

barnetfirst

issue 66 July 2016



Celebrating summer in Barnet

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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

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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

Leader's column

I am writing this column after a busy weekend visiting a number of street parties in celebration of the Queen's 90th birthday.

As these parties showed, our community spirit is alive and well in Barnet, with generations of young and old coming together to join in the celebrations, despite the weather.

Having lived here almost all my life, I can remember playing out on the green near my house with other local children. Years on, I'm proud of the fact our 200 parks and open spaces are still being used by residents, no matter their age. Our recently launched parks and open spaces strategy will make sure that these spaces will be loved and cared for as well as unlocking future investment in the borough.

During these summer months, I'm sure many of us will be making the most of these green spaces, whether it's going for a stroll, kicking a ball around, walking the dog, or using one of our 11 outdoor gyms. If you're feeling really active, you might be following one of our nine free 'Marked and Measured Routes' or even taking part in our weekly Parkrun at Oak Hill Park every Saturday morning.

All the evidence shows being outdoors can give our health and wellbeing a boost, which is why I'm pleased to see our instructor-led health walks through local beauty spots such as Friary Park and Woodside Park proving popular with people whatever their fitness level.

These activities are just the tip of the iceberg of what's going on in Barnet this summer. To find out more have a look at our What's On supplement from pages 9 – 15.

Delivering services and getting the basics right is what residents expect from their council. Unfortunately sometimes things do go wrong. The problems experienced with the electoral paperwork on the morning of 5 May, and the impact on some voters, was unacceptable. Staff worked quickly on the day to rectify the issue. Others made sure the recent EU Referendum went smoothly. You can find out more about the independent investigation and the actions that have been taken on page 3.

Keeping the streets of Barnet clean is as important to me as I am sure it is to you, which is why we spend nearly £4 million per year on street cleaning. Although most people do the right thing and put their litter in the bin, there are a small minority who blight the streets for everyone. This month will see us launch our 'Keep Barnet Clean' campaign with anyone caught littering issued with an £80 fine. We will also be visiting businesses to make sure they are playing their part in keeping Barnet at its best. If you spot a problem in your area please let us know by visiting barnet.gov.uk/report-a-problem. Later in the year we will be asking you to join in with our community clean ups.

Yours



Richard Cornelius



news in brief

Community spirited residents honoured

The work of community spirited residents has been honoured at the borough's annual Civic Awards.

A special ceremony hosted at Hendon Town Hall recognised the efforts of 35 people and groups nominated for their hard work and dedication to their community.

Each nominee was honoured with a certificate and six nominees were judged to have made an outstanding contribution to life in the borough. They were presented with a framed vellum in recognition of their achievements.

The winners were recognised for their efforts across a range of fields including services to teaching, voluntary work and fundraising.



The six vellum winners:

Patrick Lyons

For his efforts over the years to help those in need, in particular the homeless, and his contribution to running night shelters.

Dr Christine Riley

For her community work in the Totteridge area including her involvement in the Totteridge Residents' Association and time spent as a governor at St Andrew's Church of England Primary School and Woodridge Primary School.

Robert Wright

For his many years of work as Church Warden at St John the Apostle Church in Whetstone, including his dedication on a weekly basis to help the homeless.

Lalit M. Nagpaul JP

For his voluntary, social and community work including his involvement with the Barnet Citizens Advice Bureau, work supporting older people in the borough and almost 20 years serving as a magistrate.

Janie Knappett

For her long service to Livingstone Primary School and Nursery School, including as a teacher, and for her dedication to working with children with autism and for the support she has provided over many years to fellow teachers and parents.

Peter Packer

Honoured posthumously for his dedication over nearly 30 years to Finchley Memorial Hospital and his involvement with the Friends of Finchley Memorial Hospital. He helped raise a considerable amount of money for new equipment and facilities and campaigned for the construction of the new hospital. Unfortunately, Mr Packer passed away recently. At the ceremony his vellum was presented to his son Steven Packer and daughter Mel Packer.

Election investigation

Following problems with the electoral registers on the morning of Thursday 5 May, the Returning Officer of the council commissioned an independent investigation to find out what went wrong and learn lessons for the EU Referendum and future elections.

Mark Heath, an experienced Returning Officer for Southampton, led the investigation. As part of his enquiries he reviewed information received from residents affected by problems on the day and carried out face-to-face interviews with staff involved in the election process in Barnet.

The investigation found that human error led to the incorrect electoral registers being printed, with inadequate checking and escalation processes failing to pick up this error.

Mr Heath's report estimates the problem in the morning appeared to have affected hundreds rather than thousands of voters with anecdotal evidence showing that some people returned later in the day to vote.

John Hooton, Interim Chief Executive and Returning Officer for Barnet Council, said: "Unfortunately we did not carry out sufficient checks on our electoral registers and I would like to apologise to any voter who experienced problems on the day. We have accepted all the recommendations in the report and immediately put in place a number of measures to make sure processes in the run-up and during the EU Referendum ran as smoothly as possible.

"We remain committed to making sure the electoral system operates with the rigour the electorate deserves."

The report also highlights that Barnet has performed consistently against Electoral Commission standards for delivering elections. A full review of the elections function will now be undertaken, which will ensure any wider concerns are investigated and addressed where needed.

To read a copy of the report, and the council's response, visit www.barnet.gov.uk/electionsinvestigation 



Does your rental home need a licence or permission?

On 5 July, we introduced a borough-wide Additional Licensing Scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs).

HMOs are houses or flats which are shared by more than one family, and certain blocks of flats. If you are a landlord and rent out one of these properties it may need a licence from the Environmental Health Team. Failure to licence is an offence and may be subject to a significant fine. Landlords may also have to pay back up to a year's rent to the tenant or the council.

For more information on licensing schemes for HMOs in Barnet, visit www.barnet.gov.uk/hmos or call the Environmental Health Team tel: 020 8359 5355.



If you are thinking of converting a property into a HMO you will now need planning permission.

For more information on planning permission please visit: www.barnet.gov.uk/article4direction or call Barnet's Planning Department on tel: 020 8359 3000

Diabetes information sessions in Barnet

The Diabetes Team at Central London Community Healthcare (CLCH) offers regular free Diabetes Information Sessions to meet the needs of the Barnet population. The team runs three courses for various stages of diabetes.

- For people recently diagnosed with diabetes (within the last year) we have a full day programme called 'DIABETES FIRST'. It provides all the need-to-know information to help people manage their condition including available medications, diet recommendations and lifestyle top tips.
- If you are taking two or more medications for your diabetes, then please come to the 'D.PAGE' information session. This is a two-day programme aimed at helping you slow down the progression of diabetes. It provides you with information to help make 'bite-sized' lifestyle changes.
- For those who take insulin we offer a three hour information session called 'Bi.D'. It focuses on how patients can improve their diabetes by using both diet and insulin effectively.

To find out more information about the courses and to book, call 020 8732 6824. For further information on diabetes, visit www.clch.nhs.uk/services/diabetes



Anti-Fraud app now available

The Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) is a dedicated specialist team responsible for the investigation of all instances of fraud, corruption or bribery committed against the council and relevant contractual partners (including Barnet Homes).

Help us to prevent, detect and punish fraud. We need to send out a clear message that mis-use and exploitation of public funds and assets will not be tolerated.

If you have any concerns that fraud is taking place please contact us through:

Fraud hotline: 020 8359 2007

Email: CAFT@barnet.gov.uk

Report it online:

www.barnet.gov.uk/anti-fraud

Fraud App: Download the new Barnet Fraud Reporter App. Visit the above webpage for further details.





New community hub given green light

The go-ahead has been given for a new community hub to be constructed in East Finchley.

The Tarling Road Community Hub will replace the Old Barn Community Centre and provide a brand new shared space for local community groups. Plans for the hub, which were given approval in March, include new play facilities, improvements to the green space and flexibility for nursery provision.

The council is now working closely with residents to appoint a management organisation to run the centre and develop a schedule for how the space will be used.

Once built, one of the community groups which will use the new centre will be the Somali Bravanese Welfare Association (SBWA). The SBWA was based at the community centre in Coppetts Road, but in June 2013 the building was destroyed by fire following an arson attack. The group have been based at Barnet House in Whetstone since then.



Young people cast their vote for new Youth Zone logo

Barnet's young residents have been casting their vote to decide the new brand for Barnet's Youth Zone.

As Barnet First went to press young people aged eight – 19 years old from across the borough were voting for their favourite of two brand identities created and designed by a group of 25 young people from Barnet.

The Youth Zone is being developed in partnership with OnSide. Last year, the council's Assets and Regeneration Committee gave the go-ahead for the £6 million facility to be developed in Burnt Oak subject to planning permission.

Voting has now closed. To find out which brand Barnet's young people chose out of the two shown below, visit: www.onsideyouthzones.org/tag/barnet

unitas
Barnet Youth Zone

OSI-H
Barnet Youth Zone

Stay safe this summer

With high hopes of a warm summer, Barnet Safer Communities Partnership offers you some top tips so you can stay safe this summer. Whether you're at home or going on holiday, please don't be a victim of crime.

If you're at home:

- keep ground floor windows shut and locked in rooms you are not using
- don't leave patio doors open
- remember to lock up properly before going to bed
- don't leave ladders and tools out, keep them locked up
- lock side or rear gates.

If you're off on holiday:

- make your home look occupied
- ask a trusted neighbour to open and close your curtains for you
- cancel milk and newspaper deliveries
- before your holiday, don't advertise that you are going away on social media
- double-check that you've locked all outside windows and doors
- set your burglar alarm.

Remember, insurance companies often will not pay out if a burglary is a result of an insecure door or window. Dial 101 to contact the police and in an emergency always call 999.

Top tips to secure your home and valuables

Resilient Families: Resilient Children

Social work opportunities

Barnet have vacancies for Social Workers, Advanced Social Workers and Team Managers

We have some really exciting opportunities in Barnet Family Services, specifically within Children's Social Care. There is a range of excellent positions where we are looking for Social Workers, Advanced Social Workers and Team Managers to be part of the team.

This is your chance to really shine as we make our vision of Family Friendly Barnet a reality. We want you to help us build up resilient families and resilient children in our community. As a social worker in Barnet, whether you want to remain frontline, specialise or go into management, you will be contributing to develop a resilience-based practice across the service with clear approaches and tools that reflect our vision.

What does this all mean? Ultimately this is about giving you the best career experience by ensuring you are part of a service that is fully centred around children and families.

If this sounds like the right challenge for you, then please visit www.moretobelievein.co.uk for more information and make an application.

Should you wish to have an informal chat about working as a Social Worker in Barnet, then please contact:

Suraj Pandit
email: suraj.pandit@barnet.gov.uk
tel: 020 8359 2100

Sue Layton
email: sue.layton@barnet.gov.uk
tel: 020 8359 5280



Resilient Families: Resilient Children



A boost for green spaces in Barnet

Whether you take part in formal sport, visit a park café, take the kids to the playground or walk your dog; our parks make Barnet beautiful.

It's our 200 parks and open spaces that help make Barnet a green and family friendly borough.

Our parks are highly regarded. In 2015, 70 per cent of those asked thought the borough's parks and open spaces were either good or excellent.

The recently launched parks and open spaces strategy sets out how our green spaces can contribute to Barnet's social, economic, and environmental wellbeing.

The ambitious strategy could see £20 million invested in new and better parks and open spaces across the borough, including Colindale and Dollis Valley. Adopted by the council's Environment Committee in May, the strategy outlines plans for up to 15 new parks in the borough by 2040 – half in regeneration areas to meet the needs of a growing population.

The strategy also highlights the council's aspirations which could unlock millions of pounds of further investment from external organisations for new parks and sports facilities.

These are exciting times for parks and open spaces in Barnet and the strategy establishes a road map for future investment, discussions around future funding and governance, and an on-going dialogue between the council, residents, stakeholders and partners.

Our parks:

- over 40 play areas
- nine Marked and Measured Routes
- 11 outdoor gyms
- seven beautiful Local Nature Reserves
- seven miles of parks and open space along the Dollis Valley Green Walk.

Adopt A Place:

If you want to maintain a feature in a park or a local green space why not 'adopt a place'? The scheme provides groups with support, materials and tools to undertake gardening or maintenance activities. You could build new skills and brighten up your local area.

To find out more, visit:

www.barnet.gov.uk/adopt-a-place or
email: parks@barnet.gov.uk with your idea.



Changing the way we deliver and organise social care

As with all local authorities across the country, adult social care in Barnet is under increasing pressure with a rising demand for services and a reduced amount of money available.

This means we need to look at a new way of delivering adult social care that will help people to stay healthy and well, to regain their independence after illness or injury, as well as finding a new way of organising the service.

We have launched a 12-week consultation, asking for your views on the proposals which have been developed with input from residents, staff and other local community and voluntary organisations. These proposals focus on a new way of delivering adult social care in Barnet through helping people to live as

independently as possible by identifying what they are able to do for themselves and what support they can draw upon from their family, friends and the local community.

As part of looking at a new way to deliver adult social care, we are also asking for your views on the three potential options being considered for how we organise our adult social care services. We think that each of the three options will help us to make some savings.

You can find the consultation, which runs until 8 August at engage.barnet.gov.uk



what's on

Summer 2016

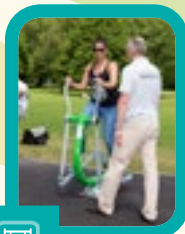


Celebrating summer in Barnet

what's on

This summer, our parks are full of fun activities for everyone.

With around 200 parks and open spaces, there are plenty of opportunities to get out and enjoy the sunshine.



Outdoor Gyms



Barnet has 11 free outdoor gyms located in our parks. You don't need any experience to use the equipment and, best of all, there's no membership fee to pay. To see which parks near you offer gym equipment visit: www.barnet.gov.uk/outdoor-gyms



Marked and Measured Routes



There are nine free marked and measured routes which are pre-plotted routes of 1km, 2.5km or 5km which can be walked, run or cycled. To view the routes visit: www.barnet.gov.uk/exercise-routes



This map is a visual interpretation that is not to scale

what's on

Keep school holiday boredom at bay this summer. Every year, young people enjoy holiday activities across the borough. Check out the range of sessions for young people through our Positive Activities and SHAPE programmes. We hope you enjoy what's on offer.

Positive Activities

The Positive Activities programme offers a range of courses for children and young people aged from 8 – 19 (or up to 25 for young people with learning disabilities).

Previously the programme has helped some young people find jobs, win a national sporting championship, get involved in volunteering and achieve academic goals.

Even more importantly, it's a good way to make friends. This summer you can choose from more than 50 courses!

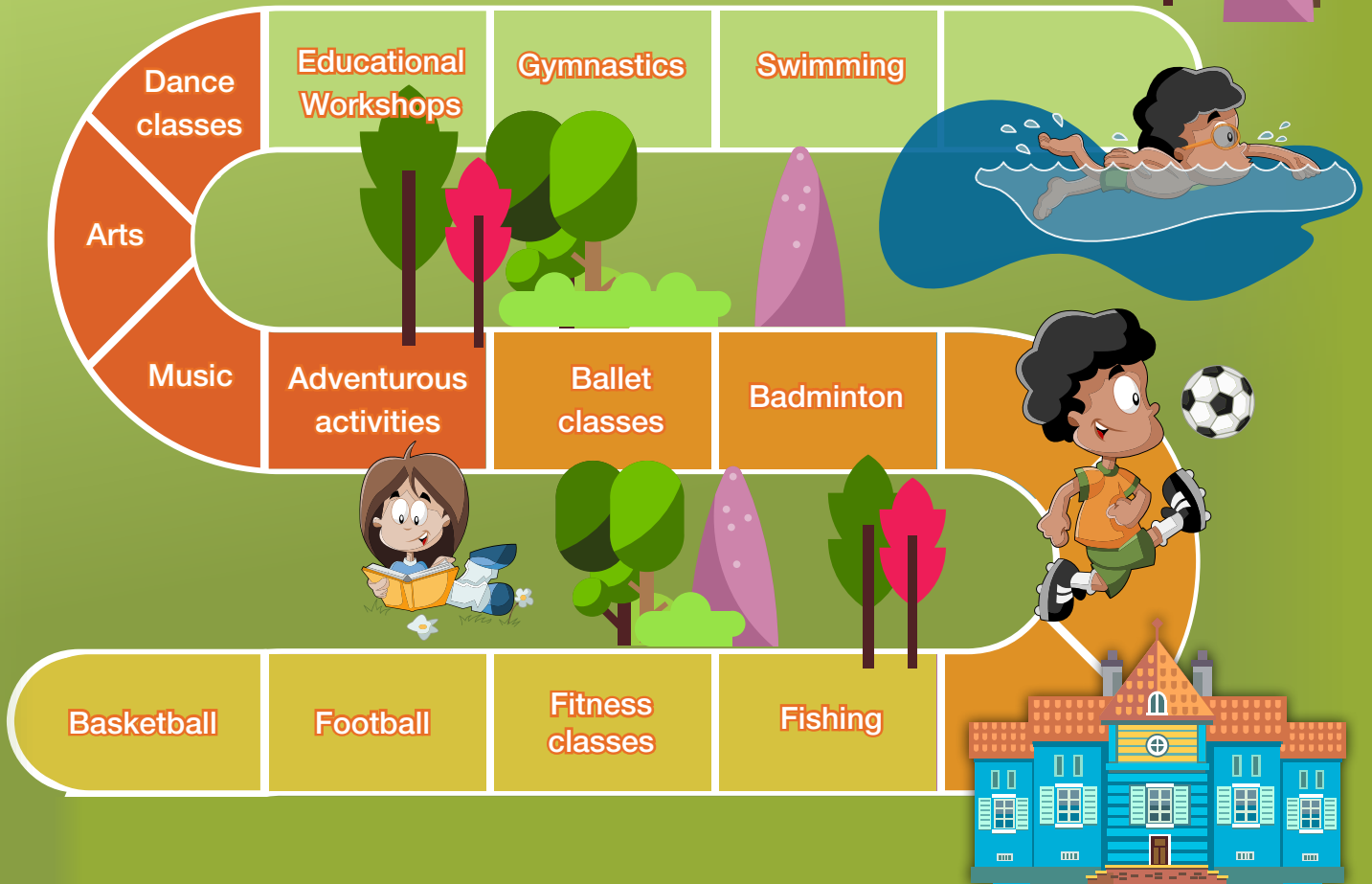
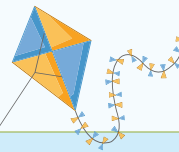
Barnet Youth services

Some of the exciting FREE courses on offer are:

- mechanics
- fashion
- music production
- fishing
- watersports
- circus skills
- Lego challenge
- ...and lots more

If that isn't exciting enough, last year, a film made on one of the courses won first prize in a national competition. The young people that made the film received prizes from award-winning director, Danny Boyle.

To find out more about the Positive Activities programme, visit www.futureversity.org or call 020 8359 3100.



SHAPE programme

The SHAPE programme offers a wide range of sports sessions for young people aged 14 – 19 in Burnt Oak and Colindale. SHAPE offers free or low cost sports sessions for young people including gym, football, basketball, streetdance and more. For more info visit www.barnet.gov.uk/shape

A fun-packed summer for under fives

Barnet's children's centres will be offering a wide range of activities over the summer holidays for under-fives.

The summer holidays are a great time to enjoy, play and spend time with your child. The borough's 10 centres will be offering a host of creative activities for children and parents.

These will include trips to parks, Stay and Play sessions and Songs and Rhymes activities.

Children's centres offer 15 free hours per week of early education for eligible two-year-olds, and for three and four-year-olds.

The centres also offer a range of support to parents including midwifery and health visiting services, healthy eating sessions and parenting courses.

To check what's on offer at centres across the borough this summer, visit www.barnet.gov.uk/childrens-centres

**A giant summer of fun ahead**

July sees the start of a fantastic summer of fun taking place in Barnet libraries with The Big Friendly Read, Summer Reading Challenge 2016 which runs from 9 July to 17 September.

To celebrate Roald Dahl's centenary, the Reading Agency has teamed up with The Roald Dahl Literary Estate to set a theme for this year's challenge and features some of the author's best loved characters and favourite stories.

Children aged four to 11 are encouraged to read six books during their summer holidays. Children of all reading abilities can join in and they can read whatever they choose – stories, joke books, fact books, or even listen to audiobooks – it doesn't matter as long as they are borrowed from their local library.

For every two books that they read, they get stickers and prizes and there's a certificate and a gold medal for everyone who finishes the challenge by reading all six books. Children can register for free at their local library.

We have an action-packed summer planned, with almost 50 events taking place over the summer holidays for babies, children and young people.

Here's just a taste of what's on this summer...

Throughout the summer there will be **Big Friendly Bounce** sessions with stories, songs and play for non-walking babies. Cost: £3.50

The Big Friendly Bake Off – on 29 July there's a chance for local children to show off their Roald Dahl inspired baking skills at Chipping Barnet Library. The event will be judged by Richard Burr who was a Great British Bake Off Finalist in 2014. Cost: free

On 27 July **Neville Floyd** will be back at Childs Hill Library for another **brilliant storytelling workshop** for ages six plus. Cost: free

Edgware Library will hold An **Enormous Crocodile Craft and Play** session for toddlers on 15 August. Cost: £4.95

South Friern Library will play host to the **Marvellous Beasts live animal handling workshop with Zoolab** on 26 July, ages five plus. Cost: £4.95.

Competition
 Hunt the golden library cards
 100 golden cards are hidden in Barnet libraries – find one and win a prize

For full details of all the events visit www.barnet.gov.uk/bigfriendlyread



what's on



GLL (Better) leisure centres

While many of us will take to the outdoors to keep fit during the summer months, the five leisure centres run by Better on behalf of Barnet Council continue to offer their extensive range of facilities and activities for up to 14 hours every day.

Check out the opening hours, membership fees, facilities, fitness classes and activities at the Better leisure centres at Burnt Oak, Barnet Cophall, Church Farm, Finchley Lido and Hendon by visiting the website below.

To have even more fun while getting fit, try out one of the many classes and leisure activities offered at the centres:

- badminton
- ballet classes
- basketball
- dance classes
- fitness classes
- football
- gymnastics
- personal training
- senior club
- swimming
- tennis

Splashing about in the sunshine

If the Olympic swimmers in Rio whet your appetite, why not take to the water at Finchley Lido Leisure Centre? As well as the 25-metre main pool, you can frolic about in the leisure pool with its wave machine, air jets, water cannons and rapids. The outdoor pool complex includes a well-equipped gym and is one of five leisure centres managed by Better on behalf of Barnet Council.

For more information, visit
www.better.org.uk/areas/barnet



Serve up a fit, fun you

If you got caught up in the excitement of Wimbledon why not pick up a tennis racquet yourself?

On 16 – 17 July, the Great British Tennis Weekend will see tennis clubs and parks across the country open their courts to newcomers and veterans of the game alike – to provide coaching and fun sessions.

In Barnet, clubs and coaches are set to introduce (or reintroduce) you and your family to a great sport that is about more than strawberries and cream for two weeks in early summer. You don't even need to bring a racquet.

Find more details on where you can get involved with the Great British Tennis Weekend by visiting www.barnet.gov.uk/outdoorfitness



Safe in the sun this summer

Too much sun is damaging to the skin, especially for young children. Excessive tanning and sunburn increase the risk of developing skin cancer. To protect yourself from the sun this summer apply sunscreen (with UVA and UVB protection) regularly during the day, avoid the sun between 11am and 3pm, and wear clothes that offer sun protection such as long-sleeved tops.



OURPARKS

Book your FREE*
exercise classes at
www.ourparks.org.uk

All classes last 60 minutes
and are inclusive for all
levels of fitness.

✉ getfitnow@ourparks.org.uk

☎ 0800 111 4464

*small fee will apply after 12 weeks

TURN UP, TONE UP GET FIT FOR FREE NOW

FREE for the first 12 weeks from
13th June – 4th September 2016*

Working in partnership

BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH

A BETTER WAY TO KEEP ACTIVE AND SOCIAL

Keeping your body and mind active as you enter your golden years is vital for a happy and healthier you. With Club Barnet's new programme for older people, you can enjoy a variety of low cost activities in community locations around Barnet and socialise with like minded people.

Activities include:

- Learn to swim sessions
- Low impact aerobics
- And much much more...
- Slipper Soccer
- Dance sessions
- Fitness in the park (outdoor gyms)

For session details, call 020 8457 9909, or visit www.better.org.uk/clubbarnet

In partnership with

BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH



FOR OLDER
PEOPLE
AGED 65+

BETTER
the feel good place

EXCUSE ME, YOU DROPPED SOMETHING!

DROP LITTER AND
YOU'LL BE STUCK
WITH AN **£80**
FINE



#keepBarnetclean

Report litter by calling 020 8359 4600
or visit: www.barnet.gov.uk/keepbarnetclean
Please do your bit to keep Barnet clean.

Keeping the streets of Barnet clean is a priority for residents, businesses and for us.

We love our streets to be clean and that's why we invest nearly £4 million on street cleaning services each year.

In fact, the latest resident perceptions survey showed that 85 per cent of residents feel that the appearance of their local environment is important.

Although most people do the right thing and put their litter in a bin, unfortunately littering is still a problem.

To combat littering, we are launching our 'Keep Barnet Clean' campaign this month and anyone caught dropping rubbish in the borough could be issued with an £80 fixed penalty notice. No type of litter is acceptable, so make sure you put your litter in one of the 3,000 bins across the borough or take it home. We will also be visiting businesses to ensure they are doing their part too, by disposing of waste correctly.

Did you know facts

- last year, we collected over 7,000 tonnes of litter; that's the weight of two and a half elephants per day
- the council cleans each high street and the 69 neighbourhood shopping centres every day
- we sweep approximately 833 kilometres of roads - if you drove that far you'd pass Aberdeen in Scotland
- it costs the council nearly £4 million per year to keep the streets clean in Barnet
- you can use any bin to put your dog mess in. Just bag it, and bin it.

What is litter?

Litter is rubbish and it makes our public spaces dirty and unpleasant. Some common types of litter around the borough are cigarette butts, chewing gum, dog fouling, cans of drink and other food waste. Make sure you put litter in its place and keep Barnet clean.

What is fly tipping?

Fly tipping is waste that is illegally dumped in public and private places, such as footpaths, highways and alleyways. Fly tipping damages the environment and poses a threat to wildlife. If you are caught, you will be fined and prosecuted.

Our planet matters

Litter can take a long time to degrade naturally and can harm local wildlife. Look at the below list and see how long it can take for some items to biodegrade.

Plastic bottles – up to 450 years

Aluminium cans – 80 to 100 years

Cigarette butts – up to 12 years

Banana skins – up to two years

Chewing gum – is not biodegradable!



If you see fly tipping or notice a spot where waste is illegally dumped, please report the problem by using www.barnet.gov.uk/keepbarnetclean or call 020 8359 4600.



How can you help? Join a community clean up

In autumn, we'll be organising a community clean up event. To register your interest, please email: parcs@barnet.gov.uk. If you can't wait until then but want to get involved in the campaign, why not join one of 'friends of the parks' groups or organise a local litter pick.

For more information, call **020 8359 4600**.

Future of the borough

We're building homes and changing lives in Barnet

Improving the lives of our residents is at the core of our ambitious growth and regeneration plan for the borough.

We are committed to supporting the housing needs of the population of Barnet and continue doing our bit to ensure that new and existing residents have access to good quality homes.

That's why we have launched a housing development programme to enable us to build a range of high quality homes, including affordable homes for rent, shared ownership homes and private homes for sale and rent, on council-owned land.

This is an exciting approach for the council that will help to meet the increasing demands for housing across the borough. The programme will be delivered through working in partnership with a number of our development partners including our joint venture partner, Re, and our housing management company, Barnet Homes.

We've currently identified approximately 60 sites, of which the first 40 sites are delivering around 600 homes over the next decade, with over 400 of them being affordable.

Key highlights:

- approximately 60 sites identified
- 40 family-sized homes for affordable rent under construction by Barnet Homes and plans for a further 320 are being developed
- planning permission granted for a 51-bed extra care housing scheme which will help older people to stay independent
- plans have been developed by Re for 289 homes, of which 36 per cent will be affordable
- 10 per cent of all homes built will be wheelchair-accessible.

Did you know?

By 2025, our growth and regeneration programme will also have generated £50 million of one-off income and more than £11 million of recurring income for the council to re-invest and spend on frontline services for residents.

“It’s been such a pleasure to watch him enjoying the big garden. His school have even told me he’s more independent now, he’s like a different child.”

My son and I will be happy here forever

In March, some families across the borough started to receive the keys to their brand new homes, built by Barnet Homes as part of the council’s housing development programme to build over 600 new homes on council owned land.

We spoke to one resident, who lives with her young son, about how much their lives have changed for the better, since moving into their new home. The resident said: “Barnet Homes thought about all of us when building this house. The house we used to live in was a massive struggle, I was injuring myself from trying to lift my son (who uses a wheelchair) into the bath and I didn’t have the strength to move him around.”

The resident described to us the difference the wheelchair-accessible home has made to her son’s quality of life. She said: “With the house built in the way it is, my son can move around and have more independence. It’s been such a pleasure to watch him enjoying the big garden. His school have even told me he’s more independent now, he’s like a different child.”

Barnet Homes has built 40 new family-sized homes for affordable rent. They were completed in June.

Speaking of her new home and the community, the resident said: “It is great too, we all moved in together and everybody is over the moon, I’m really pleased to have great neighbours. My son and I will be happy here forever.”



Models used

People

Helping residents back into work

One in four people will be diagnosed with a mental health problem during their lives. This can sometimes make it hard to secure and keep a job. We are supporting people with mental health problems to enjoy the benefits of working life.

To support our residents, we fund a partnership between charity Twining Enterprise and Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust (BEH) teams. The Barnet Individual Placement and Support service gives opportunity and hope to people with long-standing mental health problems so they can get a job and sustain employment. The success of the partnership has recently been recognised as a Centre of Excellence.

One person who has been recently helped by the service is Nicolas. Here is his story: I have been working with Twining Enterprise for a little under a year.

I was told about the organisation from my care co-ordinator at Edgware Community Hospital, as I had been looking for work for a long time. Before, I would use newspapers, recruitment agencies and the Job Centre to look for jobs but I didn't find anything. I was unaware of disclosure options and was worried about what to say and to whom. I thought that my mental health condition would prevent me from getting a job.

Whilst working with Twining I was supported with creating a CV, job searches (including vacancies direct from employer contacts and other agencies) and information on disclosing my health condition.

In my first meeting, with my Employment Specialist, we spoke about looking for a job which fits around my college course where I study furniture making. I eventually received a reply from a furniture shop and I was invited to an interview and I got the job.

I started working at the premises on a part-time basis; 15 hours over two days, which was perfect to fit around my college course.

Now that I'm at work, I get the support I need to maintain a positive work/life balance. I still meet with my employment specialist to talk through any issues I have and we work together so that I keep on top of things.

It's not always easy, but I know that I have a support team around me to help and I'm not afraid to ask for that help.

I thought having a mental health condition would restrict me from choices and I had to take what I was given. My employment specialist has been a great help to me - giving me advice and guidance but also the choice to make my own decisions. I think this has been the biggest factor, as I used to feel like choices were a luxury I didn't have.

Barnet Council fund a team of employment specialists who work within Barnet's community mental health services.



For more information about Twining Enterprise, please visit www.twiningenterprise.org.uk or email: barnet@twiningenterprise.org.uk or call 020 8840 8833.



Barnet Shared Lives

Shared Lives is a scheme that supports an adult with care needs; big or small. The scheme works in a similar way to fostering, with the carer hosting an adult in their own home for long or short periods, or providing support in other ways such as day care or respite.

Shared Lives carers are ordinary people in the community and can be from any background or any type of family.

The people they support may be older or working age, have a physical or learning disability, mental health problem or other need. The first placement for the Shared Lives scheme took place in May 2016.

Here is Pat's story:

"I live with my brother and sister-in-law and we live in a house in Whetstone. They have lived with me for 18 years since my father died. My brother and sister-in-law take care of me and give me support whenever I need it.

"My social worker thought I might like to broaden my horizons and thought it would be nice for me to go and stay with a carer in the community. My carer is very friendly and supportive and I love her dog. And I'm going to stay with her again very soon and hopefully I'll get to stay with her for a longer period in the near future.

"Staying with my carer gives my brother and sister-in-law a much needed break from looking after me as my sister-in-law's health has deteriorated over the last few months."

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The Shared Lives service is delivered by Harrow Council, in partnership with Barnet Council. If you want more information about the service call 020 8736 6070 or email: sharedlives@harrow.gov.uk



contact your councillors




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
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Full Council meetings

Tuesday 26 July, 7pm
Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, NW4

Residents Forums

Finchley and Golders Green Residents Forum
Wednesday 6 July, 6.30pm, Garden Suburb
Junior School, Childs Way NW11 6XU

Chipping Barnet Residents Forum
Wednesday 6 July, 6.30pm, Chipping Barnet
Library, 3 Stapylton Road, EN5 4QT

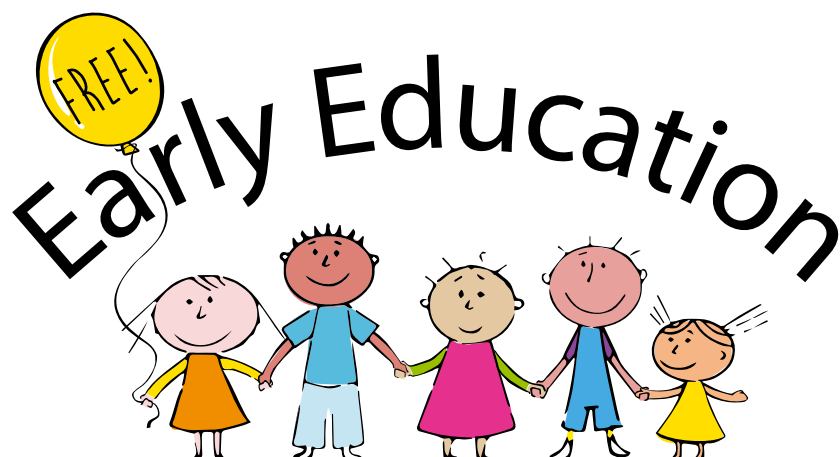
Hendon Residents Forum,
Wednesday 6 July, 6.30pm, Hendon Town Hall,
The Burroughs, NW4

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



www.barnet.gov.uk/free-childcare

Free Early Education for two-year-olds

Barnet Council is offering eligible two-year-olds free early education and childcare places for up to 15 hours per week (up to 570 hours per year).

[Claim your entitlement now](#)

www.barnet.gov.uk/free-childcare



For more information on the Free Early Education for two-year-olds please contact Barnet Family Information Service (FIS) on 0800 389 8312

Creating

27,000 homes

and up to

30,000 new jobs

whilst protecting and enhancing
what makes Barnet great



Millions of pounds are
being invested to enhance
what needs improving,
while protecting
what's valued

We're working together
to manage growth responsibly
by creating new houses, jobs
and business opportunities
to secure Barnet's future

Barnet
works
together

View of Brent Cross Shopping Centre, image supplied
by Brent Cross Cricklewood Development Partners

Find out more about growth and regeneration in Barnet and our
plans to 2020 and beyond at www.barnet.gov.uk/barnetworks