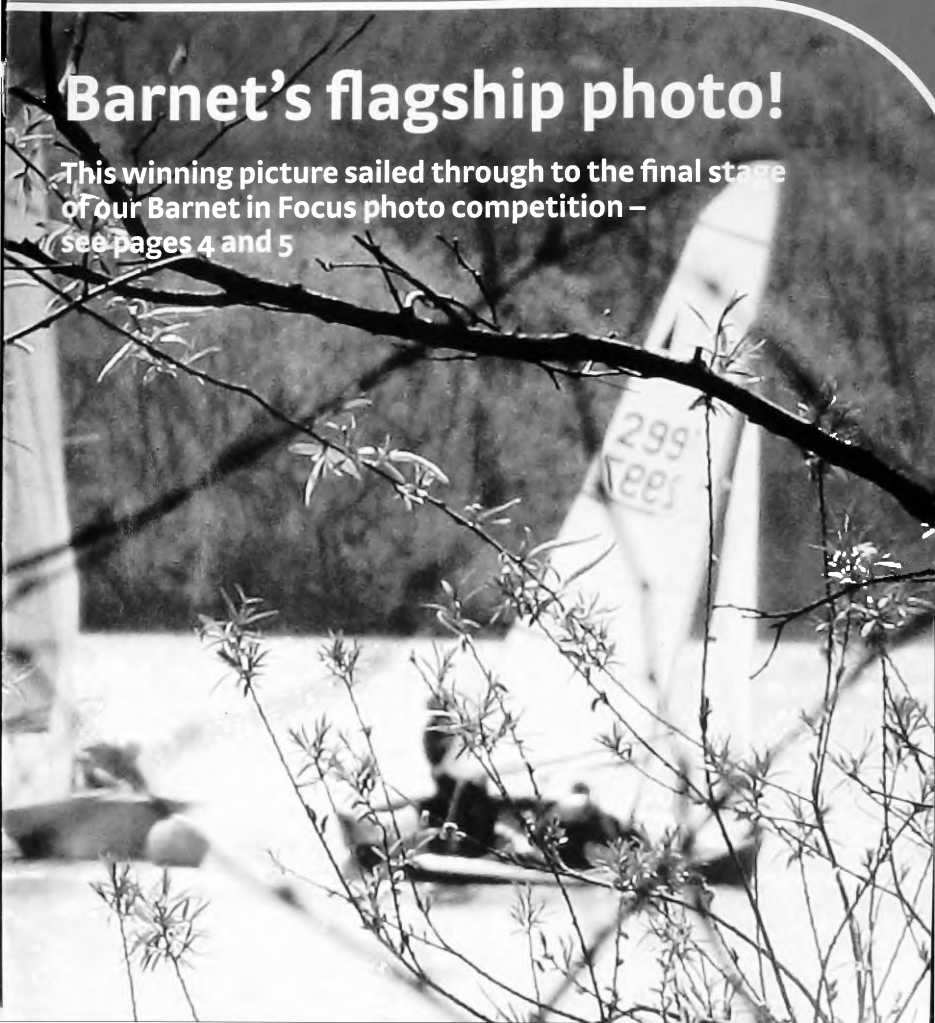


Barnet's flagship photo!

This winning picture sailed through to the final stage of our Barnet in Focus photo competition – see pages 4 and 5



contents



3 New support for older people



4 Barnet life through a lens



6 Milestones reached in First Class schools programme



7 Save money by saving food



8 Spotlight on your ward – West Hendon



10 Get involved in sports



11 Hidden gems in Barnet's parks



12 Beat the crunch



13 What's On?



16 Meet the Mayor

Production details

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

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Barnet First is also available in **large print** or on audio tape. Designed by hey moscow 020 8869 1420 heymoscow.com

Message from the Leader

Welcome to the summer issue of Barnet First. Throughout the magazine you'll find details of how Barnet Council is working to make the borough an even better place to live.

On page three you will find details of how we are developing our support for older people in Barnet. Over the last decade Barnet Council has gradually moved support for older residents from funding residential care places, to helping ever more people to stay in their own homes for as long as possible.

As part of this we are changing some of our funding from residential warden, tied to particular sheltered housing schemes, to new mobile teams able to support older residents across the borough, including those living in their own homes. Support will be given depending on a person's level of need rather than their location and the new teams will support people outside the traditional nine to five hours.

This change has not been without controversy and I can appreciate that some people have been concerned by developments to a much appreciated service. But all sections of the public sector have to look creatively at how we spend every penny of taxpayers' money, and make sure that we are providing a flexible service that supports residents where and when they need it. The days of a one size fits all council service that closed down at 5pm have gone.

Over coming months we will be asking older residents who might qualify for the new service to contact the council so that we can assess needs and ensure that we are able to give an ever more timely, efficient and effective service.

I hope you enjoy Barnet First.



Swine flu reaches Barnet

At the time Barnet First was going to press, the first extensive cases of swine flu in Barnet were confirmed.

Two adjoining schools in the borough were closed for seven days following 143 pupils and staff showing flu-like symptoms, with eight being confirmed as cases of swine flu.

The schools closed initially because of difficulties in ensuring adequate adult supervision for children. Children were recovering quickly, usually within 48 hours. Not all adults or children who have had links with the schools developed symptoms.

Barnet Council has been working closely with NHS Barnet since the beginning of the year to plan for a potential outbreak of flu in the borough. Swine flu symptoms are similar to seasonal flu, with symptoms including headaches, a high temperature and coughing. As it stands, this current round of swine flu does not seem to be more serious than conventional seasonal flu. The advice from NHS Barnet is to behave as one would with any other type of flu.

Dr Andrew Burnett, Director of Health Improvement and Medical Director for NHS Barnet said: "The best way for an adult to protect themselves against the effects of swine flu is to stop smoking now. If you develop a temperature of 38°C / 100.4°F and over and develop a feverish illness accompanied by one or more of cough, sore throat, headache and muscle aches, you should stay at home and seek advice from NHS Direct on 0845 46 47 or your GP practice.



SWINE FLU INFORMATION
0800 1 513 513
www.nhs.uk
www.direct.gov.uk/swineflu

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT SWINE FLU

This leaflet contains important information to help you and your family - **KEEP IT SAFE**

"I'd urge people to help prevent the spread of infection by using tissues to catch all sneezes, throwing used tissues away, and remembering to regularly wash their hands to kill the virus."

More information is available on the swine flu information line on **0800 1513 513**, or on **www.nhs.uk**

Two new services for older residents

The last month has seen Barnet Council make two key changes to the way it promotes the independence of older residents of the borough.

In recent years the council has supported more and more older residents to continue to live in their own homes. The council is currently looking at how services currently provided to residents of sheltered housing schemes can be extended to people who want to stay in their own homes.

In June our Cabinet agreed to set up new mobile support teams able to provide help for residents living in either sheltered housing schemes or their own homes. This scheme replaces residential wardens tied to some sheltered housing schemes who can only work in the schemes in which they are based.

Alongside this, the council is developing support for older people in the borough who have substantial and regular care needs through our extra care housing developments.

Wood Court, the second of these new developments with 39 self contained flats, opened last month. With 24 hour care services on site, a treatment room and even a guest room for visiting family members, Wood Court will be a boon for residents who want to maintain their independence but need constant access to care services.



Nine to five warden service is being replaced with a 24 hour, seven days a week, floating service.

The development of Wood Court was overseen by Barnet Council's Adult Social Services Older Adults Team. It is owned by our partner Catalyst Communities Housing Association, with care and support for residents funded by Barnet Council.

Barnet life through a lens

Budding photographers from across the borough took part in the council's photography competition earlier this year by capturing their favourite images of Barnet and submitting them in up to three categories.



Sails on the Welsh Harp: This prize-winning, peaceful boating scene reflects the quieter side of life in a large London borough.

Over 250 images were uploaded to www.flickr.com/groups/barnetinfocus to be judged by the panel.

The winning image above, taken by Michael Summers, was chosen through a process of collaboration between the three judges, Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council, an independent photographer Simon O'Connor, and the council's Design Manager, Mark Harewood

They all agreed that as well as it being well composed and technically accomplished, it showed one of Barnet's hidden secrets.

Michael will receive an iPod Touch and see his image used to represent the borough on the council website and in council publications.

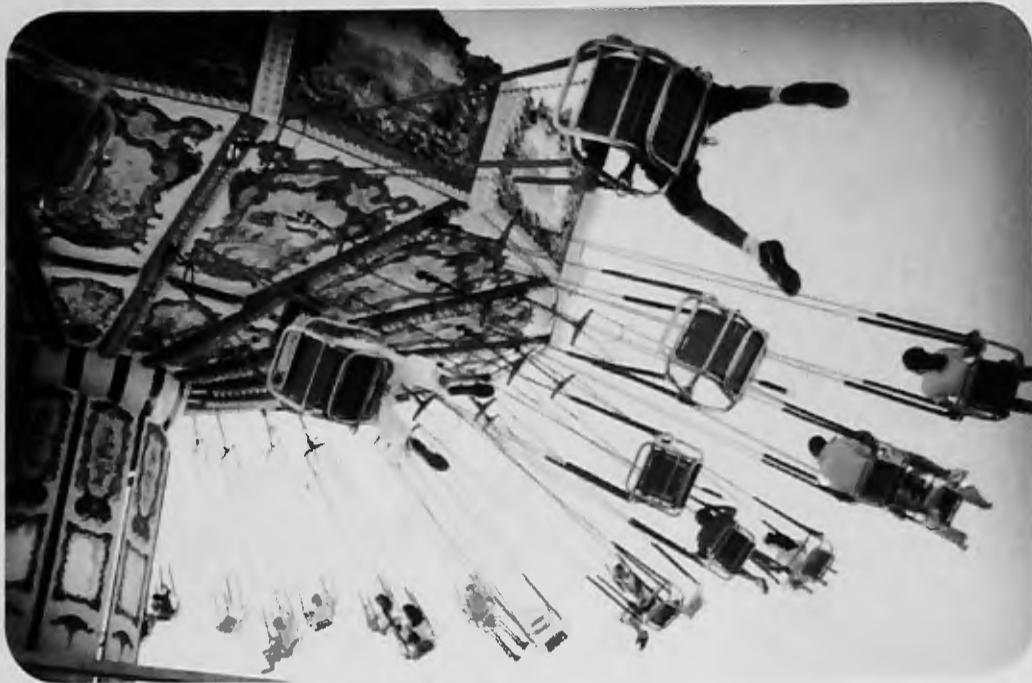
Some of our favourite entries can be seen here, but if you'd like to view all images submitted, please visit our flickr page.



Oakhill Park Bench by Yvonne White
(Landscape: urban images and green spaces category)

Categories:

Community: People and events.



Summer Swinging by Tom Skinner



Barnet Street Fair by Marie-Louise Plum

Landscape: urban images and green spaces



Umbrella Lady by Marie-Louise Plum



Winter Mist in Ashley Lane by Michael Summers



Brent Cross by Eliza Lucescu

What I like about Barnet is...



More Snow! by Carolyn Gyseman



Sunset over Totteridge by Carolyn Gyseman



Neighbours by Eliza Lucescu

Barnet pupils walk the talk

The streets of Barnet were filled with happy chatter as thousands of school children took part in Walk to School week in May.

The theme of this year's week was 'Walk 'n' Talk', highlighting the social aspect of walking to school. At least 14,000 children from 50 primary schools in Barnet took part.

Launching the week, 60 pupils from Frith Manor Primary School set off from the Woodside Park-based to nearby Riverside Walk (part of the Dollis Valley Green Walk) accompanied by the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Brian Coleman.

Leigh Carmichael, Deputy Headteacher and travel plan champion at Frith Manor Primary School, said: "While the physical health benefits of walking to school each day are well known, the social aspect of the school journey can sometimes be overlooked.

"Children like chatting to their friends about what is going to be happening in their day and walking home is a good opportunity for them to reflect on the day's events.

"Even if parents or carers park their car a distance from the school and walk in with their children, they are still spending quality

time together away from all the distractions of home.

"Since the introduction of Walk on Wednesdays (WoW) at the school, the number of pupils walking in has risen from 38 to 41 per cent. Another recent school initiative, providing digital voice recorders so pupils can record their conversations, has also proved a success with some children downloading their chats onto the school's website."



Pupils from Frith Manor Primary set off on the first of many 'Walk 'n' Talks' accompanied by the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Brian Coleman

Barnet's top arts-loving schools receive golden accolades

Three Barnet schools celebrated last month after scooping a top award in recognition of their excellence in the arts.

Garden Suburb Infant School, Underhill Junior School and Mathilda Marks Kennedy Primary School have all received the highly acclaimed Artsmark Gold award, the first time such an award has been given to any school in the borough.

Artsmark, which is a national scheme developed by Arts Council England in partnership with Government bodies, is offered annually and is valid for three years.

To receive an Artsmark a school must dedicate a minimum of 10 per cent of its curricular teaching time to the visual and performing arts; 12 per cent to gain a Silver Artsmark and 15 per cent to qualify for a Gold Artsmark.

All the schools recognised showed a commitment, and excellence, in arts education and therefore received the highest accolade.

Artwork from Garden Suburb pupils was displayed in The National Gallery as part of the 'Take One Picture' exhibition.

Underhill Juniors themed their corridors with huge 3-D structures of a shark, owl and Chinese dragon.

And Mathilda Marks Kennedy were awarded for their highly acclaimed dance, singing and drama clubs.



Artwork from Garden Suburb Infant pupils appeared in The National Gallery as part of the 'Take One Picture' exhibition

Awarded £350k to support carers

The council has successfully bid for funding to run a series of workshops that will support informal carers in the borough.

This achievement will ensure that more people who care for friends or family members will have the opportunity to develop new skills to help them to cope effectively in this important role

The funding is part of a government-led project titled Caring with Confidence which is aimed at improving support for adult carers by providing access to free local group sessions that involve a series of training modules. Training opportunities will include managing stress and dealing with conditions such as dementia

Training will be delivered as part of Barnet's wider support programme for unpaid carers and will hopefully reach people who have so far not received any training or support in their caring role.

If you, or anyone you know, could benefit from some training and support, please contact the Learning and Development Team on **020 8359 6396** or email **chandana.sanyal@barnet.gov.uk**.

Library visitor numbers on the increase

Visitor numbers to the borough's libraries are continuing to soar following Barnet Council's £1.24 million investment programme.

On average, an additional 8,500 visitors per week took advantage of upgraded facilities at 15 libraries across the borough between May 2008 and 2009, a 17 per cent increase.

State-of-the-art self service terminals, wireless internet connectivity and better building access were among some of the improvements made.

The number of computer bookings, allowing visitors to reserve a PC free of charge, also rose by more than 1,000 in the final quarter of 2008/09 compared to the previous year.

Save £50 a month on your food bill

After a waste review carried out by the council revealed that, on average, a third of what is being thrown away by households is food waste, we thought it was time to take action.

Below is a list of solutions on how you can manage the food you buy, while making substantial savings on your food bills:

1) Get friendly with your fridge

Just by opening the fridge door and checking the 'use by' dates on items you can prioritise what to eat first.

2) Cupboard savvy

Stocking your store cupboard and freezer with a variety of canned, dried and frozen goods with a long shelf-life means you will always have the ingredients standing by to jazz up your leftovers.

3) Carb control

Learn how to make just enough rice and pasta for the number of people you're cooking for.



Learn how to make just enough rice for the number of people you're cooking for.

4) Love your leftovers

Being creative with your food is the clever way to save cash. With a little bit of thought you can create some delicious surprises from your leftovers – they don't have to mean second best.

5) It pays to plan!

Check your fridge, freezer and store cupboard before you go shopping, then write a list so you don't shop for things you already have.

Fascinating facts

Most of the food thrown away ends up in landfill where it produces methane, a highly potent greenhouse gas. If we all stopped wasting food, the impact on reducing our carbon emissions would be the equivalent to taking one in five cars off the road.

Wasting food costs a household between £420 and £600 a year – that's £50 a month.

National research showed that for every three bags of shopping we take home, we effectively put one straight in the bin.

For information on how to prevent food waste, save money or make the best out of your leftovers, visit www.lovefoodhatewaste.com

Ever thought about volunteering?

Volunteering comes in many different forms, from coaching or helping at sports clubs, to admin, giving advice or helping in a charity shop.

As a result of today's economic climate, Volunteer Centre Barnet has seen the number of people registering to become volunteers double from this time last year.

And while the centre is encouraging more people to sign up they are also urging more organisations and businesses to offer volunteering opportunities.

Volunteers are the backbone of many organisations. They bring great enthusiasm, a willingness to learn and many have vital skills. Without them many organisations would not exist.

Volunteer Centre Barnet will be holding its bi-annual Community Volunteer Awards on 16 July to recognise the hard work of Barnet's volunteers. Those who have given 100 hours or more of their time over the past year will receive a certificate which will be presented by the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Brian Coleman.

If you would like to find out more about the awards, volunteering, or if your organisation would like to use volunteers, please contact Volunteer Centre Barnet on **020 8364 8400**.

Update on flats recycling service

Since March this year, we have been expanding the recycling service offered to flats and schools in the borough. So far 146 sites have been provided with extra facilities to recycle plastic bottles and cardboard.

We are continuing to liaise with managing agents of flat blocks in the borough to install these facilities at the remaining sites. If you would like facilities to recycle plastic bottles and cardboard at your block of flats, please contact us with the details of the organisation that manages your flats.

Call 020 8359 4600 or email: first.contact@barnet.gov.uk
For more information visit www.barnet.gov.uk/recycling

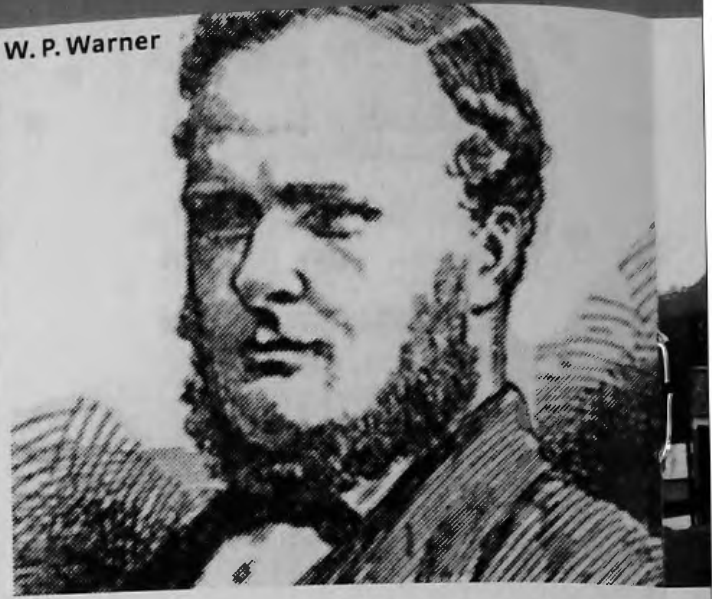


New facilities make it easier for residents living in flats to recycle

Destruction of West Hendon by WW2 bombing.



W. P. Warner



Spotlight on your ward

West Hendon

In this issue we turn the spotlight on West Hendon, home to the famous Welsh Harp.

West Hendon ward is one of the most interesting districts in London. Before the streets and houses there was only one inn, The Welsh Harp, and three farms – Upper and Lower Guttershedge farms and Cockman’s in the Wood.

In 1835 the Brent Reservoir was created by the flooding of Cockman’s farm to supply the Grand Union Canal. By 1853 it covered 400 acres but is now around 110 acres.

In 1834 a farmer called Francis Pettit Smith leased Guttershedge Farm. He had a keen interest in the new science of propellers and boat design. Propellers had been long screws with many twists but Pettit Smith accidentally broke the wooden screw on his model boat one day and found that with less than one twist left the machine was far more efficient.

After further developments Pettit Smith persuaded Isambard Kingdom Brunell to use it on the SS Great Britain. Without this small accidental moment on the Welsh Harp, shipping would have remained under sail for many more years.

William Perkins Warner bought the Welsh Harp Inn around 1856 and rented the reservoir as a fishing lake. In the 1860s he greatly expanded the business, developing the Kingsbury Race Course. The races were among the most popular in the country but he was unable to secure a licence and in 1878 they stopped.

Warner’s other attractions included ice-skating, swimming, and shooting contests, balloon ascents, and a small zoo. In January 1871 old William Badge, the bear trainer, accidentally left the door of one of the cages open and a bear escaped into the snowy night. It was eventually caught, but not before there had been considerable drama.

In the 1880s, 25,000 people would come to the Welsh Harp during their Bank Holidays. It even had its own railway station. The reservoir was known as Kingsbury Lake but with Warner’s activities it quickly became the Welsh Harp Water. The Welsh Harp Inn was demolished in 1970 to make way for the M1 but its name lives on.

The Midland Railway opened Hendon Station in 1868. In 1881 a man called Mr Bishop started a development which he called “New Hendon”. He started with Neeld Terrace on Station Road and Brent Vue, and by 1886 he had built 200 houses. With the building of the tramline in 1904, the West Hendon Broadway became a thriving Edwardian retail district, and by 1911 the local population was 11,296.





Hendon Cottage Hospital The Hospital was opened in 1913 and built on land donated by the Neeld family. The hospital closed in 1987.

Did you know.....?

- 43% of West Hendon's residents were born overseas – the highest proportion in Barnet
- West Hendon is the Barnet ward with the highest proportions of Indians (19.1%) and Bangladeshis (0.8%) and the highest proportions of Hindus (14.2%) and Muslims (11.7%)
- West Hendon has the highest proportion its workforce in the Wholesale and retail Trade and Car Repair industrial sector, 20.7%
- At 9.1%, West Hendon has the second highest proportion of its workforce that travels to work on foot or by bicycle.

* Figures taken from 2001 census.

In February 1941, during World War Two, the German air force dropped a SC2500 maximum Heavy Explosive bomb (the size of two V2 rockets). It destroyed 40 houses and killed 80 people, and left 1500 people homeless. It is an event that is still remembered by some residents even today. The area was redeveloped in the early 1970's.

The ward extends as far as Brent Green on Brent Street. Here there is a small collection of 18th century houses. Penfold House, on Brent Street, built around 1713, may have been a lodge for drovers bringing cattle up to London. The house was called Albert Cottage until 1923.

Further up Brent Street (next to Yisroel Synagogue) is a curious Victorian gothic building. Built by Rev W H Seddon as a "Rescue Home" for fallen women in 1893, the site became St Saviour's Homes for "feeble minded" women in 1897, and later a centre for the Pillar of Fire Society in 1926.

Hendon Park was created on fields belonging to a large house called Goodyer House. It was originally called Queen's Park when it opened in 1903. In July 1940, during World War Two, Hendon Park became

the first venue in England to hold a "Rout the Rumour" rally. It featured the star, and Hendon resident, Will Hay.

In the area just north of the North Circular Road, close to where Brent Cross sits today was the factory of Johnson's of Hendon. Between 1916 and 1973 the company was a leader in the production of photographic chemicals.

Brent Cross was opened in 1976 and was the first American – style indoor shopping centre in the UK.

To find out more about the history of West Hendon, contact:
Barnet Local Studies and Archives Centre

**80 Daws Lane
Mill Hill
London
NW7 4SL
Tel: 020 8359 3960
Email: library.archives@barnet.gov.uk**

What's in West Hendon?

Parks and open spaces

- Brent Green, Burroughs Open Space, Hendon Park, Malcom Park, Mount Road Open Space, Sturgess Avenue Open Space, Sturgess Park, Tyrell Way Ball Park, Welsh Harp Marginal Land, West Hendon Playing Fields, Woodfield Park, York Park

Allotments

- Cool Oak Lane

Schools

- Wentworth Tutorial College, Brentmead Place
- Hasmorean Primary School, Shirehall Lane
- Parkfield School, St Davids Place, London
- The Hyde School, Hyde Crescent

If you've enjoyed this series of ward spotlights, you may be interested in finding out more about where you live from our Pocket Histories. These cover the whole of the borough and can be found on our website:

www.barnet.gov.uk/archives-histories

Your councillors

As with all Barnet's 21 wards, West Hendon has three elected members, or councillors, who have been elected by the ward's residents to represent them. Councillors are elected for four years.

Julie Johnson (Labour)

Elected in 2006, she is a member of the Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee, Licensing Committee, Teachers Joint Negotiation and Consultation Committee, and the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee.

Tel: 020 8203 3531

Email: cllr.j.johnson@barnet.gov.uk

Agnes Slocombe (Labour)

Elected in 1982, she is currently a member of the Appeals Committee, Children's Service Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Hendon Area Planning Sub-Committee, Licensing Committee, Planning and Environment Committee, Policy and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and the Standards Committee.

Tel: 020 8202 4074

Email: cllr.a.slocombe@barnet.gov.uk

Ansuya Sodha (Labour)

Elected in 1998, she is a member of the Appeals Committee, Children's Service Overview and Scrutiny Sub-

Committee, Corporate Joint Negotiation and Consultation Committee, General Functions Committee, and the Policy and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Tel: 020 8959 6035

Email: cllr.a.sodha@barnet.gov.uk

Meet your councillors

Barnet's councillors hold regular advice surgeries to give residents the chance to discuss any topics they wish to raise. You can meet your West Hendon councillors every Saturday from 10.30 – 12noon at the West Hendon Community Centre, Marsh Drive, West Hendon, NW9

It's time to choose your sporting champions

Do you know someone who makes a significant contribution to the sporting scene in Barnet?

Nominations for the 2009 Celebrating Sports Awards are now underway and anyone who lives or plays sport in Barnet is able to nominate the person or team they think is most deserving of a Celebrating Sports Award.

There are a total of 15 categories and prize winners will receive trophies, vouchers and tickets to major sporting events, at the gala ceremony to take place at North London Business Park in October 2009.

Nominations must be received by Friday 11 September 2009. The awards recognise the wide range of people who work tirelessly to raise the profile of sport and, in particular, to provide opportunities for young people to get involved in sporting activities.

Last year's event was hosted by British Olympic triple jumper, Larry Achike. Among the winners was Tom Aggar, 2008 Paralympics Gold medalist.

If you want to make a nomination, contact Layla Hall on 020 8359 7818 or email layla.hall@barnet.gov.uk.

Nomination forms are also online at www.barnet.gov.uk/celebration-sport-2009



Last year's Sporting Achievement of the Year winner, Tom Aggar

On your marks, get set, go! Wannabe athletes hit Barnet's streets

Young people invited to put on their running shoes and share Olympians' dream of breaking down barriers

Linford Christie and Darren Campbell are coming to Barnet this summer as they host Street Athletics.

The event, which aims to break down barriers which prevent youngsters from believing in their own talents, gives any young person under the age of 20 the chance to race in a 60m sprint and compete in the Grand Final in Manchester in September. The winner will also receive a one-year kit contract with Reebok.

The initiative which was set up by both Linford and Darren is being organised by Barnet Council's Sport Development Unit in partnership with Barnet Homes and Grahame Park Community Group, and will take place in the Grahame Park estate on Thursday 16 July from 4pm.

Last year's event, which was hailed a great success, saw more than 200 participants taking part in a number of heats dependent on age and gender.

Young people from anywhere in the borough are invited to compete in this

year's event, with the aim of encouraging them to use the council's sports facilities and maybe join a local athletics club in the future. For those who aren't particularly sporty the event hopes to motivate young people to believe in their own abilities and achieve their future ambitions.

To find out more about the event and how you can be involved, please contact the Sport Development Unit on 020 8359 7818/7817



All young people under the age of 20 are welcome to compete

Fitness activities for over – 55s

A new scheme has been launched in Barnet aimed at getting more over 55s active.

The Say Go scheme, a partnership between the council, Age Concern Barnet and other local voluntary organisations, delivers a range of fun and affordable exercise activities for Barnet residents.

At present, activities include tango, yoga, exercise to music, and tai chi classes, but the list is being extended further next year.

The classes, which are suitable for people of all abilities, are taking place in venues across the borough including sheltered housing schemes, residential homes and day centres for older people.

For further information, or to get involved, contact Lisa Dubow, Development Manager at Age Concern Barnet on 020 8346 3511 or email lisa-finchley.acb@btconnect.com

Hidden gems in Barnet's parks

Summer's here, the flowers are in bloom and Barnet's park keepers are getting ready for a busy few months as families, friends and couples make the best of the good weather and spend cheap, cheerful, fun – packed days in their local park.

But did you know there are over 200 parks and open spaces in Barnet each with their own unique features?

All of Barnet's Green Flag parks, listed on the map, have great play areas, cafés, beautiful gardens and a variety of sporting facilities. However there are other parks across Barnet that also have amazing features, making them well worth a visit too.

Littlewood Nature Reserve, just off the A1, hosts great entertainment during summer months. Bands and groups from across London spend hot summer days entertaining residents from the picturesque amphetheatre situated in the centre. While over in Brook Farm, which runs off Whetstone High Road, there is an amazing buttercup field that you'd be lucky to find anywhere else.

Barnet is also fortunate to have self – guided walks and trails in almost every part of the borough that take you through natural landscapes, rich grassland habitats and wonderful woodlands.

Overall, there are some truly amazing sights to see, so if you feel like being adventurous this summer, spread your wings and see what hidden gems you can find...



What's in Barnet's seven Green Flag Parks

Victoria Park in Ballards Lane

- extensive gardens
- a children's play area
- café
- multi-sports court
- tennis courts
- bowling greens
- garden for the blind

Friary Park in Friern Barnet Lane

- extensive gardens
- children's play area
- café
- sensory garden
- tennis courts
- bowling green

Mill Hill Park in Wise Lane

- nature reserve and community woodland
- sports courts
- tennis courts
- football pitch
- crazy golf
- children's play area
- tree planting scheme
- café

Old Court House Recreation Ground in Wood Street

- tennis courts
- café
- play area
- bowling greens
- pond and rockery
- tennis
- orchard garden
- conservation areas
- ornamental gardens
- car park

Oak Hill Park in Parkside Gardens

- children's play area
- café
- tennis courts
- football pitches
- nine-hole golf course
- bowling green
- wood and nature reserve

Hendon Park in Queens Road

- extensive garden
- children's play area
- children's millennium wood
- café
- memorial garden and fountain
- multi-sports court
- tennis courts

Edgwarebury Park in Edgwarebury Lane, Edgware

- Golden Jubilee Rose Garden
- sports pitches and pavilion
- cricket
- tennis courts
- multi purpose courts
- community woodland
- Wild Flower Meadow
- Pinetum
- café
- childrens play area
- toilets
- extensive ornamental gardens

Sports pitches and courts must be booked through the lettings agency. Please call 020 8359 7828. Charges apply.

If you want to have your say about your local park why not join our 'Friends of Parks' scheme. For information on this and any other questions relating to our parks and open spaces visit www.barnet.gov.uk/premier-parks.htm or call the Greenspaces Team on 020 8359 7828.

Beating the crunch the Barnet way

While the credit crunch continues to destabilise economies across the world, Barnet Council has been finding ways to help residents ride out the difficult economic conditions.

A list of ideas and tips has been printed on the council's website, ranging from help with advice and benefits to the facilities such as free internet access available in the borough's libraries.

You can find guides to avoiding debt problems and managing your cashflow as well as links to government websites on dealing with redundancy and retraining.

Council-supported initiatives such as Freecycle and producing compost also provide a green way of saving the pennies.

For more details on these and lots of other ideas, visit the council's website at www.barnet.gov.uk/bright-ideas.

Meanwhile, the credit crunch appears to have had less of an effect here in Barnet than other areas of London and the country, according to a report by the council's housing officers.

A report noted by the authority's Cabinet Housing and Regeneration Committee revealed that house prices in Barnet are remaining relatively stable and falling slower than in the rest of the capital while unemployment is also lower here than in neighbouring boroughs.

The report also showed that housing benefit applications have increased by nearly 1,000 in the year to February 2009 following a campaign by the council to ensure that everyone entitled to benefits was receiving them.

The full report can be found in the committee papers section of the council's website at www.barnet.gov.uk.

For advice on a range of topics including dealing with redundancy and debt, and financial advice visit www.direct.gov.uk

For information on training courses, retraining and job searching visit www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk

For a free item exchange scheme that promotes recycling and reuse visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FreeCycleBarnet/>

For a range of links and advice on coping with the economic downturn visit www.barnet.gov.uk/bright-ideas



Barnet's house prices remain relatively stable

Council hosts first business breakfast

Traders from across the borough came together in April as the council held its first business breakfast session.

Invited by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Mike Freer, the free event was designed to allow small businesses to meet each other and explore ways to boost the local economy during these difficult financial times.

As part of the popular Leader Listens programme – a rolling series of meetings in which residents from each ward in the borough are invited to attend and air their views – the meeting saw a wide range of local business rate payers attend and share ideas.

Barnet Council's new Chief Executive Nick Walkley was on hand to welcome attendees before guest speakers from Natwest Bank, the London Development Agency and Barclays Bank offered advice on London 2012 Olympic Legacy projects and competing for public sector contracts.

These meetings are open to Barnet business rate payers. The next meeting is due to be held on 14 July 2009 with guest speaker Tom Nathan, General Manager of Brent Cross Shopping Centre. If your business would like to attend please email leaderlistens@barnet.gov.uk or call Victoria Blyth on 020 8359 2015.

Proposed development gets national recognition

The council has been shortlisted for a prestigious national award for the Mill Hill East Area Action Plan which we adopted in January this year.

The plan, which provides an outline for the redevelopment of the Mill Hill East area, has been shortlisted by the Royal Town Planning Institute as a good example of a 'spatial' strategy and will be judged by a panel of experts on 4 February 2010.

It hopes to deliver 2,000 new houses, 500 new jobs, a new primary school, community facilities and a public open space.

What's on in Barnet during July and August?

Activities for Adults

Rock and Stroll

4 July at 6pm

Finchley Catholic Boys School, Woodside Lane N12 8TA

Take part in North London Hospice's first women's only Rock and Stroll.

For further details please contact Azey on 020 8446 2288 or asiddiqui@northlondonhospice.co.uk.

Cost: £20 including party. For BBQ and live band only: £15 adults, £6 children

East Barnet Festival

3-5 July

Oakhill Park, East Barnet, EN4 8JS

Now in its 10th year, come and enjoy a range of stalls and entertainment. Visit www.eastbarnetfestival.org.uk for more details

3D Portraiture in Clay

11-18 July 10am-4pm

Middlesex University, Cat Hill, Barnet Hertfordshire EN4 8HT

A two day workshop where you can enjoy learning how to make a portrait head. Please book in advance by completing a booking form available from www.moda.mdx.ac.uk or call 020 8411 4394.

Cost: £75, £60 concessions

The Eye of Childhood – children's writers and artists in Barnet

30 May- 27 September 2007

Church Farmhouse Museum

This summer exhibition reveals the many children's authors and illustrators, past and present. Children visiting the exhibition will have the chance to write their own poems and brief stories, or draw illustrations to their favourite tales.

Theatre in the Park

12-19 July

Oakhill Park, East Barnet

Come and see Mid Summer Night's Dream and Three Musketeers – bring a picnic! Visit www.eastbarnetfestival.org.uk for booking details.

Also visit www.artsdepot.co.uk and www.chickenshed.org.uk for various performances and workshops.

If you would like your event to be considered for inclusion in Barnet First, please visit: www.barnet.gov.uk, and add your event details to the "What's on" page.

Activities for children and young people

Summer Uni

27 July – 22 August

Young people aged eight to 25 can enjoy a fun filled six week break with an exciting range of free courses. Visit www.summerunilondon.org for more details.

Barnet Play Day (all ages)

5 August

Friary Park, Friary Road N12

Circus skills, arts and crafts, bouncy castles, police, fire and ambulance services, football, games and much more.

Cost: £1



Fun for all the family at the Barnet Play Day

Council meetings – dates for your diary

Meetings are open to the public and are generally held at Barnet House, Whetstone starting at 7pm while Hendon Town Hall is being refurbished. Hendon Town Hall is due to re-open on 14 July. The residents forums (which start at 6.30pm) meet at a variety of venues around the borough, and details can be found online, on our posters or by contacting the Democratic Services team on 020 8359 2031. Members of the public can ask to speak at most meetings. Further information can be obtained by contacting Democratic Services.

July

- 1 Planning and Environment Committee
- 6 Cabinet
- 13 Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee
- 14 Council
- 15 Childrens Services Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee
- 16 Adult Social Services Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee
- 20 Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 21 Chipping Barnet Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 21 Hendon Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 21 Finchley & Golders Green Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 23 Budget and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 27 Finchley & Golders Green Residents Forum
- 28 Chipping Barnet Residents Forum
- 29 Planning & Environment Committee
- 30 Cabinet Resources Committee
- 30 Hendon Residents Forum

August

- 18 Chipping Barnet Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 18 Hendon Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 18 Finchley & Golders Green Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 25 Cabinet Housing and Regeneration Committee
- 26 Planning & Environment Committee

Meet...

your members

Note: All codes are 020 unless otherwise indicated.

Brunswick Park Ward
Lynne Hillan (Con)
Deputy Leader of the Council
8445 5101
cldr.l.hillan@barnet.gov.uk

Andreas Tambourides (Con)
8368 5417
cldr.a.tambourides@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:
Second Saturday every month,
Osidge Library, Brunswick Park
Road, N11
10.30am – 12 noon

Lisa Rutter (Con)
8445 3829
cldr.l.rutter@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:
Last Saturday every month,
Osidge Library, Brunswick Park
Road, N11
2.30pm – 4pm

Burnt Oak Ward
Claire Farrier (Lab)
8959 7908
cldr.c.farrier@barnet.gov.uk

Linda McFadyen (Lab)
8364 8782
cldr.l.mcfadyen@barnet.gov.uk

Charlie O-Macauley (Lab)
07796 284110
cldr.c.omacauley@barnet.gov.uk

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

Childs Hill Ward
Jack Cohen (LibDem)
Liberal Democrat Group Leader
8446 7940
cldr.j.cohen@barnet.gov.uk

Monroe Palmer (LibDem)
8445 5140
cldr.m.palmer@barnet.gov.uk

Susette Palmer (LibDem)
Liberal Democrat Deputy

Leader
8455 5140
cldr.s.palmer@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:
First Thursday every month,
Childs Hill Library, Cricklewood
Lane, NW2
7 – 8pm

Colindale Ward
Danish Chopra (Lab)
8449 9046
cldr.d.chopra@barnet.gov.uk

Gill Sargeant (Lab)
8455 1070
cldr.g.sargeant@barnet.gov.uk

Zakia Zubairi (Lab)
8959 4091
cldr.z.zubairi@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:
Saturdays, Grahame Park
Library, The Concourse,
Colindale, NW9
10 – 11am

Coppetts Ward
Mukesh Depala (Con)
8365 3614
cldr.m.depala@barnet.gov.uk

Kate Salinger (Con)
8368 1329
cldr.c.salinger@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:
First Saturday every month,
Friern Barnet Library, Friern
Barnet Road, N11
10.30am – 12noon
Second Saturday every month,
Hollickwood School, Sydney
Road, N10
1.30 – 3 pm

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

Surgery details:
First and third Saturday every
month, Peter Le Poer Church,
Albion Avenue, N10
10.30am – 12noon

Other Saturdays, Friern Barnet
Library, Friern Barnet Road, N11
10.30am – 12noon

East Barnet Ward
Terry Burton (Con)
8368 8264
cldr.t.burton@barnet.gov.uk

Robert Rams (Con)
8446 7291
cldr.r.rams@barnet.gov.uk

Joanna Tambourides (Con)
8361 9154
cldr.j.tambourides@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:
First Saturday of each month,
New Barnet Community Centre,
48–50 Victoria Road, New
Barnet, EN4
10.30am – 12noon
Third Saturday of each month,
East Barnet Library, 85 Brookhill
Road, East Barnet, EN4
10.30am – 12noon

East Finchley Ward
Andrew McNeil (Lab)
8444 3834
cldr.a.mcneil@barnet.gov.uk

Alison Moore (Lab)
Leader of the Opposition
(Labour group leader)
8343 0306
cldr.a.moore@barnet.gov.uk

Colin Rogers (Lab)
8444 7150
cldr.c.rogers@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:
Saturdays, East Finchley
Neighbourhood Centre, Church
Lane, East Finchley, N2
10 – 11.30am

Edgware Ward
Helena Hart (Con)
8371 0658
cldr.h.hart@barnet.gov.uk

Joan Scannell (Con)
8959 5921
cldr.j.scannell@barnet.gov.uk

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

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

**Finchley Church End
Ward**
Mike Freer (Con)
Leader of the Council
(Conservative group leader)
8359 2059
cldr.m.freer@barnet.gov.uk

Eva Greenspan (Con)
8203 1598
cldr.e.greenspan@barnet.gov.uk

Daniel Thomas (Con)
cldr.d.thomas@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:
First Wednesday every month,
Avenue House, East End Road
7 – 8pm (except August)

Garden Suburb Ward
Andrew Harper (Con)
8201 9527
cldr.a.harper@barnet.gov.uk

John Marshall (Con)
8445 2597
cldr.j.marshall@barnet.gov.uk

Jazmin Naghar (Con)
8458 2466
cldr.j.naghar@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:
Fourth Monday every month,
Fellowship House, Willifield Way,
NW11
6 – 7pm

Golders Green Ward
Dean Cohen (Con)
07887 778509
cldr.d.cohen@barnet.gov.uk

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

Christopher Harris (Con)
07949 592512
cldr.c.harris@barnet.gov.uk

Contacting your MPs

Chipping Barnet

Theresa Villiers

Office: 163 High Street, Barnet,
EN5 5SU

Tel: **020 8449 7345**

Hendon

Andrew Dismore

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

Tel: **020 8202 2122**

Finchley and Golders Green

Dr Rudi Vis

Office: 38 Church Lane, East
Finchley, N2 8DT

Tel: **020 8883 0411**

Greater London Assembly

Member for Barnet and Camden

Councillor Brian Coleman

Office: City Hall, The Queen's
Walk, London, SE1 2AA

Tel: **020 7983 4367**

Surgery details:

Second Sunday every month,
Golders Green Library, Golders
Green Road, NW11

2.15 – 3.15pm

Fourth Sunday every month,
Hendon Sports Centre, Marble
Drive, Brent Cross, NW2

12noon – 1pm

Hale Ward

Tom Davey (Con)

cllr.t.davey@barnet.gov.uk

Brian Gordon (Con)

8931 5062

cllr.b.gordon@barnet.gov.uk

Hugh Rayner (Con)

Deputy Mayor

8958 3364

cllr.h.rayner@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First Thursday every month
alternating between Edgware
Library, Hale Lane, Edgware,
HA8, and Mill Hill Library,
Hartley Avenue, NW7
(call 8958 3364 for locations and
times)

Hendon Ward

Maureen Braun (Con)

8906 0447

cllr.m.braun@barnet.gov.uk

Anthony Finn (Con)

8202 9689

cllr.a.finn@barnet.gov.uk

Matthew Offord (Con)

8202 5319

cllr.m.offord@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First Monday every month,
Hendon Library, The Burroughs.
6 – 7pm

High Barnet Ward

Duncan Macdonald (Lib Dem)

8344 2674

cllr.d.macdonald@barnet.gov.
uk

Surgery details:

Second Saturday every month
at Chipping Barnet Library, 3

Stapylton Road, Barnet, EN4
3.30pm – 4.30pm

Bridget Perry (Con)

8441 5683

cllr.b.perry@barnet.gov.uk

Wendy Prentice (Con)

8364 9249

cllr.w.prentice@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Third Saturday every month,
Chipping Barnet Library, 3
Stapylton Road, Barnet, EN4
10.30am – 12noon

Mill Hill Ward

Wayne Casey (LibDem)

8906 8189

cllr.w.casey@barnet.gov.uk

Jeremy Davies (LibDem)

8381 0089

cllr.j.davies@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Saturdays, Mill Hill Library,
Hartley Avenue, NW7
10am – 12noon

John Hart (Con)

8381 0083

cllr.j.hart@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Selective Tuesdays, Mill Hill
Library, Hartley Avenue, NW7
6 – 8pm
Selective Saturdays at Canada
Villa, Pursley Road, NW7
10am – 12noon

Ring 020 8959 5182 for dates or
see www.barnet.gov.uk.

Oakleigh Ward

Sachin Rajput (Con)

84493610

cllr.s.rajput@barnet.gov.uk

Marina Yannakoudakis (Con)

8445 8175

cllr.m.yannakoudakis@barnet.
gov.uk

Surgery details:

Third Saturday every month,
Barnet House, 1255 High Road,

Whetstone, N20
10.30am – 12noon

Brian Salinger (Con)

8368 1329

cllr.b.salinger@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First Saturday of every month
at Friern Barnet Library, Friern
Barnet Road, N11 10.30am –
12noon

Totteridge Ward

Brian Coleman (Con)

Mayor

7983 4366

cllr.b.coleman@barnet.gov.uk

Richard Cornelius (Con)

8445 5886

cllr.r.cornelius@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Alison Cornelius (Con)

8445 5886

cllr.a.cornelius@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Third Saturday every month,
Barnet House, 1255 High Road,
Whetstone, N20
10.30am – 12noon

Underhill Ward

Fiona Bulmer (Con)

8344 2672

cllr.f.bulmer@barnet.gov.uk

Daniel Webb (Con)

07983 358 910

cllr.d.webb@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Third Saturday every month,
Chipping Barnet Library, 3
Stapylton Road, Barnet, EN4
10.30am – 12noon

Anita Campbell (Lab)

8440 2703

cllr.a.campbell@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First and third Saturday every
month, Chipping Barnet Library,
3 Stapylton Road, Barnet, EN5
2 – 3pm

West Finchley Ward

Ross Houston (Lab)

8343 7451

cllr.r.houston@barnet.gov.uk

Kath McGuirk (Lab)

8209 1462

cllr.k.mcguirk@barnet.gov.uk

Jim Tierney (Lab)

8346 3359

cllr.j.tierney@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Every Saturday at Community
Focus, the artsdepot, Tally Ho
Corner, North Finchley
10.30 – 12 Noon

West Hendon Ward

Julie Johnson (Lab)

8203 3531

cllr.j.johnson@barnet.gov.uk

Agnes Slocombe (Lab)

8202 4074

cllr.a.slocombe@barnet.gov.uk

Ansuya Sodha (Lab)

8959 6035

cllr.a.sodha@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Saturdays, West Hendon
Community Centre, Marsh Drive,
West Hendon, NW9
10.30am – 12noon

Woodhouse Ward

Geof Cooke (Lab)

8344 2596

cllr.g.cooke@barnet.gov.uk

Anne Hutton (Lab)

8883 0996

cllr.a.hutton@barnet.gov.uk

Alan Schneiderman (Lab)

8731 9680

cllr.a.schneiderman@barnet.
gov.uk

Surgery details:

See West Finchley Ward

Meet the Mayor

Barnet's 45th Mayor takes office

Councillor Brian Coleman AM, FRSA was appointed as the borough's first citizen last month following the Annual Meeting of the Council at Hendon Town Hall.

Councillor Coleman has been a Totteridge ward councillor since 1998 and for the past three years has held the Cabinet portfolio for Community Safety and Community Engagement. He has also held the position of London Assembly member for Barnet and Camden since 2000, serving as chairman of the Assembly twice in 2004/5 and 2006/7.

Appointed Chairman of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority in 2008 by the Mayor of London Boris Johnson, Councillor Coleman also chairs the London Assembly's Election Review Committee amongst many others and is former chairman of the North London Waste Authority.

Councillor Coleman is also governor of two borough schools – The Ravenscroft and Queen Elizabeth's Boys where he was educated, as well as a committee member of the Friends of Finchley Memorial Hospital and a Trustee of the Finchley Charities.

During his Mayoral year, Councillor Coleman will support two charities, The Larches Trust – a charity based in Edgware which provides support and opportunities for adults over 19 with learning difficulties – and Resources for Autism, a Temple Fortune-based charity which helps those with varying levels of autism.

His Mayoress for the year will be his mother, Mrs Gladys Coleman,



The Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Brian Coleman

with Councillor Hugh Rayner appointed Deputy Mayor and his wife Susan, as Deputy Mayoress.

If you would like to find out more about the Mayor, or invite him to your event please visit: www.barnet.gov.uk/barnet-mayor.

New Cabinet members appointed

The Cabinet to lead Barnet Council was formally agreed at the annual meeting of the council in May

Councillor Lynne Hillan was voted in as the new Deputy Leader as well as taking over the resources portfolio from Leader of the Council, Councillor Mike Freer.

Community Safety and Engagement is to now be headed by Councillor Matthew Offord following Councillor Brian Coleman's selection as Mayor.

East Barnet councillor Robert Rams joins the Cabinet with responsibility for Investment in Learning with Councillor Daniel

Thomas the new lead member for Policy and Performance. Councillor Richard Cornelius leaves that portfolio to take over Community Services, which will now take in Regeneration.

Councillor Andrew Harper continues as Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, Planning and Environmental Protection will continue to be led by Councillor Melvin Cohen, whilst Councillor Helena Hart continues with Public Health and Councillor Fiona Bulmer maintains her Cabinet responsibility for Children's Service.



Councillor Andrew Harper



Councillor Daniel Thomas



Councillor Fiona Bulmer



Councillor Helena Hart



Councillor Lynne Hillan



Councillor Matthew Offord



Councillor Melvin Cohen



Councillor Richard Cornelius



Councillor Robert Rams