

barnetfirst

issue 65 March 2016



Getting in SHAPE

See page 14

Leader's column

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Contacting your council

Corporate Customer Services

tel: 020 8359 2000

email: first.contact@barnet.gov.uk

Contact us and we will identify the correct service or person you are looking for.

Street-based services

tel: 020 8359 4600

Covering refuse collection, holes in the road, abandoned vehicles and graffiti.

Parking enquiries

tel: 020 8359 7446

www.barnet.gov.uk/parking

Planning and licensing advice

tel: 020 8359 3000

Social Care Direct

tel: 020 8359 5000

Out of hours emergencies

tel: 020 8359 2000

Barnet First is published by Barnet Council's Communications Team. Please email us on:

barnet.first@barnet.gov.uk

Or write to us

First Contact, London Borough of Barnet,
North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road
South, London N11 1NP

Privacy

Barnet has revised its Privacy Statement.

If you want to know more visit:

www.barnet.gov.uk/privacy

Spring is here and it seems everywhere I turn there are signs of growth in the borough, whether it is in our parks and green spaces, the building work going on, or the growth in the local economy.

An example of this can be seen in our regeneration schemes, where work is underway to demolish the old houses to make way for modern, fit for purpose flats and houses that will be home to our residents for generations to come.

Despite the economic challenges we face, growth and regeneration is one of our most important priorities in the years ahead as we create the right conditions that will allow us to prosper.

For the sixth year in a row your Council Tax bills won't increase. This means that, following a one per cent reduction in 2014/15 and a freeze in every other year since 2010/11, there has been a real term cut of 20 per cent in your Council Tax bill since 2010/11. As we prepare to close a further budget gap of £81 million by 2020, including this year's savings of £20 million, we are making some bold decisions to enable us to live within our means.

I am pleased to see that residents continue to be satisfied with the work we are doing. A recent Residents' Perception Survey showed that at 88 per cent, overall satisfaction with the borough as a place to live, has never been higher.

Although the challenges remain and we need to reduce our day-to-day spending, I am optimistic about our future.

As well as helping to deliver 20,000 new homes by 2025 – the most in outer London - £565m is being invested on schools, regeneration, roads and pavements, as well as building two new community hubs, two new state-of-the-art leisure centres and a library, all of which will bring a boost to our local economy.

A key part of revitalising our communities is the way in which we can encourage you to do your bit to remain self-sufficient and to stay fit and healthy. We are working with Sport England, Middlesex University and a range of partners to invest in sports activities for children and young people aged 14 to 19 year olds (more on page 14). Our schools are also leading by example and setting the standard for making a difference to pupils' health after winning the prestigious Healthy Schools London Gold Award (see page 3).

Our Altogether Better initiatives are proving popular in bringing people of all ages closer together through a range of different projects from the 'Wooden Spoon and Apron Club' to 'Mums who Run' and 'Computers and a Cuppa' scheme. Run by local people for their own communities, these projects are proving successful in helping reduce isolation as well as creating opportunities for people of all ages to share their time and skills with one another. Find out more on page 13.

Going the extra mile among us are those fit and active residents who are taking part in the North London Half Marathon.

On Sunday 20 March more than 8,000 runners will be pounding the streets of Barnet and Brent for many good causes. If you're taking part, good luck. If you aren't up to the 13-mile stretch you could come along and cheer the runners on. The route map is included on page 5.

Yours



Richard Cornelius



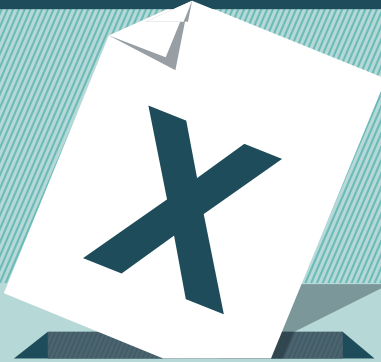
news in brief



HAVE YOUR SAY

MAKE SURE YOU'RE

REGISTERED TO VOTE



The elections for the next Mayor of London and London Assembly, the body that holds the Mayor to account, will take place on 5 May 2016.

Barnet residents will have the opportunity to vote directly for the next Mayor of London, for their Constituency Assembly Member (the boroughs of Barnet and Camden are combined into a single Greater London Authority constituency), and also for the group of London-wide Assembly Members.

In order to vote at these elections you must be registered to vote by 18 April 2016. It only takes a few minutes to register at: www.gov.uk/registertovote

More information about the Greater London Authority, the London Mayor and the London Assembly are available at: www.londonelects.org.uk

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

DON'T LOSE IT



Barnet Schools get an 'A' for Health

Mathilda Marks Kennedy, Parkfield, Wessex Gardens and St Agnes' have become the first Barnet schools to win the prestigious Healthy Schools London Gold Award. Sponsored by the Mayor of London, the award scheme celebrates schools that are making a difference to pupils' health.

They now join an elite club of just 29 other decorated schools across London that have achieved the prize. All four schools had already received bronze and silver awards, and through using the Healthy Schools London Gold Award Reporting Template, found at www.healthyschoolslondon.org.uk,



they demonstrated:

- achievement of the planned outcomes set as targets to gain the silver award, as well as recording and reporting this impact.
- evidence of the sustainability of these changes
- engagement with the wider community and support to others, helping children and young people achieve and maintain good health and wellbeing

To find out more about health and wellbeing support available to schools in Barnet please visit: www.barnet.gov.uk/healthandwellbeing

We hope the success of four of our schools in Barnet will inspire others to get top marks for health too!



Barnet gets gold

Barnet has been given 'gold' status by the Children's Commissioner for the 'Up for the Challenge' scheme, which recognises organisations who involve children and young people in their work.

The award follows the successful Youth Convention, held in November 2015 and attended by around 200 young people. Priorities identified there will be incorporated into the council's new Children And Young People's Plan, to be published this month. The council has committed to engage with young people and make sure our focus is on them when making decisions.

“Your organisation has been successful in gaining a gold commendation. I do hope you will continue to build on the excellent work you have started.”

Anne Longfield OBE,
the Children's Commissioner



CCTV upgrade nears completion

A total overhaul of the borough's CCTV network is nearing completion with more than 100 cameras replaced with the latest technology.

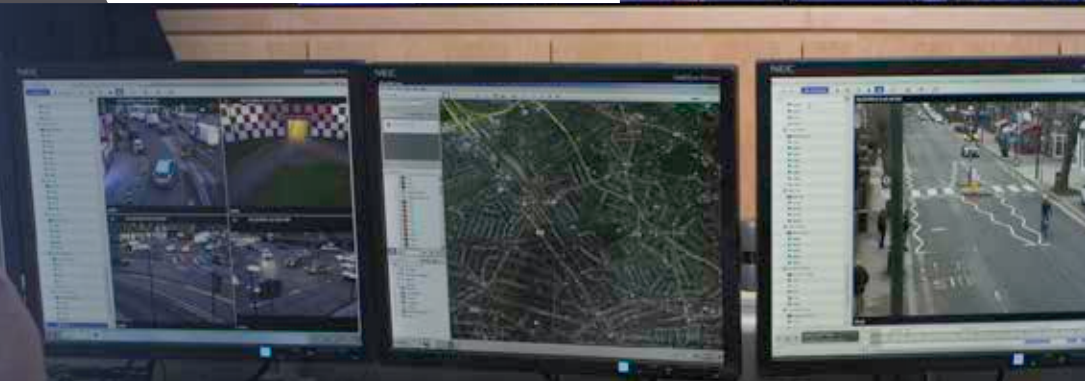
Upgrade work over 18 months has seen 111 cameras replaced with high definition equipment along with significant improvements to transmission and monitoring facilities, and a new CCTV control room.

The new cameras are now linked to the modern control room equipped with a video wall and updated monitoring.

In the last 12 months CCTV operators have spotted or worked with police to monitor almost 900 incidents across the borough and provided 220 packages of footage which have been provided to the police as evidence.



The latest Residents' Perception Survey recorded that 65 per cent of people agreed that CCTV made them feel safer.



Domestic violence one stop shop

The domestic violence and abuse one stop shop is a free drop-in service for people aged 16 years and over.

Domestic violence and abuse occurs in all sections of society, regardless of gender, ethnicity, social background, age, financial status and sexuality. If you're affected by domestic violence and abuse, or you know of someone who is, then help is available. You do not need to make an appointment, just walk straight in and speak to dedicated domestic violence specialists.

The service is led by Barnet Homes and run in partnership with independent domestic violence advisers, police, solicitors, housing advisers and health specialists. They carry out risk assessments, offer advice, information, safety planning and support all under one roof.

The drop-in service takes place at:

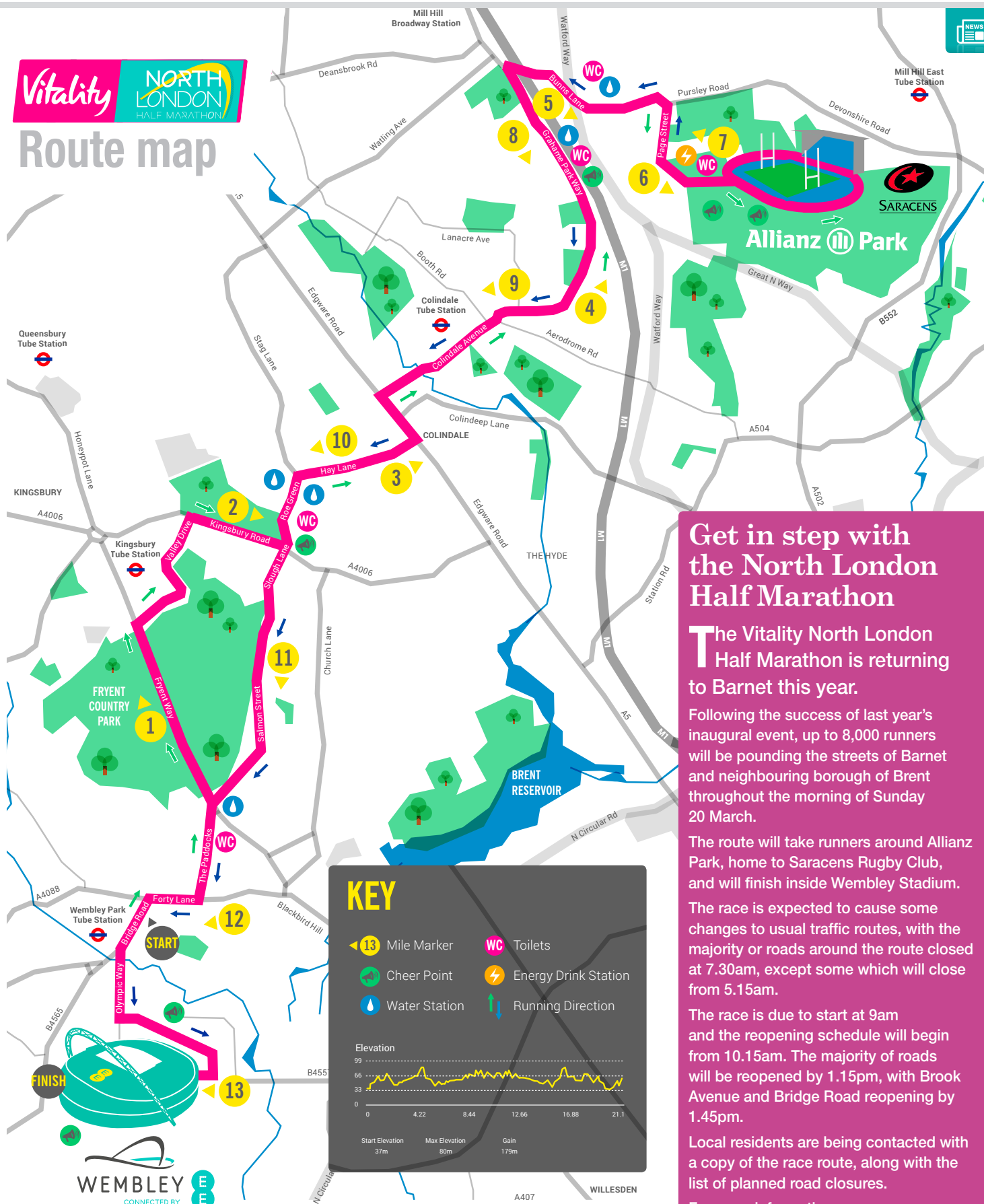
Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone N20 0EJ, every week on Thursdays from 9.30am – 12.30pm.

For more information call 020 8359 4797.





Route map



Get in step with the North London Half Marathon

The Vitality North London Half Marathon is returning to Barnet this year. Following the success of last year's inaugural event, up to 8,000 runners will be pounding the streets of Barnet and neighbouring borough of Brent throughout the morning of Sunday 20 March.

The route will take runners around Allianz Park, home to Saracens Rugby Club, and will finish inside Wembley Stadium. The race is expected to cause some changes to usual traffic routes, with the majority of roads around the route closed at 7.30am, except some which will close from 5.15am.

The race is due to start at 9am and the reopening schedule will begin from 10.15am. The majority of roads will be reopened by 1.15pm, with Brook Avenue and Bridge Road reopening by 1.45pm.

Local residents are being contacted with a copy of the race route, along with the list of planned road closures.

For more information, visit: www.northlondonhalf.com

THE GREATEST FINISH LINE... IN THE WORLD!

Future of the borough

Creating new homes and new opportunities for Barnet

Regeneration in Barnet isn't just about building new homes and creating environments that people are proud to live in - it's also about creating a future.

Investing in our future through new housing and schools, better transport links, improved health and leisure facilities, and more employment opportunities that will benefit both new and existing communities, is a crucial element of our plans to make sure Barnet remains a desirable place to live for many more years to come.

We're already making good progress on regenerating some of our biggest estates, which are in need of modernisation such as Stonegrove / Spur Road and West Hendon. At Stonegrove, the final tower block was demolished recently, to make way for 300 extra homes – see the page opposite. Meanwhile, at West Hendon 69 tenants have recently moved into their new homes and nine leaseholders have taken up the opportunity to buy a new property using a shared ownership scheme. A recent survey showed that 95 per cent of the recently moved tenants we spoke to were either very satisfied or satisfied with the quality of their new home.

Creating employment opportunities also plays a key role in our plans because everyone needs a regular income to live and provide for themselves and their families. This makes employment just as important as good quality housing. That's why our eight housing and regeneration schemes will create 20,000 new, and 7,000 replacement homes and up to 30,000 new jobs by 2025.

We know that most people won't need our help to take advantage of the employment opportunities that come from our investments. However, those who do, like school leavers, will receive the support they need to help them into work.

Read the next page to find out how our apprenticeships scheme helped 18-year-old Bradley Smith to get his first job in the construction industry.

We're also nurturing the next generation of entrepreneurs by encouraging residents and people studying locally to start their own businesses. You can read about the Entrepreneurial Barnet Competition, which gives business start-ups and entrepreneurial students the chance to win up to £1,000 to kick-start their business ideas, on the next page.



Future of the borough

A new future begins

The transformation of the Stonegrove Spur Road estate is nearly complete. In December 2015, Wilberforce, the last remaining tower on the estate, was demolished.

Once the regeneration is complete, 999 new homes will have been built with a mix of social, affordable and private spread throughout the site.

Work has been underway on the estate since 2007, with the final homes expected to be completed by 2018.

The scheme also includes improved transport links, a new school, community hall and church buildings, as well as improved parking and open spaces.

Stonegrove is just one of eight estates in Barnet that we are currently regenerating, with work underway at Brent Cross Cricklewood, Colindale, Grahame Park, West Hendon, Dollis Valley, Granville Road and Millbrook Park.

Between 2011 and 2025/26, 27,000 homes are due to be built across the borough. So far, between 2010/11 and 2014/15, we have helped deliver more than 2,500 affordable new homes, including low-cost home ownership and social rent.

Apprenticeships

It's not just new houses where we're seeing growth across the borough. The regeneration schemes are also expected to bring 30,000 new jobs as well as 300 apprenticeships. Over the last year we've been working with our partners and local developers to place 28 construction apprentices like Bradley Smith, 18, on construction schemes. Apprenticeships last for a minimum of 12 months and give local people the opportunity to train on site while getting paid to undertake a real role.

Bradley's story

Bradley, from High Barnet, is an apprentice carpenter who works for CALA Homes at Millbrook Park three days a week and attends college two days a week. He said: "I'm getting loads of experience learning on the job. I've always wanted to be a carpenter and when I finish college, I'd really like to carry on working in a team like the one here at Millbrook Park."



Entrepreneurial Barnet competition

The Entrepreneurial Barnet Competition, organised by Barnet Council, Middlesex University and Barnet and Southgate College, provided the chance for local entrepreneurs to showcase their ideas to win one of four prizes worth £500 each.

The prizes were divided into four categories; Barnet residents and business start-ups, Middlesex University postgraduate students and alumni, Middlesex University undergraduate students, and students at Barnet and Southgate College. Each winner received £500 and the opportunity for mentoring, support and advice from business experts.

At the time Barnet First went to press the winners from each of the four categories were due to go head-to-head in a business pitch at Hammerson's head office in London. The overall champion will receive a further £500 prize money and a business mentor.

For more information, visit:
www.barnet.gov.uk/barnetworks



To find out more about the finalists
and the overall champion, visit:
www.barnet.gov.uk/business-competition



Neighbourhoods

Working together to keep Barnet safe, green and clean

Whether it's getting involved in our clean streets campaign or recycling more of your food waste - we need you to work with us to take care the borough

In our 2015 – 2020 Corporate Plan we've made a commitment to looking after your neighbourhoods by prioritising the things that make the biggest difference to where you live. We'll continue to provide the services you value and rely on like, waste collection and recycling and maintaining the borough's parks and open spaces.

However, like all parts of the public sector we are faced with a real financial challenge over the next four years, which means we need to find ways to work together with you to make these valued services cost less to deliver without compromising on quality.

There's already lots of ways to do your bit. Have a look at the opposite page to find out how you can recycle even more of your food waste. And read the story to the right to learn about the fantastic clean-up events that residents held across the borough earlier this month – don't worry if you missed all the fun they'll be lots more chances to get involved when we launch a big clean streets campaign later in the year.

Reducing costs and working together doesn't mean we won't invest in new technologies or safety features to make things easier or safer for you. We've already introduced electronic parking permits (e-permits) and now we're introducing CCTV cameras on certain roads and outside some school buildings to act as a deterrent to inconsiderate drivers and make our roads safer. Turn to page 10 to find out when the cameras and penalty notices comes into force.

A royal clean-up

Earlier this month, Barnet residents took part in Britain's biggest ever clean-up effort to literally get the whole country looking fit for a queen ahead of Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday, in April. Residents were out in numbers supporting Barnet's Friends of Park groups who answered a call from the council to get involved and help spruce the borough up.

Around a dozen clean-ups took place including ones in Highlands Gardens, Mill Hill Park, Cherry Tree Woods, Windsor Open Spaces, Friary Park, Childs Hill Park, Dollis Valley Infant School and at the Hale Association.

The weekend of events was co-ordinated and supported by our Street Scene team who provided litter picking equipment to the school and many of the groups, distributed free litter bags and disposed of them once filled after all events.

Ahead of their clean-up, we spoke to Richard Tester, Chair of the Friends of Friary Park, who explained why he got involved: "The Friends of Friary Park value the park as an essential local amenity and we take pride in helping to ensure its kept up to a good standard."

Later in the year, we will be launching a big campaign calling on all Barnet residents, businesses and visitors to be responsible for helping to keep our streets and parks litter free.



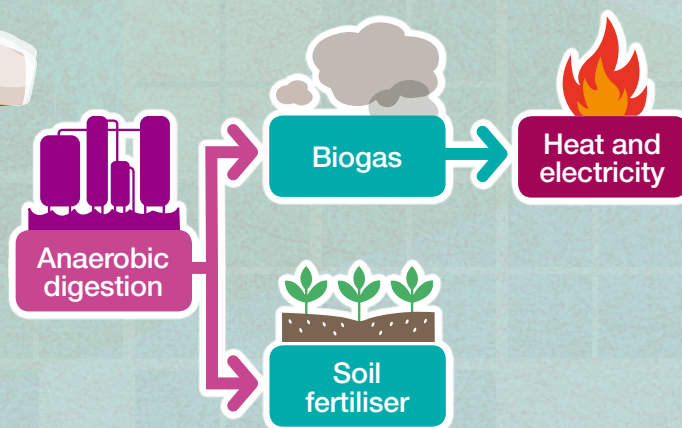
Brown bins need feeding too

Despite more than 13,000 tonnes of waste food having been recycled since we introduced the service in 2013, we still need your help to recycle more.



It is estimated that around 35 per cent of rubbish placed in residents' black bins is food which could have been recycled rather than being sent for disposal – that is around 20,000 tonnes of food each year.

Recycling food waste is good for the environment in all kinds of ways including harnessing it to create heat and power through anaerobic digestion and also for use in fertilisers for agriculture - but it also costs us less to recycle waste food than dispose of it, leaving more to spend on supporting frontline services.



By just placing your unwanted food in a different container you can make a real difference

Food waste can include bread and pastries, fish, fruit and veg, dairy, meat and bones, tea and coffee grounds and plate scrapings. Recycling food waste is simple, easy and hygienic and all unwanted cooked or uncooked food can be placed in your brown kitchen caddy either loose or with a compostable liner displaying the seedling logo.

The liner or loose waste food can then be placed in your outdoor brown bin ready for collection.

To find out more visit
www.barnet.gov.uk/recycling



Neighbourhoods

Making your roads safer

Keeping your roads safe is a top priority – especially for children travelling to and from school.

That's why we're introducing traffic cameras at selected schools and roads in the borough. We want to make sure parents and carers are parking legally and considerately when they are dropping off or picking up their children.

At the same time, the council will be installing cameras at a number of locations around the borough to help improve safety, keep traffic moving and reduce air pollution on the borough's roads. From March, any motorist performing an illegal turn, stopping on a box-junction or entering a restricted access area will face a 'warning notice' of zero value. From April, these warning notices will become official penalty charge notices.

You can find details of our new traffic scheme by visiting: www.barnet.gov.uk/mtc



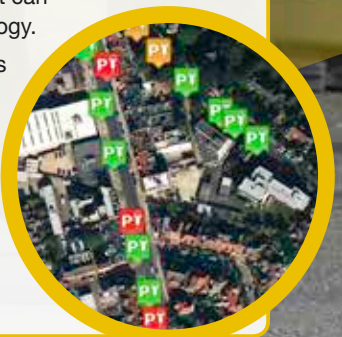
Making parking easier in Temple Fortune

We are trialing an innovative new technology that allows you to check where parking is available in Temple Fortune town centre.

All you need to do is download the Smart Parking app on any Android or IOS device.

Once downloaded, the app will let you know where a space is available and, if you have a phone holder, it can guide you to the space using GPS technology.

We have also been using the trial to give us accurate data on how well used parking spaces are in Temple Fortune. This helps give us an up-to-date picture on whether we are meeting our 85 per cent bay occupancy target set out in our parking policy. If the pilot is successful, we are looking to roll out the technology borough-wide.



Over **800** residents helped **into work**

is just one of the ways we are making Barnet work better, together

“After leaving university, the Brent Cross Job Shop helped me find a great job close to home. Support was there when I needed it and I haven’t looked back since”

Gigs Vasou – Suit Specialist

We want to help everyone to have a good quality of life. That means supporting residents to help themselves by providing access to the right information, advice and skills.

Barnet
works
together



People

Helping you to stay fit and healthy throughout your life

We're serious about promoting good health and wellbeing for everyone

Whether you're a young person trying to improve your fitness, or looking to stay active in later life, participating in regular physical and leisure activities can make a big difference to your quality of life.

We want people of all ages in Barnet to have the opportunity to improve their lives by dedicating time to their health and wellbeing. That's why we're investing in two new leisure centres in New Barnet and Cophall as part of our wider regeneration programme.

We're also working with local voluntary and community groups to invest £300,000 (including £194,000 from Sport England) in sports activities for children and young people living in Colindale and Burnt Oak through the SHAPE programme - turn to page 14 to find out more.

A key part of our plan is supporting you to do more to help and support yourselves and your local communities. The following page has some great examples of how you can get involved in the Altogether Better initiative (part of the council's Ageing Well programme).

We're also investing in young people too – Take a look at page 15 to find out more about our exciting new Youth Zone.

There's more to being a neighbour than living next door

In changing times it's become more important than ever to feel connected to our neighbours.

Two years ago the Altogether Better initiative was launched to help bring people in Barnet closer together, reduce isolation and create opportunities for people of all ages to share their time and skills with each other.

Jointly funded by the council and the NHS, and supported by the Barnet Seniors' Assembly as part of the our Ageing Well programme, the scheme supports local people to start up and run projects which they feel would benefit their area, as well as helping to offer services to those who need support. Altogether Better is exciting because it is open to all.

Singing and making new friends is a joy

After moving back to Edgware to care for her mother following the loss of her husband in 2014 and 26 years spent away from the UK, Jenny Horsford found the changes to her life unsettling.

Jenny explained: "I had previously been a carer for my grandmother and my husband before he passed away, and now I'd come back to the UK to be a carer for my mother. But I couldn't just do that I thought - I needed to find my own feet as well but I didn't really know how or where to start"

Jenny found out about the Edgware and Stonegrove 'Community Chorus' choir practice through an Altogether Better newsletter she picked up at Edgware library.

"Oh yes! I thought", remembers Jenny, "singing is my life, I really love it." Soon after Jenny joined the choir, which welcomes singers of all abilities to St Margaret's Church in Edgware every other Monday between 3-4pm. Since joining Jenny has rediscovered a sense of community that has really helped her settle back in Barnet.

Jenny is full of praise for the choir and the impact it has had on her life, adding: "I've just found happiness here. Meeting new people, being part of a group and spending time with them to me is a joy. It's a very rewarding, satisfying, and most importantly - a fun thing to do. I think the borough is doing something wonderful here in supporting this activity."

Jenny also had some words of encouragement for anyone who's uncertain about joining in. She said: "Lots of people my age can feel isolated - so I feel it's more important than ever to make sure you have that human interaction and sense of community wherever you can find it."

For more information on the Altogether Better initiative in Edgware and Stonegrove please visit www@a-best.org.uk, or get in touch with the project co-ordinator on tel: 07909 998463 or email: us@a-best.org.uk

Could table tennis be the sport for you?

Table tennis is a fun and sociable sport for anyone who enjoys being part of a friendly group of people keeping fit and healthy together.

Each Tuesday between 2:30-4pm the Shree Aden Depala Mitra Mandal Centre in East Finchley holds a table tennis club that's open to all local residents. The club asks for just 20p each session to cover the use of the equipment and the refreshments that are provided.

It doesn't matter about your age, whether you've played for years, are picking up a bat for the first time, or if you haven't been in a while - you'll be welcomed. The entrance is at the side of the centre.

To find out more about the other Altogether Better activities in East Finchley please visit www.efab.org.uk or contact the project co-ordinator on tel: 07909 998453 or email: us@efab.org.uk.

People

New state-of-the-art leisure centre

Keeping active is a key part of living a long and healthy life. This is why we plan to build a state-of-the-art leisure centre at Victoria Recreation Ground to replace Church Farm Leisure Centre.

If you fancy taking up swimming or you want to try out a range of studio classes or you just want to use the gym to get fit and healthy – the new leisure centre will have something for you. The current proposals include a 25 metre six-lane community pool, a learner pool, a gym and a flexible studio space.

We are also rebuilding Barnet Cophall Leisure Centre. The new and improved leisure centre will have three swimming pools, including a learner pool, a café, a gym and studio space.

The new centres are set to be ready by 2019 subject to planning permission.

Sports sessions for young people

Whether football is your game, you fancy yourself to be the next Anthony Joshua, or you don't have a game in particular and you just want to try something new – the SHAPE programmes offers young people aged 14 – 19 the chance to get active in Burnt Oak and Colindale.

Funded by Sport England and Public Health - and by joining forces with Middlesex University, Barnet Football Club, Saracens Sport Foundation, Grahame Park Consortium and Love Burnt Oak the - programme offers a hearty menu of fun sports and activities for young people to enjoy on their doorsteps.

You can find a list of the activities by visiting www.barnet.gov.uk/shape



Residents' Perception Survey Autumn 2015

Our latest Residents' Perception Survey, conducted in the autumn, shows us that overall satisfaction with the work we are doing continues to be high at 74 per cent – significantly higher than the national and Outer London average.

Satisfaction with the local area also remains high and significantly above the national average, with 88 per cent of residents expressing their satisfaction. You told us that you continue to feel informed by the council, with 68 per cent saying that we keep you informed with what we are doing, while 52 per cent feel that we provide value for money, which is in line with the national average.

We want to thank everyone who took part in the telephone survey, which we conduct twice a year, with around 500 residents from across Barnet. Our next survey will take place in the spring - if you do receive a telephone call asking for your views on various aspects of life in your local area and the services we provide, please take the time to take part. Your views and opinions are important to us.



You can find the full Residents Perception Survey results at: engage.barnet.gov.uk



This image is of The Factory Youth Zone in Manchester



Barnet set for £6 million Youth Zone

The go ahead has been given for a £6 million state-of-the-art OnSide Youth Zone to be developed in Burnt Oak subject to planning permission.

In November last year, members of the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee meeting voted to select Montrose Playing Fields as the preferred location for the new youth facility.

The exciting plans would see a purpose built Youth Zone open seven days a week with more than 20 activities on offer during each session to young people aged 8-19, or up to 25 for those with a disability. It will cost young people just 50p per visit.

Over the last few months over 50 young people from the borough have been helping to put their stamp on the centre by working with design experts to create a name, colour and branding for the Youth Zone.

They have also taken part in visits to Youth Zones already up and running in the north of England.

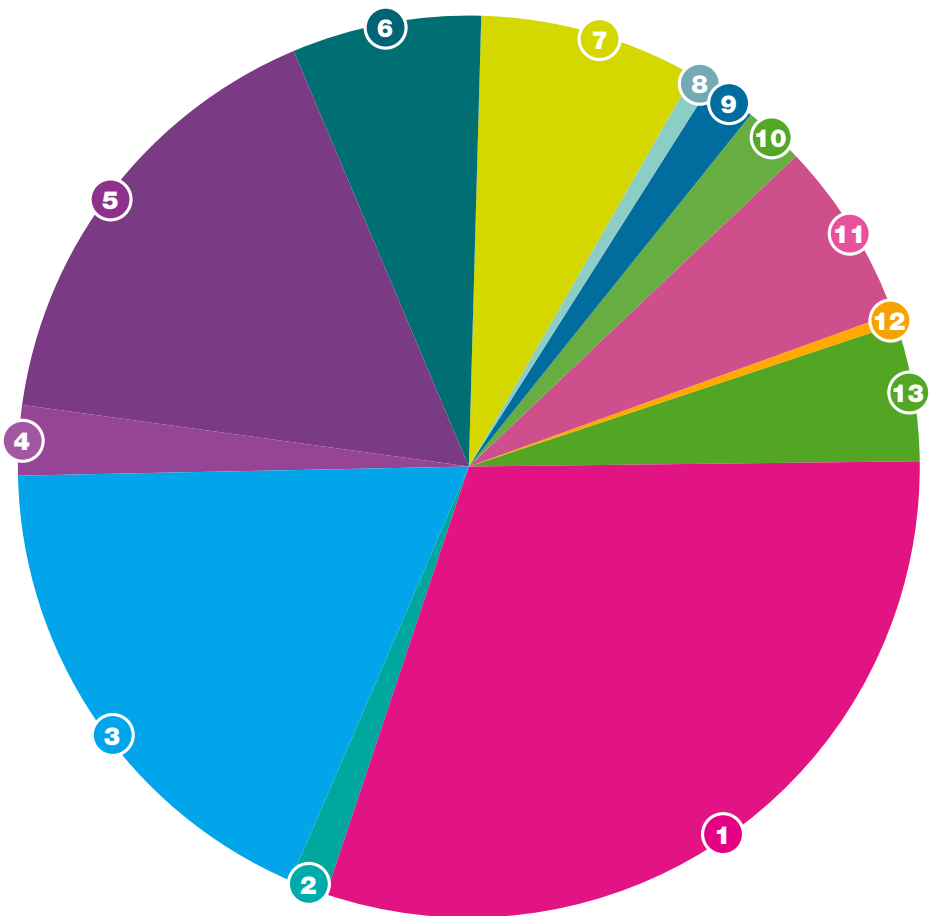
Later this month young people are due to take part in a final workshop before a selection of brand ideas are voted on by other young people from across the borough.

Our 2020 financial challenge

You will soon be receiving your Council Tax bill for the next 12 months. For the sixth year in a row, your bills will not be going up – we have frozen bills since 2010/11 and reduced them by 1% in 2014/15 – in real terms, equalling a 20% cut since 2010/11.

You may have heard about the possibility to add a ‘precept’ of up to 2% above the existing 2% referendum threshold to help pay for adult social care costs, following an announcement by the Chancellor at the end of 2015. Following consultation, we have decided to adopt a 1.7% precept here in Barnet to help us manage the demand on our services as a result of an increasing ageing population. This will be spent exclusively on helping to care for the borough’s elderly residents and you will see this included as a separate line on your bill. However, there will be no overall increase in your bill next year because the council is not increasing the proportion of Council Tax that funds general services coupled with a reduction in the Greater London Authority element of bills.

How your money is spent

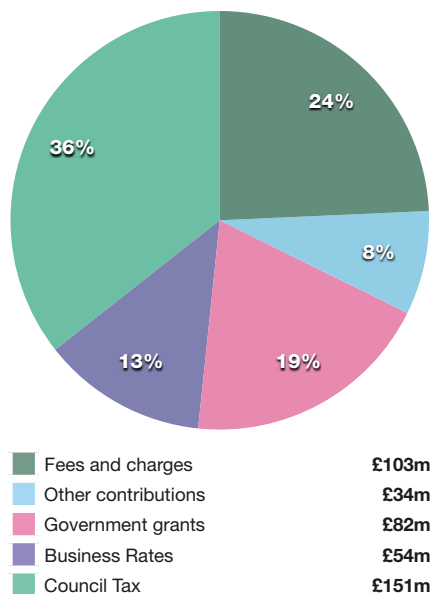


Service Area	£m	Service Area	£m
1 Adults and Communities	85.566	8 HB Law	2.011
2 Assurance	3.793	9 Housing Needs Resources	4.976
3 Central Costs and Capital Financing	51.381	10 Parking and Infrastructure	6.119
4 Children’s Education and Skills	7.068	11 Public Health	18.544
5 Children’s Family Services	46.481	12 Regional Enterprise	1.134
6 Commissioning	19.159	13 Streetscene	13.897
7 Customer Support Group	22.120		

Figures have been rounded to three decimal places

Outside of our core spending, we will also be administering £216million of schools costs, £256million of Housing Benefit costs and £60million in housing costs.

Where our money comes from



Our financial challenge

The challenge we know we will face between now and 2020 is that Government grants will continue to reduce and pressure on services will continue to increase. We have an estimated budget 'gap' of £81.1million over the next four years and have already agreed savings targets in our four-year financial plan to make between now and 2020.

Where changes to services have an impact on residents we will have run specific consultations so you can have your say.

We have also been running our Annual Budget Consultation for 2016/17 with you over the past couple of months.

Working with you

However, with this challenge also comes opportunity. As part of our approach set out in our Corporate Plan, we have three key areas driving our decision making – effective management of increasing demand, looking for opportunities for income and growth and working with residents to help them do more for themselves.

When it comes to how our services are provided in the future, we are committed to finding the right provider to deliver best value local services that do what you need them to. That could be the council, but equally a private company, charity or social enterprise, or volunteers from the local community. Our focus is the quality of the service, rather than who provides it. Our commitment to residents is that, no matter who the provider is, as your council, accountability will remain with us, and we will always strive to get the best quality and value for you as taxpayers.

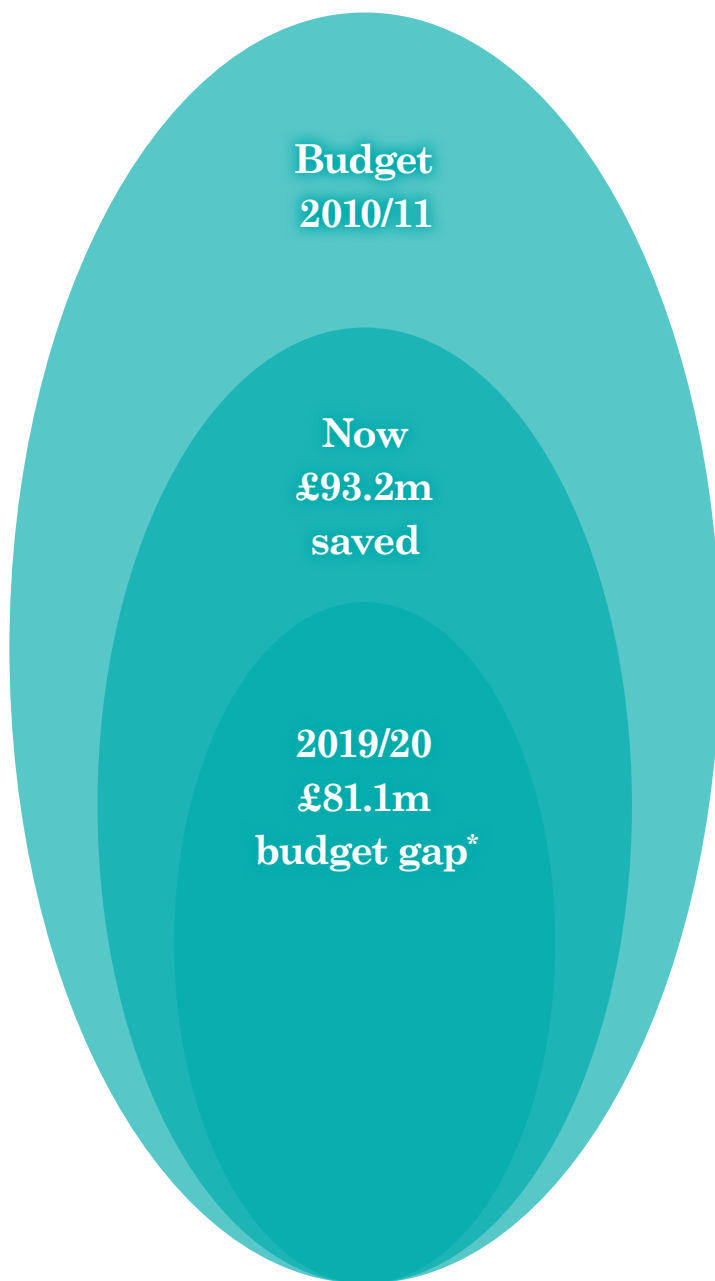
An important part of the change the council will achieve over the next four years is a focus on supporting people to help themselves and their community, so we can spend more of our budget on improving your neighbourhoods and protecting services. Whether its through recycling your waste, volunteering to help or make a meal for a neighbour, or supporting local business by shopping on your high street, it all makes a difference and helps Barnet work together.

More information about how Barnet works together across our delivery partners, and about how our relationship with you is changing, can be found at: www.barnet.gov.uk/barnetworks



Our savings: past, present and future

The graphic below represents the difference in our spending power from 2010 to 2020. Up until this year, the savings we have made equal £93.2million and as mentioned we have a budget gap of £81.1million. Our actual net expenditure over this period is, of course, also impacted by population growth and other pressures on the council.



*predicted

contact your councillors

Brunswick Park

-  Cllr Andreas Ioannidis
cllr.a.ioannidis@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Kathy Levine
cllr.k.levine@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Lisa Rutter
cllr.l.rutter@barnet.gov.uk

Burnt Oak

-  Cllr Claire Farrier
cllr.c.farrier@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Ammar Naqvi
cllr.a.naqvi@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Charlie O-Macauley
cllr.c.omacauley@barnet.gov.uk


Childs Hill

-  Cllr Shimon Ryde
cllr.s.ryde@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Peter Zinkin
cllr.p.zinkin@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Jack Cohen
cllr.j.cohen@barnet.gov.uk

Colindale

-  Cllr Gillian Sargeant
cllr.g.sargeant@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Zakia Zubairi
cllr.z.zubairi@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Nagus Narenthira
cllr.n.narenthira@barnet.gov.uk

Coppetts

-  Cllr Pauline Coakley Webb
cllr.p.coakleywebb@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Reema Patel
cllr.r.patel@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Barry Rawlings
cllr.b.rawlings@barnet.gov.uk




East Barnet

-  Cllr Rebecca Challice
cllr.r.challice@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Philip Cohen
cllr.p.cohen@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Laurie Williams
cllr.l.williams@barnet.gov.uk

East Finchley

-  Cllr Arjun Mittra
cllr.a.mittra@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Alison Moore
cllr.a.moore@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Alon Or-Bach
cllr.a.or-bach@barnet.gov.uk

Edgware

-  Cllr Brian Gordon
cllr.b.gordon@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Helena Hart
cllr.h.hart@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Joan Scannell
cllr.j.scannell@barnet.gov.uk

Finchley Church End

-  Cllr Eva Greenspan
cllr.e.greenspan@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Graham Old
cllr.g.old@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Daniel Thomas
cllr.d.thomas@barnet.gov.uk

Garden Suburb

-  Cllr Rohit Grover
cllr.r.grover@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr John Marshall
cllr.j.marshall@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Gabriel Rozenberg
cllr.g.rozenberg@barnet.gov.uk




Golders Green

-  Cllr Dean Cohen
cllr.d.cohen@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Melvin Cohen
cllr.m.cohen@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Reuben Thompstone
cllr.r.thompstone@barnet.gov.uk

Hale

-  Cllr Thomas Davey
cllr.t.davey@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Hugh Rayner
cllr.h.rayner@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Kitty Lyons
cllr.k.lyons@barnet.gov.uk

Hendon

-  Cllr Maureen Braun
cllr.m.braun@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Anthony Finn
cllr.a.finn@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Mark Shooter
cllr.m.shooter@barnet.gov.uk


High Barnet

-  Cllr David Longstaff
cllr.d.longstaff@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Bridget Perry
cllr.b.perry@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Wendy Prentice
cllr.w.prentice@barnet.gov.uk




Mill Hill

-  Cllr Valerie Duschinsky
cllr.v.duschinsky@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr John Hart
cllr.j.hart@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Sury Khatri
cllr.s.khatri@barnet.gov.uk

Oakleigh

-  Cllr Sachin Rajput
cllr.s.rajput@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Brian Salinger
cllr.b.salinger@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Stephen Sowerby
cllr.s.sowerby@barnet.gov.uk

Totteridge

-  Cllr Richard Cornelius
cllr.r.cornelius@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Alison Cornelius
cllr.a.cornelius@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Caroline Stock
cllr.c.stock@barnet.gov.uk

Underhill

-  Cllr Paul Edwards
cllr.p.edwards@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Tim Roberts
cllr.t.roberts@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Amy Trevethan
cllr.a.trevethan@barnet.gov.uk

West Finchley

-  Cllr Ross Houston
cllr.r.houston@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Kath McQuirk
cllr.k.mcquirk@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Jim Tierney
cllr.j.tierney@barnet.gov.uk

West Hendon

-  Cllr Dr Devra Kay
cllr.d.kay@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Adam Langleben
cllr.a.langleben@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Agnes Slocombe
cllr.a.slocombe@barnet.gov.uk

Woodhouse

-  Cllr Geof Cooke
cllr.g.cooke@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Anne Hutton
cllr.a.hutton@barnet.gov.uk
-  Cllr Alan Schneiderman
cllr.a.schneiderman@barnet.gov.uk

Full Council meetings

Monday 4 April, 7pm
Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs
Annual Council

Tuesday 24 May, 7pm
Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, Council Chamber

For details of surgeries

tel: 020 8359 2000

email: first.contact@barnet.gov.uk

or write to us: Members' Room, Hendon Town Hall,
The Burroughs, Hendon NW4 4BG

Want to keep on top of your Council Tax... sign up to My Account

My Account is the easier and simpler way to connect with Barnet Council Tax services. Once you have signed up to My Account just simply enter the details on your bill to get access to your account.

You will be able to:

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- make a payment
- view your Council Tax bill
- view your property band
- view the start date of your account
- download a direct debit form
- add multiple accounts for multiple properties.



†Terms and conditions apply, visit: www.barnet.gov.uk/myaccountipad for more details

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Unless you've registered by 18 April.

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