



East Barnet Residents Association

Incorporating Friends of Oak Hill Park

Chairman's Message

It has been again busy time for the Residents Association since our last newsletter in December. We have been campaigning on your behalf on issues you have told us are your priorities.

We have updates in this edition of the scandal of the Brunswick Park Health Centre fully refurbished but sitting empty some three years after the fire, on the changes to recycling that the Council proposes to introduce later in the year, the relocation of the post office in East Barnet village, what you think of the Council and how to find out about the census results. We are helping residents around Russell Lane to find a way to gain recognition of the ancient woodland in the green lane and preserve and enhance the planting. EBRA has also been expressing the concerns you have brought to our attention of the level of burglaries locally to the Police.

Your feedback is so important to the Committee. It would be so difficult to properly represent you without it. Please keep it coming in. We are going to experiment with having a 'letters page' in the next newsletter publishing a selection of your 'letters to the editor'.

Can I also ask any of you with special skills or talents that you may wish to put at our disposal (without having to become fully involved in the Committee if you do not wish) to get in touch. We are a voluntary organisation and sometimes need specialist help.

Thank you for your continued membership and please don't forget to tell people you meet to join!

Daniel Hope

Dates For Your Diary:

AGM: 8pm on **Tuesday 4th June** in the Small Hall, Brookside Methodist Church, 2 Cat Hill, EN4 8JB

All-Members' Meeting: 8pm on **Tuesday 8th October** in the Small Hall, Brookside Methodist Church, 2 Cat Hill, EN4 8JB

Chipping Barnet Forum: **Wednesday 13th March, Tuesday 25th June, Tuesday 22nd October** at 6pm at Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, N20 0EJ

East Barnet Festival: **Friday 5th, Saturday 6th, and Sunday 7th July** in Oak Hill Park;
Theatre in the Park on Sundays in June July and August

More details will be published as they become available at eastbarnetfestival.org.uk

If you would like to book a stall, please contact them via the website or on 07071 781745

Brunswick Park Health Centre

After three years of waiting for our health centre to re-open, we were sent this tantalising photo of its fully refurbished interior. Residents and members have contacted us saying that it is a scandal that the fully finished facility is not being used. NHS North Central London are unable to say when it will open and that they are still in negotiation with GP practices to agree terms for their surgeries to move in. All the NHS can guarantee is monthly updates.



Dissatisfied with this response and armed with cross party support many including our MP, Theresa Villiers and all three of the Brunswick Park Councillors we approached Barnet Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny for their assistance. We are delighted to report that they agreed to our Chairman's request that if the Health Centre is not opened by their next meeting in May all involved will be called before the Committee to explain in public why the

centre is sitting completed but not open.

Please also see page 6 of this newsletter.

Rob White & Daniel Hope

Cat Hill Campus



North Elevation

Enfield Council will make the final decision on whether or not to allow the residential development on the former Middlesex University campus. Our MP Theresa Villiers and all of our East Barnet councillors are firmly opposed to these plans. But Enfield Council's recommendation is "Approval subject to referral to the GLA, and S106 agreement, and subject to conditions". We requested a 'deputation' to speak against the recommendation at the formal special planning committee meeting on Monday 4th March and will let you know the outcome.

Rob White & Daniel Hope

Communication

We would love to know what you think! Please email or write to us with your views about things in the area, the EBRA or this newsletter. We always aim to provide a balanced view so please also let us know if you disagree about something. We may consider publishing the best messages in a 'Letters to the Editor' feature in future newsletters (with your permission of course). Thank you.

Rob White

Contacting the EBRA

Rob White is our point of contact: **Web:** eastbar.net

Mayor of Barnet's Charities

Barnet Carers ❖ Alzheimer's Services at Barnet Hospital

proudly present



Barnet Youth Wind Orchestra

conducted by Ben Palmer



Hendon Music Centre Senior Concert Band

conducted by Fred Slide

East Barnet Music Centre Senior Concert Band

conducted by Jim Williams

Sunday 24th March 2013 at 3pm

Simpson Hall, Peel Centre,
Hendon Police Training College,
Aerodrome Road, NW9 5JE.



Adults: £8 Concessions: £5



Refreshments available during interval

Please send me ___ adult tickets (£8) and ___ concession tickets (£5). I enclose a cheque, payable to the Mayor of Barnet's Charity, for £_____ and a stamped, addressed envelope (SAE).

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Email address _____

and send to: Cllr Kate Salinger, 32 The Ridgeway, London N11 3LJ
casalinger@aol.com

(This flyer and form can be downloaded from our website <http://eastbar.net>)

Energy Bill Revolution

Warmer Homes - Lower Bills - Cooler Planet

The Energy Bill Revolution is a movement of people committed to ensuring warm homes and lower bills for all. They are an alliance of children's and older people's charities, health and disability groups, environment groups, consumer groups, trade unions, businesses, politicians and public figures.

They are a movement of people who, by joining the Energy Bill Revolution, signing the petition, emailing MPs, and spreading the word to friends and family, are playing a crucial role in helping to end fuel poverty once and for all.

The Government taxes big companies for the damage their carbon emissions cause to people and the environment. There are two main carbon taxes: the European Emissions Trading Scheme and the Carbon Floor Price. These taxes are used by the Government to help combat climate change and wean the UK off dirty fossil fuels. The companies eventually pass these taxes on to consumers and they end up on our bills. Over the next 15 years the Government will raise an average of £4 billion every year in carbon taxes.

The Energy Bill Revolution are calling on the Government to use the money it gets from carbon taxes to make our homes super-energy efficient with excellent insulation, renewable energy and modern boilers. It is the permanent solution to get families and vulnerable citizens out of fuel poverty – This could bring 9 out of 10 homes out of fuel poverty, lower people's bills, cut carbon emissions AND create jobs.

The most immediate and effective way to make your voice heard is to sign their petition for warm homes and lower bills, and to write to or email your MP.

Information on where public meetings are being held: <http://www.energywecanallafford.org>

An information pack can be downloaded at: <http://www.energywecanallafford.org/resources>

We were asked to include this article for information; it is not an official endorsement by the EBRA committee

New Recycling Arrangements



A 240 litre blue bin

In April last year the Council announced that by the end of 2013 they will provide a new blue wheeled bin to replace the blue and black recycling boxes. This bin will take all dry recyclable materials (e.g. paper, cans, plastic bottles, cardboard and glass). We'll also be provided with internal and external kitchen caddies for food waste. The green garden waste bins will be emptied fortnightly.

The idea is that the blue bin removes the need for residents to sort recycling, so we may be encouraged to recycle more, and the bins should stop so much litter blowing around the streets. The caddies should keep food waste out of the black bin. These two things should reduce the Council's landfill taxation bill.

At the EBRA meeting in January, there was concern that a 240 litre blue bin, in addition to the existing black and green bins, might take up too much space for some householders. The Council have agreed to look into the possibility of providing smaller bins on request. There was also concern that "co-mingled" recycling is less valuable than sorted waste. The Council say the benefits of reduced landfill outweigh these concerns. We will let you know how this debate progresses.

Rob White

AGM – Tuesday 4th June 2013

The constitution of the Residents' Association was written over thirty years ago. From time to time it is good to review the rules to see if some updating is needed. The Committee have identified some tweaks and changes that they believe are needed to improve the working of the association.

For example one requirement of the constitution is that the committee should meet at least nine times a year. On one hand this doesn't make it clear that the committee should meet throughout the year (nine meetings could be held in a month) but also with email the need for frequent meetings has become less important. So we shall propose at this year's AGM that the committee is required to meet at least once a quarter.

The constitution is available on the website and from me. We would welcome any suggestions from members who have ideas to update the rules to make things work better. We will circulate the proposed revisions to our constitution before the AGM.

Changes to the constitution must be approved at the AGM by a majority of those eligible to vote.

Rob White

East Barnet Village Post Office

The Post Office plans to transfer the business from the old building on the corner of Jackson Road into McKinnons newsagent across the road.

We feel that on balance this will benefit the community because the Post Office till will be on the normal shop counter, and open for business all the time the shop is open. 05:30 to 20:00 Monday to Saturday and 06:00 to 16:00 on Sunday.

Osidge Library Technology Upgrade

Osidge Library will be closed for two weeks from 26th February while self-service kiosks are installed. These allow residents to borrow, renew and return books at the touch of a button and help free up staff to deal with more complex enquiries and to run events and activities. The library will reopen on 12th March.

Safer Neighbourhood Teams' Drop-In Surgeries

Both the East Barnet and Brunswick Park SNTs hold regular surgeries where you can drop in without appointment to for a one-to-one consultation. The dates and times are published on their websites:

East Barnet SNT:

content.met.police.uk/Team/Barnet/EastBarnet
 5 March - Brookhill Library - 11:00 to 12:00
 12 March - Oak Hill Park Cafe - 15:00 to 16:00
 3 April - St James Church (East Barnet Road) -
 11:00 to 12:00

Brunswick Park SNT:

content.met.police.uk/Team/Barnet/BrunswickPark
 26 March - Osidge Library - 10:00 to 10:45

Barnet GPs to Control Health Services

Barnet's **Clinical Commissioning Group** (CCG) has gained conditional authorisation to plan, monitor, and commission health services from April 2013.

This means that local GPs and the CCG will be able to work in partnership with local people to improve the health and well-being of the population of Barnet.

Barnet CCG will hold a series of public events where people can share their views about what the CCG should be doing. The first event will be held from 10am - 12 noon on 7th March at Finchley Memorial Hospital N12 0JE (entrance in Granville Road). Refreshments will be available.

Questions are welcome and must be submitted to barnet.boardquestions@nclondon.nhs.uk to be taken at the beginning of part 1 of the meeting.

More information at barnetccg.nhs.uk with the meeting papers available from: barnetccg.nhs.uk/about-us/7th-march-2013.htm

A few questions from EBRA members asking about the future of the Brunswick Park Health Centre (see page 2 of this newsletter) might be appropriate. Please copy rob@eastbar.net so we can monitor progress. Thank you.

Rob White

Barnet Community Safety Engagement Group

My name is Paul Hammond and I am the new the CSEG Coordinator. I am also the Administrator and field worker for Barnet Boroughwatch (BBW)... So I'm constantly changing hats!

February has been a very busy month for us. On the 19th we held our Crime Prevention Event at the Sage Home Golders Green to a capacity audience. DI Paul Murray from Barnet CID gave a very useful and in-depth talk on the current burglary problems and Maureen West (BBW Chair) and I did a presentation on Garden Security. Incidentally, if you want crime prevention advice on home security, please do contact me and we can arrange a talk or meeting.

The next "Community Crime Fighters" meeting is being held at Middlesex University on Thursday 14th March, 7.30pm in the Atrium. It is a joint event hosted by the Police, Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) and Barnet CSEG. The focus this time is on young persons and the effect of crime on them. It's taking the form of "Question Time" with a panel of experts. I will be there with free crime prevention booklets etc.

This event is a must if you want to have you say in how the borough is being policed. If you want to ask a question you can email me on: barnetboroughwatch@gmail.com / paul.hammond@communitybarnet.org.uk.

March also looks very busy with plenty of activity on the neighbourhood watch front with 3 new watches starting up and co-working with the SNTs (Safer Neighbourhood Teams).

I'll end with a bit of propaganda... our new recruiting poster for NHW is printed below.

Best Wishes, **Paul Hammond** - Barnet CSEG Coordinator



Are you interested in joining Barnet Neighbourhood Watch?



We are the umbrella organisation for all the watches in the Borough of Barnet. We have about 650 active watches at present. We use "Alertcomms" messaging system to send emails, texts and phone messages to our members. To enquire about Neighbourhood Watch in your area email us on the below address:

Barnetboroughwatch@gmail.com

If you would like to register on the Alertcomms messaging system type the address below into your browser:

<http://bit.ly/14WayBE>

Neighbourhood Watch works by:

- Bringing people closer together
- Building a stronger community spirit
- Helping to reduce crime
- Lessening people's anxieties about crime
- Strengthening links with the police
- Developing closer relationships with local councils
- Improving the local environment
- Creating a better quality of life

In an emergency always dial 999 - when it's less urgent call 101

Residents' Perception Survey 2012

In Autumn 2012 the Council conducted a Residents' Perception Survey with just over 1600 residents from across the borough. The survey asked residents for their views on local services and various aspects of life in their local area.

The Council summarises by saying residents' satisfaction with the local area is improving: Residents are more likely to think the council is doing a good job, offering value for money and improving their area and overall satisfaction with the council and services is moving in right direction. But the results suggest some challenges over crime, anti-social behaviour, some services e.g. cleanliness and financial concerns (e.g. Council Tax). On engagement and image of council, they say they are making progress but remain below the London benchmark.

You can read the full analysis on the Council's website:

engage.barnet.gov.uk/consultation-team/residentsperceptionsurvey/consult_view

2011 Census Results

The detailed results from the 2011 census are available on the Office for National Statistics' website: neighbourhoodstatistics.gov.uk

Far too much information to summarise in this newsletter, but if you are interested you can enter a postcode and see all sorts of information about the local area, right down to electoral Ward level.

If you don't have internet access you can visit a local library and use one of the computers or WiFi access there.

RFID Card Scares

We have heard concerns about contactless credit / debit cards being scanned while they are in your handbag or pocket and a clone card then being made to empty your account. These chain-letters seem to have been put around by companies who sell shielded wallets and cases for the paranoid to keep their cards in. The banks who issue contactless cards say there is no way any data obtained by scanning can be used to make a clone card, let alone the chip-and-pin and the security code on the signature strip. The RFID chips in modern cards are far more sophisticated than those embedded in a pet's neck, with encryption and other technology to ensure they can only be used for genuine transactions. But if you're not convinced, you can ask your



card company for one without and RFID chip (see the logo above) or use a card from another company...

Rob White

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Chas R Lowe Estates are proud to sponsor the East Barnet Residents' Association newsletters.