

barnetfirst

The council magazine bringing you news and community information

Spring Edition March 2022

Meet the people helping Barnet to thrive



Fly-tip | verb • the illegal dumping of waste

WE CLEAR UP TO 70 FLY-TIPS EVERY WEEK.



**WE CLEAN.
WE INVESTIGATE.
WE PROSECUTE.**



www.barnet.gov.uk/flytipping

BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH

Message from Cllr Dan Thomas, Leader of Barnet Council

The rising cost of living is becoming a concern for many, and it is right that your council does what it can to help residents most affected. That is why the council is freezing General Council Tax this year. In recent years, Barnet's Council Tax rate has been lower than that of our neighbours Enfield, Haringey, Camden, Brent and Harrow. I am proud that it will remain this way in the year to come.

In line with the Chancellor's announcement in January, approximately 83,000 households are expected to receive a Council Tax rebate of £150, thanks to government funding. This is aimed to support low-income households through challenging times.

In 2022/23, we are applying an Adult Social Care Precept of 1 per cent. This year's Council Tax will also include an 8.78 per cent increase in the Greater London Authority (GLA) Precept. The GLA Precept is set by the Mayor of London and the council has no control over this sum. The increased Adult Social Care Precept will ensure we have the funding to support our growing elderly adult population, especially those with extra and complex needs. While the element of Council Tax that Barnet Council charges will be frozen, increases in the Adult Social Care Precept and the GLA precept will mean that your overall bill will go up slightly.

We will continue to deliver top-quality services and value for money for every resident. Over the next year, we plan to make budget savings of £7.9million without compromising our frontline services. We also plan to increase the charges paid by developers.

Crime is a top concern of Londoners. While fighting crime is the responsibility of the Mayor of London, Barnet Council is doing its bit to keep our streets safe. We will be investing £780,000 to upgrade our CCTV network and we have established a new, uniformed Community Safety Team to patrol town centres and parks. This team will liaise with residents, community groups and the Police to help target crime, fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour.

We are investing in projects and services to build a better Barnet for all. Our Barnet Plan sets out our vision to 2025, that will ensure Barnet is a clean, safe, family-friendly place with excellent facilities for all of our residents - a borough fit for the future.

We have set a target for the council, as an organisation, to be 'net zero carbon' by 2030 and we will assist the borough to achieve the same by 2050, at the latest. This is our local contribution to help the UK achieve the Government's target of becoming net zero by 2050. By doing so, our air will be cleaner and we will rely more on green energy and less on foreign carbon-based fuel.

Alongside large projects such as fitting the borough with more electric vehicle charging points, rolling out high-speed gigabit broadband and building a new town in Brent Cross Cricklewood, we will continue to invest in street cleansing, tackling anti-social behaviour, and ensuring our parks and green spaces are great places to enjoy.

I would like to thank all our residents and businesses for continuing to make Barnet such a great place to live, work, and study.



Councillor Dan Thomas,
Leader of Barnet Council



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Alternative formats of Barnet First are available only upon request. If you would like a copy of Barnet First in large print or on tape, please email: barnet.first@barnet.gov.uk

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You can see back issues of Barnet First magazine at: www.barnet.gov.uk/news-hub



Barnet First in your inbox!

Did you know that as well as your quarterly Barnet First magazine we also produce a more regular Barnet First eNewsletter?

Packed with up-to-the-minute information about council and community projects and services, the eNewsletter is already sent to over 35,000 subscribers across the borough.

If you'd like to subscribe, please email Barnet.First@barnet.gov.uk

It's not too late: Get vaccinated against COVID-19.

COVID-19 cases in Barnet remain high and getting vaccinated is still our best line of defence as we learn to live with the virus.



“Many people have come for their first dose at Gateway Chemist in the last month,” says Julia, vaccinator at Gateway Chemist.

The COVID-19 vaccine has already prevented thousands of deaths and millions of people from getting seriously ill or needing hospitalisation.

The vaccine is safe and millions of people in many countries across the world have been vaccinated with no safety concerns identified.

All doses of the vaccine will offer strong protection against COVID-19, with your protection increasing the more doses that you have. The booster dose helps with longer term protection against getting very ill from COVID-19.

Get your first dose

It's not too late to get your first dose of the vaccine. Many residents are getting vaccinated against the virus for the first time and since the start of 2022, 2,500 Barnet residents have received their first dose.

Vaccine centres are open for anyone to get their first, second or booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

“Many people have come for their first dose at Gateway Chemist in the last month,” says Julia (right) vaccinator at Gateway Chemist.

“It's never too late to get your first dose. You will not be judged. We just want everyone to be vaccinated and our healthcare professionals are always happy to see you and make you feel comfortable.

“The vaccine is safe, and you will be vaccinated by qualified vaccinators and healthcare professionals.”



Getting teens vaccinated

Children aged 12 to 15 are eligible for their first and second dose of the vaccine. They can normally get their second dose 12 weeks after their first dose or eight weeks if clinically extremely vulnerable.

All eligible children have now been offered two doses of the vaccine in an NHS clinic in their school.

If your child was unable to make those clinics, then they can get their jabs at these walk-in clinics:

Cullimore Chemist,
13-15 Glengall Road,
Edgware, HA8 8TB

- Monday to Friday
9:00am – 5:00pm
- Saturdays and Sundays
9:00am – 1:00pm

Mango Pharmacy,
98 High Street, Edgware, HA8 7HF

- Monday to Friday
9:00am – 6:30pm
- Saturdays and Sundays
10:00am – 5:00pm

Please note, children must be accompanied by a parent or carer.

Sixteen and 17-year olds can get their first, second and booster dose of the vaccine. Booster doses are available at least three months after their second jab.

The vaccine protects young people from getting seriously ill from the virus and helps them stay in school and minimise disruption to their studies. Although less likely than adults to suffer severe illness, children and teenagers can spread the disease more widely in the community and potentially put vulnerable people at risk. Millions of young people have been routinely vaccinated around the world with no serious side effects.



The vaccine is safe and effective for pregnant women

If you're pregnant, then don't delay getting your COVID-19 vaccine. One in five of the most seriously ill people in hospital with COVID-19 are unvaccinated pregnant women.

The COVID-19 vaccine is the best way to protect you and your baby from getting seriously ill from COVID-19 and other pregnancy risks such as premature birth.

Pregnant women have been vaccinated in many countries around the world with no safety concerns identified. There is no evidence to suggest that the vaccine affects fertility.

Please speak to your GP or maternity nurse if you have any concerns or questions about the vaccine.



"I strongly encourage pregnant women to get vaccinated to protect yourself and your baby from serious illness from COVID-19. The COVID-19 vaccine has been highly effective in preventing serious complications during pregnancy and is safe to get through all stages of pregnancy. If you are still feeling unsure or have any concerns or questions, speak to your GP who will be able to provide detailed information and advice to help you."

Dr Nick Dattani, GP Partner & Barnet Borough Clinical Lead

Getting vaccinated is easy

Head to one of our vaccine buses or walk-in clinics, book an appointment online via the NHS website or call 119. Visit www.barnet.gov.uk/covidvaccine for more info.



This year sees Her Majesty The Queen become the first British monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee. To mark this historic 70-year reign, celebrations will take place across Britain over an extended bank holiday weekend.

From Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June, the nation will come together to celebrate this landmark event. And just as in previous jubilee years we expect Barnet to be a blaze of colour. There are lots of ways you can get involved at home, with your neighbours or as part of a community organisation.

Make sure to check our dedicated Jubilee webpage regularly, as details of all our Jubilee activities will be published there as they become available: engage.barnet.gov.uk/platinum-jubilee

Organise a street party or community Big Lunch event

This year's Jubilee weekend coincides with the annual Big Lunch initiative, which promotes community get-togethers of all sizes. There is a wealth of information and resources on the Big Lunch website to help you organise your own event.

The Big Jubilee Lunch

In 2012, The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations saw 95 street parties take place across Barnet, and we would love to see us top that for 2022. To hold a street party, you will first need to gain the agreement of other households in your street. You must then apply to the council for permission to close your road. We're expecting a high volume of applications for street events over the Jubilee holiday, so you must complete your application by Friday 8 April at the latest. You can download your application form and find out more from the council website: www.barnet.gov.uk/community

The first events for the Jubilee weekend have been confirmed.

Jubilee Fun Day in Golders Hill Park on Thursday 2 June, 2-10pm.

Including music, entertainment, food stalls and a funfair, culminating with fireworks.

Hendon Pageant at the RAF Museum

on Thursday 2 to Saturday 4 June, 10am to 4pm.

Including Jubilee celebrations, fairground, living history and storytelling, bandstand and aircraft access.



PLANT A TREE FOR THE JUBILEE



The Queen's Green Canopy is a nationwide initiative to encourage individuals, groups, schools and businesses to plant a tree for the Jubilee. Tree planting season begins again in October and we will be providing more information about planting nearer the time. For now, more details can be found online at queensgreencanopy.org/

GET DECORATING

Raise a flag, hang some bunting or design a poster. However you want to do it why not celebrate the Jubilee by decorating your home, place of work or community centre.



We will be celebrating the best dressed buildings in our summer edition of *Barnet First* and on our Jubilee webpage where we will be publishing details of how to submit photos.

Also, look out for a children's Jubilee art competition that will be running over the Easter holidays as part of our BACE programme.

Barnet Council teams up with Earthwatch to plant Tiny Forest

Barnet Council teamed up with environmental charity Earthwatch and Good Gym Barnet to plant a Tiny Forest in a green space at Henlys Corner, on the side of the North Circular.

A Tiny Forest is a dense miniature woodland of around 200sqm and they are planted to create a small pocket of quality green space for benefit of people and wildlife.

They have all the benefits of a forest such as tree cover for wildlife, increasing biodiversity, oxygenating the air and reducing flooding but in an urban-friendly size. School groups and volunteers were there to help plant around 600 trees of 15 different native species including oaks, cherries, and willows.

Wildlife and better air quality

Chair of Barnet Council's Environment Committee, Cllr Dean Cohen, said:

"We welcome the Tiny Forest project in Barnet as a fantastic way for the local community to come together and enjoy the benefits of our green spaces.

"It is a great way to get out into nature and as well as being an attractive and interesting feature it has the added benefits for wildlife, the environment and the air we breathe.

"Projects like these not only improve air quality in Barnet but will help in achieving the commitments made in our forthcoming Sustainability Strategy."

The planting method was developed by Japanese scientist Dr Akira Miyawaki in the 1970s and encourages accelerated forest development.

With a diverse range of plant species, it attracts an equally diverse range of wildlife that also gives people a unique access to nature within in urban areas.



Tributes paid to former Mayor, Councillor Anthony Finn



Tributes have been paid to Councillor Anthony Finn, councillor for the Hendon Ward and former Mayor of Barnet, who passed away on Monday 21 February.

Cllr Finn had represented the Hendon Ward since being elected in 1990. He served as Deputy Leader of the Council from 2002 to 2005 and was elected Barnet's 46th Mayor in 2010.

Cllr Alison Cornelius, The Worshipful the Mayor of Barnet, said: "Tony will be remembered as an extremely diligent councillor who served his residents for over 30 years.

"I will always think of him as having a wonderful sense of humour and a unique ability to scrutinise a set of council Committee Agenda Papers

and to be aware of even the tiniest detail. We will all greatly miss his dedication and expertise."

Cllr Dan Thomas, Leader of Barnet Council, said: "I was very sorry to hear of the death of Cllr Tony Finn and pass on my condolences to his family.

"Tony was a committed councillor, and above all a good man. I always appreciated Tony's counsel; he was a man who truly cared about improving the lives of all of those both in the Hendon ward he represented for over 30 years, and across the whole borough.

"Tony will be missed by all those who knew him, may his memory be a blessing."

SAVE THE DATE
23 & 24 JULY

DISCOVER
BARNET

presents

BARNET SUMMERTIME 2022

SATURDAY 23 & SUNDAY 24 JULY

@ Barnet Playing Fields, Underhill, EN5

LIVE MUSIC | DJS

LOCAL TALENT | FOOD

FAMILY FUN | ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES

LINE UP COMING SOON

CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR PROGRAMME AND TICKET INFO

Follow us:    @barnetsummertime

www.barnetsummertime.co.uk

 the EVENT
UMBRELLA

BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH



Discover Barnet Presents is back for summer 2022!

Following the success of the inaugural Discover Barnet Presents Summer Festival in 2021, we're doing it again! Barnet's town centres, high streets, parks and open spaces will once again be host to a variety of family-friendly fun, popping up throughout the summer in celebration of local talent, local businesses, local communities and everything that makes Barnet a great place to live. The Discover Barnet Presents programme will be open to all, and events will largely be free to attend.

Let's make this another summer to celebrate!

Last year's festival welcomed over 12,000 people to 20 days of summer fun in our parks and town centres, and partnered with over 100 local people, organisations and businesses to deliver it all. Keep your ears and eyes peeled as the Discover Barnet Presents 2022 programme is revealed over the coming weeks and months – get involved, bring your friends and family, and let's make summer 2022 in Barnet one to remember.

Be the first to know

Email barnet.first@barnet.gov.uk to join the Discover Barnet Presents mailing list and be the first to know what's coming up next. Check the website for event details as the programme is released: www.engage.barnet.gov.uk/discoverbarnetpresents

Get involved

Want to volunteer at an event? Want to perform? Want to trade at an event? The council continues to enlist local individuals, organisations or businesses who would like to take part in future programming.

Email Charlie.Kanarecki@Barnet.gov.uk to register your interest.

SAVE THE DATE FOR BARNET SUMMERTIME 2022

Let's get together and celebrate summer at this year's Barnet Summertime live music festival, which will take place on Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 July 2022. The two-day festival will include two stages of live bands and DJs from local heroes to touring artists, as well as food, fun, and activities for all ages. Visit www.barnetsummertime.co.uk



Your Council Tax: investing in a better Barnet for all

Your annual Council Tax bill will be delivered to you soon explaining how your contribution supports the provision of local services across Barnet.

The rising cost of living is becoming a concern for many, and it is right that your council does what it can to help residents most affected. That is why the council is freezing General Council Tax this year.

Support through challenging times

In line with the Chancellor’s announcement in January, approximately 83,000 households are expected to receive a Council Tax rebate of £150, thanks to government funding. This is aimed to support low-income households through challenging times.

Providing for our growing elderly population

For the coming year we are applying an Adult Social Care Precept of 1 per cent. This year’s Council Tax will also include an 8.78 per cent increase in the Greater London Authority (GLA) Precept. The GLA Precept is set by the Mayor of London and the council has no control over this sum.

The increased Adult Social Care Precept will ensure we have the funding to support our growing elderly adult population, especially those with extra and complex needs. While the element of Council Tax that the council

charges will be frozen, increases in the Adult Social Care Precept and the GLA precept will mean that your overall bill will go up slightly.

£1billion for building a better Barnet for all

Our Barnet Plan sets out our vision to 2025, that will ensure Barnet is a clean, safe, family-friendly place with excellent facilities for our residents - a borough fit for the future.

Over the next five years, £1billion will be invested in local housing, schools, parks, sports facilities, roads, pavements, and a new train station. Every year, £1.2million of Community Infrastructure Levy revenue will be given to Area Committees for local infrastructure projects.

We have set a target for the council, as an organisation, to be ‘net zero carbon’ by 2030 and we will assist the borough to achieve the same by 2050, at the latest.

Keeping our streets safe

While fighting crime is the responsibility of the Mayor of London, the council is doing its bit to keep our streets safe. We will be investing £780,000 to upgrade our CCTV network and we have established a new, uniformed Community Safety Team to patrol town centres and parks. This team will liaise with residents, community groups and the Police to help target crime, fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour.

Delivering top-quality services

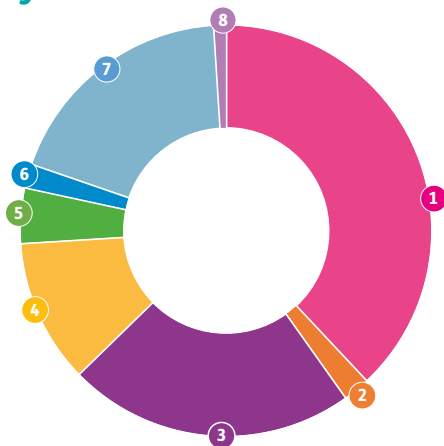
Over the next year, we plan to make budget savings of £7.9million without compromising our frontline services. We also plan to increase the charges paid by developers. We will continue to deliver top-quality services and value for money for every resident.

For more information on Council Tax visit www.barnet.gov.uk/council-tax

Net expenditure for 2022/23

Our net budget for the coming year is £336.592million. This is the core budget over which we have control. The charts below set out all our spending for 2022/23, and details where our money comes from.

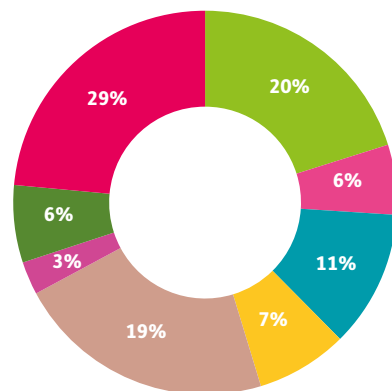
How we will spend your Council Tax over the next year



Service Area	£m
1 Adults & Health	127.987
2 Assurance (incl. electoral services and internal audit)	7.143
3 Children’s & Family Services	75.893
4 Commercial, Management & Back Office	38.156

Service Area	£m
5 Environment	14.534
6 Housing & Development	6.489
7 Corporate Expenses (Housing Benefits, capital financing, levies and inflation)	63.261
8 Planning & Regulation	3.130
Total	336.592

Where our money comes from



Where our money comes from	Income £m	%
Council Tax	203.732	20
Business Rates	65.357	6
Fees & Charges (excluding HRA)	109.597	11
Government Grants	74.525	7
Housing Benefit	198.674	19
Other contributions	30.815	3
Housing Revenue Account	60.393	6
Dedicated Schools Grant	297.756	29
Total	1,040.848	100

A thriving borough with much to be proud of...

Excellent schools, vibrant town centres, green spaces and diverse communities all help to make Barnet a great place to live, work and visit. The Barnet Plan 2021-2025 aims to deliver the best possible services for residents. The Plan ensures we all have opportunities to live healthy and fulfilling lives in safe and thriving communities.

The Barnet Plan identifies our four priorities for the borough:



A place where our streets are clean and antisocial behaviour is dealt with so residents feel safe. Providing good quality, customer friendly services in all that we do.

.....



A Family Friendly Barnet, enabling opportunities for our children and young people to achieve their best.

.....



A place fit for the future, where all residents, businesses and visitors benefit from improved sustainable infrastructure and opportunity.

.....



A place with fantastic facilities for all ages, enabling people to live happy and healthy lives.

In the past year we have...



Clean, Safe and Well Run



Made **11,967,000** bin collections

Cleared **2,997** fly-tips

Filled **2,133** potholes and carried out **8,453** highway repairs

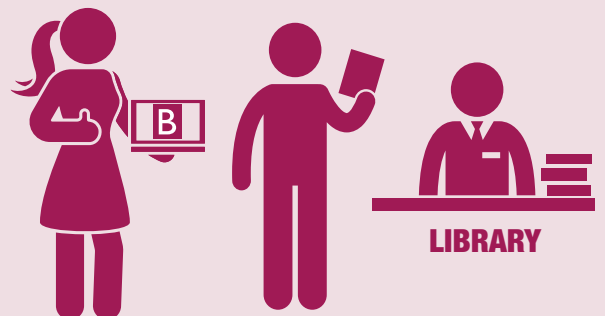
Invested over **£2m** in improvements to our parks and open spaces



Family Friendly

Provided **6,093** children and young people with a hot meal and fun activities through our BACE Holidays Programme

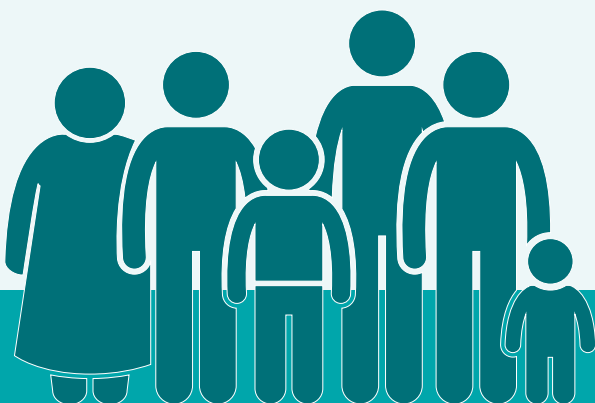
Welcomed **8,066** new library members, loaned **398,161** e-items and **484,745** physical items in the borough's **14** branches



Education



Our secondary schools ranked **third** in England for **Attainment 8**





Thriving



Connected more than **4,500** homes with fibre broadband

Awarded **£26,673,919** in **6,482** grants to support local businesses

Set targets to be net zero carbon as a council by **2030**, and as a borough by **2050** at the latest



Healthy



Enabled **7,000** older and vulnerable residents to stay independent

Supported **1,931** residents to go home safely after a hospital stay



Ofsted rating: **97.6%** of Barnet's schools are rated **'Good'** or **'Outstanding'** and we are in the top **10%** of the country



100% of children whose parents/carers applied on time received an offer of a Reception place

Barnet's ward boundaries have changed



This means that where you go to vote in the Local Elections on 5 May 2022 might have changed.

Having new ward boundaries means the polling station where you go to vote may well have changed and you might be voting for a different number of councillors than before. Some wards will have fewer electors, so will be represented by two councillors. Wards with a larger number of electors will be represented by three councillors.

Having new ward boundaries means:

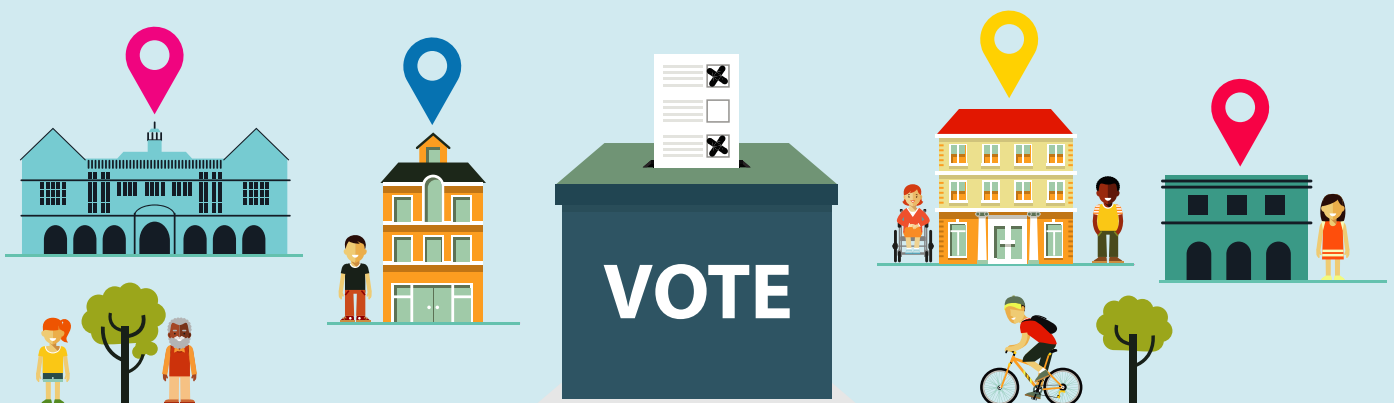
- Barnet will continue to be represented by 63 councillors
- the number of wards will increase from 21 to 24 wards
- there will be 15 three-councillor wards and nine two-councillor wards
- the names of many wards have changed
- councillors will be elected into the new wards for the first time on 5 May 2022

SEE MAP ACROSS PAGE

Check the map to see if the boundary changes mean you are now in a different ward.

New ward boundaries mean that the location of polling stations has had to change for many electors in the borough.

Visit www.barnet.gov.uk/elections to find out where you will go to vote in this year's Local Elections on 5 May 2022.





Get ready to vote

Make sure you are registered to vote. Registering to vote is quick and easy, visit: gov.uk/register-to-vote. The deadline to register to vote is Thursday 14 April 2022. The deadline to apply for a postal vote is 5pm on Tuesday 19 April. The deadline to apply for a proxy vote is 5pm on Tuesday 26 April. **You only need to register once, you don't need to register separately for every election.**

Decide how you would like to cast your vote. You can either vote in-person, by post or by proxy. Find out more and how to apply for a postal or proxy vote at barnet.gov.uk/elections

If you plan to vote in person, make sure you know where to go on election day. Your polling station is likely to have changed. **Your Poll Card will tell you where to go to vote on 5 May 2022, so check it carefully when it arrives.**

Find out more about the Barnet's ward boundary changes and how to vote in the local elections on 5 May 2022 at: www.barnet.gov.uk/elections

Barnet fights back against the fly-tippers

In the past 12 months, Barnet Council's busy Street Scene team have cleared up nearly 2,700 fly-tips from the streets across the borough.

These fly-tips range from bin bags of rubbish to bulky items like old mattresses and furniture. We meet the council workers at the frontline tackling the fly-tippers.

Fly-tipping is the illegal dumping of waste, either done accidentally or deliberately. To tackle this unsightly scourge, members of Barnet's Street Scene team head out on to our streets daily to help keep the borough clean and tidy.

To see the some of the hard work being done we went out with one of the teams on a chilly Monday morning in February to find out what they face on a daily basis.

View from the council

Cllr Dean Cohen, Chairman of the Barnet Council Environment Committee, says: "Fly-tipping is a criminal offence that costs us tens of thousands of pounds per year to clear. This money would be much better spent on vital services.

"Every week, we clear up an average of 70 fly-tips across the borough, and we're determined to make the people behind them face justice. There are plenty of ways to dispose of your rubbish responsibly to help keep Barnet clean and tidy for all of us."



**WE CLEAN.
WE INVESTIGATE.
WE PROSECUTE.**

Love where you live, say no to fly-tips.

To find out more, check out barnet.gov.uk/flytipping



Meet the dedicated team

Arriving at the Oakleigh Depot for 5.30am the teams get suited up, do their checks and by 6am they're in their vehicles and ready to go.

"We come in every day, and we're given a list of jobs – mostly paid collection jobs that we have to do for the day," says Paul Gannon of Barnet Street Scene.

"Once we've done those jobs, we have another list with things from Barnet Homes and stuff that has been fly-tipped. We pick that up and, on the way back, on our journey to the depot, we pick up anything we see on the way to make sure Barnet is kept clean and tidy."

Like the rest of the country Paul and his team have seen a rise in fly-tips since the start of the pandemic, which adds to what is already a challenging job.

Unlimited fines for fly-tipping

To help Paul, Zangar Livinia and the rest of the Street Scene team we take action against anyone found to be fly-tipping within Barnet under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 for which there is an unlimited fine and possible imprisonment.

If you witness an incident of fly-tipping we advise you not to put yourselves at risk by challenging the offender. Do not approach the person.

Make a note of the vehicle registration number and the date and time of the incident and contact us with this information. We can then investigate.

Please make a note of the exact location in order to tell us. All fly-tipping reported on public land will be cleared.

Paul says: "There have been a lot of fly-tips since the start of the pandemic. A lot of people tend to leave things out instead of paying for them so we could easily have as many as three tips a day."

Despite the early start and the hard graft, Paul likes the job: "It's challenging at most times; there are things that you don't expect to see along the way but it's enjoyable, it's different every day, good staff and yeah, I really enjoy it."

And Paul isn't the only one in his team who enjoys their job working for Barnet's Street Scene. "I love this job and I enjoy it every day," adds Zangar resoundingly.

"I work in the streets, I speak with people, they say 'thank you', they're happy, I'm happy. It's the best job."



www.barnet.gov.uk/flytipping



Barnet's journey to net zero carbon



While we develop our Sustainability Strategy to ensure a sustainable future for Barnet, work is already well under way to meet our targets of being net zero carbon as a council by 2030, and net zero carbon as a borough as soon as possible after this – and by 2050 at the latest.

A new Social Value Policy for Barnet – what does it mean?

Our Social Value Policy considers environmental, social and local economic benefits in all that we do.

From improving waste reduction, making positive decisions relating to climate change and reducing energy consumption, working with local businesses to deliver local services, improving our green spaces, to enhancing local training and support – the policy aims to deliver value and quality for the people of Barnet, while supporting our targets for a sustainable future.

Barnet's buildings are going green

We're close to completing the first phase of a major project to reduce the carbon footprint of our building stock.

The £1.38million grant from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) has seen several energy efficiency measures, including heat pumps, solar panels, battery storage and Building Management Systems, be installed in our council offices, libraries, children's centres and two primary schools.



The next phase will start this year, investing a further £4.9million to retrofit up to 19 of Barnet's schools to make them more energy efficient.

The PSDS grant has been funded by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and administered through Salix Finance.

The Green Homes Grant helps low-income householders and landlords in Barnet to transform cold and energy inefficient homes into comfortable and sustainable homes with grants of up to £10,000 available for new insulation, low carbon heating systems and smart heating controls. Find out more: www.barnet.gov.uk/ghg



Breathing easy in Barnet

A big focus of our sustainability plans is to continue to clean up the air we breathe by reducing harmful emissions.

We have 15 air quality monitoring stations across Barnet, which constantly check the quality of the air we breathe and enable us to measure and control key pollutants.

Our Air Quality Action Plan is due for review later this year and there will be an opportunity for everyone to have their say on how we continue to improve air quality in Barnet.

The PSDS measures are estimated to make a carbon saving of 288 tonnes in CO2 equivalent emissions per year – that's equal to 288 return flights from Paris to New York!



Planted over 3,700 trees in 3 years





Working together to build a thriving future for Barnet

The council's forthcoming Sustainability Strategy will set out the key actions Barnet Council will continue to take to create a green, clean and safe place to live now and for generations to come.

Focus groups with residents, businesses, and community and interest groups are underway already, and there will be an opportunity for everyone to help shape our Sustainability Strategy via a full public consultation later in the year.

Working together to develop Barnet's Sustainability Strategy is essential to making sure we are all united in the actions needed to protect our environment and build a sustainable borough fit for the future.

Park up and charge up – Barnet's electric vehicle boost

Key to improving air quality is reducing the amount of harmful emissions that come from our vehicles.

With the second highest rate of electric vehicle car ownership in London, we will install a comprehensive network of charge points by 2030. Following a £3.5million grant from the government's On-Street Residential Charge Point Scheme, the council is spending a total of £4.65million to install 500 on-street electric vehicle

charge points in 34 of Barnet's residential streets over the next year.

The increase in charge points hopes to further encourage electric vehicle uptake in the borough, as well as the long-term benefit of reducing emissions. Find out more or suggest a location for a charge point: www.barnet.gov.uk/roads-and-pavements/electric-vehicles-barnet



We can all do our bit for Barnet's air

Choosing active travel, using public transport, or going electric, are all ways we can do our bit to reduce air pollution in Barnet.

The next time you pop to your local high street, why not walk or cycle? Follow our Heritage Walks and discover Barnet's natural world on your doorstep: www.barnet.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/healthy-heritage-walks

Some of Barnet's local businesses recently did their bit for Barnet by taking part in a trial with zero emissions delivery company, Zedify. The project saw a buzz of electric cargo bikes zipping through the streets, supporting local businesses to make 'zero emissions' deliveries.



Sign up and pay for the 2022-23 garden waste service

You can now sign up for the 2022-23 garden waste service year, which begins from early May 2022.

The cost has been held at £70 for the fortnightly collection of one bin for the year, and £50 for each additional bin.

You will receive a full year's service if you **sign up and pay by 17 April**.

If you signed up to the collection service last year, then you will need to sign up again this year for your collections to continue from early May 2022.

Stickers for the new service year will be grey.



For a quick and easy sign up, do it online at **www.barnet.gov.uk/gardenwaste** or call us on 020 8359 4600



How does it work?



Sign up and pay using the details above

Make sure that you sign up for the total number of bins you would like us to empty. We don't empty overfilled bins or collect excess sacks of garden waste.



Receiving your sticker

Once payment has been received, your sticker will be posted to your address before the service starts if you have signed up by 17 April. You will get one sticker for each bin you pay to have collected.



When you get your sticker

Please remember to apply your sticker to the centre of the lid of your garden waste bin. Do this before the service starts so the collection crews know you have paid for the service.

If you subscribed to the service last year, please remove the old sticker as best as you can before applying your new sticker.

What you can put in your garden waste bin

Yes please ✓



Garden waste

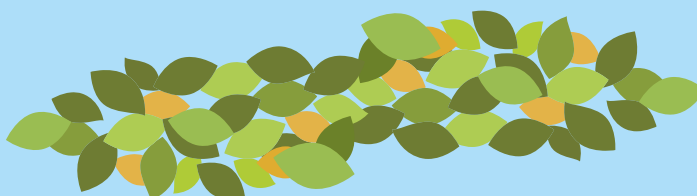
- ✓ Grass cuttings
- ✓ Hedge trimmings
- ✓ Tree cuttings
- ✓ Small branches
- ✓ Leaves
- ✓ Weeds



Sign up and pay at www.barnet.gov.uk/gardenwaste

If you do not want to sign up to the service, then you can...

- Take your garden waste to the Reuse and Recycling Centre, Summers Lane, N12 0RF. Book before you visit: www.barnet.gov.uk/recycling
- Consider composting at home - compost bins are available at affordable prices. Visit: www.getcomposting.com
- Remember not to put garden waste in your black refuse bin or blue recycling bin.



We're recruiting SHARED LIVES CARERS

- Benefit from generous pay with tax-free allowances
- Make a difference to a vulnerable adult's life



Three roles are on offer:

- Live-in – spare room required
- Respite – spare room required
- Day support

Open
your heart
and your
home

Get in touch:

☎ 0208 359 3576

✉ shared.lives@barnet.gov.uk

🌐 barnet.gov.uk/sharedlives



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LONDON BOROUGH

WHAT IS SHARED LIVES?

Shared Lives is a care and support service for people aged 16+ who want to live independently, with the support of a family and community network. It's a bit like fostering, except it's for adults. The people receiving support may have a learning or physical disability, or be an older person with a frailty or dementia. Over 10,000 Shared Lives carers around the UK share their homes and family life with someone who needs support.



Meet Roy

Roy is a Barnet resident and has been a Shared Lives carer since 2017. After years of working at a warehouse, he was looking for a flexible role that enabled him to earn a comfortable living while still being able to spend time with his family. He came across the role and immediately knew that it was something he wanted to try!

Since joining Shared Lives, Roy has had the pleasure of supporting adults with a diverse range of needs, including adults with learning disabilities and autism.

We had a chat with Roy to find out more.

Q&A

Q Tell us about your Shared Lives experience.

- It is a very rewarding role that I thoroughly enjoy! It gives me great satisfaction to see how comfortable the individuals are in my home and with my family.
- I provide a combination of day support and overnight support. There's one person we've built a particularly great relationship with, so they will be moving in with us permanently.
- I have worked with many individuals and have seen the positive effect my support has made to their lives.
- One individual needed support to get dressed when he first joined us, but after a lot of prompting and practice he is now able to dress himself independently, which is an amazing achievement!

Q What does a typical day look like for you?

- It depends on whom I'm supporting on the day. Each person I support has their own needs and challenges. It is my job to ensure they remain as independent as possible while also feeling supported.
- A day may start with waking up and getting ready, followed by breakfast and a cup of tea. We may then plan activities such as visiting day centres or going out together in the community.
- Most individuals with learning disabilities and autism can be at risk of isolation so it is important to engage in activities that they find fun and rewarding.
- If the weather permits, we may go out for lunch or walk around the shops or visit the parks, or head to a museum. At home, we may do puzzles, watch videos on YouTube, or doing something crafty such as embroidery.
- Mealtimes in our home is a big affair! We use it as quality time by preparing their favourite meals together and sitting down as a family with my wife and daughters.

Q What is your advice to someone who has the space and availability to be a carer but isn't sure if it's for them?

- I would say, if you have a spare room, then just do it!
- I recommend it to anyone as it is a rewarding role that's flexible and can work with any family schedule.
- Offering respite and day support means that all visits are booked in advance so I can manage my own diary, which gives you that extra freedom and it's nice to work from home.
- When you first start out, it can feel a bit daunting but once everyone starts to feel more comfortable, and you get to know the people you are supporting, then it's brilliant and you can have lots of fun. You'll wish you had joined sooner!

WHY WE FOSTER

Shushma and her mum foster together. She reflects on how fostering has transformed her family’s outlook on life and improved the future prospects of the children they’ve cared for.



Shushma and her mum: “Becoming a foster carer changes your life.”

We’ve had many children come into our care. Olivia joined our family when she was nine years old. She was fun and bubbly with a competitive spirit - she was obsessed with football (her favourite team was Arsenal) and loved playing board games.

However, she couldn’t tell the time, use cutlery, do her buttons or tie her shoelaces. As a result, she suffered with low self-esteem and self-confidence. It wasn’t because she wasn’t able to learn

- it was because she had never been taught.

We taught Olivia these life skills and we advocated for her Pupil Premium funding to be used for Kumon, an English and maths programme for children of all ages and abilities.

Pupil Premium is government funding to improve education outcomes of disadvantaged pupils in schools.

We saw her self-esteem and self-confidence improve as she was no longer being benchmarked or compared

to other children their age. She really started believing in herself and even started reading novels.

Helping children to progress

This is what makes fostering so rewarding. The progress the child makes when they are given the love, belief, support and foundation needed as children, so that they can thrive. It is the little progress that makes my heart swell with pride.

I have learnt so much from the children we’ve cared for. I have worked in the special educational needs (SEN) field for 20 years, but when I entered the world of fostering, it opened many doors and gave me additional insight into SEN.

Why you should foster

If you have the commitment, dedication, and love to give a child the childhood they rightly deserve, what are you waiting for?

Becoming a foster carer changes your life, makes you appreciate what you have, and you become a kinder, more empathetic person.

BARNET Fostering

Our offer to you:

- 24/7 SUPPORT
- EXTENSIVE TRAINING
- DEDICATED SOCIAL WORKER
- PEER SUPPORT

Earn up to
£581
PER WEEK

“Changing the lives of children like Jessica is why I chose to foster”

Join our fostering community today and see how you can change a child's life:

EMAIL: FOSTERING@BARNET.GOV.UK

WWW.BARNET.GOV.UK/FOSTERING • 020 8359 6274



Our first year of BACE was ace!

In April 2021 we launched our Barnet-based scheme as part of the national Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF) for children aged 5-16 who are eligible for free school meals.

We wanted Barnet’s young people to have ownership of the brand identity, and so we asked them to come up with a name which they felt best described our vision for the programme.

They decided on “Barnet’s Active, Creative and Engaging Holidays (BACE Holidays)” and after delivering three successful holiday camps throughout 2021, we can definitely say we lived up to the acronym!

Activities for thousands of children

To date, 6,093 children and young people have participated in BACE Holidays activities and we can’t wait to introduce even more young people to our fun-filled, healthy holiday programme in the coming year.

Each child on the programme was provided with a nutritious hot meal and snack on the programme each day. A healthy dessert was also offered in the Winter BACE Holiday camp.



What does BACE Holidays offer?

- A wide range of both physical and enriching activities such as multisports, dance, circus skills, art, baking and more!
- A hot, healthy lunch when you attend our activities
- A family-friendly information booklet with healthy recipes and lifestyle tips, home workouts, welfare and free mental health support, and local events

Keep an eye out, for the of dates BACE Easter holiday programme **4-8 April** and **11-14 April** by following **@BarnetYouth_** on Instagram or by visiting **barnetyouth.uk/BACE-holidays**.



You don't want to miss out!



We couldn't have done it without the support of Young Barnet Foundation and the rest of our fantastic partners and providers - thank you all for your amazing contributions!

Barnet Food Hub and Give.Help.Share for providing snack and food parcels

Various schools in Barnet that offered venue space

Met Police for delivery of activities in the summer and for visiting our schools

Barnet Mobile Library for touring our BACE Holiday camps

Barnet Sports Partnership for providing coaches at some of our camps

All Of Our Speciality activity providers

Tesco, PlanetJunko and Britvic

Chickenshed for their "A Better World Tales Show"



Celebrating Barnet's Road Safety Heroes



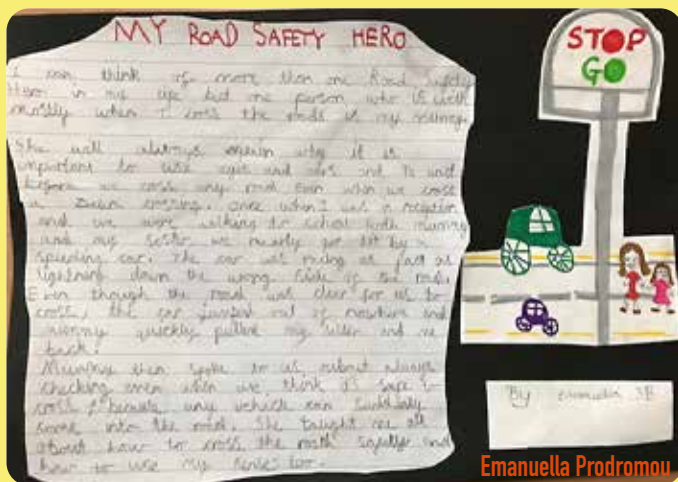
In recognition of the road safety hero theme for National Road Safety Week 2021, the Barnet Safe and Sustainable Travel team invited school communities to nominate a road safety hero – a person who helps or inspires others to keep safe.

Winners were announced in December 2021, all receiving a certificate and £50 voucher to spend on hi-vis accessories.



Mrs Marilyn Gerson

Mrs Chaya Posen, head teacher at Shalom Noam Primary school, nominated staff member Mrs Marilyn Gerson for “doing all she possibly can to promote road safety.” Mrs Gerson stands outside the school every day in all weathers, supporting families with getting to and from school safely. Mrs Gerson was “happy and proud” to receive the award and highlighted that it was a team effort made up of staff, children and parents.



Emanuella Prodromou

Emanuella Prodromou, a Year 3 pupil at Osidge School, nominated her mother, Anita Pontikakis, for teaching her about road safety and recalls a time when her mother kept the family safe after a speeding car had surprised them. Anita says she felt very touched to have been nominated, explaining: “As parents we always try to use real-life experiences as examples to help shape their awareness about keeping safe when we cross roads.”

Mr Heath Jeffery, caretaker at St Johns C of E Primary School N11, has been ensuring the safety of the school community by standing outside the school gates every day for almost 20 years. A parent of the school, Eileen Rumble, nominated Mr Jeffery, explaining: “Mr Jeffery gives parents confidence which enables their children to cycle, scoot and walk into school.” Mr Graham Gunn, head teacher, describes Mr Jeffery as a dedicated member of staff who the school are proud of.



Mr Heath Jeffery

Our partnership approach to tackling domestic abuse and violence against women and girls in Barnet



Tina McElligott

We launched our domestic abuse (DA) and violence against women and girls (VAWG) strategy on 8 March to coincide with International Women’s Day, with an event held at Saracens StoneX Stadium.

“Our vision is for all residents of Barnet, especially women and girls, to live free of domestic abuse and all forms of VAWG. Working with our partners, we will raise awareness and work to prevent violence and abuse in the home, places of learning and employment, and in the community.

“The Partnership has zero tolerance for abuse and violence, perpetrators will be held to account and victims and survivors will be able to access the support and help they need,” said Tina McElligott, Director of Early Help & Children’s Social Care Services and Chair of the VAWG Delivery Group.

Domestic abuse is everyone’s business

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 creates, for the first time, a statutory definition of domestic abuse, to ensure that domestic abuse is properly understood, considered unacceptable and actively challenged. We are committed to strengthening the response in Barnet and to make DA and VAWG ‘everyone’s business’.

Our partnership objectives

1. Early intervention and prevention of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls
2. Support all victims and survivors to report, access help and recover
3. Pursue perpetrators and engage them in behaviour change interventions to eliminate harm to victims and their families
4. Strengthen the partnership response to improve multiagency working and information sharing to deliver improved outcomes
5. Working together for safer streets, community and public spaces

Help and support

If you require emergency assistance, please call **999**

National Domestic Abuse Helpline **0808 2000 247**

Barnet Solace Advocacy and Support Service team on **0203 874 5003**

The One Stop Shop takes place weekly every Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm, no appointment is needed. For further information call Barnet Homes Housing Options **0208 610 3539**

For more information visit

www.barnet.gov.uk/domesticabuse



SAFER COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP



Keeping Barnet Safe



Supporting Children's Mental Health Week at Brunswick Park Primary School



Headteacher Mrs Kennedy: "At Brunswick Park, we aim to support parents, pupils and staff to understand how to look after their mental health and wellbeing.

"We want all of our community to feel cared for, to empower them with strategies that they can use to support their mental health and wellbeing and to reduce the stigma that is sometimes associated with poor mental health.

"Wellbeing is at the heart of all we do. During the beginning of February, we celebrated Children's Mental Health Week in lots of different ways.

"The children had a special assembly on the theme 'Growing Together' and we shared ideas about ways that the children can look after their mental health and wellbeing. We were so proud of the children for sharing such a range of strategies."

Here are some of the ideas that the children shared:



YOU CAN PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT.

Myna, Year 5



JUST STROKING MY DOG SETS ME UP FOR THE DAY.

Lilibeth, Year 4



GO TO THE GYM.

Grace, Year 1



DO A PUZZLE.

Yamen, Year 5



GET ON MY SKATEBOARD!

Harry, Year 5



SPEAK TO A DOCTOR.

Rafaello, Year 2



WATCH A FUNNY VIDEO.

Tarek, Year 5



GIVE GOOD THINGS TO OTHERS.

Nicholas, Year 3



TALK TO SOMEONE THAT YOU TRUST.

Aren, Year 6

Each class took part in a special circle time on the theme of mental health.

The following themes were covered:

Year 1 thought about some simple strategies for managing feelings. They watched the 'Guessing Feelings' video from the film 'Inside Out'. The children completed 'My Circle of Support' where they noted who supported them if they were feeling sad and what they could do to help themselves.

Year 2 children each shared how they were feeling. We discussed the difference between physical health and mental health and how to manage feelings when they become too big to handle. We then watched a clip of the Place2Be 'Support Balloon' and the children then made their own support balloons.

Year 3 children discussed how many different feelings and emotions were in the room. We then watched a video clip from the Place2Be 'Window to my Weather: Noticing Feelings' and the children made their own piece of weather art.

Year 4 children spoke about who we could chat with if we were struggling with our emotional health. Watching a film about mental health from the Anna Freud Centre helped the children to complete a worksheet called 'Who do I trust?' and, if they were comfortable to, they shared it with the class.

Year 5 children explored the animation film from Anna Freud called 'Schools in Mind' which guided a discussion about recognising warning signs about mental health and wellbeing and how to get support. This led to thinking about a big feeling that they may have had and how they managed it.

Year 6 children had a big class discussion about self-care strategies and how we might feel in different environments. Some of the children spoke about going to secondary school and had a session on 'How to Cope with Stress' and discussed different strategies and shared ideas with one another.

Year 6 reflections on mental health

"It's important to have good mental health because it affects you as a physical being."

"Sometimes it's not easy to spot. Don't hide or be scared to say you are sad or need help. It's good to get support."

"Talk to an adult or someone you trust if you feel sad or you might become devastated."

'Dress to Express Day'

The children were invited to come into school wearing a non-school uniform item of clothing in support of 'Dress to Express day' to give a message to all the children that they should be proud of who they are. Look at all our colourful, sparkly outfits!



EXPRESS YOURSELF



BICS

Barnet Integrated Clinical Services

Supporting children and young people’s mental health in Barnet

Parents, children and young people can access a wide range of support for mental health and wellbeing.

What is BICS?

Barnet Integrated Clinical Services (BICS) provides mild to moderate mental health services to children, young people and families in the borough.

What we do

We offer a range of services for individuals and families alongside groups and workshops. We can meet face-to-face or virtually either in school or in the community. We also offer a range of online content to support wellbeing and good mental health in Barnet.

Who can refer?

If you live in the borough or attend a Barnet school and are struggling with social, emotional or behavioural difficulties we might be able to help. Families and professionals can refer and if you are not sure if we are the right service for you, give us a call to discuss.

How to refer

Just complete The Universal Plus Form on the Barnet website from external agencies and parents or if the young person is known to the local authority, Family Services staff can refer using ‘BICS request for service’. Email: BICS@barnet.gov.uk Support line: 020 8359 3130 www.barnet.gov.uk/bics

Feedback from some of the young people who have used BICS

Zubeda offered me a lot of help and listened to me without feeling like I was being judged.

AA – 17 years old

They understood me really well and I felt that I wasn’t crazy and it was actually really normal.

LP – 14 years old

I have gotten the help I needed and was listened to.

SA – 16 years old

Mill Hill County High School said: “BICS support has been amazing! We have a few therapists coming into school each week for drop-ins and referrals. We think it’s making an impact on the student as problems are being picked up early. We are really pleased with the support.”

Could BICS help?

Visit our website for support, advice, how to refer and online resources.

Email: BICS@barnet.gov.uk

Support line: 020 8359 3130

www.barnet.gov.uk/bics



#ANDYSMANCLUB

a peer to peer support group for men is coming to

BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH

WHERE

Meridian Wellbeing Centre, Church End, Hendon, London NW4 4JT

Launch Monday 28 March 7pm

then every Monday night there after (except bank holidays)

SUICIDE IS THE BIGGEST
KILLER OF MEN UNDER 45
1 MAN EVERY 2 HOURS

Come have a brew and a chat



#ITSOKAYTALK

JETS

JOB ENTRY:
TARGETED
SUPPORT

BACK INTO WORK

Has COVID-19
left you
struggling to find
work?

Are you sending
applications and
not hearing
back?

Are you selling
yourself short
in job
interviews?



We want to support you during these hard times and you may be able to receive free specialised support from Shaw Trust.



Find out how we can help you by scanning the QR link above or going to:
<https://tinyurl.com/BarnetSupport>

Alternatively, to speak to your local Barnet representative you can contact Jonny

Jonathan.Reynolds@Shaw-Trust.org.uk
07563 026 183

Features and benefits of the JETS Programme

- ✓ Personal advisor
- ✓ Direct access to live vacancies
- ✓ CV building and Interview skill building
- ✓ Learn new skills and change sector
- ✓ Confidence building and job search guidance

shaw trust **JETS** | JOB ENTRY:
TARGETED
SUPPORT

West London Alliance
W
WIDROWING OUTREACH FOR WEST LONDON


European Union
European Social Fund


Department for Work & Pensions
In partnership with

**Start your
smoke-free
journey today –
it is time
to quit!**



With our help you are three times more likely to succeed! If you live, work or study in Barnet, and you are a smoker who is aged 12 and over, then there are free and confidential one-to-one support programmes across the borough to help.

Start your personalised quit journey today by filling out your Smoke-free Journey Form at barnet.gov.uk/StopSmoking call the Stop Smoking London Helpline on **0300 123 1044** or email smokingcessation@barnet.gov.uk

We caught up with Nigel, aged 60, from Oakleigh, Barnet about his journey to becoming smoke-free.

• What made you decide to give up smoking?

I tried a few times before to give up but wasn't successful, I'd been smoking 20 cigarettes a day for more than 40 years.

• Why did you use the Barnet's Smoke-Free Journey service?

This time I was advised to give up by my doctor who contacted the smoking cessation team on my behalf. When he suggested it, I was willing to try the service out but was unconvinced that it'd really be that much help.

• What was the process you went through?

I was given a dedicated smoking cessation partner Nicky, who was extremely helpful. I'd tried different nicotine replacement products in the past with which gave limited results.

Nicky took the time to go through these and suggested I use some newer products that had recently come out on the market. She also went through the correct way to use them and gave me tips and ideas of things I could do to help with the psychological changes required to quit for good.

• How long did it take you to give up?

Within a couple of weeks I'd given up completely and after around six to eight weeks I was no longer using the replacement products apart from the occasional lozenge on the rare occasion I got the urge to have a cigarette.

• How do you feel having given up smoking?

Since giving up I've noticed my breathing is easier, and the cough I'd previously had virtually stopped. I am noticing that my sense of taste and smell have improved too.

• Would you recommend it to others?

I'd recommend the smoking cessation service to anyone who is serious about giving up, if you follow the advice given, it's much easier than trying it on your own without the support.

• Any advice for others out there who are thinking about giving up?

My main bit of advice is to take your time and make sure that you're ready. If you use the replacement products and follow the tips, you'll be surprised how little drama is involved in giving up smoking and you'll notice the difference within weeks of stopping.

Apprenticeships helping Bar

National Apprenticeship Week in February put the spotlight on the hundreds of local young people getting their foot on the career ladder and working in jobs that are helping to build a Barnet fit for the future.

Barnet Council alone currently employs nearly 100 apprentices, and they work across all sectors and industries in the borough. From construction in building and engineering to accounting, employment support and carer roles.

There are lots of different reasons for getting into an apprenticeship in Barnet, either as an option after school, to further your education and training or to help change career and expand skills.

For National Apprenticeship Week this year *Barnet First* spoke to apprentices working, learning and earning all across the borough.



Tom's story

Tom Bourke is studying for a degree via the apprenticeship scheme and is working towards becoming a Chartered Surveyor as he helps build the upcoming Brent Cross West station.

When we asked Tom why he chose to take up an apprenticeship he told us: "One of the key reasons I decided on an apprenticeship was the ability to earn a reasonable wage whilst gaining a degree. The degree is government funded which means I won't be burdened with debt once I complete my apprenticeship."

Having already done a previous apprenticeship Tom said: "I was already aware of the benefits and comfortable with the structured programme of learning and working."



Jodie's story

Barnet resident Jodie Cottle, 21, found her apprenticeship at Kuropatwa Group through K10, London's largest construction-specific Apprenticeship Training Agency.

Since joining Kuropatwa in October 2020, Jodie has taken on more responsibility and now works as an Assistant

Site Manager. She runs the documentation on site and deals with subcontractors across a range of areas from quality assurance, dealing with drawings and enquires to clean up notices.

Jodie said: "I decided to take the apprenticeship route as I thought it would be a good way to learn and get hands-on experience at the same time, while also being paid.

"At the end of my apprenticeship, I'll gain a team leadership supervisor qualification which is linked to the site manager role.

"As well as getting valuable experience in an industry it's also an opportunity to build from one apprenticeship to another, gain qualifications and study for a degree."



Barnet's young people to thrive



Wesley's story

Wesley Sinfield, who works at Barnet Council's Internal Audit and Corporate Anti-Fraud Team, started his apprenticeship four years ago.

He started off working towards an AAT accounting qualification, while gaining valuable on the job experience:

"This allowed me to move to the next apprenticeship, which is a degree apprenticeship called CIPFA to work towards my Chartered status in accountancy. For anyone looking into apprenticeships, I would highly recommend it."



Stella's story



The goal of an apprenticeship is to end up in a job where you use the skills and experience you've built up.

Stella has recently done just that. After deciding university wasn't for her, she found an

apprenticeship working for BOOST, an employment, benefits advice, skills and wellbeing project helping Barnet residents. She is now employed full time as an Employment Support Officer. **She said:**

"I gained so much experience and learned about a huge variety of topics from housing and benefits to social media and employment support. I also gained multiple qualifications including housing practice, safeguarding adults, and customer service. I really think that being able to gain hands-on experience and qualifications has prepared me for the next steps in my career."

**Interested in launching your career?
Try an apprenticeship**

If you'd like to find out more about apprenticeships for you or someone you know then visit: boostbarnet.org



Visit Brent Cross Town's new café, eatery and plant shop



Last year, we opened Brent Cross Town's first new building, the Visitor Pavilion, incorporating a new café, alongside an exhibition space that showcases the vision for Brent Cross Town, its homes, workspaces, leisure, parks and public spaces. We are pleased to see that the Visitor Pavilion has already become a well-used space by the community.

Spruce & Larch is the popular new café and eatery that is serving the community within the Visitor Pavilion. As well as delicious coffee, fresh pastries and sandwiches the café has a vast collection of houseplants for sale in keeping with the environmentally friendly, timber-famed design of the new building. And it is dog friendly, much to the delight of those who work there!

It is locally run too, in line with our pledge to support both new and existing communities and ensure that at least 20 per cent of people working in Brent Cross Town are from Barnet or the local boroughs Camden and Brent.

We spoke to Willesden Green residents Dan and Aggy to find out more about working at Brent Cross Town's first café.

General manager, Dan Welch, 25, is originally from South of Italy. He says what attracted him to the role was his love for coffee and plants, which fits the bill when it comes to the offering at Spruce & Larch.

He said: "Coffee shops are my thing for sure, I even have a coffee handle tattooed on my left arm."

"My favourite part of the job is that I get to work with amazing people and meet tons of nice locals and their dogs."

General manager, Dan Welch

"My favourite part of the job is that I get to work with amazing people and meet tons of nice locals and their dogs.

"It's a nice atmosphere, nice plants, delicious food and amazing coffee," he added.

Spruce & Larch's star barista, Agatha Souza, or Aggy as she is warmly known, is 23 and originally from Sao Paulo in Brazil.

Aggy grew up in the area and went to the nearby Whitefield's School, which will be redeveloped as part of the Brent Cross Town project.

As well as 'the good memories' working at Spruce & Larch brings back for Aggy, she said she was attracted to the job because of the café's unusual concept of being a coffee shop that also sells plants. And their favourite part of the job? "Looking after the plants and meeting the doggies!!"

Spruce & Larch is open every day from 9am to 5pm at The Visitor Pavilion, Claremont Way.

Find out more

You can keep up to date via [TransformingBX.co.uk](https://transformingbx.co.uk) where you can view a map of what's going on in the area, view construction updates and sign up for our newsletter. Or follow us @TransformingBX



Dan Welch



Inside Spruce & Larch Café



Agatha Souza



Celebrating a year of gigabit-speed broadband – connecting more people across Barnet

In March 2021, Barnet Council in partnership with Community Fibre, began its ambitious investment programme to kit out homes and communities across the borough with gigabit-speed broadband at affordable prices.

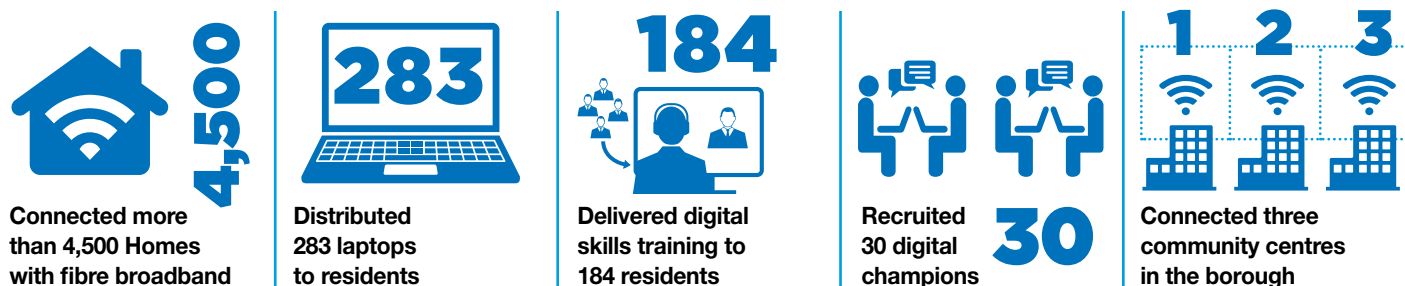
The council aims to connect every Barnet Homes property by 2023 and is on track to deliver that commitment. As a result of our successful partnership with Community Fibre, the borough will see an investment of £25m+ over the next two years, to connect more homes to full fibre broadband, and new projects with more fibre providers launched in January 2022.

Cllr Dan Thomas, Leader of Barnet Council, said:

“Securing investment commitments to upgrade to fibre broadband networks across the borough will ensure that all of our residents can benefit from high-speed internet connections.

“We are working with partners to build a Barnet that’s fit for the needs of today’s communities and the future, through delivering access to digital skills and devices that will enable local residents and communities to thrive.”

Highlights of our Gigabit Broadband Programme so far...



Meet Schiffer Santos – a digital champion and BOOST apprentice in Grahame Park



Schiffer became a digital champion by finding out about the scheme while at her apprenticeship at BOOST last year. She decided that she wanted to make a difference to her local community, to support people who are less able to get online.

Schiffer said:

“The world is changing - everything is moving online, even small things like buying clothes and food shopping, right through to healthcare appointments and applying for jobs. In my community digital exclusion is a problem. It’s easy to be overwhelmed by the internet. It’s about starting small and learning what’s important to you first.

“People come to BOOST for help accessing important services like their Universal Credit account online and it’s quite worrying that someone might not always be there to show them, so people need to be able to help themselves.

“A digital champion may not have all the answers, but what they are able to do is help people find answers themselves and build their confidence.”

As part of the scheme, they hold regular workshops on internet essentials such as accessing emails, signing into Universal Credit accounts and creating CVs.

Our Gigabit Broadband Programme helps provide resources and tools to tackle barriers to digital inclusion, including skills gaps, unaffordability, confidence, and access. Lack of online access has been linked to poorer health, increased loneliness and difficulty accessing jobs, education, and services.

Digital champions play a key role in helping local people within their communities get online and access useful resources and guides to them get the help they need.

For more information on the services available to connect you or your local community centre visit barnet.gov.uk/digital-barnet



COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective in pregnancy



Getting the vaccine is the best way to protect you and your baby from getting seriously ill from COVID-19 and other pregnancy risks such as premature birth.

The vaccine is safe and cannot give you or your baby COVID-19. Pregnant women have been vaccinated in many countries around the world with no safety concerns identified.

Why it's important to get the jab

One in five of the most seriously ill people in hospital with COVID-19 are unvaccinated pregnant women.

If you are pregnant and unvaccinated and get COVID-19, you are more likely to have a stillbirth or early birth.



How to get it

Pregnant women aged 16 and over can get both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine and booster when eligible. Find your nearest walk in clinic here:

www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-walk-in-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-site

“

Zahra from East Finchley said:

I got my first two doses of the vaccine while I was pregnant and recently got my booster jab after giving birth. I felt fine after having all my jabs and I was keen to have them as I wanted to be safe for me and my baby. My baby was born happy and healthy and is doing well. I urge every pregnant woman not to worry and to get their vaccines.

”

Please speak to your GP or maternity nurse if you have any concerns about the vaccine.

www.nhs.uk/pregnancy/keeping-well/vaccinations/

TOWN CENTRE HEROES

#BarnetTownCentreHeroes

Barnet Council’s Town Centre Heroes exhibition “Not all heroes wear capes”, part of the Discover Barnet campaign, celebrates the people behind Barnet’s town centres that have gone above and beyond to support their community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The exhibition features portraits of more than 50 residents, nominated by their fellow community members, for their positive impact in the local community. These efforts include providing support to the elderly and vulnerable, putting in place arrangements so that people were able to shop locally and safely, and various other contributions to ensure that our town centres remain clean and welcoming places to visit. Barnet’s heroes represent a diverse representation of ages, genders, backgrounds and professions, from shopkeepers and pharmacists to vaccination volunteers and faith leaders.

Investing in our town centres

In the last year, Barnet Council has secured an extra £23.5million to invest in our priority town centres as they adapt to meet evolving resident and business expectations, as well of course as the impacts of the pandemic. Through this investment, we are supporting our town centres to thrive through strengthening their local identities and creating spaces that everyone can spend time in and enjoy.

The outdoor exhibition takes place across the borough’s seven main town centres and will run for two months to honour and recognise these real-life heroes and their contributions.

If you’re out and about, come and explore the inspiring stories of Barnet’s Town Centre Heroes in person, at any of the following locations:

- Burnt Oak -**
Outside Burnt Oak Library, HA8 0UB
- Edgware -**
Inside the Meeting Room,
The Broadwalk Shopping Centre,
HA8 7BD
- Cricklewood Trail -**
At the Co-op at the A5 Junction on
Cricklewood Lane, NW2 3HD; Bifulco
and Junction Café on Cricklewood
Lane, NW2 2DX
- Finchley Central -**
Albert Place, N3 1QF
- North Finchley -**
On the Tally Ho triangle, N12 0BP
- Golders Green -**
Between Golders Green Station and
Finchley Road, NW11 8DY
- Chipping Barnet -**
Inside Unit 29 at the Spires Shopping
Centre, EN5 5XY

You can also view the exhibition online at: engage.barnet.gov.uk/towncentreheroes



Engage Barnet - have your say



COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2022-2027 CONSULTATION

SAFER COMMUNITIES
PARTNERSHIP



Keeping Barnet Safe

Have your say on our Community Safety Strategy

The Barnet Safer Communities Partnership (BSCP) brings together the Metropolitan Police, Barnet Council, London Fire Brigade, the criminal justice system and other organisations involved with crime reduction and community safety in the borough.

The BCSP is updating the Community Safety Strategy, which will identify crime, anti-social behaviour, and community safety issues for the partnership to prioritise and focus upon during the period 2022-2027.

We want to understand the views and any concerns residents, communities and businesses may have in terms of crime and anti-social behaviour, and what you think the priorities should be for the borough and for your local area.

The consultation is an opportunity for you to have your say to help inform how we tackle and prevent crime and disorder, and anti-social behaviour.

We will use the results to inform the Community Safety Strategy and the actions that we will take to improve community safety and improve the quality of life for people who live and work in Barnet. The consultation runs until Sunday 27 March. To take part visit: engage.barnet.gov.uk

We asked, you said, we did

We are committed to using your views and ideas to help inform our decisions. We regularly feedback on our consultations to provide you with information about how we have listened and acted on what you have told us. We have recently published how we are acting on residents' feedback from the following consultations:


- **Chipping Barnet Community Plan consultation**
- **Draft Infant Feeding Strategy 2021-25 consultation**
- **Finchley Central town centre - a new public square**
- **Review of polling districts and polling places for elections from May 2022**

To find out more please visit:
engage.barnet.gov.uk



Contact your councillors

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cllr.h.richman@barnet.gov.uk

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cllr.a.moore@barnet.gov.uk

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cllr.j.teare@barnet.gov.uk

Woodhouse



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cllr.a.hutton@barnet.gov.uk
cllr.a.schneiderman@barnet.gov.uk

Full Council meetings

Hendon
Annual Council - Tuesday 24 May 2022, 7pm,
 at Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BQ

Resident Forums

You can find the dates of the residents' forums on: barnet.moderngov.co.uk

For more information and for venue details, please visit: barnet.moderngov.co.uk

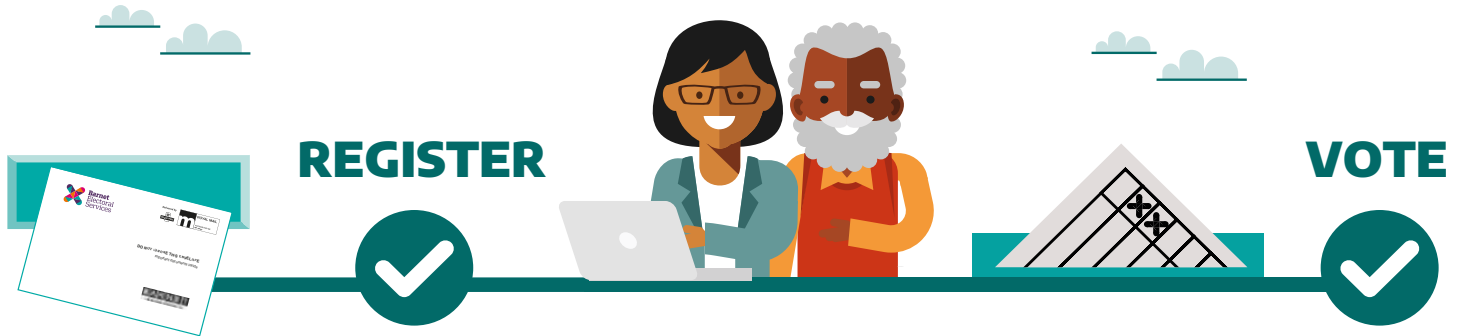
For details of surgeries, email: first.contact@barnet.gov.uk

Or write to us:
Members' Room,
Hendon Town Hall,
The Burroughs,
Hendon, NW4 4BQ



Barnet
Electoral
Services

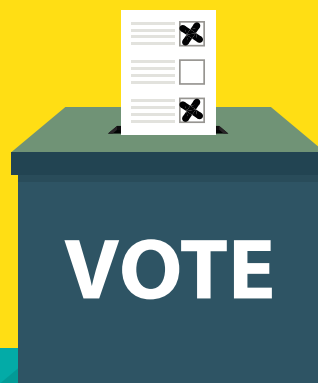
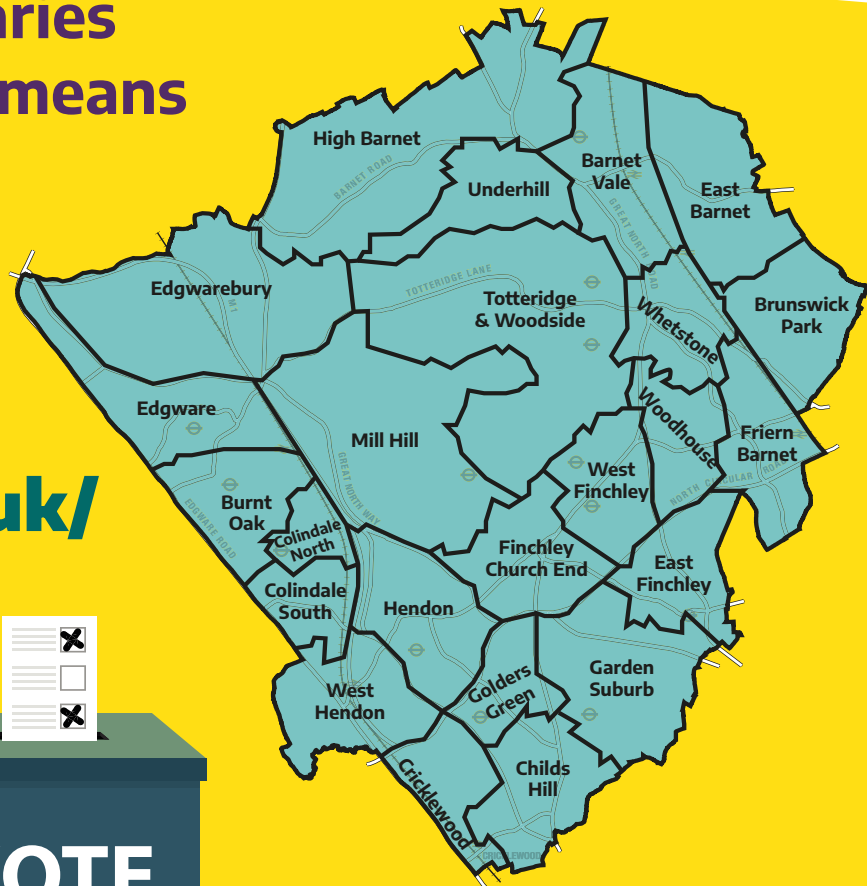
Are you registered to vote on 5 May 2022?



Barnet's ward boundaries have changed, which means where you go to vote might have changed.

Find out more and register to vote:

www.barnet.gov.uk/elections



#GetReadyToVote

BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH