



Monkey business for the Mayor

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Production details

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Message from the Leader

One of the criticisms often levelled at town centres across the country is the gradual erosion of independent stores, as they are replaced by large chains and lines of coffee shops.

In Barnet, we are proud of our town centres and the large number of vibrant and interesting retail outlets and have no plans to create any more clone towns like those we see springing up around the country.

To make sure we continue to be a successful suburb and stay at the forefront of protecting suburban heritage, I have asked the council's planning officers to start investigating ways of protecting smaller shops and ensuring that our traditional town centres stay as they are.

Already, our Unitary Development Plan (UDP) means that in most of Barnet's town centres, there is a rule to ensure that at least 65 per cent of the retail frontage area is taken up by shops, as opposed to cafés, restaurants and takeaways, but I hope we can do even more.

While the council cannot affect certain factors – such as rising rents and business rates – which have been key in changing the face of the high street, we will be exploring the possibility of working to ensure a range of 'affordable retail' continues to flourish on our high streets.

I feel that we have a unique opportunity now, as we look to create new town centres through regeneration and grow our existing town centres, which we must grasp with both hands to ensure that future generations are able to continue enjoying our town centres for their unique charm.

And may I also take this opportunity as we step into 2008 to wish all our residents a happy and healthy year.



Library project to revolutionise customer service

A popular library will undergo a major revamp after plans were given the green light in December.

Burnt Oak Library will be completely refurbished next spring to create a new leading library and customer service centre that will meet the needs of people living in or around Burnt Oak. This project is part of the council's commitment to create a network of leading libraries.

The £1m redevelopment project will enable visitors to access a wide range of services, from housing advice and Council Tax to paying bills online with onsite internet access.

The library will provide increased access to internet services, telephone points for other council services and study areas.

The redevelopment is expected to start in March/April 2008, with the library being closed for a period of four to five months. During this time, people wanting to access library services should use the facilities at Grahame Park and Edgware, both located on good public transport links from Burnt Oak.

Councillor Andrew Harper, Cabinet Member for Policy and Performance, said: "Developing Burnt Oak Library to create not only a brand new leading library but also a customer service centre is a major step in supporting more vulnerable people in the borough.

"Local residents previously travelling further to access services will be able to stay more in touch with council services and be reassured that we are meeting their needs as close to their home as possible."



Residents in the west of the borough can look forward to state-of-the-art library and customer service facilities when Burnt Oak Library is revamped

Councillor John Marshall, Cabinet Member for Investment in Learning, said: "The prospect of a new leading library in the borough is a great opportunity for local residents of any age to access a fantastic new library. This will give children, young people and adults a brighter future in learning."

To have your say on the services that will be provided at Burnt Oak, please pick up a questionnaire at your local council access centre or Burnt Oak Library, or complete it online by visiting www.barnet.gov.uk

For more information on how to get involved, please contact Zoë Miranda, Communications Officer, on 020 8359 2224 or email burnt.oak@barnet.gov.uk

Planning solutions for north London's waste

In north London alone, enough waste is collected annually to fill Arsenal Football Club's massive new Emirates Stadium, top to bottom, twice over.

Dealing with this waste requires new facilities and communities are now required to take more responsibility for what they produce by managing, recycling and treating more of the waste in the areas where it is produced, rather than sending it to landfill. This presents many challenges but also many opportunities. Much of it can be re-used or recycled and the waste that remains after recycling and composting can be used to produce heat or energy. Processing waste can also support new and innovative environmental technologies and provide a range of jobs.

This challenge has led to the North London Waste Authority (NLWA), comprised of seven of north London's local authorities, including Barnet, to prepare the North London Waste Plan to identify sites for facilities that will be required to manage all the area's waste up to 2020. The North London Waste Plan will form part of Barnet's Local Development Framework. Please see this issue's item about Barnet's Local Development Framework on page eight.

Why not come to one of seven workshops being held during January and February, including one in Barnet on 12 February 2008? For further details, email events@nlwp.net or phone Archie Onslow on 020 7974 5916. Representatives of the NLWA would also be happy to attend community group meetings to discuss the issues with you. Just email the authority at events@nlwp.net.



Barnet welcomes international friends

Barnet has been strengthening its links with several of its 'twin towns' through a series of visits.

A delegation from Le Raincy in France, including the Mayor of Le Raincy Eric Raoult, who is also a member of the French National Assembly, visited Barnet in November and met the Mayor, Councillor Maureen Braun, and other leading councillors.

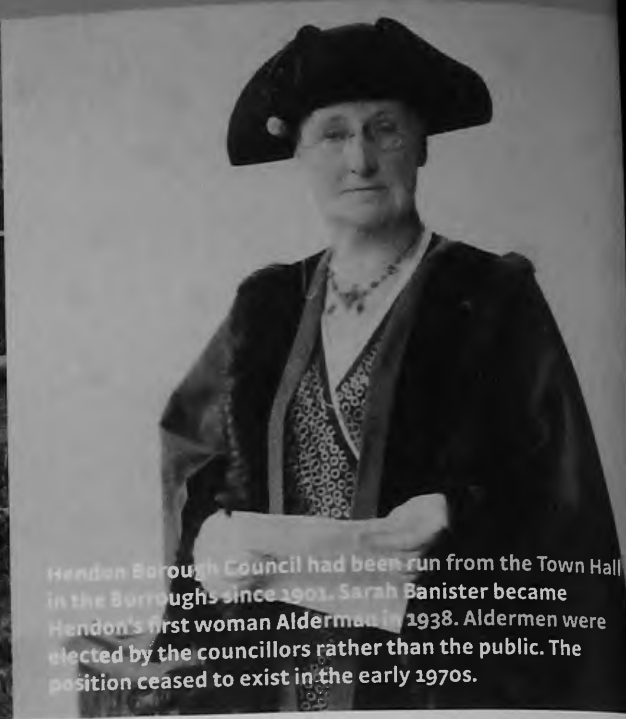
In addition, a regular student exchange is being established between Ashmole School in Southgate and Le Collège Jean-Baptiste Corot, a school in the French town. The next exchange takes place in March 2008.

Meanwhile, visitors from Morphou in Cyprus enjoyed a tour of the borough, including the CCTV control centre, when they visited last month.

Plans are now afoot for two headteachers from Ramat Gan in Israel to visit and learn more about our education system.

To find out more about the borough's twinning links, visit our website at www.barnet.gov.uk/town-twinning

St Mary's School football team in 1903. Hendon St Mary's School is 300 years old this year, and is the second oldest school in the borough.



Hendon Borough Council had been run from the Town Hall in the Burroughs since 1901. Sarah Banister became Hendon's first woman Alderman in 1938. Aldermen were elected by the councillors rather than the public. The position ceased to exist in the early 1970s.

Spotlight on your ward

Hendon

In our continuing feature looking at the history of different wards in the borough, we turn the spotlight onto Hendon.

One of the most ancient parts of the London Borough of Barnet, the area was made up of three distinct hamlets - Brent Street, Burroughs, and Church End. Roman remains were discovered as early as the 1880s on what is now the site of Middlesex University, and Hendon and District Archaeological Society made further finds during a series of digs 100 years later around Church End.

Church Farmhouse, a mid 17th-century house in Greyhound Hill, was home to Mark Lemon when he was a child. He went on to help found and edit Punch Magazine. The house - now the council's Church Farmhouse Museum - has a blue plaque in his honour.

The Burroughs, called the Burrows from 1316 until the 1890s, took its name from local rabbit warrens. An unnamed Tudor inn may have been the White Bear, so called from 1736. Here, the lord of the manor held his court until about 1916. The present building dates from 1932. Between the 1690s and the 1860s, Hendon Fair was held at Pentecost near the White Bear. Local hay farmers would hire the mowers and hay makers at the fair for the summer harvest of grass. It was renowned for dancing and country sports and attracted many other visitors as well as local farmers and hay workers. There are a number of 18th-century buildings in The Burroughs - Daniel's Almshouses originally built in 1729 and rebuilt around 1800, were founded with money left by a London merchant called Robert Daniel, and Burrough House was, until 1829, Burroughs School. Hendon Town Hall was built in 1901.

Much of St Mary's Church in Church End is medieval, and inside is a Norman font. There are many stories about one of its 19th-century vicars called Theodore Williams. His family owned slaves in the West Indies, and much of the vicar's wealth was based on these nefarious investments (with which he rebuilt the vicarage which still stands in Parson Street).

Herbert Chapman, the manager of Arsenal FC (1925 - 1934), is buried here. Another football connection with the ward is Hendon Hall, an 18th-century mansion where the England football team stayed during the 1966 World Cup. The churchyard also contains the remains of Emily Patmore, the wife of Coventry Patmore, who was the model for Patmore's poem *The Angel in the House* (1854). Edward Longmore, the celebrated giant, was buried there in 1777 at a depth of 15 feet. But his body was stolen by grave robbers shortly after the watch on his grave was lifted. This wasn't the only unofficial exhumation of remains from this period. In 1828, Henry Holms was caught removing the heads of his dead mother and sister (who had died 20 years earlier) from the family vault. A student of surgery with a fascination with phrenology and a fear of lunacy, he thought that he might be able to discern hereditary insanity from the skulls.





The Almshouses in The Burroughs were founded through the will of Robert Daniels in 1729, but the building was rebuilt around 1800.

Did you know...?

- Hendon has the second highest proportion of its population aged 16 – 74 who are students – 15 per cent
- Just over 40 per cent of the ward's residents are educated to degree level or have a professional qualification
- Over 50 per cent of homes in Hendon are flats, maisonettes or apartments – the second highest proportion in Barnet
- The ward covers 2.8sq km and has a population of just over 15,000.

* Figures taken from 2001 census.

Much of the old settlement of Brent Street burned down in a catastrophic fire in 1861 - only Penfold House remains from before the fire. Bell Lane School was opened in 1901. The most famous ex-scholar is the cricketer Denis Compton.

In 1915, Tilley Lamps Ltd opened and by 1960 (when it closed) it employed around 300 people. The company name was as synonymous with paraffin lamps, as Hoover is with vacuum cleaners.

In December 1969, planning permission was granted for a new shopping district on Brent Street called Sentinel Square. It cost £1.5 million.

The renowned 16th-century cartographer John Norden lived at Hendon House (which was replaced with Hendon School in 1914). A little further down the road is a small mock-gothic complex called the Alma White Centre. In 1893, the Rev W H Seddon, Honorary Secretary of the Church Army, purchased a house called Fosters in Brent Street with the intention of building "a Rescue Home (for fallen women), with a Chapel attached". The site became St Saviour's Homes, for "feeble minded" women in 1897. In 1926, it was taken over by the Pillar of Fire Society, as a Bible college, school and chapel.

What's in Hendon?

Parks

- Brent Park, Bell Lane. Facilities include a children's play area
- Cophall Playing Fields, Great North Way (wildlife interest, football, cricket and rugby pitches)
- Hendon Park, Queens Road. Facilities include children's play area, café, gardens, toilets, cricket, football and tennis
- Malcolm Park, Malcolm Crescent (gardens, children's play area, basketball)
- Sturgess Park, Sturgess Avenue (children's play area, gardens)
- York Park, Cool Oak Lane (children's play area).

Schools

- Bell Lane Primary, Bell Lane
- Hasmorean High School (boys' site), Holders Hill Road
- Hasmorean Primary School, Shirehall Lane
- Hendon School, Golders Rise
- Independent Jewish Day School, Green Lane
- Parkfield School, St David's Place
- St Joseph's RC Infant School, Watford Way
- St Joseph's RC Junior School, Watford Way
- St Mary's and St John's CE Primary School, Prothero Gardens
- St Mary's C of E High School, Downage
- Sunnyfields School, Hatchcroft.

Other services

- Archfields Allotments, Great North Way. Home of the Barnet Garden Project
- Barnet Cophall Leisure Centre, Champions Way
- Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill
- Fenella (council office), Babington Road
- Hendon Grove allotments (access via St Joseph's Grove)
- Hendon Library, The Burroughs
- Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs.

Recycling bring banks

- Cophall Swimming Pool car park, Holders Hill
- Haley Road.

Your councillors

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

Councillor Maureen Braun (Con)

has been a ward councillor since 1998. She is the current Mayor of Barnet, having served as Mayoress (to Councillor Melvin Cohen) in 2003/04.

Tel: 020 8906 0447

Email: cllr.m.braun@barnet.gov.uk

Councillor Anthony Finn (Con)

was elected in 1990. He is currently Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development.

Tel: 020 8202 9689

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

Councillor Matthew Offord (Con)

has served the ward since 2002. He is Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport.

Tel: 020 8202 5319

Email: cllr.m.offord@barnet.gov.uk

Meet your councillors

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

You can meet your Hendon councillors on the first Monday of every month at Action Point, Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4 between 6pm and 7pm.

No appointment is necessary.

Children show they care at bulb planting



Youngsters from St Theresa's Catholic Primary School in Finchley have planted bulbs as part of the Snowdrop Project to remember the child victims of the Holocaust.

The pupils, who were members of the school's gardening club, planted the bulbs in the school grounds, accompanied by the Mayor, Councillor Maureen Braun, and Councillor Brian Coleman, the council's Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Community Engagement.

The planting was part of an ongoing programme to plant 1.5 million bulbs across the borough – one for each of the children murdered during the Holocaust.

Snowdrops have delicate, white flowers, which bloom in winter and early spring. Bulbs have previously been planted at the RAF Museum in Hendon, as well as Hendon Park, Edgwarebury Park, Friary Park and the Old Courthouse Recreation Ground.

Fun for all the family at the Church Farmhouse Museum

Don't miss out on a variety of exhibitions at the Church Farmhouse Museum. With something for all the family, it's sure to make a good day out.

Christmas Past Until 6 January 08

Each year, the museum's 1850s dining room is decorated for a Victorian Christmas. This year it focuses on how most traditions were either invented, or introduced from other countries, by the Victorians.

The Moving Toyshop – 20th century toys and games Until May 08

A selection of toys and games are exhibited, exploring the ways in which playthings have changed over the past 100 years.

The case of the influential illustrator Sidney Paget Until May 08

Sidney Paget, the most famous illustrator of the Sherlock Holmes stories, is commemorated with a small exhibition on the centenary of his death.

Please ring 020 8359 3942 for further details.



The 'Six Million +' exhibition is coming to the capital for the first time in January and can be found at Brent Cross Shopping Centre.

Exhibition reflects full horror of the Holocaust

An art installation comprised of more than six million buttons to commemorate the Holocaust is heading to Barnet in January – the first time it will be on show in London.

The unique work entitled 'Six Million +', created to signify the industrial scale of the genocide which resulted in six million Jews being killed during World War II, was created by Leeds-based artist Antonia Stowe, and most of the buttons were collected from schools, colleges and local residents in West Yorkshire.

The exhibition is heading to the borough in January to mark Holocaust Memorial Day, and can be found at Brent Cross Shopping Centre from January 21 to February 1. It will be staffed by council officers and survivors from the Holocaust, who will be on hand to speak to visitors about their experiences.

Barnet is also holding a Holocaust Memorial Service at 1pm on Sunday 27 January at the Ricketts Quadrangle in The Burroughs, Hendon. The event will be attended by the Mayor, Councillor Maureen Braun, and is open to the public. This is the seventh annual service and 800 people attended last year's event.

This year's theme is 'Imagine... remember, reflect, react' and guests will be encouraged to remember the past, reflect on the present and react to create a better future. The service will also reflect on more recent genocides.

The Mayor said: "The Six Million + exhibition is an extremely moving and visual way of appreciating the full horror of what happened during the Holocaust and I encourage as many residents as possible to visit Brent Cross, see the installation and talk to survivors.

"It is now 62 years since the end of World War II but events elsewhere in the world today in 2007 show that sadly we have not learnt the lessons of the past. I invite residents to attend the Holocaust Memorial Service to reflect with me on the horrors of the last century and look forward with hope for the future."

To find out more about the exhibition or the service, contact the council's Civic Events Officer on 020 8359 2493.



The new library at South Friern will become a focal point for the community

Solid foundation for new libraries plan

Barnet's vision to have more modern libraries is one step closer after Councillor John Marshall, Cabinet Member for Learning Infrastructure, laid the first foundation stone for the multi-purpose development in South Friern.

The development, which is part of the Library Strategy, will see a new state-of-the-art library combined with an exciting new housing development of four town houses and 10 flats – a partnership between Barnet Council and Acorn Property Group.

It will have all the services that customers expect from a modern library, which is part of Barnet's commitment to bring services up-to-date, and will be a focal point for the community.

Flexibly laid out, it will include a separate meeting and activity area, alongside bookshelves and computer-equipped study spaces.

Councillor John Marshall, Cabinet Member for Learning Infrastructure, said: "This is a unique development within the Library Strategy, demonstrating how libraries can be at the core of the community - becoming as familiar and used as the corner shop, sports centre or local doctors.

"This is a true milestone and I am delighted we are working in partnership to create libraries for the future."

Chipping Barnet and Edgware libraries are the first of the six leading libraries to see improvement. Work started in December 2007. Both these libraries will benefit from self-service facilities, WiFi, layout alterations and longer opening hours.

Keep a look out for further updates in future editions of Barnet First.

School celebrates victory against litter



Students from Northside Primary School receive their novelty hippo-shaped bin from Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Councillor Fiona Bulmer

A Finchley primary school has been announced as the winner of Barnet's schools' anti-litter collage competition.

Northside Primary School students used everyday rubbish like crisp packets and sweet wrappers to create a colourful collage, complete with a 'litter bug' and the slogan 'Don't drop it. Bin it!'

The collage competition was run as part of the council's Clean Borough Strategy – introduced earlier this year to herald a new approach to street cleaning and the fight against enviro-crime.

Students were presented with their prize – a novelty hippo-shaped litter bin for the playground – by Councillor Fiona Bulmer, Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

To find out more about the Clean Borough Strategy, log onto www.barnet.gov.uk/cleaner-borough-strategy.

Youth achievement recognised by awards

Over 100 young people from across Barnet received awards for their outstanding commitment to their schools and communities at the bi-annual Jack Petchey ceremony.

Winners of the awards, which recognise the 'effort, endeavour and achievement' of 11 to 25-year-olds, received medals, certificates and £300 to spend on a project that will benefit their community.

Among those honoured at the ceremony were Yvonne Horran, 18, from Ashmole School, and Joshua Hammerton, 12, from Christ's College.



September Court, which has won a major national award

Award for £25million housing project

A £25 million scheme which is part of Barnet Council's New Choices Project has won two prestigious awards from the National Home Improvement Council (NHIC).

September Court in Whetstone provides housing to nine people with learning disabilities and mental health problems who previously lived in residential homes elsewhere in Barnet. The home enables residents to experience the individual freedoms and choice of living in their own flats, while still having support when needed.

Barnet Council's New Choices Project aims to give people with learning disabilities more choice over how they live, where they live, who they live with, and how they are supported. Its purpose is to give customers more control over their lives by increasing their housing and support options.

The NHIC awards are considered to be the premier housing awards of their kind and highly regarded by people across the housing spectrum. September Court won the 'special needs facilities' category and the George Plucknett award for the most outstanding submission of the year.

Councillor Lynne Hillan, Cabinet Member for Community Services, said: "I am delighted that September Court has won these major awards.

"September Court is a fine example of Barnet's commitment to supporting the vulnerable by giving people with learning disabilities a direct say in their future and a greater degree of independence than most had experienced before."

Are you planning for Barnet?

Planning affects us all. Council planning decisions affect where new shops and community facilities are built and what happens to our open spaces and historic buildings.

In short, they impact upon every aspect of our lives. The council's Unitary Development Plan (UDP) sets out the current planning strategy for Barnet but the law now requires the council to develop a Local Development Framework (LDF) in its place, to be up and running by 2009.

The LDF will actually be made up of several different documents, including one covering the regeneration plans for Mill Hill East, and the North London Waste Plan (NLWP) which looks at how to deal with the waste produced by people in Barnet and the rest of north London.

Another of these LDF publications will be called the Core Strategy and will set out the major issues that Barnet will have to cope with during the next 15 years, such as an increasing population and more congested roads. The council will publish its Core Strategy in April, but

before that, it has been holding a series of workshops and other community activities to get the views of Barnet residents about the issues that are of concern to them.

The council is dedicated to involving local people in the process of preparing its LDF. Councillor Melvin Cohen, Cabinet Member for Planning and Environmental Health, said: "As Barnet is the fastest-growing borough in outer London, there will be considerable changes over the next few years and it is extremely important for the council to hear from residents about what they want to see in the future."

Everyone is welcome to send in their views about each LDF document when it is published. The first draft of the North London Waste Plan is published this month and the first draft of the Core Strategy is published in April.

If you would like to get involved in the LDF, call the council on 020 8359 4990 or email forward.planning@barnet.gov.uk.

For more information, visit www.barnet.gov.uk/planning

Barnet shortlisted for 'Council of the Year'

Barnet Council has been recognised as one of the best performing local authorities in the country after being short listed for 'Council of the Year' in the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards 2008.

The council has been nominated in this category after becoming the 'voice of the suburbs', attracting huge media interest for championing 'the home of aspirational Britain'. It has shown imaginative and strong leadership in finding local solutions to regional and national funding problems, proposing the innovative Barnet Bond to meet the cost of massive infrastructural development in the borough.

The next decade will see 16,000 new homes and 20,000 new jobs created, much of it arriving in developments such as the Cricklewood, Brent Cross and West Hendon scheme, costing £4.5 billion – the biggest regeneration in London. Two new towns are planned in Cricklewood and in Colindale, where initially a £500 million project is underway and will see the post-war Grahame Park estate replaced with new high-quality homes and a new town centre.

The council has also been shortlisted in the 'leadership and place shaping' category.

Make your new year resolution 'green'

January is a time when many people make resolutions – so why not make yours a 'green' one this year?

They are easy to keep, will help the environment and provide you with an opportunity to reduce, reuse or recycle your waste.

To find out the many different ways you could pledge to be greener this year, visit www.barnet.gov.uk/recycling and follow the 'recycling resolutions' links.

Have a look at the box below and take your pick of which of these you will pledge to keep during 2008.

Councillor Matthew Offord, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, said: "I can't think of a better way of resolving to be more 'green' this year than pledging to keep one of these recycling resolutions.

"They will not only provide a better environment for you but help to tackle the amount of waste being thrown in general rubbish bins every year."

Recycling resolutions

- I will recycle everything I can using my black box, including batteries, Yellow Pages, aerosols, foil, textiles and shoes, as well as glass, paper and cans
- I will practise the three Rs – reduce, reuse and recycle
- I will use my green bin for my food leftovers and fruit and vegetable peelings
- I will start composting at home
- I will start using Barnet's Freecycle group to offer others my unwanted items – anything from furniture and electronics to toys and comics (visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FreeCycleBarnet> to find out more)
- I will donate any unused paint to local groups through the Community RePaint scheme at the Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre, Summers Lane, Finchley
- I will reuse plastic bags or use material ones when shopping
- I will buy loose fruit and vegetables rather than pre-packaged ones
- I will donate old tools at the Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre, Summers Lane, for reuse in Africa and local schools.



Why not try composting at home for this year's resolution?

Research reveals urgent need to cut food waste

Barnet households are throwing away up to £50million of food every year.

Nationally released figures show that households each throw away between £250- and £400-worth of food every year, while a survey carried out for the council uncovered that 31 per cent of what we throw in our rubbish bins is food.

Meanwhile, a poll answered by more than 700 people on Barnet Online revealed that 37 per cent of respondents estimated that more than a quarter of their bins were made up of food waste.

The council is calling on residents to take action on food waste, and is supporting the Love Food Hate Waste campaign, devised by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), which aims to raise national awareness of the importance of only buying what you will use and composting what you can't.

Visit www.barnet.gov.uk/reducing-food-waste or www.lovefoodhatewaste.com to find out more about how you can cut down on the amount of food waste you are throwing away.

Social services reach for the stars

Barnet Council's Adult Social Services Department (ASSD) has been recognised for its significantly improved standards after receiving an additional star in the annual star ratings from the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI).

The CSCI inspects and reports on care services and councils and was set up by the Government to improve social care and stamp out bad practice. In the announcement made last November, the service was assessed as 'good' and 'promising', taking it up to two stars out of a possible three.

CSCI commented that Barnet Council "provides a service that consistently delivers

above minimum requirements for people, is cost-effective and makes contributions to wider outcomes for the community".

The star rating, which gives an overall picture of how well councils are delivering their social care services is assessed on detailed statistics, collation of data on performance (including customer surveys), inspection of services and general information about improvement.

Children's Service 'outstanding'

Ofsted released results last week, which revealed the council's Children's Service had received an 'outstanding' judgment in one of the six categories reviewed.

The annual performance assessment confirmed the council had done best in the 'enjoy and achieve' category that assesses 'how much children and young people enjoy play, achieve educationally and make productive and enjoyable use of leisure time'.

Your guide to saving energy

Climate change is one of the biggest concerns facing the world in 2008, and here in Barnet the council is doing its bit to become more energy efficient and reduce its carbon footprint.

We have joined forces with the Energy Saving Trust (EST) to reduce the amount of energy we use in council buildings and provide you – our residents and businesses – with tips on how to reduce your energy usage, lessening the impact on the environment as well as your energy bills.

Nearly half the UK's emissions of carbon dioxide – the main greenhouse gas that causes global warming – come from the things we do every day at home or at work.

The EST is currently running a campaign to encourage people to cut their energy use by 20 per cent. Why not see how many of these ideas you could implement in your home or workplace to save on your gas and electricity bills:

- turn down your thermostat – reducing it by one degree could cut your heating bills by 10 per cent and save you £40 a year
- buy energy-efficient lightbulbs – they last 12 times longer than ordinary bulbs and can save you up to £100 over the lifetime of the bulb
- switch off lights when you leave the room and don't leave appliances on standby – UK households now spend around eight per cent of their electricity bills on standby power



Turning down your thermostat by just one degree could save you money on your energy bills

- insulate your loft – it could save you up to 15 per cent on your heating bills if you insulate your entire loft to 270mm
- look for the logo – when you buy electrical products, buy those that have the Energy Saving Trust-approved logo. They are the most energy-efficient and cheapest to run
- carry out a home energy check by visiting the Energy Saving Trust website. You could save up to £250 per year by giving your home a check-up.

To find out more about saving energy, visit the council's website at www.barnet.gov.uk/sustainability or go to www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

Webwatch

What's new on Barnet Online?

Wondering how to keep the little ones busy this winter?

Visit Rhyme Time for the under-twos:

www.barnet.gov.uk/rhyme-time,

or Storytime for the under-fives:

www.barnet.gov.uk/storytimes

Got a question about any council service? Try our frequently asked questions (FAQs) section:

www.barnet.gov.uk/faq

Do you buy your weekly shop without a second glance at the information on the cans, packets and bottles? Our section on food labelling tells you all you could possibly want to know:

www.barnet.gov.uk/food-labelling-and-composition

Have you just bought a brand new 2008 diary? Fill in important dates by visiting the multi-faith calendar 2008:

www.barnet.gov.uk/religions-faiths-beliefs

Doing it for the kids

As part of Barnet's commitment to provide integrated services for children and their parents, the third children's centre was launched in 2007 by the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Maureen Braun.

Following in the footsteps of Parkfield and Wingfield children's centres, Fairway will provide integrated education, care, family support, health services and employment support – all key factors in determining good outcomes for families.

So far, staff have been working with up to 100 families at any one time, offering full time early education and childcare for children aged two to five, and free nursery education for children aged three to five.

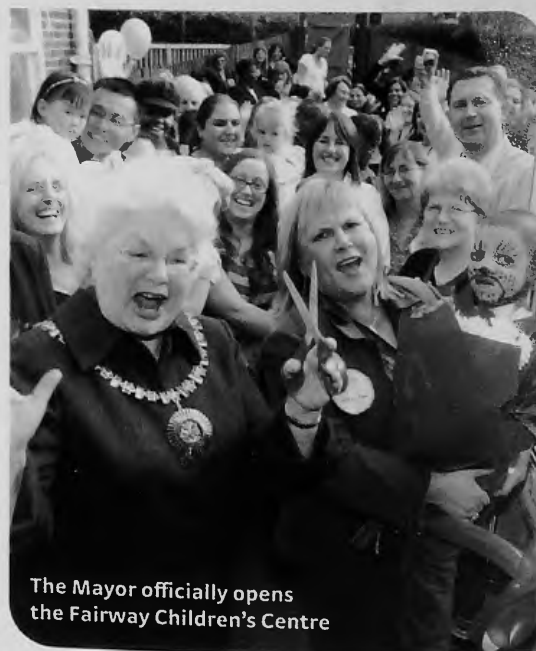
There is also health advice, sessions with the Children's Information Service, stay and play sessions, and adult learning programmes.

The centre currently operates from the existing building at Fairway but in 2009/10 it will be rebuilt as part of the Primary School Capital Investment Programme alongside Northway Special School and Fairway Primary School.

Councillor Fiona Bulmer, Cabinet Member for the Children's Service, said: "The Fairway Children's Centre is a fantastic resource that will ensure that local parents have easy access to a whole range of services that will help

them support their children in the crucial early years of their lives."

For further information, log onto www.barnet.gov.uk/cis or call 020 8359 3730.



The Mayor officially opens the Fairway Children's Centre

How the council spends your money

The council's 2006/7 Summary of Accounts has now been published, and is available at libraries and online at www.barnet.gov.uk/statement-of-accounts.

It provides information on what the council has spent in the past financial year and where it got the money from. The financial year runs from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007.

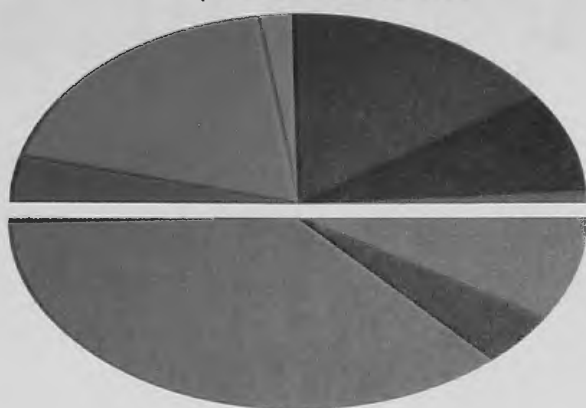
The council provides a wide range of services for the people of Barnet, from schools, libraries and social services, to waste and recycling, and road maintenance. We spent £769.8million on providing services last year.

The cost of providing these services was met by income from government grants (including fees received from services), Council Tax and business rates. We received a total of £771.1million.

After receiving £771.1million and spending £769.8million, we had a surplus of £1.3million at the end of the year to add to the council's balances.

The cost of running council services

Total spend on each service



Funding

Amount spent on running council services	£millions
Cultural, environmental and planning services	£63.8
Education services	£284.0
Highways, roads and transport services	£32.5
Housing services	£241.2
Social services	£128.5
Other	£19.7
Funding	
Council Tax	£135.1
Business Rates	£67.6
Government grants	£560.8
Interest and investment income	£7.7

Housing

The council has a housing stock of 11,236 homes which are managed by Barnet Homes, an arm's length management organisation.

Last year, Barnet Homes spent £60.4million on managing the housing stock and received £49.8million from rental income and charges.

Capital spending

In addition to the cost of the day-to-day running of council services, we spent £64.2million on purchasing and improving major assets such as schools and roads.

The council's position at the end of the financial year

Assets show the current value of what the council owns and liabilities are what the council owes to others. The amount the council is worth is the difference between what we own and are owed and what we owe others.

What we own and are owed (assets):

Fixed assets we own (for example, homes, land, buildings, vehicles, infrastructure)	£1,731.7million
Investments and cash held	£238.3million
Money owed to us	£54.9million
Other assets	£33.2million
TOTAL	£2,058.1 million

What we owe (liabilities):

Long term borrowing to invest in fixed assets	- £113.5 million
Short term borrowing	- £210.5 million
Money set aside for meeting future pension costs	- £20.0 million
Money set aside for investments in fixed assets	- £242.6 million
	- £76.8 million
TOTAL	- £663.4 million

Total worth of the council (assets less liabilities)

£1,394.7 million

PCT urges families to book MMR jabs

Measles hasn't gone away. It is affecting more and more children, and recently there was a measles outbreak at a Barnet school. The reason for the increase in measles is simple: fewer of our children are being immunised against it.

Measles is not a mild disease. It causes fever, rash, cough and painful eyes. It can cause complications such as ear infections and pneumonia. Ten to 20 per cent of children become so ill they need to go to hospital.

Yet measles is preventable. Two doses of MMR vaccine will all but guarantee immunity and, if 95 per cent of our children are immunised, the disease can be stopped in its tracks. This happened when MMR immunisation was introduced, but a scare in the late 1990s led to many parents not having their children immunised.

The MMR scare was based on research involving just 12 children, and a link between MMR immunisation and autism was suggested

in discussions about this. This study has since been completely discredited.

MMR immunisation also protects against mumps. Before mumps vaccine was introduced, this was the commonest cause of viral meningitis. And MMR protects against rubella – German measles. This disease can be very serious if a mother gets it when she is pregnant.

Help your child to avoid measles and mumps and stop your grandchild developing congenital rubella syndrome. If your children have not had two doses of MMR vaccine, contact your GP surgery to arrange this.



A portable ashtray is demonstrated at Brent Cross Shopping Centre

Campaign sees massive reduction in cigarette litter

The number of cigarette butts dropped on the street in Barnet reduced by nearly a third following a joint campaign run by the council and the Keep Britain Tidy organisation.

Barnet was one of 10 local authorities chosen across the UK, and one of only two in London, to take part in a high-profile drive to reduce the number of cigarette butts dropped on the street.

Posters depicting a 'camouflaged' cigarette, with the slogan 'however you disguise it, it's still litter', appeared at advertising sites, on phone boxes and at buildings belonging to the council and other major organisations.

A week-long event at Brent Cross Shopping Centre provided an opportunity to distribute free portable ashtrays to shoppers and they were also given to members of the public in some of Barnet's busiest town centres.

Streets were monitored for the two weeks following the campaign and results showed an overall 32 per cent reduction in cigarette litter.

Councillor Matthew Offord, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, said: "These results are fantastic and prove that our residents really are taking pride in Barnet."

"Cigarette litter is a major contributor to making the streets look unclean and is so unnecessary. We gave out hundreds of free portable ashtrays during the campaign, and they are also available at a small cost from supermarkets and other outlets. They provide a discreet and easy way to get rid of your cigarettes and help create a cleaner, greener environment for everyone else."

Winter scheme to make homes warmer

British Gas is offering to improve the energy efficiency of homes throughout Barnet by installing free insulation and heating to householders who receive benefits.

The £3.4million initiative to enhance the warmth and comfort of homes across six London boroughs is offering a range of energy efficiency measures including upgrading and installing central heating systems. The initiative is available to people receiving income support, housing benefit and several other benefits.

Councillor Lynne Hillan, Cabinet Member for Community Services, said: "This initiative will not only improve quality of life for many Barnet residents but also have a positive effect on our environment."

"It is extremely important that we conserve energy wherever possible and this will enable residents to heat their homes without wasting valuable resources."

British Gas is also offering householders who don't qualify substantial savings for household insulation, with cut-price cavity wall insulation from £250 and loft insulation from £274. The offer runs until March 2008.

For further information, contact the helpline on **0800 652 0782**.

Gritters ready for winter

Barnet's gritting teams are ready to keep the borough's 420 miles of roads and footways clear of snow and ice this winter.

Forecasts warn that this winter is likely to be colder than last.

The council has 2,000 tonnes of rock salt stockpiled and a team of 24 – with a further 10 on standby – to keep Barnet's highways clear.

A further 70 workers can be deployed if conditions become particularly severe.

The council has nine large gritting vehicles, as well as four footway spreading machines.

These will cover seven priority routes, made up of 147 miles of road including principal roads, main commuter journeys and bus routes.

A total of 339 grit bins are located around the borough, with 38 in town centres.

What's On In Barnet during January and February

Arts

Totally Topiary

12 January 10am-4pm

Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture, Middlesex University, Cat Hill, Barnet, EN4 8HT. Cost £50, concessions £40.

A workshop in topiary design for adults. Taking inspiration from MoDA's new exhibition 'The Suburban Landscape', you will create two floral designs using a number of flower arranging techniques to turn floral foam into mini replicas.

Blooming Lattices

19 January 10am-4pm

Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture, Middlesex University, Cat Hill, Barnet, EN4 8HT. Cost £50, concessions £40.

A workshop in trellis and basket design for adults. All materials will be provided but please bring a pair of secateurs and a quantity of garden foliage.

Up the Ladder and Down the Wall: Children and Outdoor Play in English Cities and Suburbs, 1945-1975

6 February

Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture, Middlesex University, Cat Hill, Barnet, EN4 8HT. Cost £7, concessions £5.

An evening lecture by Alan Powers – a talk focusing on the relationship between children and the suburban landscape and garden in the post-war period. Alan Powers is an architectural historian, lecturer and trustee of the Twentieth Century Society.

Music

Recital

24 February

The Anglo-Italian Circle of Barnet, 54 Hampstead Way, Golders Green, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London, NW11. Cost £3 for non-members.

Recital of Barocco and contemporary Italian songs offered by a known Italian soprano. The Anglo-Italian Circle of Barnet promotes the knowledge and appreciation of Italian culture, offering talks, debates and recitals.

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 Residents' Forums (which start at 6.30pm) meet at a variety of venues around the borough, and details can be found online, on our posters or by contacting the Democratic Services team on 020 8359 2031. Members of the public can ask to speak at most meetings. Further information can be obtained by contacting Democratic Services.



Hendon Town Hall

January

- 7 Hendon Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 8 Finchley and Golders Green Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 9 Chipping Barnet Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 14 Cabinet Resources Committee
- 15 Planning and Environment Committee
- 16 General Functions Committee
- 21 Tackling Crime and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 22 Finchley and Golders Green Residents Forum
- 23 Cabinet
- 28 Hendon Residents Forum; Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 29 Council
- 30 Chipping Barnet Residents Forum

February

- 4 Hendon Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 6 Chipping Barnet Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 7 Finchley and Golders Green Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 11 Supporting the Vulnerable in our Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 13 First Class Education and Children Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 18 Cleaner, Greener Transport and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 19 Planning and Environment Committee
- 21 Cabinet
- 25 Cabinet Resources Committee
- 27 Audit Committee

Meet... your members

Note: All codes are 020 unless otherwise indicated.

Brunswick Park Ward

Lynne Hillan (Con)

8446 5954
cllr.l.hillan@barnet.gov.uk

Andreas Tambourides (Con)

8368 5417
cllr.a.tambourides@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Lisa Rutter (Con)

8445 3829
cllr.l.rutter@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Burnt Oak Ward

Claire Farrier (Lab)

8959 7908
cllr.c.farrier@barnet.gov.uk

Linda McFadyen (Lab)

Deputy Leader of the Labour
group
8364 8782
cllr.l.mcfadyen@barnet.gov.uk

Charlie O-Macauley (Lab)

07796 284110
cllr.c.omacauley@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Saturdays, Burnt Oak Library,
Watling Avenue, HA8
10.30am – 12noon

Childs Hill Ward

Jack Cohen (LibDem)

8446 7940
cllr.j.cohen@barnet.gov.uk

Monroe Palmer (LibDem)

Liberal Democrat Group Leader
8455 5140
cllr.m.palmer@barnet.gov.uk

Susette Palmer (LibDem)

8455 5140
cllr.s.palmer@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Colindale Ward

Danish Chopra (Lab)

8449 9046
cllr.d.chopra@barnet.gov.uk

Gill Sargeant (Lab)

8455 1070
cllr.g.sargeant@barnet.gov.uk

Zakia Zubairi (Lab)

8959 4091
cllr.z.zubairi@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Coppetts Ward

Mukesh Depala (Con)

8365 3614
cllr.m.depala@barnet.gov.uk

Kate Salinger (Con)

8368 1329
cllr.c.salinger@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Surgery details:

Second Saturday every month,
Hollickwood School, Sydney
Road, N10
1.30 – 3 pm

Barry Rawlings (Lab)

8445 6416
cllr.b.rawlings@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Surgery details:

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

East Barnet Ward

Terence Burton (Con)

8368 8264
cllr.t.burton@barnet.gov.uk

Robert Rams (Con)

8446 7291
cllr.r.rams@barnet.gov.uk

Joanna Tambourides (Con)

8361 9154
cllr.j.tambourides@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First Saturday of each month,
New Barnet Community Centre,
48-50 Victoria Road, New Barnet,
EN4
10.30am – 12noon

Third Saturday of each month,
East Barnet Library, 85 Brookhill
Road, East Barnet, EN4
10.30am – 12noon

East Finchley Ward

Andrew McNeil (Lab)

cllr.a.mcneil@barnet.gov.uk

Alison Moore (Lab)

Leader of the Opposition
(Labour group leader)
8343 0306
cllr.a.moore@barnet.gov.uk

Colin Rogers (Lab)

8444 7150
cllr.c.rogers@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Edgware Ward

Helena Hart (Con)

8371 0658
cllr.h.hart@barnet.gov.uk

Joan Scannell (Con)

8959 5921
cllr.j.scannell@barnet.gov.uk

Richard Weider (Con)

8958 0640
cllr.r.weider@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Finchley Church End Ward

Michael Freer (Con)

Leader of the Council
(Conservative group leader)
8359 2059
cllr.m.freer@barnet.gov.uk

Eva Greenspan (Con)

8203 1598
cllr.e.greenspan@barnet.gov.uk

Daniel Thomas (Con)

cllr.d.thomas@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First Wednesday every month,
Finchley Church End Library,
Hendon Lane, N3
7 – 8pm

Garden Suburb Ward

Andrew Harper (Con)

8201 9527
cllr.a.harper@barnet.gov.uk

John Marshall (Con)

8445 2597
cllr.j.marshall@barnet.gov.uk

Jazmin Naghar (Con)

8458 2466
cllr.j.naghar@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Golders Green Ward

Dean Cohen (Con)

07887 778509
cllr.d.cohen@barnet.gov.uk

Melvin Cohen (Con)

8209 0166
cllr.m.cohen@barnet.gov.uk

Christopher Harris (Con)

07949 592512
cllr.c.harris@barnet.gov.uk

Contacting your MPs

Chipping Barnet

Theresa Villiers

Office: 163 High Street, Barnet, EN5 5SU
Tel: 020 8449 7345

Finchley and Golders Green

Dr Rudi Vis

Office: 38 Church Lane, East Finchley, N2 8DT
Tel: 020 8883 0411

Hendon

Andrew Dismore

Office: St. George's Lodge, 79 The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4 4AX
Tel: 020 8202 2122

Greater London Assembly

Member for Barnet and Camden

Councillor Brian Coleman
Office: City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA
Tel: 020 7983 4367

Surgery details:

Second Sunday every month, Golders Green Library, Golders Green Road, NW11
2.15 – 3.15pm

Fourth Sunday every month, Hendon Sports Centre, Marble Drive, Brent Cross, NW2
12noon – 1pm

Hale Ward

Jane Ellison (Con)

07976 257999
cllr.j.ellison@barnet.gov.uk

Brian Gordon (Con)

8931 5062
cllr.b.gordon@barnet.gov.uk

Hugh Rayner (Con)

8958 3364
cllr.h.rayner@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Hendon Ward

Maureen Braun (Con)

Mayor
8906 0447
cllr.m.braun@barnet.gov.uk

Anthony Finn (Con)

8202 9689
cllr.a.finn@barnet.gov.uk

Matthew Offord (Con)

Deputy Leader of the Council (Conservative group deputy leader)
8202 5319
cllr.m.offord@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First Monday every month, Action Point, Town Hall, The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4
6 – 7pm

High Barnet Ward

Duncan Macdonald (Lib Dem)
8344 2674
cllr.d.macdonald@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Second Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Library, Stapylton Road, Barnet, EN4
3.30pm – 4.30pm

Bridget Perry (Con)

8441 5683
cllr.b.perry@barnet.gov.uk

Wendy Prentice (Con)

8364 9249
E: cllr.w.prentice@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Mill Hill Ward

Wayne Casey (LibDem)

Deputy Leader of the LibDem Group
8906 8189
cllr.w.casey@barnet.gov.uk

Jeremy Davies (LibDem)

8381 0089
cllr.j.davies@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

John Hart (Con)

8381 0083
cllr.j.hart@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Selective Tuesdays, Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, NW7
6 – 8pm

Selective Saturdays at Canada Villa, Pursley Road, NW7
10am – 12noon

Ring for dates.

Oakleigh Ward

Sachin Rajput (Con)

8381 0096
cllr.s.rajput@barnet.gov.uk

Marina Yannakoudakis (Con)

8445 8175
cllr.m.yannakoudakis@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Brian Salinger (Con)

8368 1329
cllr.b.salinger@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Totteridge Ward

Brian Coleman (Con)

8349 2024
cllr.b.coleman@barnet.gov.uk

Richard Cornelius (Con)

Deputy Mayor
8445 5886
cllr.r.cornelius@barnet.gov.uk

Caroline Margo (Con)

8371 9312
cllr.c.margo@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Underhill Ward

Fiona Bulmer (Con)

8344 2672
cllr.f.bulmer@barnet.gov.uk

Daniel Webb (Con)

8349 2256
cllr.d.webb@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Anita Campbell (Lab)

8440 2703
cllr.a.campbell@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

West Finchley Ward

Ross Houston (Lab)

8343 7451
cllr.r.houston@barnet.gov.uk

Kath McGuirk (Lab)

8209 1462
cllr.k.mcguirk@barnet.gov.uk

Jim Tierney (Lab)

8346 3359
cllr.j.tierney@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Saturdays, 331 Ballards Lane, North Finchley
10 – 11.30am

West Hendon Ward

Julie Johnson (Lab)

8203 3531
cllr.j.johnson@barnet.gov.uk

Agnes Slocombe (Lab)

8202 4074
cllr.a.slocombe@barnet.gov.uk

Ansuya Sodha (Lab)

8959 6035
cllr.a.sodha@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Monday 19 November, Hendon Library, The Burroughs, NW4

Woodhouse Ward

Geof Cooke (Lab)

8446 8407
cllr.g.cooke@barnet.gov.uk

Anne Hutton (Lab)

8883 0996
cllr.a.hutton@barnet.gov.uk

Alan Schneiderman (Lab)

8731 9680
cllr.a.schneiderman@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Saturdays, 331 Ballards Lane, North Finchley,
10 – 11.30am

New Aerodrome Road bridges set for installation



Work to modernise the bridges begins at the site in Colindale

Significant improvements to transport links in Colindale will move a step closer this winter when two modern new bridges are installed.

Barnet Council's contractors Norwest Holst are on site at Aerodrome Road and on schedule to manoeuvre the new bridges into place over the weekends of 28-30 December and 11-13 January.

The £12m project to replace the existing Victorian bridges will open up Colindale to public transport and pave the way for the comprehensive redevelopment of Grahame Park.

Benefits of the bridge replacement scheme, which will carry Midland Mainline trains, include:

- widening the carriageway to three lanes to improve traffic flow in both directions beneath the modern new bridges
- less obtrusive design to improve the look of the area.

- new footways and improved lighting to make pedestrians feel safer as they pass under the bridges
- lowering the existing carriageway to allow double-decker buses to use the route for the first time.

Councillor Matthew Offord, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, said: "I was very pleased to see for myself the progress being made on site at Aerodrome Road as this is a hugely important project for Colindale.

"Much improved public transport links will benefit both the existing population, and residents who move into the area in the future following the regeneration of both Grahame Park and the wider Colindale area."

Car park security plan meets with residents' approval

Measures to combat anti-social behaviour at a North Finchley car park have been agreed and the council will now strive to meet stringent crime reduction standards.

Improvements to the Stanhope Road car park in North Finchley will include:

- additional fencing
- upgraded lighting through four new lighting columns
- work to cut back foliage
- refurbishment of entry and exit barriers
- work to ensure CCTV cameras offer the most effective coverage.

The council is aiming to achieve a Park Mark Safer Parking Award for Stanhope Road. These are granted to car parks reaching standards for crime reduction set by the Association of Chief Police Officers. And North Finchley residents met Leader of the Council Mike Freer recently to express their appreciation of the work being done.

Councillor Freer said: "I am delighted with the progress made on Stanhope Road car park. We are determined to keep Barnet clean, green and safe and this investment in security is designed to make car park users and North Finchley residents feel safer.

"Our car parks are for the convenience of drivers in Barnet and our aim here is to design out concealed areas that may attract troublemakers.

"It is particularly pleasing that we have worked effectively with the police and the community to tackle this problem and I hope the measures we are putting in place will have a long-term effect on cutting anti-social behaviour."



Councillor Mike Freer meets local residents following the announcement of funding to improve security and safety at Stanhope Road car park

Barnet leads the way with the launch of BEAM

Barnet Council is one of a only a few organisations that is offering children under five, diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC), a free home-based service.

The Barnet Early Autism Model (BEAM) will see a specially trained team work in partnership with families, offering up to 20 hours of focused educational input every week as part of a tailored package.

The aim of the programme is to offer close liaison between the pre-school setting and home, carefully planning the child's transition to school and improving their chances of communicating in a social setting and going on to have a happy childhood and school life.

For further information, please contact the team on 020 8359 7685.



Councillor Fiona Bulmer, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, right, joins facilitator Jane Mulley and four-year-old Andrew, who is one of the youngsters benefiting from BEAM