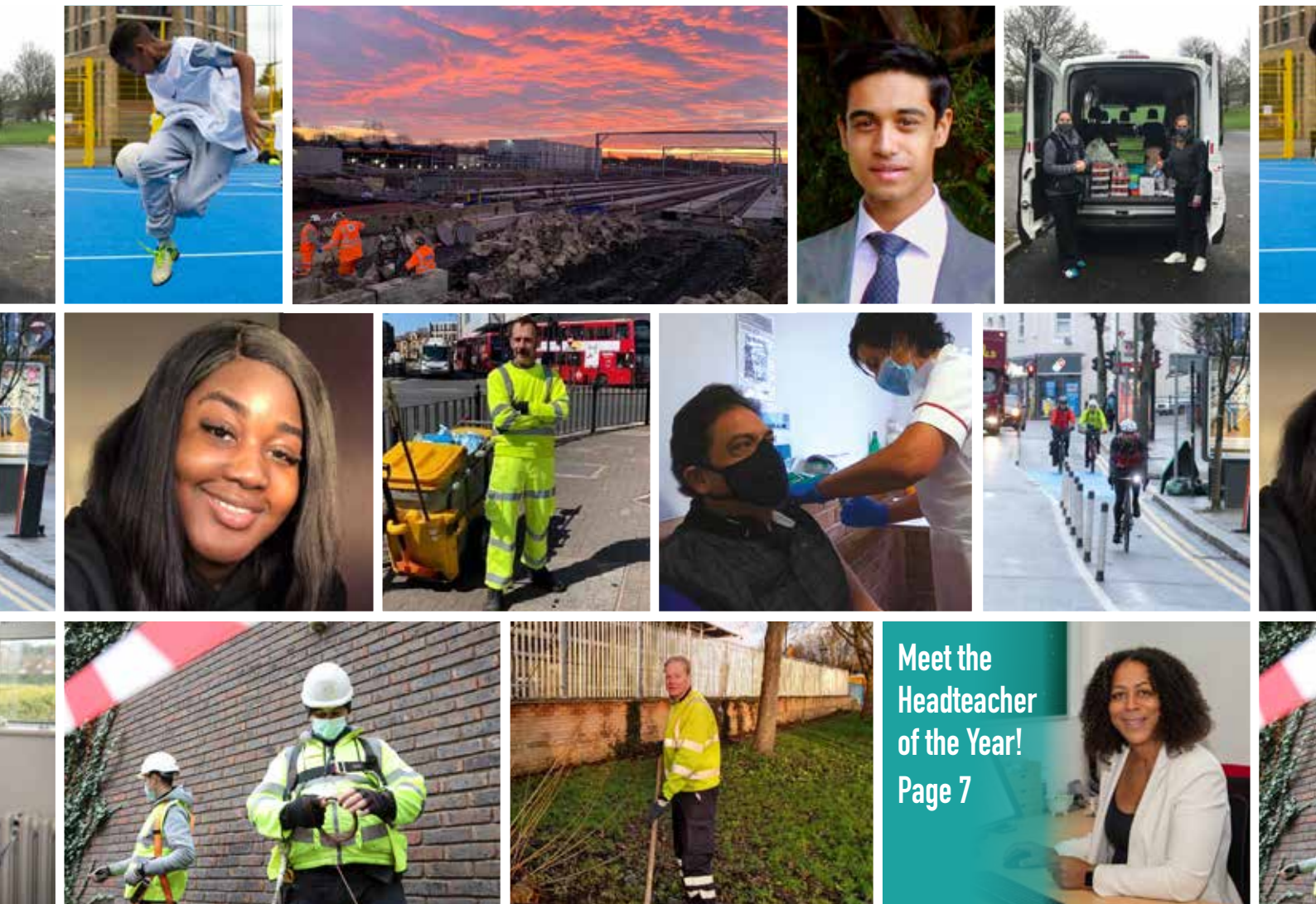


# barnetfirst

The council magazine bringing you news and community information

Spring Edition March 2021

## Helping Barnet to thrive



census  
2021

# Be a part of Census 2021

**Census day is 21 March 2021.**

By taking part and encouraging others to do the same, you'll help make sure your community gets the services it needs.



Find out more at [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk)

   Follow @Census2021

# Message from Cllr Dan Thomas, Leader of Barnet Council

As the days become longer and brighter, we have good reason to feel hopeful. The vaccine roll out in Barnet is a continuing success and we are now slowly edging our way out of the winter lockdown.

Our schools and colleges have reopened to all children and young people. From 29 March, we should be able to meet a small number of people in outdoor settings such as our excellent parks and greenspaces. If all goes well, and infection rates are not rising, then we will see leisure, non-essential retail and hospitality reopen in April. Further restrictions could be eased in May and June.

It is a challenging time for public finances and, with great reluctance, we will need to increase general Council Tax and the Adult Social Care Precept for 2021-22. This is not a decision we have taken lightly. Our record on Council Tax remains strong; we froze Council Tax for nine consecutive years until 2019. In 2020-21, Barnet's Council Tax rate was lower than that of our neighbours Enfield, Haringey, Camden, Brent, and Harrow. This will continue to be the case next year.

As we look ahead, we are now planning and investing in projects and services to build a Barnet fit for the future. Our new Barnet Plan sets out our vision for the next four years to 2025. We will ensure that Barnet is a clean, safe, family-friendly borough with fantastic facilities for all our residents.

Alongside large projects, such as fitting the borough with high-speed gigabit broadband and building a new town in Brent Cross, we will continue to invest in our parks and open spaces, street cleansing and tackling anti-social behaviour.

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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# How was your COVID-19 va

Camilla, Adjoa, and Jen share their COVID-19 vaccine experiences in Barnet.



**CAMILLA:** “It is such a relief now that I have had my vaccine, to be able to work safely in the community.”

**Camilla is a frontline healthcare worker in Barnet who recently had her COVID-19 vaccine.**

“I was a bit anxious in the beginning about having the vaccine – but later I decided to have it to protect myself, and at the same time to protect my clients and their families as I work in the community.

“It is easy to book online. On the day of your appointment, you will be checked in and out within 30 minutes.

“It is safe. I did not have any side effects – just a bit of a sore arm, and a bit of tiredness the next day which is totally expected and that shows that my immune system is working. Apart from that I am good.”



**JEN:** “My side-effects were gone as quickly as they came and it felt like a small price to pay.”

**Jen works as a communications professional in Barnet.**

“I fall into the ‘Clinically Extremely Vulnerable’ group, so I was invited for my vaccine in January. I was excited to get it, because for me it’s a sign of things (hopefully) getting better.

“I didn’t have concerns about the vaccine, as we’ve been using vaccinations for years to keep us safe from public health threats.

“Getting the vaccine was a really quick process and there was a lovely atmosphere at the vaccine centre, a real buzz and feeling of hope for better days ahead. I had a pretty strong reaction for the next 24 hours – fever and chills, and I felt very weak – but my symptoms were gone as quickly as they came and it felt like a small price to pay.”





# Vaccine experience in Barnet?



**ADJOA:** “I was really concerned about the vaccine at first, but I did my research and got the jab. Do your research and get vaccinated!”

**Adjoa is an adult social care worker in Barnet. Her role includes visiting people in their homes.**

“I met this lovely client who had been admitted to the hospital with COVID-19 for eight weeks. He told me that if I had been in his shoes with people dying around him in the hospital, I would have the vaccine. He gave me something to think about and encouraged me to do my research. I then decided to have the vaccine because it will save me, my family, and the NHS.

“After I got the vaccine, I had to sit down for 15 minutes to make sure I had no reactions and I could leave home safely. I had a sore arm, but that was it, I’ve never had any pain or reaction to it.

“Do your research! We have to support each other and stick together. I encourage everyone to get the COVID-19 vaccine!”

## They’ve had the vaccine, now you should too

**The COVID-19 vaccination programme – the biggest in NHS history – is off to a strong start.**

By early March, the NHS had vaccinated over 20 million people around the UK, opened more than 1,500 vaccination services, visited 10,000 care homes and issued millions of invitations from the National Booking Service.

In Barnet, vaccines are now being delivered by the NHS in GP hubs, pharmacies and hospitals, as well as to those who are housebound via roving teams.

By late January, all older age care homes across Barnet had been vaccinated. Over 65% of the general population over 80 years of age and a large proportion of people over 70 years of age locally had been vaccinated.

This is an amazing achievement in such a short time and offers enormous hope for a way out of the pandemic - but there is still much more to be done. As we move down the priority groups, we need to reassure those who have not been vaccinated yet that it is important and safe to do so. We can all help do this in these ways:

- 1. Book a vaccine appointment when the NHS contacts you**
- 2. Tell your friends and family when you’ve had it done**
- 3. Share facts (from reliable sources) about why the vaccine is a safe and important thing to get**



# Are you registered to vote on 6 May 2021?

Elections for the Mayor of London and Greater London Assembly will take place on **Thursday 6 May 2021**. There are three separate elections:

- The Mayor, for which voters have a first and second choice vote
- Greater London Assembly London-wide Members (11 Members); and
- Greater London Assembly Constituency Members (14 Members).

Barnet and Camden form one constituency and will elect one constituency Member.

**A by-election for one councillor in Edgware Ward will also be held on Thursday 6 May 2021.**

Barnet residents who are British, Commonwealth or European Citizens, over 18 and currently on the Electoral Register can vote in all these elections.

## You must be on the Electoral Register to vote

Registering to vote is quick and easy, visit: [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote). You must apply to register to vote before **Monday 19 April 2021**.

Please remember, even if you are registered to pay Council Tax, you are not automatically registered to vote. If you have recently moved to a new home, you will need to re-register.

You can check if you are already registered by contacting Electoral Services at [ero@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:ero@barnet.gov.uk) or **020 8359 5577**.

## Ways to vote

We are already making plans to ensure that polling stations are safe. However, it will take longer to vote in person and there may be a queue.

1. **Vote in person** at your local polling station. Polls will be open **7am-10pm on Thursday 6 May**.
2. **Vote by post** is a convenient and secure way to vote, especially if you are unable, or would prefer not to go to your polling station. In these uncertain times we are encouraging electors to apply to vote by post. Your completed application form for a postal vote must be received by the Electoral Services team by **5pm on Tuesday 20 April 2021**.
3. **A proxy vote** is when you appoint someone you trust to vote on your behalf. To receive a proxy vote for the May elections, your completed application form must be received by the Electoral Services team by **5pm on Thursday 27 April 2021**.

To find out more about how to register to vote and to apply for a postal or proxy vote, visit: [www.barnet.gov.uk/elections](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/elections) or contact Barnet Electoral Services at [ero@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:ero@barnet.gov.uk) or **020 8359 5577**.

All information is correct at time of printing, but may be subject to change.



# Headteacher of the Year!

2020 was quite a year for Copthall School and headteacher Evelyn Forde as she was named TES Headteacher of the Year and awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours list.

We asked Evelyn about some of the challenges and rewards of leading a school.



"My advice for anyone who wants to become a teacher is 'do it!'"



"I'm privileged to see our girls grow and mature at Copthall."

**The last year has been incredibly challenging for everyone. How have you and the school had to adapt?**

Firstly, we had to adapt our school to ensure it was COVID secure which meant that all Year Groups were placed in Zones around the school and students stay in their designated Zone with teachers moving around the school. We then had to move all our learning online and that has been immensely challenging, particularly with the delay in government laptops but staff at Copthall have risen to the challenge, we are distributing laptops on a daily basis and we are now running a micro-school at the same time, but I have a great staff team who all pulled together to make sure that our girls continued to get an excellent education. In addition to this we recently set up a test centre, something no one would have anticipated we would be doing but it is working well.

**What are the main challenges in leading a school?**

Somewhat different under a pandemic but my priority is the safeguarding of all students, their mental health and wellbeing and that of my staff. Once you have that well taken care of, making sure you have a diverse, broad and balanced curriculum is key to student outcomes. At Copthall we have worked hard over the years to ensure this is in place and this is evidenced by our outstanding outcomes. Having enough money is another challenge! Being innovative and creative is something I am becoming more adept at.

**What is the best thing about being a headteacher?**

I love my job! No one day is the same and that is what I really enjoy. Yes, it is hard, but so are many other things in life but to be able to interact with over a thousand different people on any given day is great. I'm in a privileged position to make a significant difference on the lives of many young people and to see our girls grow and mature during their time at Copthall is one of the best things about being a headteacher. Amongst the hard work of juggling budgets, buildings, curriculum, Ofsted etc. are the relationships we make and I can honestly say, I love going to work every single day.

**What advice would you give to someone who wants a career in education?**

My advice to anyone wanting to join the profession is do it! Find the right school, with the right culture and ethos and you will truly fly. The ability to make a difference and champion young people on their journey is a humbling experience. Using your knowledge and the passion you have for your subject which you will then share with thousands of young people is just amazing. The profession needs great teachers from all walks of life, so put yourself forward and be a brilliant role model for the next generation.



"The ability to make a difference to young people is humbling."



"I have a great staff team who all pull together."



# The Ultra Low Emission Zone is expanding from 25 October 2021

Air pollution is not just a central London problem, with many areas still exceeding the legal limits for pollution across the city. Despite recent improvements in air quality, toxic air pollution in London remains the biggest environmental risk to the health of all Londoners, harming our lungs, and worsening chronic illnesses such as asthma, lung and heart disease and putting the health of our children at risk.

That is why from 25 October 2021, the central London Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) is expanding to create a single, larger zone up to the North Circular Road (A406) and South Circular Road (A205). The North and South Circular Roads themselves are not in the zone.

## Have you checked your vehicle?

Four out of five cars already meet the ULEZ emissions standards, but we need owners of the remaining older cars, motorcycles, lighter vans and minibuses to take action.

Cars, motorcycles, vans and other specialist vehicles (up to and including 3.5 tonnes) and minibuses (up to and including 5 tonnes) will need to meet the required ULEZ emissions standards when driving within and into the expanded zone, or pay a £12.50 daily charge.

The ULEZ will continue to operate 24 hours a day, every day of the year, except Christmas Day, to help clean up London's toxic air.

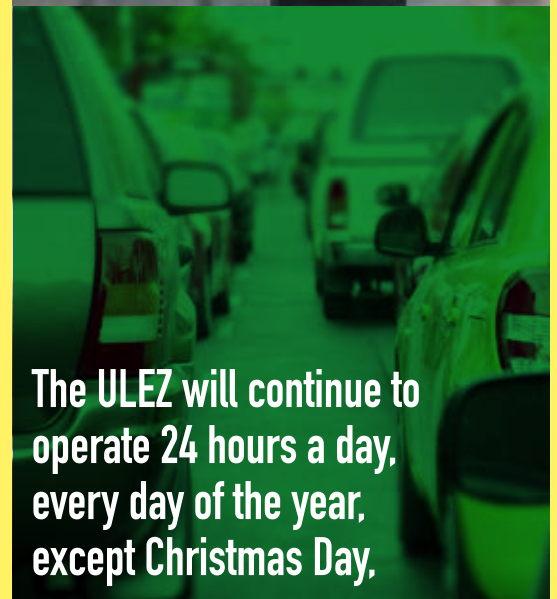
## Why the ULEZ is expanding

Air pollution is not just a central London problem, it remains the biggest environmental risk to the health of all Londoners.

Despite recent improvements, traffic emissions remain the biggest source of poor air quality.

Since its implementation, the ULEZ has had a transformational impact on air pollution, contributing to a 44% reduction in roadside nitrogen dioxide within its boundaries.

That's why The Mayor of London and TfL are expanding the ULEZ to help improve air quality for even more people living in, working in and visiting the capital.



The ULEZ will continue to operate 24 hours a day, every day of the year, except Christmas Day,

Check your vehicle meets the ULEZ emissions standards - visit:  
[tfl.gov.uk/ulez-2021](https://tfl.gov.uk/ulez-2021)

# Census day is here

With 21 March around the corner, Census 2021 is in full swing in Barnet.

The letters, with your unique access codes, have all gone out and responses are already coming in.

## Everyone will benefit

“A successful Census will help give the best picture of the needs of everyone living in England and Wales,” says Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics.

“It helps us understand what our society needs now and what it will likely need in the future. We’ve had a fantastic response so far, with so many of you completing the questionnaire on your laptops, phones and computers.”

## Quick and easy to take part

“It takes just 10 minutes per person to take part and if you can’t get online, there are paper forms available for those who need them. Now is the time to make your mark on history.”

Operating in line with the Government’s latest COVID-19 guidance, field officers will be deployed across the country to contact those who have not responded. They will offer help and advice to those who need it. They will also remind people that their Census response is required by law.

This Census is the most inclusive yet. Everyone can identify as they wish, using ‘search as you type’ online and ‘write-in options’ on paper if they need it.

## A once-in-a-decade survey

The Census, run by the Office for National Statistics, is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every 10 years since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

The questionnaire includes questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

**To complete your Census, and to find out how you can get help, please visit [census.gov.uk](https://census.gov.uk) or call 0800 141 2021.**



## At the time of the last Census . . .

- 356,386 people lived in Barnet
- 132,586 residents said they were married or in a registered same-sex civil partnership
- India was the top country of birth other than UK. Polish was the most common main language other than English or Welsh, spoken by 7,930 residents
- There were 2,782 care workers and home carers, 1,493 people working as child minders and related occupations, 585 pharmacists and 310 psychologists
- 58,940 people drove a car or van to work, while 53,177 people caught the train, underground, light rail or tram

it's about us  
census 2021

# Have your say on HENDON HUB

Barnet Council's plans for transforming rundown buildings on The Burroughs and Church End in Hendon, including provision of a new library, enhanced public spaces, and facilities for Middlesex University, have been put forward for review in a public consultation.



Residents have until 21 March to share their views on the scheme, known as the 'Hendon Hub', which would see the development of The Burroughs and other nearby sites to integrate new academic and public spaces. Barnet Council is working with Middlesex University and Barnet Library Services to deliver the new scheme.

The proposals include:

- An outstanding new public library for Hendon, with more modern and improved services, across the road from the current library
- Improved accommodation for the community and charity groups currently based in the Meritage Centre on Church End
- Improved green spaces around The Burroughs and the Prince of Wales Estate
- Potential replacement PDSA Pet Hospital
- New teaching facilities for Middlesex University, including an arts and creative industries building
- New student accommodation that will replace, not add to, the accommodation currently being used by students locally, and elsewhere in London

More information about the project and how to take part in the consultation can be found at: [www.hendonhub.co.uk](http://www.hendonhub.co.uk)

## Grahame Park update

### Old Library refurbishment completed

**The Old Library on the estate's main concourse is now fully refurbished and ready for action once COVID-19 restrictions allow.**

The new space will be managed by Colindale Communities Trust and will support residents with community projects, opportunities for training, pre-employment support and business start-ups, as well as providing a flexible workspace.

The £300,000 project was funded by the Greater London Authority's Good Growth Fund, supplemented by a contribution from Barnet Council and Notting Hill Genesis.

### Contractor appointed to build first new homes

**The building of the first new homes in the second phase of Grahame Park's regeneration is a step closer following the appointment of Wates Construction Ltd as our main contractor for the work.**

Wates expect to start building the new homes this autumn once they've developed designs and submitted planning conditions and other statutory notices.

This first stage in the second phase includes 209 affordable homes (149 shared ownership and 60 affordable rent) divided into five blocks, as well as two residential courtyard gardens at first floor level and a small supermarket.

These buildings will provide new social rent homes for the remaining secure tenants on the estate, ensuring they will need to move only once throughout the duration of the regeneration works.

Illustrative view looking north along The Burroughs





# No more whirling blue circle... gigabit fibre broadband coming to Barnet



**Barnet residents and businesses are set to gain from the installation of new high-speed fibre broadband networks.**

**Barnet Council has started work with several internet service providers to deliver gigabit broadband as an alternative to the slower telephone lines currently used by most people to get online.**

## Connecting our council homes

Through Barnet Council's partnerships with internet service providers, the tenants and leaseholders of nearly 14,000 council-owned homes will benefit from gigabit broadband speeds by 2023.

During February, Community Fibre connected close to 1,000 homes in Grahame Park estate as a pilot. From March, a further 4,300 council-owned properties across Colindale, Burnt Oak, Edgware, Hendon and West Hendon will be connected by Community Fibre before the end of 2021.

The rest of Barnet's council homes will be connected over the next two years. The council is working with a number of network operators to connect as many properties as possible, as quickly as possible.

**Cllr Dan Thomas, Leader of Barnet Council, says that gigabit fibre broadband will make Barnet fit for the future:**

"By enabling commercial investment in several new fibre broadband networks, we're ensuring everyone will be able to benefit from high-speed internet connections as fast as possible.

"Life in the time of COVID-19 has increased our digital dependency for remote working, home schooling and staying in touch with our friends and loved ones. Having reliable and affordable broadband will ensure that Barnet will continue to be a great place to live, work and study."



Council Leader Cllr Dan Thomas visits Grahame Park



## High-speed broadband for all

It will take time for the installation of gigabit speed services to reach every home and business in Barnet, but the aim is for most properties to be full fibre connected by 2025. Virgin Media supplies some areas of Barnet already, and will upgrade its current network to gigabit services this year.

Residents who live in properties that are close to a council estate where network cables will be soon installed, or another location where they are already in place such as a new development, will find themselves connected more

quickly to the emerging new fibre networks.

Most households in Barnet should have already the ability to purchase 'Superfast' broadband services enabling speeds of around 30Mb per second. But anyone with speeds regularly lower than 10Mb per second should report this to their internet service provider for support to get their line repaired or upgraded. A guide to how to run a speed test, and how to improve your current home broadband services, is available on the council's website.



Workers will connect 14,000 council homes by 2023

## Register your interest in receiving highspeed broadband

**Internet service providers prioritise connections to streets and local areas where they know there is the strongest demand for highspeed broadband services.**

You can register your interest in faster services to help encourage investment in delivering broadband networks to your area from the following operators, who are planning to invest in new or improved networks in Barnet:

**Community Fibre:** to register online: [www.communityfibre.co.uk/#postcode-search](http://www.communityfibre.co.uk/#postcode-search) or by calling **0800 082 0770**.

**Openreach:** find out what you can access and register your interest in full fibre online: [www.openreach.co.uk/fttforapartments](http://www.openreach.co.uk/fttforapartments)

**Virgin Media:** find out more about current network services, upgrades and to register your interest: [www.virginmedia.com/](http://www.virginmedia.com/)

**Hyperoptic:** to find out about availability in your area and register your interest in full fibre please visit: [www.hyperoptic.com/](http://www.hyperoptic.com/)



Visit [www.barnet.gov.uk/broadband](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/broadband) to find out more.

# We've invested in

We are improving the cleanliness of Barnet's streets, making the borough a better place to live for all residents.

Last year, the council invested £600,000 into the Street Cleansing service to enhance the cleanliness of streets and public spaces across Barnet. This funding was made possible through the introduction of the chargeable garden waste bin collection service.

This investment will maintain and improve Barnet's cleanliness through efficient street cleansing services.

Since September 2020, the Street Cleansing service have introduced an area-based operation to provide:

- Dedicated autumn leaf clearing teams
- Enhanced town centre cleaning using both machines and people
- Specialised cleaning on main roads such as the A41 and A406
- Fly tip clearance crews dedicated to all areas of the borough.

This work has included maintaining around 2,000 roads and all 21 town centres.



# a #cleanerbarnet

## Meet one of our Town Keepers!

**Paul is one of our Town Keepers in North Finchley town centre. He tells us about his day-to-day work maintaining a busy town centre:**

“I’ve been in the Street Cleansing team since 1995 and a Town Keeper since about 2000. In the years before COVID-19 there was more litter, especially from take-aways and from night-time, so mornings were heavy.

“Working in bad weather can be a struggle but I carry the right clothing, food and drink and I take my breaks at the right times and places.

“It can be difficult when there are lots of road works going on and rubbish gets caught up amongst it but I talk to the workmen and they move the barriers so I can safely get at the litter.

“I’m not getting any younger so I’m not as fit as I used to be but I like to be out and about....I like it when the public stop for a chat and thank me for the work I’m doing. It keeps me going.”

Why not say hello if you see Paul in North Finchley!



## What’s coming up this year

The Street Cleansing team are working hard to implement additional and enhanced street cleansing services, which are planned to be fully rolled out this spring.

This enhanced service allows us to operate more efficiently, through a range of planned scheduled work for each area.

**In addition to the services brought in from September last year, we will also introduce:**

- Dedicated specialist residential road cleansing crews for each area
- Dedicated teams to undertake street cleansing on parts of roads that are hard to access due to heavy parking and congestion
- A rapid response team to deal with urgent and emergency situations
- More use of mechanical road and foot way sweepers
- Up to four weed spray treatments across the borough each year
- Carrying out independent surveys across the borough to assess cleanliness and allow resources to be allocated where they are most needed

We have been able to create 30 new job roles through these changes.





# Your Council Tax bill: investing for the future

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

We are increasing general Council Tax by 1.99 per cent this year and applying an Adult Social Care Precept of 3 per cent to Council Tax. This will mean a total increase of 4.99 per cent; an extra £63.56 per year for a Band D property.

In addition, this year's Council Tax will include a 9.51 per cent increase in the GLA precept - an extra £31.59 – now £363.66 for a Band D property. The GLA

precept is set by the Mayor of London and we have no control over this sum. Raising general Council Tax and the Adult Social Care Precept is not a decision we have taken lightly. We managed to freeze Council Tax for nine consecutive years until 2019, only then raising it in response to meet new financial challenges and service needs.

Despite that, in 2020-21 Barnet's Council Tax rate was lower than that of our neighbours Enfield, Haringey, Camden, Brent, and Harrow. This will continue to be the case in 2021-22.

The COVID-19 crisis has disproportionately affected the most vulnerable people living in our borough.

**Supporting adult social care**

The increased Adult Social Care Precept will ensure we have the funding to support a growing adult population, especially those with extra and complex needs. During the height of the first COVID-19 lockdown, we led innovative projects in this area to support those most in need. We will invest further to ensure that our adult care services continue to deliver vital services for our residents.

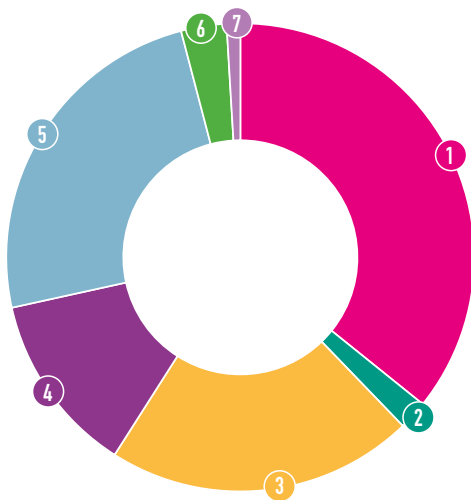
This past year, the extraordinary set of demands and challenges have put pressure on council finances. We will continue to meet these challenges by ensuring top-quality services and value for money for every resident. That is why we are planning to increase the charges paid by developers in Barnet, alongside budget savings of £10.6million over the next year, without compromising our frontline services.

For more information on Council Tax visit [www.barnet.gov.uk/council-tax](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/council-tax)

## Net expenditure for 2021/22

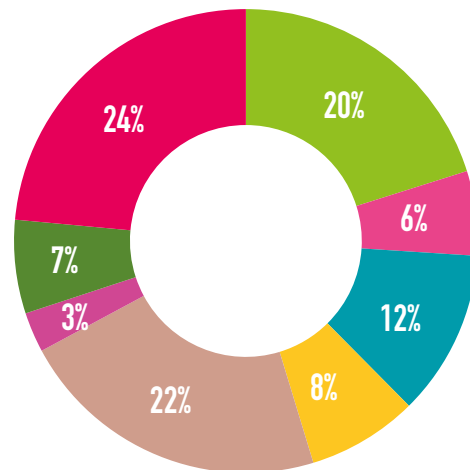
**Our net budget for the coming year is £332.017 million. This is the core budget over which we have control. The chart below sets out all our spending for 2021/22, and details where our money comes from.**

### How we will spend your Council Tax over the next year



Service Area	£m
1 Adults & Health	118.81
2 Assurance (incl. electoral services and internal audit)	6.67
3 Children's & Family Services	70.51
4 Commercial, Management, Back Office, Housing & Development	41.57
5 Corporate Expenses (Housing Benefits, Capital financing, levies and inflation)	80.92
6 Environment	10.42
7 Planning & Regulation	3.13
<b>Total</b>	<b>332.02</b>

### Where our money comes from



Where our money comes from	Income £m	%
Council Tax	198.050	20
Business Rates	58.034	6
Fees & Charges (excluding HRA)	113.703	12
Government Grants	75.933	8
Housing Benefit	215.015	22
Other contributions	27.510	3
Housing Revenue Account	64.180	7
Designated Schools Grant	231.562	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>983.987</b>	<b>100</b>

# Making Barnet a better place to live, work and study

Our *Barnet Plan* outlines our four priorities for the next four years. It sets the context for decisions on the use of resources and, through the activities within the plan, we aim to deliver the best outcomes we can for the people of Barnet.

Alongside these priorities, we will be also taking forward a series of actions on prevention and early intervention, as well as expanding our activities in the areas of equalities, diversity and inclusion.

1. **Clean, safe and well run:** A place where our streets are clean and anti-social behaviour is dealt with so residents feel safe. Providing good quality, customer-friendly services in all that we do
2. **Family friendly:** Creating a family-friendly Barnet, enabling opportunities for our children and young people to achieve their best
3. **Healthy:** A place with fantastic facilities for all ages, enabling people to live happy and healthy lives
4. **Thriving:** A place fit for the future, where all residents, businesses and visitors benefit from improved sustainable infrastructure and opportunity



## Helping our residents deal with the challenges created by COVID-19

While our *Barnet Plan* sets out our vision for how we will build a better Barnet that works for all, the past 12 months have required us to address the immediate challenges caused by the COVID-19 crisis. We have been with our residents every step of the way since March 2020, when Barnet along with the rest of the country went into its first lockdown.

Here are some of the things we have done to maintain our essential services, as well as support those most in need.



# In the last year

Enlisted **946** community volunteers and recruited **158** COVID 19 Health Champions via Community Help Hub



Processed nearly **10,000** COVID-19 Winter Grant Scheme applications to help vulnerable children and families



Supported **5,979** older and vulnerable residents to stay independent



Helped **4,000** residents to return home safely after a hospital stay



Delivered **1,250** activity packs to children under 5 with learning difficulties or from vulnerable families



Over **100** activities and courses were made available to entertain children and young people



Undertook **14,512** Social care assessments and reviews

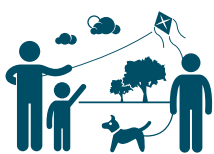


Made **13,131,000** bin collections



## Brent Cross Cricklewood Regeneration

The Brent Cross Cricklewood regeneration programme is the biggest redevelopment and growth programme Barnet Council has ever undertaken.



The development will see a new park town - 'Brent Cross Town' - delivered in partnership between **Argent Related** and **Barnet Council**.

Set around **50 acres of green parks and playing fields** it will create **25,000 jobs**, **6,700 new homes**, commercial and retail spaces, arts and culture facilities, and improved schools and healthcare services to the area.



Given Council Tax support to **28,843** households



Paid **£76.6million** in financial grants to support **6,248** local businesses

The new **£40m** Brent Cross West station will link the new town centre, and existing communities, to **central London in 12 minutes**.



Find out more at [TransformingBX.co.uk](https://www.transformingbx.co.uk)



# we have...

Loaned **357,885** e-books, e-audiobooks, and e-newspapers via our libraries



Fulfilled **46,643** 'select and collect' loans

Invested **£855,000** in new facilities in parks and open spaces, including Colindale and Rushgove parks



Answered and responded to **5,272** urgent phone calls and **4,279** emails from residents asking for help



Planted **747** trees as part of the award-winning tree planting project



Provided **14,700** food and hygiene parcels to vulnerable residents



Supplied **2,247,435** items of PPE to care homes, home carers, and schools

Made **5,347** calls and sent **19,708** text messages offering support to shielding individuals



Laid **5m sq-m** of road carriageway and **3.5m sq-m** of pedestrian footway; resurfaced **67,533 m2** of carriageways

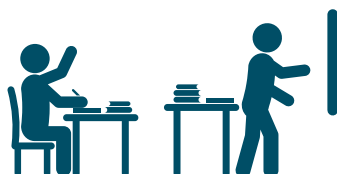


Secured investment of **£213m** to acquire over **650** new homes and built 105 new homes for affordable rent; started work on another **458**



During the January 2021 national restrictions: **All schools offered remote education** to pupils not attending and **all were open to vulnerable children and children of critical workers**

## Education



**Our secondary schools rank second nationally for Attainment 8**



**96.4% of Barnet pupils attended a 'Good' or 'Outstanding' school.** Barnet is above national, inner-London and outer-London averages and is in the top 10% of the country  
*(Primary and Secondary schools only)*



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



# A park town for

**From the environmentally-friendly designed train station to the acoustics of office buildings, we look at the latest on the Brent Cross Cricklewood regeneration programme**

**The Brent Cross Cricklewood regeneration programme is the biggest redevelopment and growth programme Barnet Council has ever undertaken.**

Since the last edition of Barnet First the programme has continued to reach new construction milestones with teams working hard to make the ambitious scheme a reality.

At the heart of the development is Brent Cross Town, a new park town with 6,700 new homes set uniquely around 50 acres of parks and playing fields, with an inclusive, accessible high street.

Here we look at what makes Brent Cross Town so unique with four pledges to deliver a place like no other for Barnet:

**PLEDGE  
1**



**PLEDGE  
2**



## Creating the place in London to participate in sport and play

**Brent Cross Town will combine outdoor activities with state-of-the-art indoor facilities, with everything from traditional sports like tennis and football to activities like bouldering, parkour and BMX.**

It will include eight public squares, and seven new and improved parks, with the development adding not losing green space. Partnerships with sports governing bodies and organisations like Women In Sport will help drive female participation and champion diversity and inclusion.

**Look out for our consultation on the future designs for Clitterhouse Playing Fields, which will launch in the summer.**

## A town where all can flourish

**From the moment rail commuters arrive at Brent Cross West they will discover a community designed for everyone.**

The station has been designed with accessibility at the forefront with step-free access from street level to the platforms, while Brent Cross Town is the UK's first neighbourhood to be designed with a holistic sound and music strategy. This will ensure public spaces and buildings amplify and protect natural sounds such as birdsong and the sound of water. Homes and offices will also have their own designs for sound, music, and good acoustics.

To ensure the new neighbourhood truly delivers on this pledge, Brent Cross Town developers Argent Related has worked with Manchester University and Buro Happold on a pioneering 'Flourishing Index' to measure how well they are doing.



# the future



## A net-zero carbon town

**Brent Cross Town is set to be net-zero carbon by 2030. A big part of that is the vision of a ‘15-Minute Town’, where people can work, shop, play and learn all within 15 minutes of home.**

At the station’s eastern entrance there are plans to build with natural materials such as glulam timber, and to reduce the carbon footprint by maximising natural light and ventilation. The first three office buildings were unveiled in January as net-zero carbon workspaces. Throughout the town centre trees and other greenery will be planted, improving air quality, encouraging greater biodiversity, and protecting local wildlife habitats.

And a deal has been signed to provide low-carbon heating to homes, shops, and businesses across the development. The goal is to eventually remove all CO2-emitting sources from the town.



## Strengthening connections with great transport into and out of central London

**Brent Cross West is due to open in December 2022. Just 12 minutes from central London, it will offer services on the Midland Main Line from Bedfordshire to Brighton. There will be direct links to international flights from Gatwick and Luton airports, and Eurostar services from St Pancras. It is expected to see five million passenger journeys per year by 2031.**

The station will link with a transport interchange, connecting with buses, taxis, motorcycle parking spaces, and bicycle stands. Improved pedestrian and cycle routes are also a key feature of the development.

### FIND OUT MORE

Read more about the vision for Barnet’s new park town at [BrentCrossTown.co.uk](http://BrentCrossTown.co.uk)

You can also keep up to date on Twitter on [@BrentCrossTown](https://twitter.com/BrentCrossTown)

For news and information about Brent Cross West and the wider development, including our interactive map, or to sign up for our e-newsletter, visit [Transformingbx.co.uk](http://Transformingbx.co.uk)

You can also follow our Twitter account [@Transformingbx](https://twitter.com/Transformingbx)







# Unemployment – together, we will work it out

Since 2015, BOOST has supported over 3,000 people and helped over 1,000 into work. We can help you with updating your CV, training courses, finding the right career and even with interview practice. All our services are free of charge and open to any Barnet resident regardless of age or location. You can register on our website [www.boostbarnet.org](http://www.boostbarnet.org), send us an email [boost@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:boost@barnet.gov.uk) or simply give us a call on 020 8359 2442

## Been made unemployed since March 2020?

JETS is a brand-new scheme for people made unemployed during lockdown and claiming Universal Credit for at least 13 weeks. Specialist one-to-one help is available to find work and get training. To find out if you are eligible and get on the programme email [jets@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:jets@barnet.gov.uk) or ask your Jobcentre Work Coach to tell you about JETS.

## Kickstart – businesses can get government help to support and train young unemployed people

The Kickstart Scheme provides funding to employers to create work placements for 18 to 24-year olds on Universal Credit and at risk of becoming unemployed long-term. The government will fund businesses to take on a young person for 25 hours a week for six months at national minimum wage, as long as the job is a new one and employers offer training and support. Barnet Council can help businesses get onto the scheme with BOOST acting as partners offering wrap-around training and support. To find out more contact BOOST.

## Benefit advice – could you get more income?

Are you getting all the benefits you're entitled to? Do you need help to make a claim? BOOST can check if you are on the right benefits, help make claims and appeals and help you to access short-term grants such as Discretionary Housing Payments. Call or email us now: 020 8359 2442 or [boost@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:boost@barnet.gov.uk)

## Make It Click – build your digital skills

Technology does not have to be difficult. Through their online webinars, the BOOST team will help you with everything digital until it clicks. Do you or someone you know need help with the internet? Make It Click is a website with free tools, courses and templates which help you to learn new skills or improve the skills you already have.

For more information, visit [boostbarnet.org](http://boostbarnet.org) call 020 8359 2442 or email [boost@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:boost@barnet.gov.uk).

# BOOST

# Supported Lodgings

## Enriching the lives of young people

Supported Lodgings Hosts provide a stepping-stone for young people aged 16+ who have been in care. They enable young people to continue developing their life skills in a supportive home environment.

We caught up with Helen, a former Supported Lodgings Host, who provided care to young people for five years.

### Why did you decide to become a Supported Lodgings Host?

I was initially interested in fostering but was working full-time, so providing Supported Lodgings enabled me to care for a young person and work at the same time. Also, I like young people and particularly enjoy being around 16-21-year-olds as they remind me of a pivotal time in my life – a coming of age where I transitioned from childhood to adulthood.

There were so many tricky decisions to make and I felt that I could help young people through my own lived experiences.

### What type of care did you provide and for how long?

The care I provided was two-fold. I provided adequate living space to enable the young people to go about their everyday lives and secondly, I acted as a mentor. The length of time depended on the individual need of the young person. If they indicated that they were mature and independent, then their stay would be short, but it would generally range between 2-5 years.

### Can you give us a breakdown of your responsibilities?

Some of my responsibilities included:

- Providing a safe home
- Supporting the young people with their wellbeing
- Helping them to fulfil their plans for further education and/or work
- Advocating for them when needed

### Have you stayed in touch with the people you cared for?

Yes, I have stayed in touch with some. Many have gone on to university, some have families of their own now and others live abroad and share photos of their lives on Facebook.

### Did becoming a Supported Lodgings Host positively impact your life?

Most definitely. As with any caregiving role, it makes you empathetic as you are offering reassurance to vulnerable people.

It enables one to meet and empower different kinds of young people when they're making major life choices and transitions. It also gave me the chance to feel young again and give the best of myself.

### What types of people do you believe would be best suited to becoming a Supported Lodgings Host?

I believe that anyone is capable of becoming a Supported Lodgings Host, whether they work full-time or part-time, are a parent looking to expand their family, or if they're a single person living on their own.

What they must have is the time and capacity to support a young person on their journey to becoming fully independent.



What message do you have for people who may be interested in applying for the role but aren't sure they want to start a lifestyle that is unfamiliar to them?

If you are interested, don't overthink it. Trust your instinct. The role is similar to a foster carer, except more flexible with a quicker recruitment process. There's so much to be gained from supporting a young person and Barnet's Children and Family Services team are there to help you every step of the way.

How would you describe your experience as a Supported Lodgings Host in three words?

Enjoyable, challenging and enriching!

## Get in touch today

Telephone: 0208 359 6274

Email: [supportedlodgings@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:supportedlodgings@barnet.gov.uk)

Website: [barnet.gov.uk/supportedlodging](http://barnet.gov.uk/supportedlodging)

# Sign up and pay for garden waste collections 2021-2022

You can now sign up for the 2021-22 garden waste service year, which begins from **early May 2021**.

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 by 18 April**.

If you signed up to the collection service last year, you will need to sign up again for your collections to continue from early May 2021. Stickers for the new service year will be a different colour.



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



## How does it work?



Sign up and pay using the details above. Please ensure 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.



Once payment has been received, your sticker will be posted to your address before the service starts providing you have signed up by **18 April**.



When you receive your sticker, please remember to apply it to the centre of the lid of your garden waste bin before the service starts so the collection crews know you have paid for the service.

If you subscribed to the service last year, make sure you remove the old sticker before applying your new sticker.





# What you can put in your garden waste bin

- ✓ grass cuttings
- ✓ hedge trimmings and tree cuttings
- ✓ small branches -  
up to 20cm (8") in diameter  
and under 60cm (24") in length
- ✓ flowers
- ✓ leaves
- ✓ weeds



Sign up and pay at [www.barnet.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/gardenwaste)

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

- Take your garden waste to the Reuse and Recycling Centre, Summers Lane, N12 0RF providing you have made a booking in advance. Make a booking at [www.barnet.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/recycling).
- Consider composting at home - compost bins are available at affordable prices. Visit: [www.getcomposting.com](http://www.getcomposting.com)
- Keep your green bin for other uses.

Remember not to put garden waste in your black refuse bin or blue recycling bin.

## Remove your unwanted green garden waste bin

If you do not wish to sign up to the service and don't want your green bin we can remove it for you. Each bin costs £10 to remove whether it is full of garden waste or empty.

1. First complete the online removal form at [www.barnet.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/gardenwaste)
2. We will call you to take payment and arrange a time and date for bin removal

You will need to pay for a new bin if you decide to use the garden waste service in the future.



# Youth Shout Out!

How will we cope during and beyond the pandemic?

On Tuesday 7 February, London Councils and LB Camden hosted a Youth Shout Out Event, with guest speakers Cllr Georgia Gould and Cllr Elizabeth Campbell.

**Dan Yilmaz (16), Raf Yilmaz (16) and Tani Ilembola (17) represented Barnet at the event, each sharing their unique experiences this past year and what challenges they expect young people to face in the future as a direct result of the coronavirus pandemic.**



Dan

“What became apparent very early on in the discussions was that we are all weathering the same storm, but we are all in very different boats. Some of us live

in houses with gardens and some in small flats.

“Some of us have access to our own computer and some of us have not - this is why the Youth Shout Out Event was so important – so that our voices could be heard.

“We have all tried different mechanisms to support our mental health. In my case, I find solace in playing with my puppy. I have joined a history club with other young people from across the globe. I have also joined a local history group. I have Zoom meetings with these groups every week.

“We must not let this pandemic get the better of us. If we take just one thing away from this challenging situation, it is that we are more resilient as a result. We need to learn that we have to work together and support each other. We need to understand that nobody is safe, until everybody is safe.”

Dan



Raf

“Despite some of the frustrations expressed by myself and other young people at the event, I came away counting my blessings.

Though several people in my extended family got COVID-19, nobody died. I am lucky that I have friends that I can play with online after-school.

“I am lucky to have my own computer. I am lucky that I have teachers who are strict but kind. I am lucky to have parents that pester me about my homework – annoying though it is! I am even lucky to have a twin brother I can argue with just to let off steam.

“I hope that this pandemic has made us realise that whilst we are all individuals with different likes and dislikes, we all have very similar needs and fears. I hope that we have learned that we have to take care of each other and the environment around us.”

Raf



Tani

“I was significantly passionate about the impact of the current lockdown that we are in and the detrimental effect that it is

having on young people.

“In fact, a recent poll conducted by the BSA revealed that 67% of young people (14–18-year-olds) are concerned about the impact the pandemic is having on their mental health. This paints a very clear picture on the realities that young people are facing.

“During the lockdowns I realised how important it truly is to make sure that I actively seek ways to deal with my mental health, such as going for a run or at least getting some fresh air, and spending some time away from my phone and other technological devices.”

Tani

## Free mental health and wellbeing support is available to you:

- **Kooth.com** is a safe and anonymous platform for 11-25-year-olds to get support with their mental health, through peer support groups, counselling and/or blogging.
- If you're feeling anxious, worried or stressed, contact **Shout**. Just text CONNECT to 85258 for 24/7 support.
- **Barnet Integrated Clinical Services (BICS)** offer social, emotional, behavioural and mild to moderate mental health support to children, young people and families in Barnet. Call 07926 085495.
- If you're aged 11-17 and need mental health support, call **Barnet CAHMS** on 0800 1510023.
- If you're a young person in need of support, contact **Young Minds Crisis Messenger**. Just text YM to 85258.
- Visit [barnet.gov.uk/backtoschool](https://barnet.gov.uk/backtoschool) for useful mental wellbeing resources to help support children and young people on your return to the classroom

# The socially savvy duo striving to make positive change for young Londoners



Dara



Ishaan

**We had a chit-chat with Ishaan, 17, and Dara, 17, who both represent Barnet in London Youth Assembly. They tell us what really goes down in the quarterly London Assembly meetings and what Barnet's youth have to bring to the table.**

## What is London Youth Assembly and what is your role as a Member?

**L:** London Youth Assembly is a forum whereby a Member and Deputy Member from each of the London boroughs convene regularly to discuss how London can be improved for young people.

A Youth Assembly Member's role is crucial in ensuring that young people from their respective boroughs can communicate their concerns and thoughts to be raised on a city-wide level.

**D:** We work alongside the Chair and the Deputy Chair on key issues that have been recognised by young people. We discuss issues and challenges that young people are facing and then take the necessary steps to make positive change.

## For how long have you been a Member and why did you get involved?

**L:** I first joined Barnet Youth Assembly in late 2019. In November 2020, I was humbled to be invited to become a Member of the London Youth Assembly. For too long, young people have been left out of decision-making processes that affect us and our futures.

Being able to collaborate and learn from like-minded, passionate and incredible young people from across London is a thrilling, inspiring and unique experience.

**D:** I was a member of the Barnet Youth Assembly for a year and I've been a Member of London Youth Assembly for three months, after being nominated by my Youth Board. I was excited for this opportunity as I am very passionate about young people being seen and having their voices heard.

## How does Barnet Youth Assembly compare to London Youth Assembly?

**L:** Barnet Youth Assembly focuses on addressing local challenges whereas London Youth Assembly aims to implement motions that will benefit a range of young people from across the city. By population, Barnet is the largest borough in London with one in four residents being young people (over 100,000 young people).

**D:** Barnet Youth Assembly is filled with Members who are full of passion and enthusiasm. This enables us to bring insightful viewpoints and engage in deep discussions at London Youth Assembly.

## What are the main topics of conversation in London Youth Assembly right now and what are you most passionate about?

**L:** The core topics of conversation are around the impact of COVID-19 on education, opportunities for young people, including those from disadvantaged groups, and mental health and wellbeing, with a focus on the impact of the pandemic. I am passionate about mental health, quality education, tackling modern slavery and addressing discrimination. The negative implications of these issues have been exacerbated by the pandemic and so it is important to the young people of London that we address these challenges as effectively as possible.

**D:** I am passionate about mental health. I feel that it is very important to spread awareness as so many people struggle; partly due to a lack of understanding as well as the limited support available. It is important that young people feel safe and supported and have environments where they can express their emotions and issues. A quote by Glenn Close that I assent to is: "What mental health needs is more sunlight, more candor, more unashamed conversation..."

## How do the conversations in Youth Assembly translate into action?

**L:** After discussing and debating a motion, each Member votes either for or against the motion. If the motion passes, the Chair works with the respective members of the Assembly who are interested in pursuing it. They formulate a plan and through perseverance and proactivity, that motion will start to transform into tangible action.

## Why should young people get involved in Barnet Youth Assembly?

**D:** Young people should get involved in Barnet Youth Assembly because it is an amazing opportunity to actively make change and you'll gain confidence in the process. It is important that young people are engaged in their community because we are the future.

**L:** Barnet is our home, where we study and where we have grown up. It isn't often that young people have access to a platform to serve our community and bring about positive change! If you're a young person living or studying in Barnet, get involved!

Youth Assembly meetings are currently taking place virtually

Want to get involved or find out more?  
 Email: [youthassembly@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:youthassembly@barnet.gov.uk)  
 Follow [@barnetyouth](https://www.instagram.com/barnetyouth) on Instagram for the latest updates on youth news and events






# Making culture and arts accessible for all!

**BARNET**  
& CULTURE FOR YOUTH

**Susy Stone, a local retired headteacher, LBB Lifetime Achievement Award recipient 2019, and Chair for Barnet's Cultural Education Partnership explains the purpose of Barnet and Culture for Youth (B&CY): "The aim is for every child in Barnet to have access to high-quality arts and cultural provision. Working together, we create and nurture partnerships between artists, cultural and artistic venues and schools. This work is particularly important at the moment."**

Coordinated by Artsdepot, the partnership is made up of representatives from Middlesex University, Young Barnet Foundation, Unitas Youth Zone, RAF Museum, Barnet Education Arts Trust, Raphael House Counselling Service, Barnet Council, Barnet Schools Improvements Service and local schools.

During the partnership's first 18 months, 1,440 children and young people have engaged with cultural opportunities, from attending dance and drama sessions to production companies performing in schools. After attending a 'Life after lockdown' workshop a young person aged (14) said "It's a great chance to explore different ways of expressing your lockdown experience and developing important skills in a safe and welcoming environment. It gives you lots of things to look forward to and is a fun way to make new friends."

## Online festival

Back in November 2020, B&CY ran a week-long festival of seminars, workshops, Q&A's and practical sessions, all focused on supporting cultural and arts engagement for young people, in the context of COVID-19. Tamara from Mapledown SEN school said: "As both an attendee and speaker at the hugely successful BECP festival, I was able to see the benefits and the hard work that went into this fantastic event. There were plenty of opportunities to learn new things, as well as numerous chances to network which has been extremely useful. It was great to be able to interact with the speakers and discuss important and relevant matters and there was a real feeling of community behind it all. I thoroughly enjoyed it and look forward to the next event whether it is online or in person!"

Lorna Jackson from Colloquial Collective Films went to Tamara's session and said: "It was superb to hear and see the many ways SEN students benefit from art-based lessons. This online festival is simply superb, as it has truly highlighted how we can use our love, passion and craft for video in new ways."

## Increased funding for support

Barnet & Culture for Youth Access Fund is £5,000 annually and managed by Artsdepot and offers members microgrants of up to £500. The fund supports development of partnerships and collaborations between schools or youth organisations and arts organisations. For details on how to apply, visit [www.artsdepot.co.uk/barnet-culture-youth](http://www.artsdepot.co.uk/barnet-culture-youth)

## Young people can shape and influence cultural provision in Barnet

From spring 2021, the partnership is launching a youth panel for young people aged 14-21 living, or studying in Barnet, focusing on advocacy and activism. There will be opportunities to work with local partners and learn more about creative career pathways, social media campaigns, government policy and attend leadership workshops. There is an ambition for this programme to open up further progression routes for the young people including participation on boards and other youth voice opportunities.

## Become a member of Barnet & Culture for Youth

The partnership is inviting schools, youth, arts and cultural organisations, individuals and artists working with young people in Barnet to become members (free of charge). Members will receive a monthly newsletter, have access to termly B&CY Members' Forums, apply for access funding and connect with other members. Artsdepot is offering schools support with Artsmark and connections with arts organisations. For more information, to sign up or become an ambassador, please visit: [www.artsdepot.co.uk/barnet-culture-youth](http://www.artsdepot.co.uk/barnet-culture-youth) or email Francesca on [Francesca.cross@artsdepot.co.uk](mailto:Francesca.cross@artsdepot.co.uk)





# PROFILE: Barnet Together and the Barnet Food Hub

During the first wave of the pandemic, the council rapidly set up the Essential Supplies Hub, based at the RAF Museum in Colindale. Over the course of the first lockdown and beyond, it provided food and essential supplies to thousands of residents, food banks, hospitals and care settings.

During the latest lockdown, the running of the hub passed across to our partners Barnet Together, with the hub itself relocating to East Barnet Library.

We caught up with Oliver Scott from Barnet Together to find out how things have been going, and his hopes for the future.

## Give us an overview of what Barnet Together is now doing with the Hub and how it's changed from the early days of the pandemic

Our focus is now on providing essential support required from foodbanks, we currently support 15 throughout the borough. The Food Hub has centralised distribution networks in the borough, allowing for greater effectiveness at effecting food flows, saving food from going to waste and diverting it towards those in need in our community. We provided four tonnes of food (around 10,000 meals) in the first week of January. We are also giving out a lot more fresh fruit and veg, in a push to enable healthier foodbanks.

## What are your priorities for the latest lockdown?

Our immediate priority has been to keep the operation running. We have reviewed our COVID-19 procedures in light of new strains and updated our emergency plan, ensuring that we can continue to provide vital support even in the worst-case scenario. We also want to increase the output and support to our foodbanks, develop relationships and encourage more partnerships and peer support across the network. We will reach out to any new foodbanks in the borough to ensure we join up with existing groups but also ensure that the provision is needed in that area. We are also focused on finding new networks to help bring in more food, especially rescuing perfectly good food from the waste cycle.

## Has the latest lockdown changed your plans? If so, how?

Not really, lockdown does not change much for us, apart from working harder to source additional supplies. This is a real partnership approach, the council's and our approach remains the same - to support our frontline foodbanks to enable them to continue to support our most vulnerable residents at this difficult time. We want to continue to improve and expand the services we provide in line with need.



Barnet Together is a partnership of Inclusion Barnet, Volunteering Barnet (Groundwork) and the Young Barnet Foundation.

# What's your big idea?



## Entrepreneurial Barnet returns this summer with £15,000 prize fund

The Entrepreneurial Barnet Competition, 'What's Your Big Idea?', is returning this summer for its seventh consecutive year.

'What's Your Big Idea?' is a contest to promote and develop enterprise and entrepreneurship among Barnet's students and young people. It offers Middlesex University, Barnet and Southgate College students and local residents the opportunity to showcase their ideas, attend business development workshops and win funding to help grow their business.

The Leader of Barnet Council, Councillor Dan Thomas, said: "It's been difficult this year for our residents and businesses to make the money they need to survive and thrive.

"We'd like to help in any way we can – whether it be through business grants, support for town centres, income support, or in funding a really innovative new idea.

"If you're an entrepreneur, please do submit your idea, as maybe that money could be going to you."

## Do you have an idea for a new start-up business, product or service?

Or an idea for a social enterprise that will have a positive impact? Are you running a business that's less than two years old that needs an extra boost?



## Would you like the opportunity to:

- Attend online workshops to help develop your idea or business?
- Win thousands of pounds to put towards your business?
- Showcase your ideas and gain publicity?

If so, we want to hear from you.

## There are two categories:

- Commercial category: ideas that have potential to become successful businesses
- Social Impact category: ideas that have a positive impact within communities, such as an environmental, social or another not-for-profit idea

The competition is led by Middlesex University, Barnet Council and Barnet and Southgate College with the generous support of Brent Cross Shopping Centre and Santander Universities.

For more information about the competition and to register your interest, visit <https://bit.ly/3c3y4rF> or email [business@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:business@mdx.ac.uk)

Competition dates are still being confirmed, but the contest will take place during the summer of 2021. Details will be released ASAP so please check the website.

**£15,000  
to be won**

Entrepreneurial Barnet Competition 2021

# What's your BIG idea?



# The EU Settlement Scheme – a reminder for Barnet's EU citizens

The EU Settlement Scheme allows EU citizens to continue to live, work and study in the UK without any immigration time restrictions even though the UK has now left the European Union. There is still plenty of time to apply for settled or pre-settled status. It's an entirely free and easy process, so why not tick it off your to-do list?

## EU citizens have until 30 June 2021 to apply

If you're one of the estimated 45,000 EU, EEA or Swiss citizens who call Barnet home, you and your family have until 30 June 2021 to apply for settled or pre-settled status to continue living in the UK. When you have secured settled or pre-settled status successfully, you will be able to remain living and working here after the UK leaves the EU.

Visit [www.gov.uk/eusettlementscheme](https://www.gov.uk/eusettlementscheme) to apply.

## Who needs to apply?

Except in a few cases, you need to apply if:

- you're an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen
- you're not an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen, but your family member is (or is an eligible person of Northern Ireland)

This means you need to apply even if you:

- were born in the UK but are not a British citizen
- have a UK 'permanent residence document'
- are a family member of an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen who does not need to apply - including if they're from Ireland
- are an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen with a British citizen family member

## The application process

When you apply, you'll need proof of:

- your identity
- your residence in the UK, unless you have a valid permanent residence document, or valid indefinite leave to remain in or enter the UK

You can apply using any device, for example, a laptop, Android device or iPhone.

## Barnet Council ID verification process

You can use the EU Exit: ID Document Check app on your Android or Apple mobile phone to complete the identity stage of your application under the EU Settlement Scheme.

The app will:

- check that your identity document is genuine
- verify that the document belongs to you

## Help is available

If you don't feel confident using a computer or don't have access to the internet, the Home Office's 'Assisted Digital' service can give you support over the phone. The service is called We Are Digital. You can make an appointment to speak to an advisor who will help you complete your online application.

## We Are Digital

[visa@we-are-digital.co.uk](mailto:visa@we-are-digital.co.uk)

Telephone: 03333 445 675

Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm

## After you've applied


If your application is successful, a letter will be emailed to you confirming your settled or pre-settled status.

If your application is unsuccessful but you think the decision should have been different – for example you got pre-settled status but expected to get settled status – **you can apply again at any time until 30 June 2021**. There is no charge for this.



# Contact your councillors

### Brunswick Park



**Cllr Kathy Levine**   **Cllr Lisa Rutter**   **Cllr Roberto Weeden-Sanz**

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### Edgware



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### Mill Hill



**Cllr Golar Bokaei**   **Cllr Valerie Duschinsky**   **Cllr John Hart**

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### Burnt Oak



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### Finchley Church End



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### Oakleigh



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### Childs Hill



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### Garden Suburb



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### Totteridge



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### Colindale



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### Golders Green



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### Underhill



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### Coppetts



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### Hale



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### West Finchley



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### East Barnet



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### Hendon



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### West Hendon



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### East Finchley



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### High Barnet



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cllr.j.teare@barnet.gov.uk

### Woodhouse



**Cllr Geof Cooke**   **Cllr Anne Hutton**   **Cllr Alan Schneiderman**

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cllr.a.schneiderman@barnet.gov.uk

## Full Council meetings

### Hendon

**Annual Council - Tuesday 25 May 2021, 7pm**, via Microsoft Teams or at Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BQ, depending on government guidance.

## Resident Forums

You can find the dates of the residents' forums on: [barnet.moderngov.co.uk](http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk)

For more information and for venue details, please visit: [barnet.moderngov.co.uk](http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk)

For details of surgeries, email: [first.contact@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:first.contact@barnet.gov.uk)

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

# Open your heart and your home

## Start your journey to becoming a Shared Lives carer today!

### What is Shared Lives?

Shared Lives is a community-based approach to care and support. It offers an alternative (and highly flexible) form of accommodation and support by using the Shared Lives carer's home as a base. Support can be delivered for a few hours, an overnight stay, months, or even years – this all depends on the carer's lifestyle and availability as all support is based within the carer's home.

### What is the role of a Shared Lives carer?

A Shared Lives carer shares their home and family life with an adult who needs support to live everyday life. It might be giving a helping hand to someone getting dressed, getting to doctor's appointments, making friends, cooking together or voting for their favourite singers on TV!

### What kinds of people are being cared for?

People visiting or moving in with Shared Lives carers are 18 and over with an identified care and support need. They may have been in foster care, have learning or physical disabilities, may be an older person with a frailty or dementia, or have mental ill health.

### What do I need in order to become a Shared Lives carer?

To qualify to become a Shared Lives carer you must be over the age of 18, rent or own your home and have a spare room available. There are no qualifications required although it is helpful if you have had previous care experience. It is important that you have a caring nature, and respect and value people as individuals.

### What are the benefits to becoming a Shared Lives carer?

This is a flexible caring role with generous tax-free earnings starting from £400 per week. Not only will you be improving the quality of someone's life, but you'll also have access to ongoing support and training opportunities and will be making a positive impact in your community.

### How can I find out more?

Get in touch today - we're happy to answer any questions you may have!

☎ 0208 359 3576

✉ [shared.lives@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:shared.lives@barnet.gov.uk)

🌐 [barnet.gov.uk/sharedlives](http://barnet.gov.uk/sharedlives)



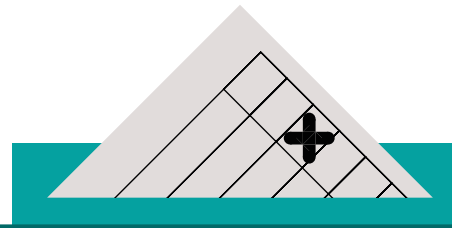


# Are you registered to vote?

The Mayor of London and London Assembly Elections will be held on Thursday 6 May 2021.

If you aren't registered to vote, apply by Monday 19 April.

**REGISTER**



**VOTE**



## Why not vote by post?

Visit [www.barnet.gov.uk/elections](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/elections)

