

BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH

barnetfirst

www.barnet.gov.uk

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World Cup fever comes to Barnet

Frank passes on his top tips



Elections 2006 – All the results inside

Message from the Leader



I would like to start by saying how delighted I am to have been elected by my peers as the new Leader of Barnet Council.

I have taken over at the helm during a time of great change in the borough and there will certainly be many challenges ahead.

The challenge for us is to ensure that we continue to provide excellent services whilst still offering value for money. We must also continue to invest in the future.

Demographically, the borough is looking different.

Barnet has an ageing population – there are more people aged over 70 than ever before – but we've also got a rising number of children aged under five. In the next 10 years we expect to see our population grow by 50,000.

These changes will undoubtedly place extra pressures on the council's

resources, but we are working to ensure that we are adapting our services to meet these needs.

The borough's "physical" appearance will also alter dramatically over the next 10 years or so as our major regeneration programme takes shape. Many areas of the borough are effectively being rebuilt. Our challenge is to minimise the disruption to the community and work with the Government to ensure the essential infrastructure is in place.

We will protect what is best about the borough, we will enhance our suburbs whilst carefully controlling our growth. Barnet has a proud history and a great future. I am proud of our vibrant borough and I am looking forward to the challenges ahead.

**Councillor Mike Freer
Leader of the Council**

contents



3 Your council, your views



4 Spotlight on your ward – Colindale



6 A vision for the future



7 Election round-up



11 Training childcare students



12 Ten steps to becoming a smart shopper



13 Get in the community spirit



14 Join forces to beat the drought



16 Free books for kids

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 Rachel Tansley on 020 8359 7795 or rachel.tansley@barnet.gov.uk

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The cost of designing, printing and distributing each magazine is just over 10 pence per issue.

Barnet First is also available in large print or on audio tape.

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Your council, your views

More than two thirds of Barnet's residents think the council is doing a good job, according to the annual residents survey carried out earlier this year.

The figures, taken from interviews with just over 1,000 people living in the borough, also showed that residents think more than half of council services are being delivered better than they were a year ago.

The borough ranks better than the London average for refuse collection as well as the provision of health services.

Barnet also outperforms most of London for the council's telephone contact with residents. Just 35% of respondents felt the council is difficult to contact by phone, compared to a London average of 47%.

Safety fears are again at high levels, with 40% of interviewees saying they felt very or fairly unsafe after dark. However, the council has designated 'Tackling Crime' as one of its highest priorities and is dedicated, through its work with the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership, to reducing the fear of crime.

Just 35% of respondents felt the council is difficult to contact by phone, compared to a London average of 47%.

Recent community safety initiatives have included underage sales stings to tackle sales of alcohol, knives and graffiti products, a wide-ranging domestic violence awareness course for frontline council staff, police and health workers, and extensive work to combat the problem of bogus callers.

Barnet Council commissions an extensive survey every year to gauge satisfaction levels of residents with our services. We want to know what we are doing right – and what we need to do better.

Barnet Council Chief Executive Leo Boland said: "The annual residents survey is a vitally important way of measuring how our residents perceive the services that we provide.

"We are always looking to improve and enhance the image of the council, and by analysing and acting on the results of this survey, we hope we can target problem areas and improve even further the things we are doing well."



Raising a glass to our Queen



Barnet Council held an extra special citizenship ceremony at Hendon Town Hall in April. The borough's new citizens, after swearing an oath of allegiance (left), raised a glass to the Queen on her 80th birthday and enjoyed a buffet lunch, complete with a cake.

The new citizens and their guests were welcomed by the then Mayor, Councillor Andreas Tambourides, and the Queen's representative, Colonel Stephen P. Foakes, TD, Deputy Lieutenant for the Borough of Barnet.

Barnet is the UK's fourth busiest local authority for people applying for British citizenship, with nearly 3,000 applications received by the council last year.

More information on citizenship is available by visiting www.barnet.gov.uk or by calling Barnet Council's Citizenship Team on 020 8731 1104 or 020 8731 1108.

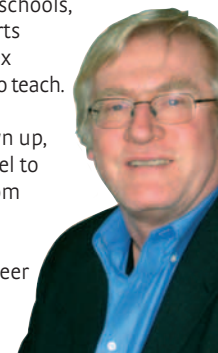
Paul appointed to expert panel

The head of Barnet Council's Children's Services has been appointed to a panel of child protection experts advising the Government on who should be barred from working with children.

Paul Fallon's appointment follows a Government enquiry into the number of registered sex offenders cleared to work in schools, commissioned after media reports identified a number of known sex offenders who had been allowed to teach.

In response, the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Bill was drawn up, which included setting up a panel to decide on barring individuals from working with children.

Paul has worked for Barnet Council since 2001 and has a career spanning 30 years in childcare.





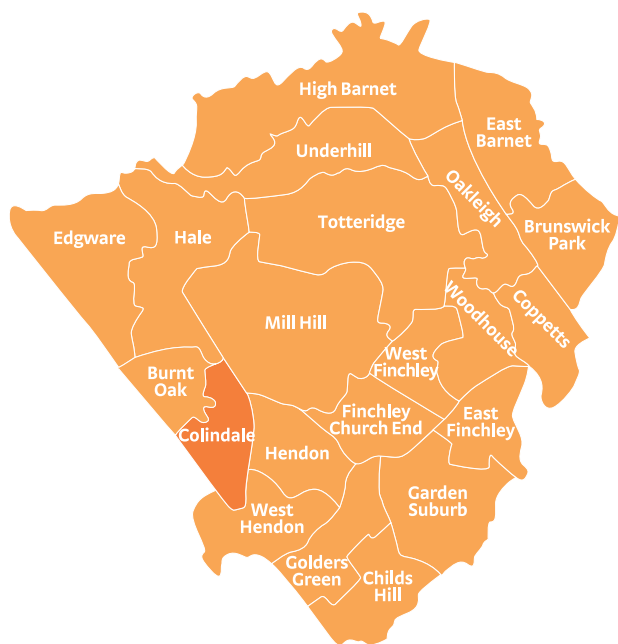
Hendon Aerodrome



Spotlight on your ward

Colindale

In this edition we look at Colindale, the borough's third smallest ward, situated in the west of Barnet.



Perhaps best known for housing some major London resources – the RAF Museum (formerly Hendon Aerodrome), Hendon police training college and the Health Protection Agency's centre for infections, Colindale takes its name from a 16th century family of the same name.

Colindeep Lane served as an important road from London in medieval times but by the 16th century was less used and called Ancient Street. The Hyde, first recorded in 1281, takes its name from a medieval measure of land. It was a small hamlet on Edgware Road by the middle of the 16th century.

Colindale Hospital opened in 1898 as the Central London District Sick Asylum. Sold in 1913 to the City of Westminster Union and renamed Hendon Infirmary, it was then taken over by the Metropolitan Asylums Board and reopened as a sanatorium for male TB cases in 1920.

In 1948, it joined the new National Health Service and under the name of Colindale Hospital, continued to specialise in TB treatment until the

1950s. The hospital closed in the 1990s.

Formerly the National Public Health Laboratory, the Health Protection Agency based its centre for infections in Colindale Avenue. To this day it still carries out major work on developments in infectious disease.

Garston's Ltd opened the first factory in Colindale in 1901 and built a row of cottages called Leatherville for its workers. Despite inventing the modern attaché case, the company mostly manufactured dog collars!

In 1902 the British Library built a new depository in Colindale Avenue and kept its newspaper collection there from 1934. Now one of the most comprehensive stores of newspapers in the world, it holds thousands of newspaper, journal and periodical titles dating back to the 17th century on over 20 miles of shelving.

During the First World War the Ministry of War built a large number of temporary warehouses in the Colindale and Hyde area. When they were sold off it brought a number of light industrial companies into the area. These included Franco

Did you know?...

- Of all of Barnet's 21 wards, Colindale has the greatest proportion of its population aged under five (8%) and the smallest population aged over 64.
- Colindale has the lowest proportion of those aged 16-74 who are self-employed and the highest proportion who are unemployed or full time students.
- Colindale has the second highest proportion of residents in households without access to a car (37.3%) and, at 84 per 100 household, the lowest rate of car ownership.
- The ward of Colindale has the second highest rate of lone parent families in the borough.
- Colindale has 13,860 residents and is the borough's third smallest ward.

* Figures taken from the 2001 census.



Illuminated Signs, who came to Aerodrome Road in 1922 and were known for the neon signs found in Piccadilly, and Frigidaire, who sold the first fridges in England.

Hendon Aerodrome was established in 1910 by Claude Grahame White and taken over by the RAF in 1916, who staged aerial pageants there during the 1920s and 30s.

During 1940 the aerodrome became a fighter base during the Battle of Britain, but it was mostly used as an airport for foreign dignitaries coming to London.

The last plane landed at Hendon in 1968 and in 1972 the RAF Museum was officially opened by the Queen. Over 100 full size aircraft are now on display, including a Lancaster Bomber.

Hendon Police College (now the Peel Centre) opened in 1934. The brainchild of Lord Trenchard (former Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis), the college was founded on a modern and scientific approach to training. There were forensic laboratories, detective training

facilities, and a police driving school. The new Peel Centre, named after Sir Robert Peel, opened in 1974. It is now the main centre for training the Metropolitan Police throughout London.

In 1964 the Ministry of Housing and local government approved a joint scheme by Barnet Council and the Greater London Council to create a new town with 6,550 homes. Named after Claude Grahame White, the first family moved onto Grahame Park in October 1971.

The estate is now being regenerated as part of work to transform Barnet's four largest housing estates. Nearly 3,000 new homes will be built on Grahame Park, forming part of a new heart for Colindale.

Alongside the estate's renewal, major development is planned on a number of other sites in Colindale. These include the former aerodrome at RAF East Camp, where 2,800 new homes will be provided, and Aerodrome Road where the council has secured £7m of funding to replace two railway bridges.

What's in Colindale?

Schools

- Beis Yaakov Primary School, Edgware Road
- Blessed Dominic Roman Catholic Primary School, Lanacre Avenue
- Colindale Primary School, Poolsford Road
- The Orion Primary School, Lanacre Avenue
- St James' Catholic High School, Great Strand

Other

- Flightways Resource Centre (council-run day centre for people with physical disabilities and sensory impairments), The Concourse
- Grahame Park Area Housing Office, The Concourse
- Grahame Park Library, The Concourse
- Rushgrove Park, Rushgrove Avenue (facilities include a children's play area and tennis courts).
- Booth Road allotments
- Grahame Park Youth Centre, Corner Mead, Grahame Park Way
- Grahame Park all-weather pitch, Great Strand
- Colindale Park

Your councillors

As with all of Barnet's 21 wards, Colindale has three elected members, or councillors, who have been elected by the ward's residents to represent them. Councillors stand for four years at a time.

Cllr Danish Chopra (Lab) has been a councillor since 1996.

T: 8449 9046

F: 8449 9046

E: cldr.d.chopra@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Gill Sargeant (Lab) has served the ward for 12 years, having been elected in 1994.

T: 8455 1070

E: cllr.g.sargeant@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Zakia Zubairi (Lab) was elected to the council last year.

T: 8959 4091

F: 8201 1361

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Meet your councillors

Barnet's councillors hold regular surgeries to give residents the chance to discuss any topics they wish to raise.

You can meet your Colindale councillors on Saturdays at Grahame Park Library in The Concourse from 10 to 11am. No appointment is necessary.

A vision for the future

The people of Barnet will be given the chance to mould the future of the borough through a series of initiatives aimed at increasing civic pride.

The launch of the 2006-2016 Sustainable Community Strategy will encourage residents to make better use of public transport, engage in volunteering activities and become involved in keeping their local areas clean and tidy.

Barnet is an incredibly diverse and multi-cultural borough with nearly a third of a million residents and over 20 individual town centres. More than a quarter of the population belong to a minority ethnic community – Barnet has the highest number of Chinese residents in London, and the highest proportion of Jewish residents in the country.

The strategy has been put together with the borough's diverse communities in mind, and Barnet Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) hopes to see volunteers from all areas and backgrounds taking part in initiatives planned over the coming months.

The LSP is made up of a range of organisations and agencies in Barnet, including the council, police, Barnet Primary Care Trust and Brent Cross Shopping Centre. It also includes community and voluntary organisations representing various groups, such as the young, old, faith and the BME community. It regularly meets to discuss the best ways of tackling issues of local importance.

The 10-year strategy was compiled by the LSP with the aim of developing Barnet into a first-class suburb and a place where people enjoy living and working.

It looks at the current and future challenges facing the borough, especially around the planned growth in

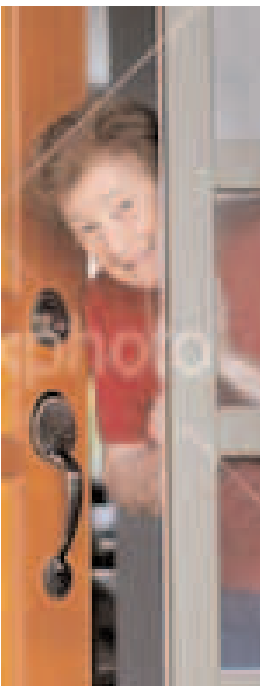


population through the council's major regeneration schemes, and sets out a list of goals to achieve during the next decade.

The publication of the strategy followed wide consultation with residents, businesses, voluntary and community groups.

You can view copies by visiting the council website, www.barnet.gov.uk, calling 020 8359 7011 or e-mailing communitystrategy@barnet.gov.uk. Keep checking the website for ways you can get involved in achieving the strategy's goals.

If in doubt – keep them out



Barnet Safer Communities Partnership is taking action against bogus callers who make the lives of countless residents in the borough a misery.

Conmen have been tricking their way into homes by claiming to work for utility companies, the council or police, and, once inside, stealing large amounts of cash.

Joint operations by the council's trading standards department, the police and London Fire Brigade have been targeting hotspots around the borough, advising residents and carrying out high visibility patrols to deter would-be conmen.

A conference is also planned for September, to raise awareness of the issues surrounding bogus calling among front line staff.

The partnership is dedicated to stopping the blight of bogus calling, as it is a crime which deliberately targets some of the most elderly and vulnerable members of the community.

Council leader, Mike Freer, says: "Bogus calling is a big problem in Barnet as there is a large elderly population and a lot of residential properties.

"It is vital that people living in the borough are aware that these criminals are out there and will often appear very charming and helpful – don't be fooled. Make sure you ask for ID and if you are not satisfied, **DO NOT** let them in to your house."

Help yourself!



Barnet's older residents can now find out everything they need to know about staying healthy and getting the most out of life.

"Help Yourself" is a **free** guide brimming with ideas and information for over-55s in the borough. It's full of information on a wide range of topics, including leisure, health, money matters and support for carers.

The guide has been produced by the council's adult social services department, in partnership with Barnet Primary Care Trust.

It's already available in libraries and adult social services offices around the borough. Alternatively, request a copy by writing to the Communications Manager, Adult Social Services, Barnet House, 1255 High Road, London N20 0EJ, phone 020 8359 4463 or email: help.yourself@barnet.gov.uk. Or visit the health and social care section of our website – www.barnet.gov.uk.

Election round-up

Barnet residents went to the polls on a bright sunny day on 4 May to elect their councillors for the next four years.

Voting took place at 162 polling stations across the borough as electors decided who should represent each of Barnet's 21 wards.

A total of 219 candidates put themselves forward and the three collecting the most votes in each ward were elected to the council.

Going into the election, Barnet was represented by 31 Conservative councillors, 24 Labour and 7 Liberal Democrats. One seat was vacant.

Polling stations closed at 10pm and after all the votes had been counted the picture had changed.

Now the borough has the following political makeup:

Conservative – 37 seats

Labour – 20 seats

Liberal Democrats – 6 seats

The Conservative group has a majority of 11.

It is important that as many people as possible vote in local elections, because the council is responsible for many services that are used every day, including:

- schools
- social services
- roads and pavements
- parks
- Council Tax
- libraries
- planning
- housing
- recycling.



This year voter turnout was up on the previous two full council elections – overall turnout was 41.65%, much higher than 34% in 2002 and 35.7% in 1998.

Turnout was highest in the High Barnet ward, where 49.95% of eligible residents cast a vote, and lowest in Colindale, where 30.99% voted.

More people also chose to cast their vote from home this year. The council issued 33,892 postal votes – a record for a council election in the borough.

Borough election results: 1964 – 2006

The present London boroughs were created under the Local Government Act 1963 and the first elections for the new councils were held in 1964. Initially elections were held every three years. They are now held every four years. In 1964 Barnet was represented by 56 councillors. This was increased to 60 and following boundary changes before 2002's elections, to 63.

Number of councillors for each party 1964-2002

Year	Con	Lab	LD	Other	Turnout %
1964	37	13	6	-	46.1
1968	56	3	1	-	40.8
1971	43	17	-	-	36.8
1974	42	17	-	1	39.1
1978	49	10	-	1	43.6
1982	48	12	-	-	43.3
1986	39	18	3	-	42.0
1990	39	18	3	-	50.0
1994	29	25	6	-	45.4
1998	28	26	6	-	35.7
2002	33	24	6	-	34.0
2006	37	20	6	-	41.6



Group leaders and Cabinet details

Leader of the Council and Conservative group leader
Mike Freer

Deputy Leader of the Council and Conservative group deputy leader
Matthew Offord

Leader of the Opposition and Labour group leader
Alison Moore

Labour group deputy leader
Linda McFadyen

Liberal Democrat group leader
Monroe Palmer

Liberal Democrat group deputy leader
Wayne Casey

Cabinet Member for Children
Christopher Harris (Con)

Cabinet Member for Policy and Performance (including partnerships, law and probity and customer care)
Lynne Hillan (Con)

Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning, Youth and Early Years
John Marshall (Con)

Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport
Matthew Offord (Con)

Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development (including town centre regeneration)
Anthony Finn (Con)

Cabinet Member for Community Services
Fiona Bulmer (Con)

Cabinet Member for Planning and Environmental Protection
Melvin Cohen (Con)

Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Community Engagement
Brian Coleman (Con)

Cabinet Member for Public Health
Helena Hart (Con)

Your councillors

Councillors represent the interests of ALL residents. Their political party is given for your information. You can write to councillors at: The Town Hall, The Burroughs, Hendon NW4 4BG. All codes are 020 unless otherwise indicated. Councillors surgery details will be printed in the next issue of Barnet First.

Key: Lib. Dem = Liberal Democrat T = telephone M = mobile telephone F = fax E = e-mail

Brunswick Park Ward

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Conservative



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F: 8446 8634
E: cllr.l.hillan@barnet.gov.uk

Lisa Rutter
Conservative



T: 8445 3829
E: cllr.l.rutter@barnet.gov.uk

Andreas Tambourides
Conservative



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Edgware Ward

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Conservative



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Lib. Dem



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Conservative

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Election trivia

- The election was managed under the direction of the Returning Officer, Barnet Council's Chief Executive Leo Boland. He was assisted by Deputy Returning Officers at each of the three counting centres.
- There were 162 polling stations used between 7am and 10pm, manned by 483 staff.
- A total of 216,717 people were registered to vote this year. In 2002 there were 201,568 registered voters.
- A total of 33,892 postal votes were issued this year, a record for council elections in Barnet. The previous highest was 29,195 in 2002.
- There were 219 candidates standing in the election. The Conservative and Labour parties contested every seat. There were three Liberal Democrat candidates in each ward except one. The Green Party contested every ward and the UK Independence Party one. There was one Victory United candidate and two candidates standing as Independents.



How the votes are counted

When the polls close at 10pm, presiding officers at polling stations seal and deliver boxes to the Returning Officer at the counting centre. Postal votes handed in at the polling station are also delivered.

The count for each ward is carried out on separate tables. Each candidate can appoint one Counting Agent to observe the counting of votes in that particular ward. They sit opposite the clerks counting the votes. They are not allowed to touch the ballot papers and are bound by the secrecy rules governing the election. The number of ballot papers in each box are counted to make sure the figure agrees with the number of ballot papers issued at the polling station. This is called verification. Any postal votes handed in are then opened in the presence of agents and added to those received and opened earlier before being sealed in a ballot box and going to the count table for verification.

When the figures are agreed with Election Agents, all the papers are redistributed to Counting Clerks. Counting Clerks then sort the ballot papers, separating "block votes"

(where a voter has cast all three votes for the same party) from the "cross votes" (where a voter has used less than three votes or voted for different parties). Unclear ballot papers are put aside for adjudication. The Returning Officer can reject any ballot paper where the voter's intention is unclear or where the paper has been improperly marked. Candidates and their agents have an opportunity to give their views on these doubtful papers.

The block vote ballot papers are counted into bundles of 100 and placed in rows clearly labelled under the parties' names. The cross vote ballot papers are counted using enumeration sheets. First they are sorted into those with three, two and one vote respectively. This enables the actual number of votes to be calculated. Then two Counting Clerks work together, with one calling out the name of each candidate given a vote on each ballot paper and the other marking off against the names on the sheet. Each sheet records votes cast for all candidates until one has 100 votes. Another sheet is

then started. These are then added up and added to the control sheet for the count.

Ballot papers are kept with the sheet on which they have been marked off so they can be checked again if necessary. The count continues in this way until all votes are counted.

If the result is queried, i.e. if the numbers are close, a full recount could be called for. There can be any number of recounts, but the Returning Officer can stop this process and declare a result if he feels further demands for recounts are unreasonable.

If, after recounts, votes for the third and fourth-placed candidates are equal, the election would be decided by the drawing of lots. This is extremely rare. Once the count is completed, the Returning Officer declares the result, giving the number of valid votes cast for each candidate together with the total number of rejected ballot papers. Finally the Returning Officer seals all the ballot papers and places them among the council records. After six months, these and all documents relating to the poll are destroyed.



Innovative partnership to train childcare students

Barnet Council has teamed up with Barnet College to help childcare students learn their trade.



Students enrolled on the college's two-year childcare course can now gain vital experience by "working" alongside a registered and quality assured childminder in the borough.

As part of their studies, childcare students have always had to spend part of their course doing work experience. But traditionally their placements have been in "group" settings like nurseries, rather than with registered childminders who work in their own homes.

Eight childminders have already been recruited to take part in the innovative partnership, and the first placements will start in September.

The project has already gained the attention

of the National Childminding Association which has hailed the scheme as a model of good practice and will be using Barnet as a case study in its publications.

Sharon Hill, one of the council's Childminding Network Co-ordinators, said: "This is an excellent opportunity for registered childminders to help to train new childcare workers.

"The childminders have a wealth of professional and life experiences of working alongside parents and carers and will be sharing their knowledge."

"This is an excellent opportunity for registered childminders to help to train new childcare workers."

The childminders all belong to one of Barnet's childminding networks, which run a quality assurance scheme called Children Come First. This is a formal group of registered childminders who are assessed, monitored and supported by a Network Co-ordinator employed by the council.

The childminders are self-employed like all other childminders, but the Networks provide access to additional training and advice to help them reach and maintain standards higher than the minimum standards laid down by OfSTED (the Government department responsible for registering childminders).



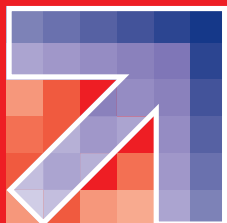
Barnet's new Mayor

Eva Greenspan is the new Mayor of Barnet.

Councillor Greenspan, who serves the Finchley Church End ward, was elected by her fellow councillors at the council's Annual Meeting last month.

During her year in office she will be raising money for the Variety Club. She has been a councillor since 1990.

Councillor Terence Burton is the new Deputy Mayor.



Barnet College

Taking you to where you want to be

Don't miss out...

Our new 06/07 part-time course guide is out now

Whether you want to improve your qualifications or career prospects, return to study or simply learn for pleasure, at Barnet College you can be sure of a warm welcome, dedicated staff and the desire to take you that little bit further.

What's more, if your course does not require an interview you can enrol now and pick up an Early-bird* discount on your fees.

To find out more, drop into any of our College centres log onto www.barnet.ac.uk or call the number below.

*terms and conditions apply - see our part-time course guide.

Course Information

020 8266 4000

Typetalk for people who are Deaf/hearing impaired: 18001 020 8200 8300

info@barnet.co.uk

www.barnet.ac.uk

Ten steps to becoming a smart shopper

Even though we recycled more than ever last year, an incredible 27%, the reality is that we're also producing more rubbish than ever before.



Recycling reduces the amount of waste being landfilled but it does not reduce the amount of waste we all produce.

Projections show a worrying trend – nationally the amount of waste produced per household could rise by 3% per year, which means that in 10 years time we could be producing 50,000 tonnes more waste than we are now!

We all need to take a look at the waste we produce and try to reduce it – or we could be facing a losing battle against ever increasing waste mountains.

Waste prevention not only reduces the amount of waste produced but saves:

- raw materials used to make it in the first place
- transport of materials
- energy.

You can help by following these 10 steps and becoming a smart shopper!:

- 1: Take your own bag to the shops – Barnet Council is giving away reusable cloth bags in local libraries during July.
- 2: Choose products according to the amount of packaging they have: NO packaging (loose fruit and veg) > cardboard or packaging made from sustainable materials > little packaging > and, as a last resort, plastic packaging.
- 3: Buy energy efficient light bulbs – saves money and helps the environment.
- 4: Sign up to a veggie box service – no packaging and fruit and veg delivered to your door. Visit www.barnet.gov.uk/recycling for a list of suppliers.
- 5: Return to the good old days. Use your local milk man and have your milk delivered. This reduces the amount of plastic waste that you are producing. Visit www.findmeamilkman.net or email your name, address and postcode to info@dairyuk.org
- 6: Buy rechargeable batteries – this cuts down on the amount of chemicals entering the waste stream and saves money.
- 7: Buy products made of recycled or sustainable materials.
- 8: Avoid buying disposable items such as paper napkins and plastic cups.
- 9: “No waste lunch” – make your lunch a sustainable one. Buy a reusable lunch box or better still reuse a plastic box container. Fill it with your lunch in reusable containers – you can buy food in bulk and cut down on packaging.
- 10: Choose real nappies – a practical, easy-to-use alternative to disposables. A £54.15 subsidy is available to get you started.

Further information on waste prevention and recycling is available on 020 8359 7400, e: recycling@barnet.gov.uk or visit: www.barnet.gov.uk/recycling.

Putting the Community First



Make it easier on yourself.
Do more at www.barnet.gov.uk

- Apply for a council job
- Check out:
 - school term dates
 - school holiday and after school activities and childcare
 - your rubbish and recycling collection dates
- Pay:
 - Council Tax
 - parking tickets

• Renew library books

- Report:
 - abandoned vehicles
 - fly tipping
 - graffiti
 - potholes
 - faulty street lights
 - problem pavements
 - noise nuisance

And much more!

Raising accommodation standards

Barnet is playing its part in a drive to raise standards of rented accommodation across the country.

Landlords who let large houses of three or more floors, occupied by at least five tenants, and split into more than one household, now have to apply for a licence or face stern consequences.

To grant a licence the council must be satisfied that:

- the accommodation meets all minimum standards, such as repair and fire safety and has sufficient number of toilets, bathrooms and kitchens
- properties and tenancies are managed appropriately
- landlords or managing agents are “fit and proper” people. Applicants will be asked to provide details of any unspent convictions for offences involving fraud, dishonesty, violence, drugs, discrimination or breaches of law relating to housing.

Licences can be issued with conditions attached to ensure high standards are maintained.

Landlords who fail to apply for licences by 3 July this year face fines of up to £20,000, a criminal record and can be forced to repay rent.

Barnet Council’s Cabinet Member for Planning and Environmental Protection, Councillor Melvin Cohen said: “We recognise that large properties in multiple occupation provide much-needed affordable housing, particularly for younger people in our borough.

“However, tenants in larger shared properties can be more vulnerable to poor housing conditions.

“We want to work with landlords to drive up standards and eliminate poor quality accommodation.”

For more information on mandatory licensing and to check whether your property will need a licence, visit www.propertylicence.gov.uk

To apply for a licence for a property in the borough, call the Private Sector Housing Team on 020 8359 7997 or email us at HMOs@barnet.gov.uk.



Get in the community spirit

Why not get down to your local park this summer and enjoy one of Barnet's community festivals?

The festivals are organised for the benefit of local residents and aim to celebrate the area where they are held.

All the festivals will feature local stalls with information, games, fantastic food and great things to buy. Most have bars where you can chill out with a drink while watching the stage entertainment, including bands, local dance schools, street dance and other hot acts to entertain the whole family.

There's also plenty to keep the children occupied with everything from

climbing walls and clowning to fun fairs and face-painting. The festival in East Barnet will also have an artsdepot Arts Tent where there will be engaging free activities for both children and parents.

The festivals are all organised by volunteers so why not show your support? Barnet Council values and works closely with these festivals, making sure the parks are clean and prepared, helping with licensing and other advice, and supporting some with equipment and infrastructure.

Festival programme

Sat 1 – Sun 2 July	East Barnet, Oakhill Park, Church Hill Road
Thurs 13 – Sun 16 July	Finchley Carnival, Victoria Park, Ballards Lane
Sat 19 – Sun 20 August	Friern Barnet Summer Show, Friary Park, Friern Barnet Lane

Further festivals will be announced in West Hendon and Grahame Park.

A helping hand from the Milly Apthorp Trust

A charity named after a local lady with a generous heart not only helps disabled people to enjoy a holiday but also lets young people experience the adventure of a lifetime!

Milly Apthorp, whose son John founded Bejam Frozen Foods, lived in Barnet for most of her life. The charitable trust was set up in 1982.

The Milly Apthorp Holidays Together Award enables physically-disabled people and their carers to take a break in the UK or Europe.

Applicants must be aged nine or over, be physically disabled and live in the borough. They must receive both income-related and disability-related benefits; applicants on a low income will also be considered.

The trust also offers low-income young residents aged 11-25 the chance to broaden their horizons with an adventurous trip in the UK, e.g. camping, sailing or rock climbing with a youth group or as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, or by taking part in voluntary work overseas, such as community service or working with children. Previous successful applicants have worked in south America, Africa, Asia, Europe and the Caribbean.

For more information contact the Grants Unit, Town Hall, The Burroughs, Hendon or call 020 8359 2092.

Children's Information Service gets national seal of approval

Barnet Children's Information Service (CIS) has received a prestigious award for its high quality service.

The award from the NACIS (National Association of CISs) is given to services that meet the association's high standards and exceed minimum standards required by Sure Start.

The association concluded: "Barnet CIS is providing a good service... They have established a professional and credible profile with statutory and voluntary partners, together with a real appreciation of what parents in Barnet want."

Barnet CIS is the first point of contact for parents enquiring about children's services in the borough, and for childcare businesses requiring information and support in setting up and running successfully.

For more information, call freephone 0800 389 8312.

Get down...to the sound of the suburbs!



Music please maestro: Huw Lloyd-Langton from Hawkwind and The Savages star, Tony Dangerfield, visit the exhibition.

You can find out more about the history of popular music in the borough at Hendon's Church Farmhouse Museum.

The Sound of the Suburbs runs until early September and includes material on musicians who have links with the borough, including George Michael, Fairport Convention, The Kinks and Marc Bolan.

Renowned music venues including the Torrington Arms in North Finchley also come under the spotlight in the exhibition, as well as links with the famed guitar manufacturers Fender – who were based in Barnet for many years.

As well as a look back at the history of pop music in Barnet, the museum is also providing information on up-and-coming bands from the area, and hosting a number of gigs at nearby venues in Hendon over the summer.



Join forces to beat the drought



As the temperature hots up, many of us get our gardening gloves out to enjoy the summer evenings, turning our gardens into sanctuaries for relaxation and enjoyment.

One thing's for sure – if you love your garden then you love water too, but there's a stark warning from the Environment Agency this year not to take water for granted.

The south-east of England is experiencing one of the worst droughts in 100 years and seven water companies, including Three Valleys Water and Thames Water, have hosepipe bans in place. But what does this actually mean for you?

By following these three simple steps, you can ensure you stay within the law and help protect our natural environment:

- 1

START using a watering can or use a hosepipe and make use of rain water collected in a water butt.

STOP using your hosepipe connected to a tap to water your garden.
- 2

START using a sponge and bucket to wash your car or take your car to a commercial car wash.

STOP using your hosepipe to wash your car (including a motorbike or any vehicle that is drawn behind a car).
- 3

START thinking about how you can save water.

STOP wasting water. Before you connect your hosepipe to a fresh water tap, think before you use the water. Do you really need to use a hose to carry out your task? If you can use an alternative, such as a bucket of water, please consider this first.

Three Valleys Water and Thames Water are offering water butts, to collect rain water for use in the garden, at discounted rates:

- Three Valleys Water sells water butts at £34.95 (RRP £65.80) for the whole kit: 190 litre water butt with child safe lid, water butt stand and rain diverter kit. To order phone 0845 130 8383, quoting reference THRO4C. More information is available at www.3valleys.co.uk/water_butt/water_butt_offer
- Thames Water sells the different parts individually: 190 litre water butt with child safe lid at £19.95, water butt stand at £10 and rain diverter kit at £5 (total cost £34.95). You can order by phoning 0845 658 0055 or logging on to: www.getcomposting.com/thames/index2.htm

Water – essential for life, don't take it for granted!

Often the perception of Britain is that "it's always raining" but in reality there are marked regional variations in rainfall and the south-east of England, with over 17 million people, receives less rain per head than Morocco!

Many of us have fast lifestyles and the use of appliances such as washing machines and dishwashers are designed to make our lives easier. But the problem is that in the space of 50 years our water consumption has doubled.

As much as 30% of tap water is used within the bathroom, the majority of which is simply flushed down the toilet.

So spare a thought for the environment. Saving water is easy to do, check out our tips and you can do it too!

- Take a short, sharp shower instead of a bath – a bath uses 85 litres of water, while a quick shower uses 35
- Don't let the tap run while brushing your teeth or shaving – this can save up to 14 litres of water each time
- Fix dripping taps and leaking appliances or pipes
- Use dishwashers and washing machines only

when they are full and on the economy wash

- Wash vegetables in a bowl rather than under a running tap and use the leftovers for watering your garden
- Don't flush the loo if you don't need to
- If you have an old toilet cistern, use a water saving device, such as a 'hippo', which reduces the amount of water used in each flush
- Use washing up water to rinse out cans and bottles for recycling
- Keep a jug of ice-cold water on the go in the fridge, this avoids needing to run the tap until the water gets cold each time you want a drink.

How we're conserving water

Barnet Council is doing its bit to use less water:

- We are watering plants and turf early morning or late evening.
- We've added Swell Gel to some of our key plantings – the granules help to keep plants moist by absorbing and retaining up to 400 times their weight in water
- We are reviewing our planting schedule to see if we can use more drought-resistant plants.

What's on in Barnet during July and August



Miscellaneous

Canoeing for ages 10+

Thursday evenings. Also, Monday evenings, other boatwork and adventurous activities. Southgate and Barnet Sea Cadets, Osidge Lane, Southgate. Contact Lt (SCC) Nina L Villa RNR at Turnip09@hotmail.com or call: 020 8367 4779. Cost: £8 per month. New cadets aged 12-18 always welcome. Adult helpers/committee members/administrators always required.

Cuban Salsa Classes

Eight week course for beginners. West Hendon. For more info contact Seema on 07950 958 712.

Tower Openings

St John Baptist Church, Wood Street, Barnet. Open: 10.30am-1.30pm: July 1,8,15,22,29, August 5,12,19,26 (closes 1.15pm). Children: £1, adults: £2, family: £5 to climb the tower, unique views from the top! Refreshments available. Music recitals at some events.

Barnet Youth Hostel Association Group

Every Tuesday evening at Discovery Hall, Stevenson Close, Netherlands Road, Barnet. Visit: www.barnetyha.org or telephone Dave on 020 8449 1553 or Sue on 01707 274248 for details. Walking weekends + day and evening walks and weekly meetings.

Chipping Barnet Library Sale

29 July – 6 August

3 Stapylton Road, Barnet, EN5 4QT. Phone 020 8359 4040 for details.

Arts

East Finchley Open Summer Open Studios

1-2 July

The EFO produces a wide range of original artwork including painting, photography, ceramics, sculpture, jewellery and textiles. It will be opening its houses/studios for the weekend. For more information please call David on 020 8883 5997. The event is free.

Theatre

Virginia's Wolf and J'son and the Argonauts

28 July – 30 July and 1-6 August

Chicken Shed Studio Theatre, Chase Side, Southgate, N14 4PE. Performances of Virginia's Wolf (for 0-5 years) at 9.30am and 1pm, alternating with J'son and The Argonauts (for 5-9 years) at 11.15am and 2.45pm. Shows are 50 minutes with no interval. Box office: 020 8292 9222/minicom: 020 8350 0676. Virginia's Wolf and J'son And The Argonauts transport children and adults alike to an exciting musical world where everyone can share in the theatrical magic together. Prices: £6/£4 concessions, family of four: £16, groups of 25 plus: £4

Music

Sound of the Suburbs

29 April – 10 September

Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon, NW4. The history of pop and rock music in Barnet. Details/opening times: 020 8203 0130.

Finchley Chamber Choir/Finchley Chamber Orchestra Concert

8 July 7.45pm

Trinity Church, Nether Street, Tally Ho Corner, N12 7NN. Cost: adults £12/£9 conc. Info/tickets: 020 8440 1899.

Fauré Requiem

18 July 7.30pm

Finchley Choral Society Concert, Church of St. Jude-on-the-Hill, Central Square, NW11. Cost: £10. Box Office: 020 846 9230. Tickets available at door but pre-booking recommended.

Concert of English Song

11 July 8pm

North West Reform Synagogue, Alyth Gardens, NW11. Alyth Choral Society's summer concert celebrating 350 years of English music. Tickets: £15/£10 concessions, including refreshments.

Mini Music Club

Until 20 July

Wesley Hall, behind Spire Shopping Centre, Barnet, EN5 4JJ. Professional music fun for babies and toddlers in Barnet. £5 per family. For more information visit: www.MiniMusicClub.co.uk

Library/Literacy

Grahame Park Library Sale

18 July – 22 July

The Concourse, Grahame Park, Colindale, NW9 5XL. Phone 020 8200 0470 for details.

Council meetings – dates for your diary

Meetings are open to the public and are generally held at the Town Hall, Hendon, starting at 7pm, unless otherwise stated. The Area Forums 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, apart from Cabinet or Council meetings. Further information can be obtained by contacting Democratic Services.

July

- 3 Tackling Crime and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 5 Planning and Environment Committee
- 13 Edgware, Burnt Oak and Mill Hill Area Forum
- 13 Whetstone Area Forum
- 13 Golders Green and Childs Hill Area Forum
- 17 Supporting the Vulnerable in our Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 18 Chipping Barnet Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 19 Hendon Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 20 Finchley and Golders Green Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 24 Cabinet
- 25 First Class Education and Children Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 26 Hendon Area Forum
- 26 Barnet Area Forum
- 26 Finchley Area Forum
- 26 Resources, Performance and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 27 Cleaner, Greener, Transport and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 27 Cabinet Resources Committee
- 31 Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee

August

- 1 Planning and Environment Committee
- 15 Chipping Barnet Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 16 Hendon Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 17 Finchley and Golders Green Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 30 Planning and Environment Committee

Do you live in Barnet and have a child under four...?

...then don't forget to pop along to your local library and collect a free Bookstart pack



Bookstart is a national programme, run by the Booktrust charity, providing free books to babies, toddlers and three-year-olds together with guidance materials for parents and carers.

The Barnet scheme is co-ordinated by Barnet Library Service and we've

been giving free packs of books to babies for over five years. The project has now been extended:

- Baby Bookstart packs are normally distributed by health visitors to babies aged six to nine months, but are also available from all Barnet libraries. The pack includes a shoulder bag, two board books, a nursery rhyme book, information for parents on sharing books and Barnet's library service.

- Bookstart PLUS packs are for toddlers aged between 18 and 30 months. They contain two books, drawing materials, a wall frieze and a set of bookplates to encourage children to build their own book collection. Packs are available at all Barnet libraries. Vouchers are

also distributed by health visitors, although a voucher is not essential to collect a pack.

- My Bookstart Treasure Chest is for children aged between three and four and contains two picture books, pencils, a sharpener, scribble pad or colouring book and bookplates. Chests are distributed through nurseries and pre schools, usually in the form of a voucher which can be redeemed at the library.

Sarah Ginn, the council's Bookstart Liaison Officer, says: "Research has shown that introducing children to books at an early age helps to develop the motivation, concentration and attention that are necessary for learning."

For more information about Bookstart ring Sarah on 020 8359 7771 or email sarah.ginn@barnet.gov.uk

Remember: It's free to become a library member and children can join at any age. Barnet Libraries do not charge fines on overdue children's books. Baby Rhyme Time and Storytime sessions are run in libraries throughout the borough.

School admissions...at the click of a mouse!

If you live in Barnet you will soon be able to apply for your child's school place online.

If your child is due to start school in a reception class in 2007, or transfer from primary to secondary school in 2007, you need to apply for a school place.

The secure on-line system will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week from 4 September and the application forms should only take between five and 10 minutes to complete.

Once an application has been submitted on-line, parents will be able to log back into the system and change their application, right up to the closing dates:

Secondary 20 October 2006
Primary 12 January 2007

Results of applications will be posted to parents on Offer Days:

Secondary 1 March 2007
Primary 22 April 2007

While many parents and carers may find it easier to apply online, paper application forms will still be available from the School Organisation and Admissions Team on 020 8359 7651. For further information please visit www.barnet.gov.uk/school-admissions. Guides to primary and secondary education are also available online.



Frank proves a hit with pupils!

Chelsea star Frank Lampard took a break from his World Cup preparations to pass on some of his knowledge to pupils at Clitterhouse Junior School recently.

Frank, who has just celebrated winning the Premiership for the second year running, spent an afternoon at the Cricklewood school coaching 60 of its pupils.

The event was organised as part of the Tesco Sport for Schools and Clubs scheme.

Statement of Accounts

A full copy of the council's audited Statement of Accounts is now available online at www.barnet.gov.uk.

The council is also producing a summarised version of the accounts for consultation. Copies will be available online from July onwards, and hard copies can be picked up in libraries from July/August.

This is the first time the council has produced summarised accounts, and we want to know what people think.

The document includes a feedback form at the end. Please spare a few minutes to complete it as it will help us to provide information that you want to know regarding the council's finances in the future.