the fire brigade to the building. Works will be completed within a 24-month period and are required to improve the fire integrity of the building and enable an effective response to be provided in the event of a fire.

Crowdfunded Syrian Women's Kitchen opens its doors



Misir Kakhia with two of the kitchen's other chefs.

Following its crowdfunding success, raising its total fundraising target in just two days from contributions from the local community, the Syrian Women's Kitchen opened its doors on 30 November at the Ten Grand Arcade in North Finchley.

The Syrian Women's Kitchen is a new pop-up cafe and mobile kitchen serving authentic, homemade Syrian food made by a team of Syrian refugees who have resettled in the borough.

Talking about their motivations for establishing the kitchen, Misir Kakhia - one of the kitchen's talented chefs, said: "We're new to the country and this project gives us the opportunity to use our skills and experience within the community. It's really important for us all. We're excited to show the people of Barnet the culture of Syria and allow them to taste some of the wonderful foods from the country."

The crowdfunding campaign, which raised £1,578 in just two days, helped cover the

costs for the pop-up kitchen, chefs' food hygiene qualification as well as cooking equipment.

Speaking about their aspirations for the kitchen, Misir Kakhia said: "If it goes well, we would love to expand the kitchen and I think we all hope that one day we will even have our own Syrian restaurant for the people of Barnet to enjoy."

Follow the kitchen on Instagram [barnetsyriankitchen](https://www.instagram.com/barnetsyriankitchen) or Twitter [@bsyriankitchen](https://twitter.com/bsyriankitchen).

For more information on other crowdfunding projects in Barnet, and how to launch your own, visit: www.spacehive.com/movement/barnet-together/projects

New leisure management contract to help promote wellbeing



Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) has been awarded a ten-year leisure management contract following a competitive tender process.

The new partnership will commence on 1 January 2018 and will include the management and operation of five of our leisure facilities, including two new leisure centre developments at Barnet Copthall and Victoria Recreation Ground in New Barnet.

The innovative partnership will help tackle unhealthy lifestyles, offer a cost effective approach to physical activity and create opportunities, such as community and school programmes, that promote wellbeing. This includes:

- a free Barnet resident's card which provides residents with up to a 50 per cent discount on activities
- free general swimming to Barnet children under 8 years of age
- a borough-wide Physical Activity Referral Scheme which creates a pathway for exercise referral, diabetes and falls prevention
- delivery of specialist health programmes, including: children and adult's weight management and a cancer rehabilitation scheme
- creation of 'health hubs' at each facility to deliver health checks and advice for residents
- Barnet Carers Pass which is a free concessionary membership for registered carers, young carers, care leavers and looked after children (includes free swimming)

To find out more, visit: www.barnet.gov.uk/spa or www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/london/barnet

International Fraud Awareness Week



Counter-fraud officers joined a week of action last month to mark International Fraud Awareness Week (12-18 November).

Members of our Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT), Barnet Homes housing officers, housing enforcement officers, trading standards and licencing officers along with enforcement officers from NSL and the Police, joined forces and were out and about hosting fraud awareness and crime prevention and detection events.

CAFT carried out housing fraud checks and mounted two operations cracking down on drivers fraudulently using disabled parking permits. Trading standards officers carried out a rogue traders awareness and enforcement campaign. Noise abatement officers conducted noise reduction and prevention work and housing enforcement officers carried out numerous visits.

Officers were on hand at events to explain the impact of fraud, what to look out for, and how to report it.

It's estimated that fraud costs local authorities nationally around £2.1 billion every year, and our specialist CAFT officers investigated more than 554 cases of suspected fraud in the last year alone.

Investigators are here to protect the public purse and work hard to disrupt and tackle fraud ranging from people illegally sub-letting their homes, to those attempting to cheat the system of right to buy and people illegally using blue badges to park.

If you suspect a fraud you can report it online by visiting:

www.barnet.gov.uk/anti-fraud or call our fraud hotline on **020 8359 2007**.

Mark Holocaust Memorial Day with us



This year's Holocaust Memorial Day will be marked in Barnet on Sunday 28 January 2018.

As it has been for several years, Barnet's commemoration will be at the Rickett Quadrangle within Middlesex University in The Burroughs, Hendon. The memorial service will begin at 1pm and attendees are asked to arrive and be seated by 12.45pm.

Speakers for this year's event are still to be confirmed. The full programme will be made available on the council's website at www.barnet.gov.uk in early January.

news

Unicef and Barnet join forces to support children and young people



Making sure that children and young people in our borough have a voice and that their opinions are heard is an important part of our ambition to become London's most family-friendly borough by 2020.

That's why we have embarked on a three year journey with Unicef UK to advance child's rights and well-being at the local level and work towards recognition as a Unicef Child Friendly Community.

To launch our partnership with Unicef, we kicked off celebrations on World Children's Day on 20 November. To mark the occasion we invited young people to come into the council for a Takeover Day, giving them the opportunity to tell us their views.

The children were able to gain an insight into the adult world and we benefitted from a fresh perspective on our work, with both parties inspired by the experience. The young people also planned and led on

an awareness session for staff to give them an opportunity to learn about the challenges young people are facing in Barnet and to learn more about children's rights.

If you would like to know more about what we are doing throughout our partnership and how you or your child can get involved, please contact: Unicefcrp@barnet.gov.uk



Question Time Events

We value your views and opinions about how we are doing, so over the last few months we've been holding a series of 'Question Time' events.

Since September, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Richard Cornelius, has hosted five events around the borough, with a sixth due to take place later this month.

These have been a chance for residents to hear what the council is working on and give you an opportunity to ask questions about the matters most important to you.

Your views help to inform how we work and how the council is run.

The events do not have a set agenda and provide an informal atmosphere for questions.

There's still a chance to attend the final event which will be taking place on 13 December at Hartley Hall in Mill Hill.

For full details on tickets and this month's event, visit: www.barnet.gov.uk/question-time

Update following Ofsted findings

Earlier this year, Ofsted carried out an inspection of the council's Children's Services and judged that they were inadequate.

We fully accepted the findings and have been taking urgent action to make improvements so we can provide better support to our children, young people and their families.

These improvements are a priority for the whole council and our partners, and since Ofsted's inspection report we have developed a detailed action plan to make sure these happen as quickly as possible. This has now been agreed with Ofsted and sets out seven improvement themes for what needs to be done.

A full update on the progress being made was discussed at last month's meeting of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee. This can be found by visiting www.barnet.gov.uk

Hidden Gem



Stephens House and Gardens is a large Victorian mansion (Grade II listed) situated on East End Road in Finchley.

With a fascinating history, its buildings have something to offer everyone. The Gardens

provide a mixed landscape and include a unique arboretum, a rockery, a bog garden, large park areas to play in and wooded areas to walk. They are a green oasis in suburban London.

Today the mansion provides comfortable facilities for conferences, business functions, exhibitions, commercial filming, charity fundraising events, weddings and family celebrations as well as lush gardens for the public to enjoy free of charge.

There is also a bustling café, adventure playground and a visitor centre.

For more information and volunteering opportunities, visit: www.stephenshouseandgardens.com

Barnet is full of hidden gems so if you have a favourite spot that needs to be celebrated, let us know at barnet.first@barnet.gov.uk and perhaps we can include it in a future edition.



Hendon Cemetery and Crematorium is a multi-faith site set in 42 acres of well maintained park land.



Two non-conformist Chapels

Located side-by-side, both can be used for burial services, cremation and pre-funeral ceremonies or rituals.



Flexible funeral arrangements

We can accommodate funerals 7 days a week with the ability to securely broadcast funerals to those who are unable to travel.



Mausoleum Courtyard

Interment spaces can be reserved at anytime. A variety of personalisation options are available.



Benefits to Barnet residents

We are the only cemetery to offer discounted burial prices for Barnet residents.



Hendon Cemetery and Crematorium, Holders Hill Road, London, NW7 1NB

☎ 020 8359 3370 ✉ HendonCemeteryandCrematorium@barnet.gov.uk

Re (Regional Enterprise) Limited is a joint venture between Capita plc and the London Borough of Barnet



Are you interested in becoming a voluntary Independent School Admission and Exclusions Panel Member?

The role:

- to consider whether the Local Authority admission arrangements were properly followed
- to consider whether the admission criteria comply with the law
- to decide if the decision to refuse a child a place at a school in question was reasonable.



Travel expenses will be covered and lunch provided.

All new Panel Members will be required to attend a training session before sitting on an appeal.

If you are interested in becoming a Panel Member please contact Abigail Lewis Governance Service: 020 8359 4369 email: appealsadmin@barnet.gov.uk or visit the website: www.barnet.gov.uk/school-admissions-exclusion-panel



people

Libraries: Turning a new page

Library services in Barnet now include two brand new buildings after the official opening of the Church End Library.

Church End is one of two new libraries in the borough to have opened in the last 18 months. Colindale Library was the first of these when it opened its doors last autumn - replacing the old library building as part of the regeneration work underway on the Grahame Park estate.

Church End Library opened in late September of this year, and now offers modern facilities which replace the old library building.

Church End and Colindale libraries are among our four 'Core Plus' libraries. These libraries offer the most extensive range of services and opening hours, delivering a whole host of reading, learning, and cultural events.

Alongside the work that has been carried out across our library buildings over the last year, there has been the usual packed calendar of library events taking place to suit all ages.

Between July and September, the Summer Reading Challenge helped encourage children to keep up their reading over the summer break and continue to build their literacy skills.

This year's challenge included all kinds of 'Animal Agents' - inspired stickers and prizes for children to collect from libraries as they progressed through the challenge to read six books.

There was also a bumper selection of activities on offer, from themed arts and crafts sessions, to daring disguise making, code breaking, and clue hunts.



L-R: Leader of the Council, Councillor Richard Cornelius, Mike Freer, MP for Finchley and Golders Green and Councillor Reuben Thompstone, Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee at the new Church End Library.

people



The new Church End library

In October our libraries hosted their third annual Libraries Festival during which libraries across Barnet played host to a wide range of events, workshops, theatrical performances, and competitions. There were also talks from bestselling authors including Ben Aaronovitch, and Swedish crime author Arne Dahl.

For younger residents there were events ranging from a one-man theatre production to a ‘create your own comic’ workshop.

In the run-up to Christmas there will be all the regular activities on offer in our libraries, including reading groups, weekly computer classes, and all our popular early years’ activities.

Our traditional library services are also complemented by a range of other materials on offer through our home, mobile and digital services, including the launch of a brand new service for borrowing e-audio books.

Borrowbox has a wide range of bestselling titles for children, teens and adults. Titles can be downloaded via an app and then listened to in the car, the gym or at bedtime.

This year we are also introducing a self-service opening system which people can use to access ten of our libraries outside of staffed opening hours. Over the coming months, self-service opening will see extended opening hours being rolled out across the borough.

For full information on the range of services, opening times and events in our libraries, and for more information on signing up for self-service opening, visit www.barnet.gov.uk/libraries



The new Church End library

Self-service opening is available in 10 of our libraries

Residents who are eligible can upgrade their library card which, along with a unique PIN, is used to access libraries during self-service opening hours.

The service is free to use and registration can be completed at any Barnet library.

During self-service opening, residents are able to borrow books, use library PCs, access wi-fi, photocopy and print, and place and collect reservations. So far, more than 17,000 residents have signed up to the service.

people

FACT vs FICTION

CHALLENGING MYTHS ABOUT FOSTERING

People often rule themselves out of fostering, thinking that they may not be suitable to apply or enquire. What matters most is that you are fit and able to care for any child you are approved to foster in a safe and caring environment.



HERE ARE A FEW 'MYTHBUSTERS' AROUND BECOMING A FOSTER CARER:



- You can be single and foster



- You don't need any formal qualifications



- You don't have to own your own home



- You don't need to give up your job to foster



- Your sexual orientation won't prevent you from fostering



- Age is no barrier – our oldest foster carer is 77 and our youngest is 25.



- Your religion won't prevent you from fostering

DO YOU HAVE #MORE2GIVE?

We need people who are willing to work with children and young people who have often had a difficult start in life. If you think you have the ability to support and nurture them, then we want to hear from you.

As a Barnet foster carer you'll develop your skills through training and learning as well as receive weekly allowances, a dedicated social worker and out-of-hours support.



To make your enquiry contact the team on: 020 8359 6274 or visit Barnet.gov.uk/fostering

“Helping to shape the lives of young women like Lyndsey and Idil is the reason that I chose to foster.”



DO YOU HAVE #MORE2GIVE ?

Join our fostering community today and see how you can change a child's life.

020 8359 6274 | www.barnet.gov.uk/fostering



Have you had your flu jab?



- are you pregnant?
- are you aged 65 or over?
- do you suffer from lung, kidney or heart disease, diabetes, breathlessness or another long term condition?
- is your child aged 2 or 3?

Ask your GP or pharmacist about a free flu jab or nasal spray for your child.



New evening and weekend GP appointments in Barnet



Extra GP appointments are available in the evenings and on the weekends in Barnet. These extended hours – 6.30pm to 8.00pm on weekdays, 8.00am to 8.00pm on weekends – are provided from several GP practices (hubs) in the borough.

How do I book an appointment?

You can book an appointment with a GP or nurse at any one of the hubs by either:

- calling the service directly on **020 3948 6809** (available during hub operating hours only), or
- contacting your own GP practice.

Who can access these services?

Any patients registered with a Barnet GP practice.

What are the opening times?

Mondays to Fridays:
6.30pm to 8.00pm

Weekends and bank holidays:
8.00am to 8.00pm

 Call **020 3948 6809** to book your appointment

If you need medical help quickly – but not in a 999 emergency – call NHS 111 for more information on which health professional you should see.

people

GP Practice health champions help connect people with local support

Six local GP practices have invited residents to join them as ‘practice health champions’, collaborating with surgery staff to develop activities to enable themselves, patients, families, friends and neighbours to live well.

Champions, in collaboration with their practice, help find ways to improve and add to what is already on offer to patients, and connect people with support from the voluntary sector in their community.

The Practice Health Champions are creating a range of new possibilities for local residents; from initiatives to welcome patients when they come for appointments, to new groups and events to help people stay active, make new friends, and feel less isolated.

Champions are now in place at: Longrove Surgery, Brunswick Park Medical Practice, St. Andrews Medical Practice, St. George’s Medical Practice, Millway Practice and Jai Medical Centre.

The new way of working is leading to lots of small positive changes to the way services in surgeries are run.

Wendy Oliver is a champion at St Andrews Medical Centre in Whetstone, where she’s helped develop a story time service to entertain children while their parents see the health visitor. Wendy loves children and felt she had something to offer, especially with 35 years’ experience working in pre-school education: “I feel really pleased with what has been achieved so far. The parents absolutely love it, the health visitor thinks it’s great and my GP was also very appreciative of what we’re doing.”



Wendy Oliver reads to children whilst their parents visit the doctor.



Wendy Oliver with a colleague.

At Longrove Surgery in Chipping Barnet, Christine Klein has set up a history walk, which she leads from the practice once a month. Her passion for local history is encouraging patients to be more active and get out in the fresh air, while also giving patients the opportunity to make new friends in the community.

Christine said, “I think we should all be physically active and I believe socialising can help with all sorts of other problems. That was the main reason why I decided to be a practice health champion. I thought I could use my skills to help



Christine Klein has set up a history walk to help her neighbours to live well.

other people.” Commissioned by the joint Barnet and Harrow Public Health Team, with the support of NHS Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group and the national organisation Altogether Better, the initiative has had a positive response from local people. We are hoping to introduce Practice Health Champions to more surgeries in the near future.

If you are interested in joining one of the surgeries as a practice health champion, then contact 01924 316394 or email altogether.better@swyt.nhs.uk for more information.

Looking for ways to get involved in your community? Visit the Barnet Community Directory where you can find a list of what is on offer in your community to keep you connected, active and well:
vcs-database.barnet.gov.uk/

Worried about keeping Warm and Well this winter?

There's lots of support to help you and your family

Do you have:

- poor or broken heating?
- a cold and draughty home?
- high energy bills?

Don't wait, contact us for free advice and assistance today



Keeping Barnet residents Warm and Well this winter

tel: 020 8359 7441 email: winterwell@barnet.gov.uk
or visit www.barnet.gov.uk/winterwell

Keep warm, well and safe this winter

With winter comes cold weather, flu season, and for some of us, worries about keeping warm, well and safe. There are lots of small and effective things you can do to help you, your family and your neighbours this season.



Following these simple steps can help you beat the cold, prevent the flu and stay well this winter.



Keep your home warm

- make sure you keep your house at a healthy temperature between 18-21°C. Heat your main living room to around 21°C and the rest of the house to at least 18°C
- keep doors shut to prevent draughts and pull your curtains at dusk to keep the heat inside
- if you're finding it difficult to keep your home warm, you can get in touch for advice and find out if you are eligible for a Winter Well grant on 020 8359 7441
- the Care and Repair adaptations team offer advice and support for vulnerable older people or adults and children with disabilities, so that you can live independently in the safety and comfort of your home. For more information, call 020 8359 7462.



Protect your health

- if you are aged over 65, pregnant, or have a long term health condition, make sure you get your free flu jab. For children aged 2 - 3, a free nasal spray is available
- have regular hot drinks and at least one hot meal a day
- wear several layers of clothes rather than one thick layer
- keep active - move around at least once every hour, even light exercise will help you keep warm
- take extra care in icy conditions - to minimise the risk of slipping, use salt, grit, or sand to clear snow and ice from pathways and drives and wear boots or shoes with a good grip.

Season's Greetings

Our winter salting programme ensures that roads are safe and that the 150 miles of our busiest roads are treated with salt in advance of any forecasted frost or snow. Follow us on Twitter @barnetcouncil for regular gritting updates or visit our website for more information and advice on how to travel safely this winter:
www.barnet.gov.uk/wintergritting

Did you know?

A total of 2,350 tonnes of salt is in our salt barn.

For more information on keeping Warm and Well visit
www.barnet.gov.uk/winterwell or call our helpline on 020 8359 7441

Stand up to violence

stop domestic abuse

Sadly, incidents of domestic violence rise significantly during the festive period. The rise in incidents can be related to factors such as increased financial pressure, alcohol consumption and family pressures.

Domestic violence and abuse is any violent or abusive behaviour that takes place between intimate partners or family members. Although the majority of incidents are committed against women and girls, men and boys can also be victims.

Violence can take many forms and can involve psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse. It can also involve coercive and controlling behaviour such as not letting you leave the house or threatening to hurt you or your family.

We're working closely with our partners across the borough, including the Police, voluntary and community groups to tackle domestic violence and improve support against women and girls in Barnet. Through our zero tolerance approach, we are holding perpetrators to account and continue to fund our perpetrator programme to support behavioural change.

Where to seek help:

You can access advice, information and support in a number of ways:

- If you require emergency assistance please call 999
- Drop into the **Barnet Domestic Violence and Abuse One Stop Shop** which takes place weekly at Barnet House **every Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm, no appointment is needed.** For further information call **020 8359 4797** or visit: thebarnetgroup.org/bh/applying-for-housing/domestic-violence/
- If you are a victim of domestic violence and abuse and would like **one-to-one support and advice** you can contact **Barnet Solace Advocacy and Support Service on 020 3874 5003**, they can allocate a case officer to support you. For more information visit: www.solacewomensaid.org/get-help/barnet/
- If you are fleeing domestic abuse and need **access to emergency refuge accommodation** and advice you can call the **24-Hour National Domestic Violence Helpline on 0808 2000 247.**



New evening and weekend GP appointments in Barnet

NHS

Barnet

Clinical Commissioning Group

We know that it's sometimes hard to fit in a visit to the doctor when you need it most. That's why NHS Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group has made an extra 38,000 GP appointments available in the evenings and at weekends in Barnet. The extra appointments are available from 6.30pm to 8pm on weekdays and 8am to 8pm on weekends and are provided from several GP practices or "hubs" in the borough.

This means that Barnet residents can now access GP services from 8am to 8pm, seven days a week. **To book an appointment, you can call 020 3948 6809 (available from 6.30pm to 8pm on weekdays, 8am to 8pm on weekends) or contact your own GP practice.**

The additional appointments are one of a number of new ways patients can access GP services. GP online services, for example, allow you to book GP appointments and order repeat prescriptions from your computer, smartphone or tablet – 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

Signing up to GP online services is quick and easy. Tell your GP practice that you would like to register for online access. You will then receive your unique username and password and can start using the online services straight away. The services available will depend on the online system your GP practice uses so ask your practice what services they offer when you register. In some instances, patients are able to book their first appointment online.

This additional access to the doctors will be particularly important this winter as it is always a particularly challenging and busy time for the NHS, both locally and across the country. A&E will be very busy but there are alternatives. Avoid long waits in A&E and, instead, contact your GP, call NHS 111 by dialling 111 for more advice, or visit one of the three walk-in centres across the borough at Edgware Community Hospital, Finchley Memorial Hospital or Cricklewood Health Centre.

More information on services this winter is available at www.barnetccg.nhs.uk

Fun, festive activities



Love to Move Programme

Saracens Sport Foundation have partnered with City Bridge Trust and Age UK Barnet to deliver Dance, Pilates and Nordic Walking classes for over 50s as part of the Love to Move programme. All the sessions are focused on getting active and meeting new people.

Pilates: Monday 2.15pm - 3.15pm

Lyonsdown Hall, New Barnet, EN5 1JB

Nordic Walking: Tuesday 9am - 10am

Oak Hill park, East Barnet, EN4 8JP

Dance: Wednesday 10am - 12noon

St John's Parish Centre, Friern Barnet, N11 3EQ

Please note: activities will stop for Christmas on Friday 22 December and will restart on Monday 8 January 2018.

Cost: £5 - try the first session for free!

Contact: emilyneilan@saracens.net or **020 3675 7232**

Carol Concert

Come along and support the children of Barnet's schools singing carols for Cherry Lodge.

Spires Shopping Centre, High Barnet

**Wednesday 6 and
Wednesday 13 December**

9.30am - 2.30pm

For more information contact
Tina on **020 8441 7000** or email
tina@cherrylodgescancer.org.uk

Festive lunch

Over 55, and in need of some local company? Why not join us for a festive lunch and a spot of bingo afterwards. A delicious two course lunch is served from 12noon at only £7 with free social events up until 4pm.

**Monday, Wednesday or
Friday from 11 December
until Friday 22 December.**

12noon - 4pm £7 per person

Friern Barnet Royal British Legion,
1 St John's Building,
Friern Barnet Road, N11 3DP.

For more information call:
020 3743 2326

Cricklewood Christmas lights switch-on

Performances by local acts Carrie & Joe, Hampstead School, Childs Hill School and Cricklewood Baptist Church. Additionally, a festive craft stall and a light show.

For more information visit: www.cricklewood.net

Town Square Cricklewood Lane

Friday 8 December, 6pm Free

The Big Christmas Party

Food, drink, bouncy castle, Santa's grotto, Christmas crafts, games and competitions and raffle all for free! Plus a charity tombola.

Saturday 9 December, 1-3pm

The Green Man Community Centre,
Strawberry Vale, East Finchley,
N2 9BA

For more information contact: Jamie Fletcher on **07590 260 571** or jamie@hopenorthlondon.org.uk

Community Carols on The Green

Followed by free festive food and drink.

Sunday 10 December, 5pm

The green in the centre of
Strawberry Vale, East Finchley, N2 9RB

For more information contact
Helen Shannon on **07866 507 609** or
helenshannon@stbarnabas.co.uk

Grahame Park Christmas Celebration

Grahame Park Estate will host a Christmas Celebration event including Santa's Grotto, a decorated tree, carols and performances, hamper raffle, face-painting, balloon modelling, games, food and drink and lots more.

The event is being delivered by Colindale Community Trust in partnership with the council, Genesis Housing and Barnet Homes.

Thursday 14 December, 3pm - 8pm Free

For more information contact **020 8200 3014** or email: grahamepark.onestopshop@gmail.com

**Grahame Park Community Centre on
The Concourse, Colindale, NW9 5XB.**

ies for you to enjoy

Giant walkabout polar bear

The Broadwalk Centre will be visited by a special giant walkabout polar bear, who will be on hand to pose for photos and help get little shoppers into the Christmas spirit. After meeting with the centre's festive character, youngsters can take advantage of The Broadwalk's free face painter, who will be available to help turn children into any of their favourite Christmas characters.

**The Broadwalk Centre,
Edgware, HA8 7BD
Saturday 9 December
12noon - 4pm Free**

Carols and Christingle Service

Followed by free festive tea and gifts for all.

**Sunday 17 December
5pm, at The Green Man Community Centre,
Strawberry Vale, East Finchley N2 9BA**

For more information contact
Helen Shannon on **07866 507 609** or
helenshannon@stbarnabas.co.uk

Festive Creative Play

Creative and messy play activities with a festive story and rhymes. Join the library and register for self-service library access at the events. Places cannot be booked in advance and payment can be made in cash only.

**Chipping Barnet Library
Monday 18 December
10am – 11am £5.50 per child**
For more information
email: **bookstart@barnet.gov.uk**

Baby Bounce Winter Special

Winter themed songs, rhymes and sensory play. Join the library and register for self-service library access at the events. Places cannot be booked in advance and payment can be made in cash only.

**Chipping Barnet Library
Monday 18 December
11.30am – 12.15pm
£3.50 per child**

**Finchley Church End Library
Tuesday 19 December
11.30am – 12.15pm
£3.50 per child**

For more information email:
bookstart@barnet.gov.uk

Festive Fayre

Community Focus is holding a festive fayre with the TSB in North Finchley (at the TSB Bank - next door to Sainsburys, at 834 High Road N12 8PX). Wonderful crafts on sale, a special mulled wine and carol singing. Come and support this small, local charity that helps those in need – especially the vulnerable in our community with disabilities.

**Friday 15 December
10am – 2pm**

For more information call:
020 3743 2326.

Build a set for Santa workshop

The Broadwalk Centre's elves will be getting ready for the arrival of Santa by inviting youngsters to get creative and help make Santa's grotto using recycled materials. As part of the centre's ongoing 'Love Your World' campaign, children will be encouraged to create giant candy canes, an igloo and a special snowman.

**The Broadwalk Centre,
Edgware, HA8 7BD
Saturday 16 December
12noon - 4pm Free**

Santa in the centre

Santa will be making his grand appearance at The Broadwalk Centre where boys and girls are encouraged to pop along and tell Santa exactly what they wish for this Christmas!

**The Broadwalk Centre, Edgware, HA8 7BD
Friday 22 – Sunday 24 December
12noon - 4pm Free**

Winter Creative Play

Creative and messy play activities with a winter themed story and rhymes. Join the library and register for self-service library access at the events. Places cannot be booked in advance and payment can be made in cash only.

**Finchley Church End Library
Tuesday 19 December
10am – 11am £5.50 per child**
For more information
email: **bookstart@barnet.gov.uk**

Tell us what's on in Barnet

We want to hear about local events, community services or activities. To feature your event in Barnet First, email your event details to: **whatson@barnet.gov.uk**. Submission does not guarantee inclusion in Barnet First but will be taken into consideration for future editions of the magazine.

NEW YEAR, NEW CAREER

We have a wide range of training and development courses available in a variety of subject areas starting from January 2018:

- Accounting
- Beauty
- Childcare
- EFL
- ESOL
- Hairdressing
- IT
- Media
- Art
- Business
- Construction
- Electrical
- Foundation Learning
- Health and Social Care
- Hospitality and Catering
- Teacher Training



#BePartOfOurStory

020 8266 4000
info@barnetsouthgate.ac.uk
www.barnetsouthgate.ac.uk
Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube icons



COULD YOU LEAD & INSPIRE IN BARNET?

Adult Volunteers needed

Scouts have life changing adventures.....and so can you.

There is nothing quite as rewarding as seeing a young person learn a new skill or overcome a challenge for the first time.

With so many great opportunities now available right across Barnet, you're sure to find one that's right for you.

Join our global Scouting family and you'll get free training, support, the chance to strengthen your CV and you will get to work with some budding young stars.

Make a real impact on the lives of young people - become an Adult volunteer.

INTERESTED?

Contact:

Keith Savage at keith.savage@scouts.org.uk or on 07960-160110



scouts.org.uk/get-involved

LIFE CHANGING ADVENTURE

How will you be celebrating this season?



As the festive season sets in and preparations to celebrate Christmas and the New Year are in full swing, there are a range of other religious and spiritual festivals and social events celebrated by Barnet's diverse community.

Here we list a few of the many celebrations that take place over the winter months:



1 December 2017

Mawlid an-Nabi is the observance of the birth of Prophet Muhammed and is acknowledged by Muslim communities. On this day, stories are told about different aspects of the life of the Prophet.



13 – 20 December 2017

Hanukkah is celebrated by Jewish communities around the world with candles lit for eight days to commemorate the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem and the defeat of the Greeks who had attempted to wipe out Judaism.



21 December 2017

The **December winter solstice** is an important event for Pagan and Druid communities and is a time to honour the cycles of life and death and celebrate the sun's rebirth.



21 December 2017

The festival of **Yalda** marks the end of the longest night of the year and is celebrated by Barnet's Persian and Iranian residents.



25 December 2017

Christmas is celebrated by Christians to mark the birth of Jesus Christ. Services in churches will include Bible readings about the birth of Jesus, Christmas carols and Nativity plays. Christians in the Orthodox tradition will celebrate Christmas on 7 January.



5 January 2018

Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti is celebrated by the Sikh community as the birthday of their tenth and last guru, Guru Gobind Singh. The day is marked with large processions and special prayer gatherings at all Gurdwaras (temples).



21 January 2018

World Religion Day, observed worldwide on the third Sunday of January each year, is Baha'i inspired, and encourages followers of every religion to acknowledge the similarities that different faiths have.



22 January 2018

Vasant Panchami, also called Saraswati Puja, or the Festival of Kites, is celebrated in various ways depending on region, by Hindu and Sikh communities and highlights the coming of spring.



24 January 2018

Bodhi Day is celebrated by the Buddhist community to commemorate the enlightenment of Siddhartha Gautama.



16 February 2018

The **Chinese New Year**, also known as the **Spring Festival**, is celebrated in various ways depending on region and is a time for families to come together. Traditions include a New Year's Eve dinner, fireworks and a Lantern Festival.



It is a source of strength and pride in Barnet that our diverse communities get on well and live together in peace and harmony. We wish all our residents the warmest season's greetings as we come together with friends and families to celebrate what is important.

neighbourhoods

On the 12th day of Christmas our recycling tips will be...

1 Write a list and check it twice!

Don't waste money, only buy the food you need.



2 Recycle cardboard packaging

Flatten and recycle it in your blue bin.



3 It's Party Time!

Recycle all your glass and plastic bottles, cans, plastic pots, tubs, trays and mince pie cases.



4 Fancy a sweet treat? -

chocolate sweet tubs and biscuit containers made of plastic can be recycled in your blue bin.



5 Food, glorious food

For recipe ideas and tips on how to use your leftovers, visit our website below.



6 Don't forget to use your brown bin!

For peelings, bones and leftovers.



7 Toiletries

Recycle empty plastic shower gel and shampoo bottles and aerosols in your blue bin.



8 Festive paper and card

Please recycle your paper and card, but remember foil and glitter can't be recycled.



9 Oh Christmas Tree!

Remember to reuse your artificial tree. If you have a real tree, remember to replant or recycle it using your green bin or at the Summers Lane Reuse and Recycling Centre.



10 Unwanted clothes or shoes?

Please don't put them in your blue bin. Use a textile recycling bank - check our website for locations.



11 Electricals lost their spark?

Take small electrical items to electrical recycling banks across the borough or the Summers Lane Reuse and Recycling Centre. Do not place them in your blue bin.



12 Reuse and Recycling Centre,

Summers Lane, North Finchley, N12 0RF - take unwanted household items to the centre where most of them can be recycled. You can donate items such as bikes, furniture and toys in good condition at the reuse shop that operates here every Tuesday (except 26 December and 2 January). Visit our website below for more information.



For more information visit: www.barnet.gov.uk/christmasbincollections

Your Christmas Recycling and Waste Collection Schedule

Usual collection day	Revised collection days
Monday 25 December	Saturday 23 December
Tuesday 26 December	Wednesday 27 December
Wednesday 27 December	Thursday 28 December
Thursday 28 December	Friday 29 December
Friday 29 December	Saturday 30 December
Monday 1 January 2018	Tuesday 2 January 2018
Tuesday 2 January	Wednesday 3 January
Wednesday 3 January	Thursday 4 January
Thursday 4 January	Friday 5 January
Friday 5 January	Saturday 6 January

Normal scheduled collections of recycling, food waste and refuse will resume from Monday 8 January 2018.

No garden waste collections on these dates



Garden waste collections will pause from Sunday 17 December for six weeks over the Christmas and New Year period. Normal service will resume from Sunday 28 January 2018 onwards. Please check the website to confirm your next collection date.

You can leave real Christmas trees beside your green bin on your next scheduled collection day in 2018. If possible, please break large trees in half. They can also be taken to the Reuse and Recycling Centre, Summers Lane, North Finchley, N12 0RF.

Cut out and place on your fridge!

Recycle Right - check what you can and can't recycle

Your Bin	Yes Please ✓	No Thanks ✗
 <p>Recycling Bin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cardboard cartons food tins and drink cans mixed glass bottles and jars mixed paper, including loose shredded paper plastic bottles plastic tubs, pots and trays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> nappies food waste textiles wood electrical items polystyrene clinical waste batteries plastic bags and other plastic items
 <p>Food Waste Bin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> bread, pasta, and rice dairy products fish fruit and vegetables meat and bones tea and coffee grounds mouldy or out-of-date food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> plastic bags nappies animal faeces/pet waste cooking oil wood newspaper tissue paper large meat carcasses
 <p>Garden Waste Bin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> grass cuttings hedge trimmings and tree prunings branches up to 20cm (8") in diameter and under 60cm (24") in length flowers leaves weeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> food waste nappies black bags or plastic bags animal faeces/pet waste soil large branches cooking oil large meat carcasses paper and cardboard

If in doubt, please find out. Visit our website.

neighbourhoods

Taking Care of our

Barnet is a great place to live and we will work with all our residents to help keep neighbourhoods moving, clean and green.

Chipping Barnet

Our work in Chipping Barnet includes the following areas: Chipping Barnet Town Centre, New Barnet, East Barnet and Brunswick Park.

“I’ve worked for Barnet for three years and really enjoy working outside with my team. My advice to residents would be to make sure they put the right items into the blue recycling bins; polystyrene and black sacks can’t be recycled and should go in the black bins instead.”

Eddie, Recycling Operative in Chipping Barnet



Good as New

In the last year, we’ve repaired **692 potholes**, including a pothole in St James’ Avenue, N20.



Before



After

Town Centre Improvements

We’re working hard to improve Chipping Barnet’s town centres to help keep them thriving. In particular we have:

- worked with our partners, Re, to support the Chipping Barnet Town Team, and make improvements to the Barnet Church Garden and create a number of pop-up shops in and just off the High Street
- improved residents’ access to ultrafast broadband
- supported local crowdfunding projects, including the Teenage Market - a post-school market stall for young people, due to launch Easter 2018.

Want to find out more about the work being done in Chipping Barnet? Visit: www.barnet.gov.uk/townteams

Did you know?

Since April 2017, we’ve resurfaced and improved **11 roads and pavements.**



There are **69 parks and open spaces** in Chipping Barnet.

In 2016/17 we **removed 1,253 reported fly-tips.**



In 2017, we **planted 175 trees** to help improve air quality.



23 Chipping Barnet schools

have worked with our partners, Re, and won a Gold TfL STARS Award for their hard work in improving air quality (stars.tfl.gov.uk).



Neighbourhoods

You can help us by taking small day-to-day actions such as: improving air quality by walking short trips, reporting potholes, recycling as much as possible and keeping our streets clean by not littering.

Finchley and Golders Green

Our work in Finchley and Golders Green includes: Golders Green, Finchley Church End, East Finchley, North Finchley and Temple Fortune.

“My favourite park in Finchley and Golders Green is Fletchers Gardens – there is a beautiful array of plants and I’d encourage all residents to visit and spend an afternoon walking there.”
Kingsley, Grounds Maintenance
Operative in Finchley and Golders Green



Good as New



Earlier in the year, we removed the graffiti on Manor Park Road, N2.

In the last year, we’ve repaired 709 potholes, including a pothole on Sandringham Road, NW11.



19 Finchley and Golders Green schools have worked with our partners, Re, and won a Gold TfL STARS Award, for their hard work in improving air quality (stars.tfl.gov.uk).



Did you know?

Since April 2017, we’ve resurfaced and improved **35 roads and pavements.**



In 2016/17 we removed **1,922 reported fly-tips.**



So far this year, we’ve planted **155 trees** to help improve air quality.

Town Centre Improvements

We’re committed to making improvements to Golders Green Town Centre and are working with partners to map out a Town Centre strategy.

We have engaged with local residents, community and interest groups and local businesses to help form the strategy to ensure it meets the needs of local people.

Got a few minutes? Check out the new website sites.google.com/view/ourgoldersgreen and comment on the things that matter most to you.

We recently consulted on the North Finchley Town Centre Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The framework will set out our plans for helping ensure North Finchley is a thriving area which has social, environmental and economic benefits.

neighbourhoods

Hendon

Our work in Hendon includes the following areas: Mill Hill, Edgware, Colindale, Burnt Oak and Cricklewood.

“I’m really proud that I get to do my bit to help keep Barnet clean and green. It’s so important that residents deal with their bulky waste, such as furniture or fridges, properly and don’t fly-tip our streets – this will not only keep our borough clean but will also help to keep our residents safe.”
Andy, Street Cleaning Operative in Hendon



Did you know?

There are **56 parks and open spaces** in Hendon.



New trees in Watling Park.

So far this year, we’ve **planted 282 trees** to help improve air quality.



Since January 2017, we’ve issued **1,023 fines** in Hendon for littering and fly-tipping.



In 2016/17 we **removed 2,060 reported fly-tips.**



Since April 2017, we’ve **resurfaced and improved 19 roads and pavements.**

Good as New



Before



After

In the last year, we’ve **repaired 652 potholes**, including a pothole in Edrick Road, HA8.

Town Centre Improvements

We’ve been working in Burnt Oak to make improvements to the forecourts of the High Streets and help create an attractive and well signposted community area – including the Love Burnt Oak Community Resource Hub and the Burnt Oak Library.

We’ve also introduced a more welcoming public space outside Burnt Oak tube station and removed clutter, are building an attractive new kiosk and installing a mural along the railway bridge.

Finally, improvements have also been made to shop fronts and we’ve introduced visual merchandising along Watling Avenue.

Spotted a pothole or fly-tip in your neighbourhood?

Help us to keep Barnet moving, clean and green by reporting a problem and visiting www.barnet.gov.uk/report-a-problem

If you sign up to MyAccount, you’ll also be able to track the progress of your report.



21 Hendon schools have worked with our partners, Re, and won a Gold TFL STARS Award for their hard work in improving air quality (stars.tfl.gov.uk).



We've made recycling easy.

Do your bit and recycle more.



Let's work together to recycle more:
www.barnet.gov.uk/ourneighbourhoods



@BarnetCouncil
#ourneighbourhoods 

BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH

future

Focus on... Brent Cross Cricklewood

One of the biggest regeneration projects in Europe, Brent Cross Cricklewood is on track to see the comprehensive regeneration of 151 hectares to create a sustainable new town centre for Barnet and North London including new homes and business space.

One Project, Three Areas

Brent Cross London

A modernised and extended shopping centre and improvements to critical road infrastructure as well as cycling and pedestrian access. Brent Cross London is being delivered by Hammerson and Standard Life Investments.



Brent Cross London

Thameslink Station Quarter

A new, additional Thameslink station and associated infrastructure works to provide pedestrian, cycling and vehicle links across the railway, and replace outdated waste and freight facilities. Brent Cross Thameslink is being delivered by Barnet Council in partnership with Network Rail and is due to be completed by 2022.



Thameslink station

Brent Cross South

The creation of a new high street south of the North Circular, including 6,700 new homes, commercial development and new and improved community facilities and public spaces. Brent Cross South is being delivered by Barnet Council and Argent Related joint venture partnership.



Brent Cross South

Brent Cross South





DELIVERING FOR BARNET

future

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SUPPORTING BUSINESSES

- the refurbishment and redevelopment of Brent Cross shopping centre, doubling the size to create a world-class shopping, entertainment and leisure destination
- jobs brokerage and skills training
- small and medium sized enterprise business place.



HOMES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS

- a new high street to the south of the North Circular with shops, cafes, restaurants, and office space
- educational and community space
- new Claremont Primary School and replacement Whitefield Secondary and Mapledown Schools
- new healthcare facilities
- new and improved leisure spaces, with a brand new Hendon Leisure Centre and improvements to the sports pitches at Clitterhouse Playing Fields
- high quality public realm and green spaces, including creation of Market Square linking the Living Bridge and improved Clitterhouse Playing Fields
- diversion of the River Brent and the creation of a riverside park
- seven new or improved parks totalling 65 acres.

PROGRAMME NEWS

- detailed planning consent has been granted for the extension of Brent Cross shopping centre and owners Hammerson and Standard Life Investments have appointed preferred contractor Laing O'Rourke for the retail expansion of Brent Cross London, in order to enable a start on site in 2018.
- our joint venture partner Argent Related will deliver the Brent Cross Exploratory – a temporary open space in early 2019. The Decorators and East Architects have been appointed and will encourage local community input to the new landscape. The design will be published 2018.

TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

- a new, additional Thameslink mainline station and public transport interchange
- a relocated and enlarged bus station with new and improved bus routes
- major road improvement schemes at key junctions and a new road connection from the Thameslink station
- improved links between the shopping centre and the new town centre, including new Tempelhof and Living Bridges
- new pedestrian and cycle routes.

Find out more about regeneration in Barnet at www.barnet.gov.uk/deliveringforbarnet and follow us on Twitter @deliver4barnet for the latest news and developments.



future

Delivering for Barnet Architecture Awards 2017

The Delivering for Barnet Architecture Awards, organised in partnership with Re and Countryside, were held for the first time this year. The awards recognise the well-designed buildings and open spaces that enhance our quality of life.

Voted for by residents, the People’s Choice Award was won by the Little Lamps Nursery, a new learning through play centre based in an Edwardian church hall in Cricklewood. Supported by magnificent riveted iron arches, the nursery has created a mezzanine flanked by colourful stairs, an indoor climbing ramp and slide.

The winners of the individual categories were chosen by a panel of experts from nominations put forward from all over the borough.



The winners

Residential alterations:

40 Hale Lane

Residential new build (10 or more units):

Dollis Valley Way

Residential new build (under 10 units):

1 Park Avenue

Non-residential alternations:

Sacks Morasha Jewish Primary School

Non-residential new builds:

Belarusian Chapel

New or improved public open spaces:

Colindale Gardens, Peel Square

Heritage and conservation:

Avenue House Estate

Civic Project:

Stonegrove Church and Community Centre

People’s Choice:

Little Lamps Nursery

Prime Minister visits Barnet to launch housing pledge



The Prime Minister, Theresa May with residents Rita Bowden and Val Lay. © Crown Copyright

As part of her pledge to build more homes, more quickly across the UK, last month The Prime Minister Theresa May toured the Stonegrove Estate in Edgware - one of our flagship regeneration schemes – and highlighted it as a great example of how councils play an instrumental role in ensuring new homes are built.

During her visit the Prime Minister met and shared a cup of tea with residents, Rita Bowden and Val Lay, who have helped shape the regeneration scheme at Stonegrove and Spur Road.

The Delivering for Barnet programme will see a huge investment in improving homes and neighbourhoods, town centres, infrastructure and community facilities across the borough.



The Leader of the Council, Councillor Richard Cornelius with the Prime Minister, Theresa May.

Find out more

Find out more about regeneration in Barnet at www.barnet.gov.uk/deliveringforbarnet and follow us on Twitter @deliver4barnet for the latest news and developments.



supporting local business

Barnet's Rising Stars



Eliot Tang with his young rising stars.



We talked to Eliot Tang about Rising Stars Activities, a children's activities company based in East Finchley, and the help he received from the council.

Q Tell us about your business

A We are a children's activities provider aiming to help children to develop 'healthy bodies and curious minds'. In a society where electronic devices now dominate many activities for kids, we believe children should be active and interact with others in a safe, fun and inspiring environment. Our offerings include football clubs, holiday camps, after-school clubs, birthday parties and personal training for kids of all abilities.

Q What brought you to the area?

A I was born and raised in Barnet and went to primary school in the area. I left for university but was excited to return and set up my own business in Barnet. I currently live in the area.

Q How do you find Barnet?

A Fantastic! Barnet is a wonderful borough; it has a friendly atmosphere and amazing green space which makes it especially useful for growing a business such as mine. I also find the multi-cultural nature of the area

fascinating; the community is so diverse that that it makes each interaction a special and interesting experience.

Q What has been your biggest challenge in business?

A A challenge not only for ourselves but all businesses is to stay current and on trend, which can be difficult with the fast pace that everything moves at these days. We look to combine technology and the latest equipment to aid our events and ensure that we are always innovating.

Q How has the council supported your business?

A I attended workshops that gave businesses such as ours free help and advice. These workshops were extremely useful and provided us with confidence that we are offering the best in class activities for kids. Archer Academy on Stanley Road, N2 has provided us with our premier venue, where we run the majority of our weekend activities from. We run sports clubs and birthday parties every Saturday and Sunday from Archer Academy and these state-of-the-art facilities allow us to provide high quality activities for children in the community.

Q What advice would you give to anyone starting out in business?

A To be passionate about the business you are about to embark on as it will become such a major part of your life, you will have to love it!

To find out more about Rising Stars Activities, visit www.risingstarsactivities.com or call Eliot on 020 8150 6655



Barnet Council and partners will be celebrating the achievements of new businesses like Eliot's at the Entrepreneurial Barnet competition. For more information visit: www.barnet.gov.uk/business-competition

Volunteering opportunities

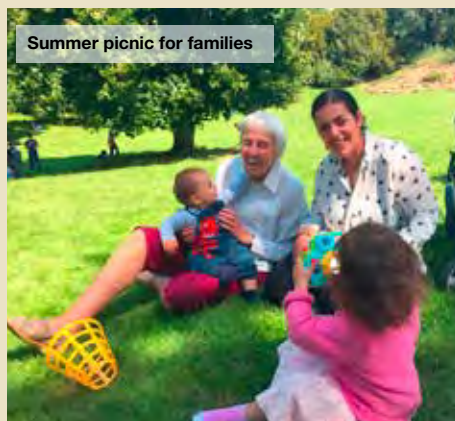
Volunteering in Barnet

Get involved in your local community! Volunteering provides vital support to local organisations and charities, and brings many benefits to you too. For everything from improving your confidence, to learning new skills, to meeting a new part of your community, volunteering is a great way to make the most of your spare time. Below are just a few of the many opportunities available from Volunteering Barnet.

Volunteering Barnet is the accredited Volunteer Centre for Barnet and works with over 100 local organisations. There's sure to be something to suit you.

Home Visitors and Health Coaches

Home Start Barnet



Summer picnic for families

Have you ever thought to yourself, "if only I could make a difference to somebody's life...?"

Home Start Barnet offers emotional and practical support to local families facing issues such as isolation, financial difficulties, depression, disability, health and domestic abuse. Volunteers receive training to visit families in their own home for a few hours each week, supporting parents to grow in confidence and strengthen relationships with their children.

Following training you will be matched with a family enabling you to develop skills and self-confidence, and gain valuable experience, all whilst supporting your local community.

Upcycler/Workshop Assistant

Barnet Furniture Centre

Are you passionate about recycling and enjoy DIY? Barnet Furniture Centre has diverted 650 tonnes of furniture from landfill since 2011, and supports people facing financial hardship by providing low cost furniture. Get involved and help to upcycle furniture and complete minor repairs.

Befriender

Henna Asian Women's Group

Reduce isolation by befriending a vulnerable individual who needs extra help to improve their social circle. Visit the client for an hour each week, establish a trusting relationship and support them to come out of the home and access different services. Knowledge of south Asian languages is welcome (e.g. Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Gujarati or Bengali etc).

Hearing Aid Technician

Jewish Deaf Association

Volunteer for a few hours a week to visit care homes in Barnet, and make sure residents' hearing aids are working. This small task ensures vulnerable or isolated individuals in care homes are able to get involved in activities and get the most out of life. Full training provided.

Communication Support Service Volunteer

Barnet Stroke Support

Are you passionate about helping others and interested in volunteering in the health and social care environment? The Communication Support Service helps stroke survivors relearn communication skills. As a trained volunteer you will use discussion, sharing of feelings and practical tasks to build confidence and support speech and language abilities.

Scout Leaders and Assistants

Barnet Scouts

Barnet Borough Scouts are looking for adults to help lead exciting activities in groups based right across Barnet, catering for young people aged from 6-18 years. Volunteers, alongside the Scouts themselves, plan a diverse programme of activities with a big focus on getting outdoors, camping, expeditions and fun activities.

Charity Shop Volunteers

Various Locations

A huge range of charity shops across the borough are looking for volunteers, including All Aboard Shops and a new RSCPA shop in North Finchley. Volunteer in a charity shop to gain new skills and make a valuable contribution to local charities. Get in touch to find a charity shop near you.

Administration Volunteer

Volunteering Barnet/Groundwork London

Would you like to volunteer in an office environment, and help others get into volunteering? Join the Volunteering Barnet team! Applicants should be confident on the computer and making phone calls, as the role involves supporting our database, answering enquiries and completing surveys. Training, support and travel/lunch expenses provided.

How to apply

You can apply for these opportunities, and many more, by registering on the website: www.volunteeringbarnet.org.uk Click 'opportunity search' and enter the role title or organisation name.

If you have any questions about these opportunities, or how to apply, you can get in touch with Sarah Collings: enquiry@volunteeringbarnet.org.uk or 0300 365 9960.

We would love to hear from you!

your views

Have your say on the council's 2018/19 budget



Barnet has always sought to be ahead of the curve in terms of financial planning and by adopting a long-term view of future challenges we have managed to save over £144 million between 2010 and 2017, whilst protecting our frontline services as far as possible. With demand on local services set to increase and local authorities having to generate more and more of their income locally, the next few years will present further challenges.

However, this is also an opportunity for us to do things differently and better. We want to ensure that we are able to meet our commitments set out in our Corporate Plan – the document that sets out the council's priorities and how we intend to meet them – and to ensure that we go into 2020 on a sound financial footing. This means getting the basics right and retaining the things that residents value, for example, our excellent schools, our parks and open spaces, and ensuring our roads and pavements are in good condition. We are also maximising opportunities for growth and investment, and improving access to services to increase efficiency and flexibility, saving money that can then be targeted at those most in need.

Our focus is moving increasingly towards managing demand for our services, while achieving better outcomes for residents and continuing to be a successful borough. Managing demand on services can be done in many ways, for example, through making greater use of technology and working across our organisation and with partners effectively. We can also manage demand through supporting residents to live independently for as long as possible and encouraging the community to do their bit – keeping their local areas litter free and looking out for neighbours. We will continue this approach beyond 2020 as we move towards being self-funded and as our borough continues to grow, reviewing our priorities and service delivery to ensure that we are working towards meeting the changing needs of our population and supporting them to thrive.

Unfortunately, the pressure on the council's budget is likely to continue well into the next decade, and we will continue to have to look at how we can do things different to live within our means and deliver the services our residents expect.

2018/19 Budget Consultation – give us your views

In 2015, Barnet set a five-year Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) which set out proposals to balance the budget by 2020. The budget gap from 2018 to 2020 is £41 million* and we have a mix of proposals to make savings to services or generate income to bridge this gap. Not all of these proposals will impact directly on residents and one of the benefits of a five year financial strategy is that we are able to fully explore the options available and monitor how potential changes affect our residents, particularly our vulnerable residents.

The savings proposals for 2018/19 have been agreed by the relevant council committees and are due to be presented to Policy and Resources Committee on 5 December for approval to consult with you on:

- the overall budget for 2018/19
- Council Tax options for 2018/19.

We want your views to help inform the decision on our budget for 2018/19. The consultation is due to start on Wednesday 6 December 2017 and run until Sunday 14 January 2018.

You can respond by completing an online questionnaire at engage.barnet.gov.uk, or tel: 0208 359 7016 for a paper questionnaire.

On 13 February, the findings from the consultation will go back to the Policy and Resources Committee and Full Council on 6 March 2018 for final approval. This consultation is in addition to service-specific consultations which have already happened and gave you the opportunity to comment in detail on specific proposals. You can find more information about live consultations at engage.barnet.gov.uk

*Figures correct at the time of print.

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

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Full Council meetings

Tuesday 12 December, 7pm
Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, NW4 4BG

Residents Forums

Chipping Barnet Residents Forum
Wednesday 24 January, 7pm, Chipping Barnet Library, 3 Stapylton Road, EN5 4QT

Finchley and Golders Green Residents Forum
Tuesday 23 January, 7pm, Finchley Church End Library, 318 Regent's Park Road, N3 2LN

Hendon Residents Forum
Tuesday 23 January, 7pm, Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, NW4 4BG

For more information, please visit:
www.barnet.moderngov.co.uk/mglistcommittees

For details of surgeries

email: first.contact@barnet.gov.uk
or write to us: Members' Room, Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, Hendon NW4 4BG
For full details check website

Free festive parking



You will be able to park for free in all
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car parks on:

2 – 3 December

9 – 10 December

16 – 17 December

23 – 24 December

30 – 31 December

Please note that free parking only applies to council operated 'paid-for' parking areas. It does not apply to permit bays or private car parks.
Valid permits will still be required at these locations.

www.barnet.gov.uk/parking