

Barnet Society

CAMPAIGNING FOR A BETTER BARNET

SUMMER
2017

BARNET HIGH STREET Row over controversial build-outs rumbles on

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At the end of March, the Council published a proposal for pavement build-outs and other pedestrian improvements to the High Street for public consultation, Robin Bishop writes

Earlier versions had been discussed with the Town Team, but this was the first time that most members of the Barnet Society or public had seen any details. Although the Society has long campaigned for improvements in the High Street, it became apparent that many objected to aspects of the plan. We therefore submitted the following comments:

"The Barnet Society supports the general intention of the latest Council proposals. We and the Town Team have striven for years to revive the High Street area, economically, environmentally and visually, and to complete the 'green chain' of trees from Barnet Hill to Hadley Green. Selective pavement build-outs, sustainable new trees and some upgrading of the pedestrian realm would do much to assist this.

But the Society is aware of objections to some details of the latest plan. We regret that the consultation has not been widely advertised, properly presented or exhibited around Chipping Barnet. Public explanation of the plan's key features might have mollified residents' and traders' doubts, and reassured them that limited resources would be spent to optimal effect.

As things stand, though, we must record reservations about the necessity or effectiveness of aspects of the proposals:

1. Complete continuity of pavement build-out along the west side of the High Street is not essential. We note the Town Team's recommendation that Barnet Council should "look again" at the option

of moving loading bays to adjacent streets. We agree: loading bays should be in the High Street, not side streets. Some parking spaces for very short-term shoppers would also be desirable.

2. The build-outs should be primarily to widen footways for pedestrian convenience and safety and trees, not urban infrastructure like advertising boards or (except in the most favourable locations) seating.
3. The wider pavement spaces, e.g. in front of KFC and Boots, should be investigated for additional trees, whether in the ground or in containers. A Council survey a few years ago showed little available space between buried utilities, but this should be re-examined.
4. Trees should be planted directly into the ground. Containers should be used only as a last resort, because they would require watering and ongoing maintenance that the Council may not be able to provide in future. Any container must be of robust enough design to resist natural deterioration over decades, vandalism and vehicle impact, and enable them to be moved if necessary.
5. The choice of tree species is critical. We have the expertise to offer advice, and would be pleased to do so (subject to agreed budget, timing and process).
6. Some build-out space could be designated shared 'off-street' parking space (as in the earlier option dated 21/04/2016), allowing pedestrian use when not occupied by very short-term parking, e.g. outside the Post Office and immediately north of Union Street.

7. It might be advisable to erect well designed bollards on build-outs for safety purposes.
8. The relative widths of build-outs and carriageway should be reconsidered, especially where larger vehicles turn from Salisbury Road into the High Street.
9. Cyclist safety is an important issue. The present High Street layout provides flexibility for evasive manoeuvres by both cyclists and motorists, but the current proposal would reduce this. It could also encourage cyclists onto the pavement, endangering pedestrians
10. The balance between short and longer-term parking tariffs and payment methods in the centre is worth re-examining to encourage displaced motorists to park away from the High Street. Current regeneration of The Spires and the new H&M store makes this timely.

• **We would also like:**

- A clearer decision-making process to be agreed and properly publicised.
- Information on the timescale for developing the design and specification and carrying out the works.
- Consultation on other key details of the designs, e.g. paving and street furniture – early enough for discussion to take place without jeopardising the programme.

At the time of writing the public comments are being reviewed, and we understand that there will be a meeting of all parties to discuss the best way forward. **Join the debate: voice@barnetsociety.org.uk**

AGM, June 15, Pennefather Hall, St Albans Road

New owners of Whalebones House in the jaws of dilemma

Preserving two massive jaw bones from a 90-foot-long blue whale is just one of the challenges facing the new owners of Whalebones House, one of Barnet's oldest residences and surrounded by woods and fields that are now threatened with redevelopment, writes Nick Jones

The two jawbones, 24ft long and each weighing three-quarters of a ton, were installed at the Wood Street entrance to the house in 1939, and replaced an earlier pair of jawbones thought to be have been erected in the 1860s, or perhaps as early as the 1830s.

Although the two existing jaw bones appear sturdy and remain firmly in place, there are gaps and cracks in places and much of the surface is covered in moss.

Paddy Shanahan and his wife Helena Boland, who moved into Whalebones in January, are anxious to get advice on the best way to protect the bones now that they are nearly 80 years old, and have become rather weather beaten.

The jaw bones were taken from a blue whale that was captured in the South Seas in the late 1930s, and they were shipped to Hull from Bergen, in Norway, and then transported to Barnet by lorry.

Whalebones House and the adjoining farm, fields and woods, are part of the Wood Street conservation area. When the designation was made in the 1960s, Barnet Council's planning department obtained advice on preservation methods from the Natural History Museum in London.

"As the new owners of Whalebones, we do feel we have a responsibility to do whatever we can to protect this historic pair of jaw bones, and we do hope we can track down experts who can advise on how they should best be cleaned and preserved," said Mr Shanahan.

Mr Shanahan and his wife have joined a Facebook page, "Whalebones Farm Barnet – Save our Green Space", which is campaigning to block an attempt by the trustees who own the land, and who intend to seek planning permission for housing in the fields woods that surround Whalebones House.

Under an agreement reached with a leading housebuilder, Hill, of Waltham Abbey, Essex, trustees for the late Gwyneth Cowing, who lived at Whalebones for many years, say that they are exploring possibilities for building houses on the 11 acres of land they own.

The house, which has had several owners since Miss Cowing's death, is hidden from view being surrounded by its own three acres of grounds which include two ponds and around 50 trees subject to tree protection orders.

Well over 1,000 members have signed up to the Facebook campaign launched to preserve the entire 14-acre site as an



Owners of Whalebones House, Paddy Shanahan and Helena Boland, are seeking advice on how to protect an historic Barnet landmark.

“As the new owners of Whalebones, we do feel we have a responsibility to do whatever we can to protect this historic pair of jaw bones, and we do hope we can track down experts who can advise on how they should best be cleaned and preserved”
- Paddy Shanahan.

irreplaceable green space between Wood Street and Barnet Hospital. In their Facebook post, Mr Shanahan and Ms Boland, say they intend to maintain Whalebones House and its three acres of grounds as they were meant to be.

"We have a Sylvia Crowe designed garden which we are endeavouring to re-establish. There are upwards of 50 trees on our grounds with TPO protection. This is a real oasis where every form of wildlife exists."

In their statement announcing the appointment of housebuilder, Hill, to explore the possibilities for developing up to 11 of the 14 acres of woods and farm land that is within the Wood Street conservation area, the trustees for the late Gwyneth Cowing say the earliest an application for planning permission might be made would be towards the end of this year.

Initially the aim is to promote the site for inclusion in Barnet Council's new local plan for housing development within the borough

The trustees acknowledged the significance of the Whalebones woods and fields. "This is very close to the Green Belt and it is a unique site, and it needs a unique solution".

A survey sent out by local MP Theresa Villiers showed overwhelming objections to building houses on the site.

Threat to workshops with flats plan

Up to 40 jobs could be lost if planning permission is approved for two blocks of flats on the site of car repair workshops and other light-industrial premises at Meadow Works, between High Barnet and Whetstone

Meadow Works is tucked away, just off the A1000, behind a row of commercial premises opposite Greenhill Gardens, a few hundred yards south of the Everyman cinema.

One of the local landmarks that would disappear in the redevelopment is the Hole in the Wall café, which has been trading there for the last 83 years, and which is a well-known pit stop for lorry drivers and motorists heading out of London.

When told that an application had been submitted to Barnet Council to demolish all the existing premises on the 1.2-acre site and replace them with two blocks containing a total of 78 self-contained flats, several tenants of the 25 units on the site said they had been fearing the worst.

As well as car repairers, the Meadow Works complex has a variety of other workshops occupied by numerous trades including carpenters and joiners, stair manufacturers, piano restorer, tailor and builder's merchant.

The likely loss of another group of light-industrial workshops reflects the demand from developers seeking to purchase sites for new houses and flats in and around High Barnet.

Over 30 workers lost their jobs last year when 16 small businesses were displaced at Brake Shear House, behind Barnet High Street, after planning approval was given for the construction of 32 flats and eight town houses.

The Barnet Society, Love Barnet and the Barnet Town Team have all urged Barnet Council to do more to limit the loss of light-industrial jobs and to provide replacement workspace and premises for start-up businesses.

One of the car repairers on the Meadow Works site, T&C Reflections, said all the tenants were in the same boat and would find it hard to secure alternative premises.

"There are about 40 of us working in the various businesses here and we will all have nowhere to go. There just aren't any workshops left like this around High Barnet - they are all being pulled down."

At the Hole in the Wall there seemed an air of resignation. The staff said there had been attempts in the past to develop the site, but they feared this might finally force the closure of what is probably Barnet's oldest transport café.

Another tenant for the last six years is Paola Schia, who runs a carpentry and joinery business Vita Woodworks. His workshop is inside the original Meadow Works building, which was erected in 1914.

"We have all been wondering what was afoot, but no one has told us anything about the planning application. We all have short-term leases of about a month, so we haven't got much choice. We'll have to find somewhere to go if this plan is approved."

The application seeks planning approval to redevelop the site to provide 78 self-contained flats, comprising 55 two-bed flats, and 23 one-bedroom flats, with a three to six storey block and a separate three storey block at the rear of the site. The plan

includes provision for 78 parking spaces and 142 cycle spaces at basement and ground floor level.

A report accompanying the application by planning consultants Jones Lang Lasalle says the Meadow Works site houses a collection of dilapidated industrial buildings and other light-weight units, including two catering establishments, and various units housing a variety of car repair, carpentry and manufacturing tenants plus other small businesses such as warehousing and a builder's merchant.

The case for approving residential use was strengthened by the poor condition of the buildings, a constrained site, and the fact that some of the buildings were in such a poor state they would fail to meet permitted standards for leasing after 2018.

Redevelopment of the site for commercial or industrial purposes was "not financially feasible".

An application to build nine town houses on the site while retaining mixed employment use was approved in 2008. A plan to construct 93 flats in four to six storey blocks was rejected in 2005 because the proposed buildings were considered "overly dominant" and because of the lack of an undertaking to meet the extra educational demand.



Paola Schia (right) opened his carpentry and joinery workshop at Meadow Works six years ago



New front is opened up with Battle of Barnet co-ordinator

Helen Giles, who has wide experience as a museum curator and consultant for numerous heritage projects, has been appointed project co-ordinator for the programme to explore and promote the Battle of Barnet of 1471.

Helen's appointment by the Battle of Barnet Project has been made possible by a grant of £98,600 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

HLF funding will enable the project team, with Ms Giles' advice and assistance, to develop activities and resources to inspire the local community to find out more about the Battle and its role in the history of Barnet and in the Wars of the Roses.

Collaborating with history projects in local schools, opening a new gallery at Barnet Museum devoted to the Battle of Barnet, and the promotion of an annual medieval festival to celebrate the Battle's anniversary, are among the project's aims.

Ms Giles has over 17 years' experience in the museum and heritage sector, and has worked extensively with volunteers in ensuring that heritage projects are delivered in accordance with Lottery Fund requirements.

Her latest assignments include project manager for the restoration of the Holkham Walled Garden at Wells-next-the-Sea, in Norfolk, and project curator for Wardown House Museum in Luton, two other projects that have been funded by the HLF.



The Duke of Gloucester arriving at Barnet Museum. From left to right, Mike Noronha, trustee Barnet Museum; Martin Russell, Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London; the Duke of Gloucester; Mike Jordan, chair of trustees, Barnet Museum

A proportion of the Barnet HLF grant will fund Ms Giles' two-year contract. She takes up her appointment in May.

Interest in the project to find out more about the Battle of Barnet – a programme backed by Barnet Museum, the Barnet Society and the Battlefields Trust -- has increased considerably since the start of an archaeological survey in the autumn of 2015 in fields and land to the north of Hadley Green, and the obelisk that commemorates the Battle.

Ms Giles said she could not wait to start work discovering more about the location and importance of Barnet's battlefield. "I am sure that for many people Barnet's role in the Wars of the Roses, and its connection to Richard III, is an untold story.

"My aim will be to do all I can to help the dedicated team at Barnet Museum build on their local heritage. I hope my experience in delivering projects backed by the Heritage Lottery Fund will be of real value, especially in bringing the museum's collections together, and in creating events to involve the local community and, also hopefully leave a lasting legacy."

Mike Noronha, Barnet Museum trustee, congratulated Ms Giles on her appointment and welcomed her to the museum.

"We are confident Helen's experience will help take us to the next stage in developing and promoting interest in the Battle of Barnet.

"Don't forget this was a battle that involved three kings (Edward IV, Henry VI and (the future) Richard III), two armies and one crown, so Barnet has plenty to shout about – and we are

determined to make our contribution towards regenerating the town centre, and in putting Barnet on the map when it comes to the heritage trails of the Wars of the Roses."



Children had their chance to join in celebrations for the anniversary of the Battle of Barnet when Barnet Museum laid on an activity session around the names and coats of arms of the lords and noblemen who took part in what became one of the fiercest battles of the Wars of Roses.

Some the youngsters studied the insignia of the two opposing armies of the House of York and the House of Lancaster, and others prepared family passports for leading protagonists including Edward IV, the Duke of Gloucester and the Earl of Warwick.

Other anniversary events included two guided walks around likely sites for the battle and talks at Barnet Museum.

Left - right Barnet Museum staged a children's activity session to mark the anniversary of the Battle of Barnet. They cut off shields based on the coats of arms of the lords and noblemen who fought in the battle.

Evie Cooper working with her grandmother Mrs Janet Saunders preparing family passports for the Earl of Warwick and the Duke of Gloucester.

Duke lauds steps taken by local history campaigners

On his first visit to Barnet, Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester, was on the warpath at the 1471 Battle of Barnet – five centuries later his namesake was back in the town fighting to preserve Barnet’s historic legacy, as well as paying a visit to the historic physic well, frequented by, among others, the great diarist Samuel Pepys.

After visiting Barnet Museum, the Duke of Gloucester went straight to inspect the dilapidated state of Barnet’s historic physic well, and then on to Wrotham Park to view the fields where an archaeological dig has been taking place to determine the precise site of the Battle of Barnet.

Today’s Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester, is the grandson of King George V and a cousin of the Queen.

He was accompanied on a visit to Barnet and Finchley to see several community projects by Martin Russell, the Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London and the Lord Lieutenant’s representative in the Borough of Barnet.

The Duke represented the Queen at the recent reburial in Leicester Cathedral of his namesake who became King Richard III and who as the 18-year-old Duke of Gloucester fought as a commander in the Battle of Barnet.

Since becoming the patron of the Richard III Society, the Duke has taken a great interest in the project to discover the exact location of the Barnet battlefield, which is commemorated with an obelisk at Hadley Common.

A welcoming party at Barnet Museum, was led by trustee Mike Noronha who showed the Duke the latest finds from the archaeological investigation, including six medieval spurs worn by mounted horsemen and fragments of medieval pottery, which are all thought to provide possible evidence of the battlefield’s location.

At Wrotham Park, the Duke was welcomed by the current owner of the house, Robert Byng, and they walked from the house towards the fields off Kitts End Lane where archaeologists have been searching for evidence of the battlefield site.

Mr Byng told the Barnet Society it was quite a moment to be welcoming the current Duke of Gloucester and then recalling that his namesake fought not far from the house in what was said to have been one of the grisliest battles of the Wars of the Roses.

“We are only too happy to do anything we can to encourage the Battle of Barnet project and learn more about the links between the Wrotham Park estate and its place in such an historic encounter.”

The Duke’s inspection of Barnet’s historic physic well, where diarist Samuel Pepys drank the local chalybeate water, was a boost to the campaign to repair and preserve the mock Tudor well house that was built in 1937 to house a disused 17th century well.

Barnet Council is in the process of transferring ownership of the well house to Barnet Museum as part of a concerted campaign to raise money for its preservation.

A survey commissioned by Historic England has advised that restoration work could cost as much as £150,000. The priority is to repair the roof with new tiles or shingles which could run up a bill for at least £30,000.

“We hope that once the museum has control of the well house we can put together a bid to raise the necessary money and perhaps secure a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund,” said Elizabeth Whitbourn, Historic England’s heritage-at-risk projects officer.

An offer of £5,000 towards the cost of repairs has already been made by the Heritage of London Trust whose director, Dr Nicola Stacey, took the Duke down the steps to see the well pools.

Dr Stacey thanked the Duke, who is patron of the trust, for his support and said she he hoped his visit would help kick start a campaign to promote the well and its links with Barnet.

“Once the repairs have been undertaken we hope it might be able to open the well to the public once or perhaps twice a week. Who knows, we might even get enough support to form the Friends of Barnet’s Physic Well.”



Well House from the outside
The Duke of Gloucester steps inside Barnet’s historic well house, a short walk from Barnet Hospital
Inside Barnet’s historic well house, the Duke of Gloucester prepares to descend the steps to the well pools. From left to right, Dr Nicola Stacey, Heritage of London Trust; the Duke of Gloucester; Elizabeth Whitbourn, Historic England



AGM PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT REPORT ANNUAL REPORT Robin Bishop

Last year the tide of development in Chipping Barnet surged, and this year it hasn't slackened off

The Society commented on 28 planning applications and objected to 18. Around two-thirds of our conclusions have been endorsed by the planning committee, not bad going. We have reviewed many more, usually deciding that our time was better spent on bigger fish.

The biggest fish has been the proposed Ark Pioneer Academy on the former Barnet football ground, which the committee rejected by 9 votes to nil. That won't end the story: Ark may go to appeal, or submit a modified scheme. If it is smaller, designed better and causes less congestion, we could support it.

Other major planning news has been the Council's proposals for High Street pedestrian improvements (See our response on Page 1 of the Newsletter) and the future of Whalebones, the 14-acre enclave of woods and fields between Barnet Road and Wellhouse Lane.

In February, the Trustees informed us that when the present tenant farmer retires, they will have no alternative but to develop the land for housing and community use.

We made it clear that we could only support this if new buildings and landscapes are of high design quality and exemplars

of environmental sustainability. Planning investigations are under way, and the Trustees promised to consult us on the initial designs this summer. The Society has also been busy on wider planning issues.

Last summer, our critique of Barnet's Parks & Open Spaces Strategy helped ensure that spaces such as Hadley Wood and Ravenscroft Gardens deemed – absurdly – “low quality, low value” would no longer be considered for alternative uses.

In December, we submitted our views on growth, transport, inclusion, environment, housing and the economy for consideration as part of Mayor Sadiq Khan's review of the London Plan. A summary was published in our winter Newsletter.

We also recently contributed to the London Green Belt Council's response to the White Paper Fixing our broken housing market. We welcome the government's apparent support of the Green Belt, but are wary of new legal loopholes they could introduce to erode it.

All this activity has only been possible with help from other Committee members, Peter Bradburn, Markus Geiger and David Lee; many thanks to them.



Society opposes plan to build 22 flats in Victorian villa on Lyonsdown Road once owned by Society of African Missions

Annual General Meeting, Thursday 15 June 2017

Main event: Open evening. Refreshments followed by question and answer session with members of the Barnet Society committee. There will also be a chance to hear more about the programme to explore and promote the 1471 Battle of Barnet from Helen Giles, the newly appointed project co-ordinator, who has wide experience of delivering heritage projects.

ROUND-UP OTHER MAIN CASES:



APPROVED

Noah's Ark Children's Hospice and Old Fold Manor Golf Club re-landscaping.



REFUSED

85 High St (Ex-Lloyds Bank) A proposal to open up its façade has fortunately been thrown out.



AWAITING DECISIONS

14 Sunset View Instead of the oversized replacement previously proposed, a more sensitive enlargement has been submitted, which we have supported.

Moxon Street car wash and Royal British Legion sites New housing schemes have been submitted. We are neutral about the former and support the latter.

108-112 High St (shops with zig-zag fronts) A more acceptable scheme has been submitted than the previous two.

APPEAL DISMISSED

141 High St (curved building on the High Street/ St.Albans Road junction) The unauthorised roof extension is now being replaced.

LINGERING ON

Two flagrant breaches of planning law have existed as long as I've been in post (four years): **1B Church Passage (Guns & Smoke)** and **56 Hendon Wood Lane (using Green Belt as a builder's yard)**. I've been assured that our planners are still attempting to enforce compliance.

FARTHER AFIELD

We are also concerned about developments in New

Barnet and Oakleigh wards and beyond.

We didn't object to the proposed residential conversion of the redundant Council offices at Barnet House in Whetstone, because it may be the best use of a 1960s tower by a noted architect (Colonel Seifert) and it is close to a transport and shopping centre – though we deplore the tiny size of some of the flats.

We have objected, however, to proposals for the Meadow Works (Great North Road, subject of a separate article on Page 3), Victoria Gateway (the New Barnet gasworks site) and Lyonsdown Road, all of which would disrupt the scale and character of established neighbourhoods.

33 Lyonsdown Road was the first of many Victorian villas built after the opening of New Barnet Station in 1850, and became a base for the Society of African Missions, so has some historical significance. It is also attractive, with an unusual entrance porch/conservatory bridge. Unfortunately it is not listed nor in a Conservation Area, and would not be cheap to convert, so retention is hard to justify. But its proposed replacement by 22 flats would be two storeys higher and much wider than the villa, and bulkier than any of its neighbours.

Such overdevelopment looks like greed. When a somewhat similar proposal for Brookdene, overlooking the Dollis Brook in Finchley, was recently turned down by the Planning Inspectorate, a more modest and sympathetic design was substituted and approved. The developer of 33 Lyonsdown Road should do the same.

Notice is hereby given that the 72nd Annual General Meeting of the Barnet Society will be held at 7.30 pm on Thursday 15 June 2017 at Pennefather Hall, Christ Church, St Albans Road, Barnet, EN5 4LA.

Appeal for Volunteers:

The Barnet Society is anxious to encourage new recruits to help with our campaigns for a better Barnet.

- Perhaps you have an interest in a cause or issue that affects the town centre or the local environment? If so, please make yourself known and come along to one of our committee meetings. We meet for a couple of hours on Thursday evening, six times a year. Be ready for a lively discussion on how to safeguard and improve our locality. We would welcome your

ideas and support. Nominations for new committee members are also invited, in advance to the secretary@barnetsociety.org.uk or at the AGM.

Formal business to be conducted after the open evening:

- To receive and adopt the 72nd annual report
 - To receive and adopt the Chair's report
 - To receive and adopt the Hon Treasurer's report and accounts for the year end 31st March 2017
 - To receive a report from the Planning and Environment Sub-Committee
 - To elect officers for the ensuing year
 - To elect members to serve on the committee
- Amendments to the Society's constitution, rule 6.1 (committee membership) and rule 12.2 (payments

for services)

- Any other business

Officers and committee in 2016-2017

President: Aubrey Rose

Vice-Presidents: R Marson,

David Lee, Dr J Remfry

Life members: A Neville,

Mrs M Howells

Committee:

Nicholas Jones (Chair)

Gail Laser (Vice-chair)

Jonathan Supran (Secretary)

Robin Bishop (Planning and Environment)

Mary Carroll (Treasurer)

John Hay (Membership Secretary)

4, Hillary Rise, Barnet, EN5 5AZ

Eamonn Rafferty (Newsletter Editor)

John Gardiner (Newsletter distribution)

Frances Wilson (Minutes Secretary)

Judith Clouston

Andrew Hutchings

Minutes of the 71st Annual General Meeting Held at Christ Church, St Albans Road, Barnet EN5 4LA Thursday 16th June 2016

Chairman: Nick Jones

Present: There were 52 members present

Apologies for Absence:

Barry & Sue Blain, Richard Bridges, Graenia Colhoun, Pina Griffin, Teresa Kelly, Ken Rowland, Theresa Villiers MP, David Lee, Robin Masters, Jonathan Supran, Judith Clouston.

1. Minutes of the 70th AGM 18th June 2015

The minutes were approved and signed by Nick Jones

2.0 The Chairman's Report

Nick Jones said the major preoccupation in the past 12 months had been the unprecedented rush of planning applications and proposals for major developments.

Planning Proposals - they include:

- Demolition of Brake Shear House just off the High Street
- Revamp of the Spires
- 114 homes and flats on the Elmbank Site
- The new Ark Pioneer Academy on the Underhill football site
- Possible threat of housing on the Whalebones farm and parklands
- Proposed natural burial ground off Barnet Lane/Mays Lane.

All these are described in the Newsletters and on the website where they have generated plenty of debate. This has generated an immense workload for the Planning and Environment team and he thanked Robin Bishop for his leadership and Judith Clouston, Marcus Geiger of Hadley Residents Assoc. David Lee who is an expert on tree planting and protection and Peter Bradburn who gives advice on transport issues. Nick assured that the Members the Team would continue to provide valid criticism and constructive suggestions throughout the coming year.

Battle of Barnet

We have actively supported the archaeological survey and excavation which Barnet Museum has mounted with Huddersfield University to try to establish the precise site of the Battle of Barnet. We do our best to publicise and support the project and have made a donation of £250 towards appeal for match funding as the museum is applying for £100,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Other Activities

Parking - We have continued our campaign for a period of free parking in the High Street

Retail – Gail Laser has continued to seize every opportunity to promote Love Barnet and assist local shopkeepers and traders.

Broadband – Continued to convince British Telecom of the need to provide superfast internet connections to homes and businesses

Website and newsletter – NJ thanked Eamonn Rafferty for producing the Newsletter which is 12 pages long and in colour and Martin Standley our webmaster of www.barnetsociety.org.uk which is becoming very popular and well respected for providing an unbiased platform for local news, events and information.

NJ then thanked the rest of the committee for their hard work and commitment, Jon Supran Secretary; Teresa Kelly Membership Secretary; Mary Carroll Treasurer; Frances Wilson Minute Secretary and John Gardiner who masterminds the delivery of the Newsletter and thanks also to the many volunteer distributors.

NJ extended a special thank you to Peter Willcocks who is retiring aged 83 after serving 23 years on the society's committee. He edited the Newsletter for 12 years and has campaigned for so long to protect local heritage and landscape and to safeguard the Green Belt around Barnet. Since the mid-1980s he has served on both the Wood Street and Monken Hadley Conservation Areas and has been Chair of both for many years.

NJ became Chair 3 years ago when morale was low and undertook to use his experience as a journalist to raise our profile. This has been achieved by the Newsletter and website but unfortunately we have not recruited any more members or committee members. He therefore appealed for members to come forward as Committee Members and come to one of our meetings. Because of the lack of Committee Members, the existing committee have agreed to offer themselves for re-election for a further year and review the position in Spring 2017.

The report was moved by Andrew Hutchings, seconded by Dr J Remfry and adopted by those present.

3.0 Hon Treasurer's Report

Mary Carroll said that the annual accounts are printed in the Newsletter. There is a small loss shown in Income as the number of members has dropped by 11% and there has been a decrease in the sale of books and postcards. We have reduced our expenditure in most areas but increased our donations to other groups this has led to a deficit of £260.04p but overall the Balance Sheet is still healthy.

The report was moved by Margaret Williams, seconded by Jenny Kobish and adopted by those present.

Nominations for new committee members are also invited, in advance to the secretary@barnetsociety.org.uk or at the AGM



4.0 Report from the Planning & Environment Sub-Committee

Robin Bishop said that most of the issues under current discussion were in the Newsletter and he talked about the Ark Pioneer Academy as it is the largest development in our area and likely to have a big impact. The Barnet Society met the developers on 15th June '16 and the drawings were on display in the hall. It appeared the programme has slipped and the planning application will not go in for another month and they had asked for our views in writing which were as follows:

- Educational use of the site would be welcome, particularly if coupled with community access.
- The current proposal is an overdevelopment- 1890 pupils plus 150 staff plus nursery parents/carers would put excessive pressure on surrounding roads and pavements.
- There is insufficient recreation area, especially for primary pupils. The total site is only 40% of that recommended by the DfE and the primary outdoor play area is less than 50% of the DfE recommendation.
- This weakness is compounded by landscape design which lacks a clear rationale or understanding of pupils educational and recreational needs.
- Community access to the PE, sport, fitness, drama and playing field would be appreciated but Ark's commitment to this is unclear.
- Insufficient information is provided so far about work to, and use of, the former cricket field and pavilion.
- The building design is based largely on a DfE standard plan and does not suit this site.
- An unfortunate result of this is that the most prominent (north-east) corner of the building is dominated by the kitchen and plant area, whereas the main visitor entrance to the academy is nearly 100m (and barely visible) from the street, down its east side.
- The rest of the elevations are disappointing, though at least most will be out of view from the street but not the neighbouring houses.
- Insufficient priority appears to have been given to sustainable design or environmental education.

Transport and Highways were the main issues raised by the members. The junction between Underhill / Mays lane and A1000 is very congested now without the increased traffic. Developers have suggested there will be drop off points on Everyman car park and

by cricket field in Barnet Lane.

Currently TfL operate a double decker bus along Barnet Lane to Totteridge Academy and it causes chaos as the road is not wide enough.

Currently building 6 flats on site of Old Red Lion pub which means they will not be able to improve the junction with A1000.

RB said Peter Bradburn our transport expert has examined the proposals and will be submitting his response.

The report was moved by Sheila Durokoq and seconded by Peter Bradburn and adopted by those present.

5.0 Election of Officers to serve on the Committee

Vice-Presidents : R Marson, David Lee, Dr J Remfry

Proposed by Neil Kobish and seconded by Robin Bishop.

Nick Jones then handed the Chair to the President Aubrey Rose who thanked Nick for his hard work and proposed Nick Jones be re-elected as Chair for 2016-2017

This was agreed unanimously.

The Committee Gail Laser, Jonathan Supran, Robin Bishop, Marry Carroll, Teresa Kelly, Eamonn Rafferty, John Gardiner, Judith Clouston, Andrew Hutchings and Frances Wilson.

Proposed by Dr Jenny Remfrey and seconded by Ivor Williams.

6.0 Any other Business

Contacts

Dr J Remfrey said it was very difficult to contact Committee members other than on the internet asked for a list of addresses and phone numbers. NJ said he would pass this to E. Rafferty.

Plaque at King George Playing Fields

This stated the site was given by King George in perpetuity and has been stolen. It's important this metal plaque is reinstated to ensure it does not become a brown field site.

Rambles Round Barnet

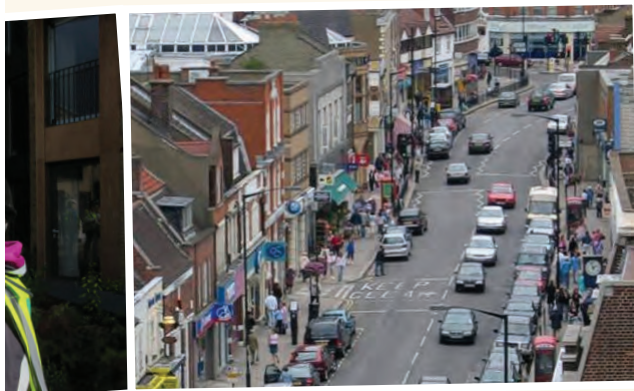
Owen Jones reminded everyone the books are still available for purchase

Thanks

Aubrey Rose thanked everyone for coming and thanked NJ for highlighting the Day Centre.

Neil Kobish thanked the Committee Members and Nick Jones for all the work they have done over the year.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.



L-R
New Flats being built on the 'New Ground' complex, Barnet High Street from above, and plans of the new Spires shopping centre

Barnet Society Year Ending : 31st March 2017

Profit and Loss Account

	Apr '16 - Mar 17	Apr '15 - Mar 16	% Change
Income			
Bank Interest Earned	4.51	5.18	-12.93%
Books	108.00	444.20	-70.28%
Gifts and Donations	22.00	0.00	100.0%
Income			
In memoriam May Finnerty, 1920-2016.	1,000.00	0.00	100.0%
Membership Fees	3,886.98	3,798.31	2.33%
Postcards	0.00	8.00	-100.0%
Total Income	5,021.49	4,255.69	18%
Gross Profit	5,021.49	4,255.69	18%
Expense			
Bank Fees			
Paypal Fees	28.56	25.84	10.53%
Total Bank Fees	28.56	25.84	10.53%
Computers and Internet			
Software	240.10	227.44	5.57%
Website	57.46	369.44	-84.45%
Total Computers and Internet	297.56	596.88	-50.15%
Donations & Contributions	275.00	671.27	-59.03%
Dues and Subscriptions	235.00	135.00	74.07%
Events			
AGM Expenses	165.50	223.84	-26.06%
TVilliers Q&A	75.00	176.02	-57.39%
Xmas Stall	129.00	119.00	8.4%
Total Events	369.50	518.86	-28.79%
Gifts & Flowers	100.00	0.00	100.0%
Honorarium	1,350.00	0.00	100.0%
Newsletter			
Design	725.00	325.00	123.08%
Newsletter Printing	1,731.00	1,775.00	-2.48%
Postage	103.40	138.24	-25.2%
Stationery	0.00	87.57	-100.0%
Total Newsletter	2,559.40	2,325.81	10.04%
Printing	0.00	54.00	-100.0%
Training	0.00	243.02	-100.0%
Total Expense	5,215.02	4,570.68	14.1%
Net Ordinary Income	-193.53	-314.99	35.58%
Profit for the Year	-193.53	-314.99	38.56%

BARNET SOCIETY TREASURER'S REPORT

Statement of financial activities Period to 31st March 2017

Summer 2017

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Barnet Society Year Ending : 31st March 2017

Balance Sheet

	31 Mar 17	31 Mar 16	% Change
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Prepaid Expenses	100.00	69.58	43.72%
Total Other Current Assets	100.00	69.58	43.72%
Accounts Receivable			
Books and Post Cards	60.00	30.00	100.0%
Donations and Gifts	46.00	0.00	100.0%
Total Accounts Receivable	106.00	30.00	253.33%
HSBC - Deposit Acct	7,712.08	8,007.57	-3.69%
HSBC 2381	297.54	344.61	-13.66%
PayPal	240.92	391.47	-38.46%
Total Cash at bank and in hand	8,250.54	8,743.65	-5.64%
Total Current Assets	8,456.54	8,843.23	-4.37%
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable			
Accounts Payable	0.00	193.16	-100.0%
Total Accounts Payable	0.00	193.16	-100.0%
Total Current Liabilities	0.00	193.16	-100.0%
NET CURRENT ASSETS	8,456.54	8,650.07	-2.24%
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	8,480.54	8,650.07	-2.24%
NET ASSETS	8,456.54	8,650.07	-2.24%
Capital and Reserves			
Share Capital Account	8,965.06	8,965.06	0.0%
Unrestricted Net Assets	-314.99	0.00	-100.0%
Profit for the Year	-193.53	-314.99	38.56%
Shareholder funds	8,456.54	8,650.07	-1.96%

Commentary

Income was up this year, primarily due to a generous gift in memory of May Finnerty, 1920-2016, from Co Fermanagh, who was a nurse in London during the second World War

In comparison to last year figures, Membership income was up this by 2.3%, although the sale of Books and Postcards reduced by 75%. The overall total increase in income for the year was £765.80 (18%).

Expenditure increased by 14% in comparison to last year. There were slight ups and down in most of the general expense accounts, one of the bigger reductions being in the cost of Events.

The Barnet Society continues to support a number of other societies and groups; subscriptions were renewed with The London Forum, Barnet Borough Arts Council, Open Spaces Society and The London Green Belt Society. A donation of £25 was made the Barnet Residents Association as well as a

£200 donation to the Barnet Museum.

There was an increase in the cost of the Newsletter, primarily due to extra spending on its design, and additional cost incurred for honorariums paid; Membership Secretary and IT Support. **

The net result of all income and expenditure this year shows a deficit of -£193.53 and the total funds available as of 31st March 2017 are £8,456.54. Overall, maintaining the current level of expense will require an increase in membership income of 34% to ensure the funds available are not depleted. The accounts will be examined and then published on the website in due course.

Mary Carroll, Treasurer
11th May 17.

**Note to the accounts: previous year's honorariums were paid through the Computer and Software account.

Special protection for local landmarks

Three Barnet war memorials – at Arkley, East Barnet and Monken Hadley Common – have been given the added protection of listed building status after a review conducted by Historic England. Nick Jones reports

They were each considered of sufficient special architectural or historic interest to secure Grade II listing from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

Ownership of the memorials resides with Barnet Council which would be responsible for any repair or maintenance work that might be needed.

Tens of thousands of war memorials across the country are being considered for listed building status, and the added protection for the three Barnet memorials follows consultation with local groups.

Arkley war memorial, at the junction of Barnet Road and Rowley Green Road, is a much-loved local landmark, and was said by Historic England to be “a simple yet dignified Celtic cross” which had group value as it was adjacent to the Grade II-listed church of St Peter, Arkley.

In response to a query from St Peter’s, which said it could not be held responsible for any financial upkeep, Historic England said the war memorial was owned by Barnet Council and maintenance was its responsibility.

In its submission, Barnet Museum and Local History Society, emphasised the respect in which all three memorials were held by the local community.

Monken Hadley memorial – described as a “simple yet attractive stone cross” – was said to be of historic interest as “an eloquent witness to the tragic impact of world events on the local community.”

East Barnet war memorial was installed in its current position in front of Brookside Methodist Church in 1970, after having previously been located in the middle of the junction of Church Hill Road and East Barnet Road.



Arkley war memorial – “a simple yet dignified Celtic cross”

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:



Welcome to all our new members listed here who’ve joined since February. We had a productive ‘Brainstorming session’ in February to see how we could go forward

and attract more new members to boost our numbers even more and support our campaigns and we are encouraged by the really good number that turned out to the Q&A with Theresa Villiers MP in January. An Open Evening is being planned to run alongside the Society’s AGM in June. Unfortunately, there are around 30 unpaid subscriptions still outstanding for 2016/17

despite reminders sent this April. Thank you to those who did respond and make good, but for others this could well be your last Newsletter unless we hear otherwise. We are currently looking at upgrading our database software so that we can integrate and manage the letters we produce and send out to you. More about this in the next Newsletter though.

Lastly, on behalf of the Society, thank you to the forgotten team behind the scenes who make sure you actually get this Newsletter. These are, of course, our volunteers who deliver locally around Barnet every time we produce one of these but rarely get recognised.

John Hay
Membership Secretary

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Mrs S M George
Mrs M Oldfield-Smith
Ms H Lehmann
Mr S Runchman
Mr K Ferguson-West
Ms J Farrell
Ms H Boland
Mr A Hosier
Ms E Presho
Mr R Sharp
Ms E Pratt

Barnet Society Newsletter
Edited by Eamonn Rafferty
Design: Ali-Ann Harrington
Printed by Penhaven Print

JOIN US - IT'S ONLY £8 A YEAR, £12 FOR FAMILIES

The Barnet Society has been at the forefront of many campaigns since its inception in 1947. Over the years, we have campaigned on health, environment, transport, education and other issues.

WWW.BARNETSOCIETY.ORG.UK/MEMBERSHIP

