

# barnetfirst

The council magazine bringing you news and community information

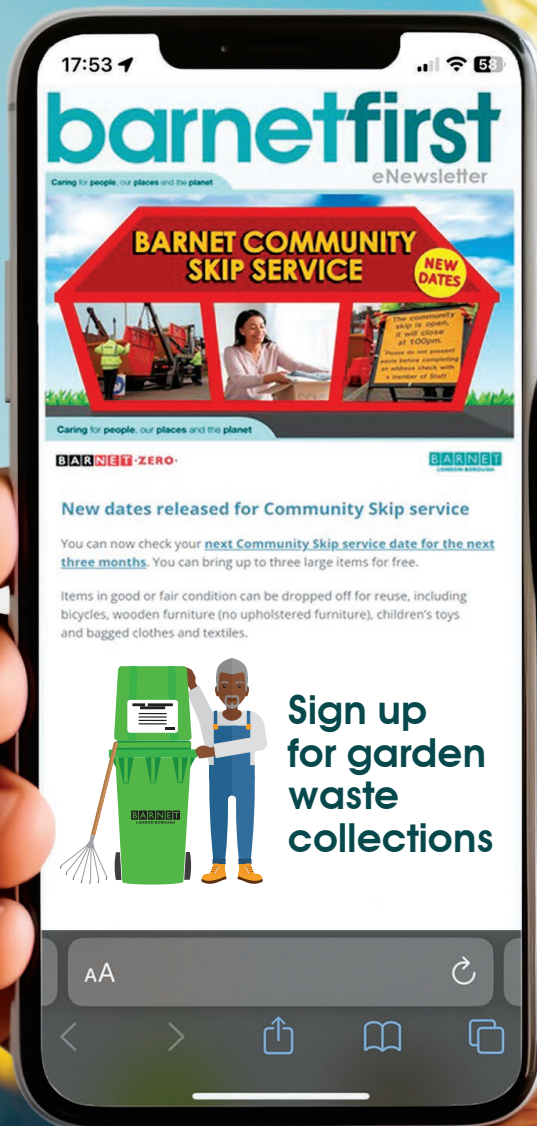
Spring edition March 2024

## SPRING INTO DIGITAL

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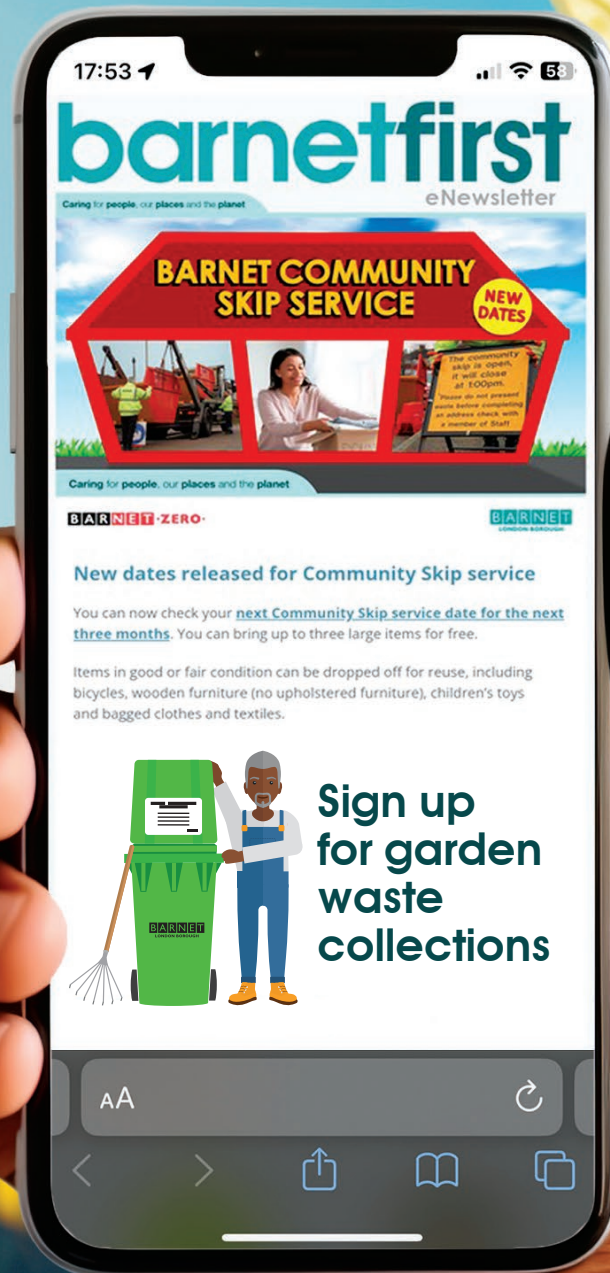
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**BARNET**  
LONDON BOROUGH

# Message from the Leader of the Council

Barnet has one of the largest road networks in London with the council responsible for 700km of highways and I know keeping them in good condition is a big priority for residents.

So, I am delighted to announce we will be investing a further £97 million in our roads and fixing potholes over the next five years, which will be funded by Community Infrastructure Levy contributions paid by developers in the borough.

With the £8 million additional investment already agreed last year, this takes the total allocated funds for road and pavement improvements to over £100 million.

Our investment in roads is part of our budget proposals for 2024/25 and beyond, which include a continued focus on the things you've told us are a priority for you: upgrading our CCTV, enhanced street cleaning, weekly bin collections, free community skips, improving our parks and green spaces and building 1,000 council homes.

I'm pleased to say, despite very challenging financial circumstances and our funding being cut by £100 million since 2010, we have balanced the council's budget and continue to keep our pledge not to increase council tax by the legal maximum in any one year.

As a result, Barnet still has the lowest council tax compared to all our neighbouring boroughs.

But we know the cost-of-living crisis is still here and affecting many families in Barnet. If you are struggling, then our Resident Support Fund is still available and may be able to help. Full details for this fund and other cost-of-living support can be found on the council's website:

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

Our innovative Financial Calculator, to help residents work out if they are entitled to any benefits, has identified more than £7 million in additional benefit eligibility so far.



**Cllr Barry Rawlings,**  
Leader of Barnet Council

Making it easier to get around the borough by public transport was given a boost late last year with the opening of Brent Cross West, London's first mainline station for over a decade and a project led by Barnet Council after securing £419 million of government funding.

Sitting between Cricklewood and Hendon stations on the Midland Main Line, Brent Cross West connects central London to Barnet in 12 minutes.

It was great to see hundreds of residents turn out for the opening. Since then, thousands of people have used the station, proving just how important and popular sustainable travel is.

I was delighted to see the recent launch of Fair Play Barnet at Victoria Recreation Ground in New Barnet, a first-of-its-kind playground designed so people of all ages and abilities can play together. The playground includes wheelchair accessible play equipment, a netted swing, a raised roundabout, a 360-degree swing, a climbing net, and musical instruments.

Designed, developed, and funded in partnership with The Seneca Trust, Barnet Council, and local people, this brilliant new playground promotes accessibility and inclusivity, and is part of making our borough a welcome place for everyone.

We will soon be launching our action plan to help make Barnet an Age Friendly Borough. The action plan has been developed in partnership with Age UK Barnet and local residents, and I look forward to talking more about it following the launch.

We'll be celebrating International Women's Day on 8 March. This year's campaign theme is 'Inspire Inclusion' inviting us to forge a better future by inspiring, understanding and valuing the inclusion of women.

I wish everyone a Happy International Women's Day!



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When you have finished reading our magazine, please recycle.

### Contact us

Barnet First is a magazine filled with local news and community information for the borough of Barnet.

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

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

Caring for people, our places and the planet

**MONEY  
WORRIES?**

**COST OF  
LIVING  
SUPPORT**

\*\*\*\*\*  
Barnet, here to help  
\*\*\*\*\*

## COULD YOU BE MISSING OUT ON FINANCIAL SUPPORT?

**“I AM EXTREMELY HAPPY WITH THE SERVICE PROVIDED. WITHOUT THE BARNET FINANCIAL CALCULATOR I WOULD NOT HAVE KNOWN TO APPLY FOR UNIVERSAL CREDIT, WHICH HAS INCREASED MY INCOME BY AROUND £200 A MONTH.”**

Barnet resident



### Some of its other features include:

- comprehensive, all-in-one support portal, offering access to national benefits, social tariffs, retrofitting grants, and local grants
- highly accessible, including being available in over 100 languages
- simple, easy-to-complete self-assessment and one-click access to go on and claim benefits where eligibility is confirmed.

As Barnet First went to print, more than 8,000 people had completed a self-assessment, identifying more than £7 million in additional benefits entitlement.

**Nationally, it is believed that people are missing out on billions of pounds of benefits they are eligible for simply because they didn't know and haven't made a claim.**

The main benefits not being claimed for which people are eligible are Universal Credit (including for working families); Pension and Council Tax Support.

The rising cost of living is affecting many people in the borough. To support residents who may be feeling the financial pressures of these rises, Barnet Council and other local organisations are here to provide guidance on the financial support available.

Thanks to the Barnet Financial Calculator (**accessible at <https://benefits.inbest.ai/barnet> or by scanning the QR code below**) the council is now able to help residents discover if they are missing out on a range of benefits, discount schemes and Barnet-specific grants and funds.

Our award-winning calculator asks users to complete a short and simple self-assessment which tells them what they are eligible for and how to make those claims.

Prefer to meet someone face to face? Why not come along to one of our in-person outreach sessions – running every Tuesday from 10am-12.30pm at Chipping Barnet Library and every Thursday from 10am-12.30pm at Burnt Oak Library.

Don't suffer in silence – we are here to help. Find all the links you need and more at **[www.barnet.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/costofliving)**.



SCAN ME

# GET HELP WITH PROBLEM DEBT

**ARE YOU STRUGGLING WITH DEBT?**

**ARE THE BILLS MOUNTING UP AND YOU'RE NOT SURE WHERE TO TURN? BARNET COUNCIL CAN HELP THANKS TO OUR INNOVATIVE NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MONEY ADVISER NETWORK, PROVIDED BY THE MONEY AND PENSIONS SERVICE.**



We can put you in touch with professional debt advisers who can provide confidential and free debt advice and personalised solutions. You can also refer yourself directly to the service by accessing the webpage via the QR code below.

**Specialist debt advisers can help you:**

- understand your financial situation
- create a personalised budget

- develop a practical action plan to get out of debt in a sustainable way.

Contact the Money Adviser Network today by **visiting [www.barnet.gov.uk/costoflivingandchoosing 'Money and Debt'](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/costoflivingandchoosingMoneyandDebt)**. Or scan the QR code below.



This service is provided as part of MoneyHelper, a government sponsored organisation that provides free, confidential, and independent debt advice. All debt advice services within the network meet MoneyHelper's standards and are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Your information is secure and private.

Caring for people, our places and the planet

# Colindale Tube Station upgrade: closure dates

Work has started to prepare for the major upgrade of Colindale station.



The new station will provide more space for passengers, including a bigger ticket hall and a lift, which will offer step-free access to the Tube platform and increase the number of people the station can cope with - creating a more comfortable and welcoming environment.

**Colindale station will close from Friday, 7 June, until December 2024 to enable the major construction works to begin.**

The first phase of the work will require the partial track closures of the Northern Line between Edgware and Golders

Green for 10 days from Tuesday 2 April, until Thursday 11 April. A rail replacement bus service will operate during this period, calling at all stations between Golders Green and Edgware and calling at Canons Park Station for Jubilee Line services.

During the temporary closure of the station, customers are advised to take local bus routes to access the Northern line at Burnt Oak, Hendon Central, or Kingsbury for the Jubilee line. Nearby Thameslink rail services at Mill Hill Broadway or Hendon stations are also accessible using the local bus network.

TfL is working with bus operators to enhance key local routes and will share detailed travel advice on the TfL website before the closure starts.

The upgrade is funded by the Government's Levelling Up Fund, as well as contributions from Barnet Council, local developers, and TfL.

# Cabinet approves five-year £97m road improvements package as balanced budget set

**Barnet Council's Cabinet has approved a recommended balanced budget for the next financial year, as well as proposals which include a record additional £97m for road and pavement improvement works over the next five years.**

The budget proposals provide the funds for everything, from the council's free community skips service to council house building and enhanced street cleaning programmes, weekly bin collections and all essential services including those for children and older people.

The budget's additional spending recommendations are on top of the council's statutory services.

The council's five-year £97m funding for improving the borough's roads and pavements, which will be funded by Community Infrastructure Levy

contributions paid by developers in the borough, will be spread evenly between 2024-29. This is on top of the £8m announced in July 2023 for road maintenance including fixing potholes.

Extra funding has been found for essential services for older and vulnerable residents (£22m), to support children and young people (£7m), and for homeless families (£2m).

An additional £8.96m will be allocated to support the Disabled Facilities Grants Programme bringing the total spend to £15m in the coming years. A further £5m will be spent on telecare equipment for adult social care clients to continue to live independently at home.

Barnet's councillors voted for the recommended budget on 27 February at Full Council.



## Hundreds of arrests made in trial crimefighting scheme



**A new crimefighting scheme, which has seen Barnet Council and community groups partner with the Metropolitan Police to tackle gang-related and organised crime around Grahame Park Estate in Colindale, has already led to hundreds of arrests.**

Figures show that since the ‘Clear, Hold, Build’ operation began in July 2023, officers have made 311 arrests – including 60 for Class A drug offences. Officers have recovered eight firearms and 52 knives or other weapons.

Responding to residents’ concerns around anti-social behaviour and drug dealing in the area, the Met trialled the new approach to disrupt crime and prevent it from returning.

**Bina Omare, Chief Executive of Colindale Communities Trust, said:**

*“The ‘Clear, Hold, Build’ pilot has highlighted the strength of partnerships and listening to the voice of the community.*

*“The positive impact we have seen on residents’ health and wellbeing, along with a significant reduction in anxiety, reflects the success of this collaborative approach, especially seeing children playing outside. The ongoing partnership holds promise for further community growth and unity.”*

**Cllr Sara Conway, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Participation, said:**

*“Together with major investment in CCTV, a borough-wide Public Space Protection Order, community safety hubs and walks, our strong support for this initiative underlines our commitment to making community safety a priority for this council.”*

Police have now moved from the ‘Clear’ to the ‘Hold’ phase of the operation, to stabilise the area and stop offenders from moving in to fill the void. The ‘Build’ phase will see community-driven action to address the causes of crime and prevent it from happening again.

## All 249 Colindale Gardens affordable homes to be occupied by spring

**All 249 new affordable homes in the Colindale Gardens development will be let to social housing tenants by the end of spring.**

Since opening their doors to tenants in October 2023, 138 properties have so far been let with the rest being filled at a rate of about 10 a week.

Twenty ground and first-floor properties have been adapted for tenants with mobility needs, with more properties expected to be adapted to meet extra demand.

In June 2023, the council’s Cabinet Members voted unanimously to purchase the properties, which forms one-quarter of the council’s commitment to deliver 1,000 new affordable homes by 2026.



The properties are part of the latest phase of the Colindale Gardens development and offer 42 three-bed family homes and 40 that are wheelchair adaptable. The stock includes studios, one and two-bedroom properties.

Barnet Council acquired the 249 homes through its Housing Revenue Account. The properties and communal areas are managed by Barnet Homes, adding to its social housing portfolio of 13,000 properties across the borough.

**Cllr Ross Houston, Deputy Council Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes & Regeneration, welcomed the announcement:**

*“As a council, we care for our people and that means providing high quality, affordable housing. We have seized this unique opportunity to take a big step forward in our commitment to deliver 1,000 council homes by 2026.*

*“It represents really good value for money and will make considerable savings on temporary accommodation costs the moment new tenants are able to move in this year.”*



## Sign ups for the next service year of garden waste collections are opening soon.

Keep an eye out for details at [www.barnet.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/gardenwaste)

Or scan the QR code



If you signed up to the collection service last year, then you will need to sign up again this year for your collections to continue from early May 2024.

**Stickers for the new service year will be white.**

Find out what can go in your garden waste bin at [www.barnet.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/gardenwaste)

## Planet

# BARNET-ZERO Challenge

## – creative sustainable solutions from Barnet's community

**Last October, Barnet Council in partnership with Middlesex University launched the 'BarNET ZERO Challenge' calling on the community to come forward with innovative ideas and practical solutions to help reduce carbon emissions.**

This Challenge, aimed at helping the borough to become a net zero carbon council by 2030 and a net zero borough by 2042, was launched following Barnet's declaration of a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency in May 2022 recognising that urgent action is needed.

The Challenge was open to anyone who lives, works or studies in the borough and participants were invited to submit a 200-word application, providing a brief overview of how their idea would reduce emissions in the borough.

**More than 100 submissions were received – exceeding all expectations.**

The applicants were invited to attend a launch event on 11 December at Middlesex University where they met theme leads and academics from both Barnet Council and Middlesex University, applicants were also invited to pose questions to a group of panelists.

The second stage has now begun, where shortlisted participants have attended workshops from January to March led by experts from Middlesex University, NatWest and Microsoft, aimed at helping participants to refine their ideas into practical solutions.

Following the workshops, candidates will be asked to submit their developed ideas, which will then be assessed by a panel of expert independent judges. The successful ideas will be open to a public vote later in the spring, before the winner is announced!

**Watch this space!**



**Prizes and incentives include a £10,000 cash prize fund, with £5,000 for first place, £3,000 for second place, and £2,000 for the third-place winners, plus the opportunity to be part of the NatWest Accelerator Programme. Finalists will also benefit from networking opportunities, media exposure and recognition for their sustainability efforts.**

The Challenge, which is sponsored by Brent Cross Shopping Centre, and generously supported by NatWest and Microsoft, aims to address five themes from Barnet's Citizen Assembly discussion around:

- 1. Waste and sustainable consumption**
- 2. Learning, communication and partnerships**
- 3. Nature and biodiversity**
- 4. Travel**
- 5. Housing, buildings and renewable energy**

**Professor Johan Siebers, Theme Director for Sustainability of Communities and the Environment, Middlesex University, said:** "Middlesex University is proud to partner with the London Borough of Barnet on the BarNET ZERO challenge. I am delighted that residents, students, community groups and businesses are coming together to share ideas about how to reduce carbon emissions and develop projects that will have a positive impact on our lives and the environment."

**Councillor Alan Schneiderman, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, added:**

"The BarNET ZERO Challenge exemplifies our commitment to addressing climate change at a community level. We are looking forward to receiving ideas from our residents, workers, and students, to collectively create practical solutions to reducing carbon emissions in Barnet and working together to drive forward our ambitions of becoming a net zero borough by 2042."

Find out more at: [engage.barnet.gov.uk/barnetzero-challenge](https://engage.barnet.gov.uk/barnetzero-challenge)



# Barnet Climate Action Month: Working together to become one of London's most sustainable boroughs.



## Are you planning an event (or have an idea for one you might like to plan) between 10 June – 7 July, that promotes climate change awareness, sustainability, or Net Zero in Barnet?

As we strive to make Barnet one of London's most sustainable boroughs by 2042, working together with residents, communities, and businesses is crucial. Our inaugural Barnet Climate Action Month (BCAM) aims to involve as many people as possible in a month-long series of events across the borough, fostering awareness of climate change and sustainability.

The aim of BCAM is to promote a programme of events across the borough

which highlight climate change and sustainability.

Working together with London Climate Action Week, BCAM will take place between 10 June – 7 July 2024, showcasing the diverse ranges of events taking place in our community.

If you're hosting an event during BCAM we want to hear from you.

### What types of events are we looking for?

Any activity/workshop or event taking place between 10 June - 7 July which is linked to sustainability, climate change or net zero (e.g. gardening, crafting with sustainable materials, walking tours, exhibitions)

### We want to know about:

- Regular activities promoting climate change and sustainability.
- Events already scheduled during this period for inclusion in our calendar.
- Events you're considering hosting during this time.

Note: We can only offer promotion through the council's BCAM media channels; no additional support can be provided.

If you're a community group member hosting an event or willing to host one from **10 June – 7 July 2024**, we'd love to connect with you and link you with other organisers!



Express your interest by filling out this form here.

For more information or questions, contact us at  
**[barnetzero@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:barnetzero@barnet.gov.uk)**.

**Together, let's make Barnet one of the most sustainable boroughs in London!**

## Planet

# 16 MONTHS OF COMMUNITY SKIPS

**We can't believe how time has flown with our Community Skips service turning one at the end of last year.**

The service has been in place since November 2022 to help residents of Barnet dispose of up to three large

items every three months for free. Items you can take range from large furniture and bulky items to electrical appliances.

Check your next service date and the full list of items you can bring along at the website below.

**691 ITEMS  
DONATED FOR  
REUSE**

**FURNITURE  
IS THE MOST  
POPULAR ITEM  
DROPPED OFF**

**11,619  
RESIDENTS  
HAVE USED THE  
SERVICE**

**Don't just trust the stats, here's what some of you had to say:**

*"This is a great service and enabled me to safely get rid of something I was unable to get in my car. I wasn't expecting the staff looking after the skip to be so welcoming, helpful and friendly."*

*"I just wanted to acknowledge how helpful the community skip service is - a brilliant help to reduce individual trips to the recycling centre, and a very friendly, helpful service."*

*"Community Skips is a fantastic idea! Looking forward to it coming around again. It must help households like mine meaning we don't have to take difficult/impossible trips. The guys were also absolutely lovely."*



## View our promotional video

This month marks one year since we launched our video to let residents know they can come along to their local Community Skip to say hello, addressing loneliness, encouraging a community spirit and capturing our vision for Barnet,

caring for people, our places and the planet. The video was filmed in Barnet with one of our real Community Skips teams. The full video is available to view through the website below.

## Donate items through Community Skips #BarNETZERO

Together, we're working towards becoming a net zero carbon borough by 2042, and to contribute to our goal, last summer we expanded ways to donate items by dropping them off to your nearest community skip.

### Items you can donate are:

- Bicycles
- Wooden furniture
- Children's toys
- Bagged clothes and textiles.

### REUSE SHOP



Items in a suitable condition will be sent to the ReUse shop run by North London Waste Authority which will be refurbished and put back into use instead of being disposed of. Clothing and textiles will be given to The Salvation Army.

**Find out more at [www.barnet.gov.uk/communityskips](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/communityskips)**

# New neighbourhood electric vehicle charging infrastructure sparks greener future for Barnet

**You may have noticed recent activity on the pavements in your area, involving the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charge points. This exciting development marks a significant step in our commitment to becoming a net zero borough by 2042, by supporting the uptake of EVs as a sustainable transport method.**

Barnet Council is proud to partner with Trojan Energy to introduce Trojan HUB, a network of on-street EV chargers designed specifically for residents.

## Why are we doing this?

Our commitment to a cleaner, greener future drives everything we do, and we believe EVs are the wheels to get us there. Trojan HUB offers a low clutter solution, which makes EV charging accessible to all residents; by providing up to 15 chargers per HUB it ensures there is always a charger available when you need it.

## Benefits of EVs

EVs do not produce exhaust emissions. Transitioning to an EV is therefore a good way of combatting climate change, and reducing air and noise pollution. EVs can offer reduced costs - with lower running costs per mile compared to traditional vehicles.

### Other benefits currently include:

- exemption from the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) and congestion charge
- no Vehicle Excise Duty
- reduced resident parking permit fees in Barnet

## How can you benefit from Trojan HUB?

If you're an existing EV owner or considering making the switch, Trojan HUB is your local, on-street charging station. Simply connect your car with

your own dedicated charging lance (provided to you on application) for a speedy charge of up to 22kW. No need for apps or credit / debit cards – these chargers are plug-and-go!

## Ready to join the EV revolution?

To learn more about signing up to Trojan HUB, explore the benefits and see the charging locations near you, please visit [trojan.energy/hub-locations/london-borough-of-barnet](https://trojan.energy/hub-locations/london-borough-of-barnet) to find detailed information on pricing, charging rates and how to order your charging lance.

As part of our commitment to sustainability and to promote the use of EVs within Barnet we're collecting feedback to help us tailor our efforts and better meet the needs of Barnet's communities. Please take a few moments to complete this questionnaire by visiting [bit.ly/barnetquestionnaire](https://bit.ly/barnetquestionnaire) or scanning the QR code at the bottom of the page.



**complete the questionnaire by scanning the QR code**

## Planet

# Barnet's citizens continue climate change journey towards a net zero borough

In their inspiring journey towards sustainability, Barnet Council's first-ever Citizens' Assembly and Young People's Assembly on climate change and biodiversity, which launched last year, continues to go from strength to strength.

The assembly, made up of 60 residents from across the borough, sought sustainable solutions through recommendations in response to the question:

**Barnet has declared a climate emergency. What more can we do together to make Barnet sustainable, now and in the future?**

The participants in the assembly met for 30 hours between February-May to learn from experts on climate change and local community groups to understand more about the challenges Barnet faces.

Since the close of the assembly, the council has published its initial response accepting all 20 recommendations, across five themes: nature and biodiversity, waste and sustainable consumption, learning communication and partnerships, travel, and housing, building and renewable energy. This response outlines how they will be incorporated into the work the council is doing and how current policies and projects will support these recommendations being achieved.

**Gabriela, Barnet resident and member of the assembly, shared her feedback on the experience:**

*"This experience led me to put sustainability at the heart of my work. I work in a primary school therefore it was only natural to want to help lead my school community towards a more sustainable future. I have signed up my school for the Eco-School programme and I am in the process to apply for the green flag reward.*

*"I have also involved the school community in different projects. Therefore, I believe that each person can make a contribution and a difference and when we add up our collective efforts they multiply to greater outcomes."*



The council recognises that there is already a lot of exciting and existing work in the community that helps to make these recommendations a reality and therefore has begun the community response to the recommendations.

Barnet aims to deliver a community response which engages citizens, communities and other stakeholders in meaningful conversations and action planning to take forward the recommendations from the Assembly.

In January the council held a kick-off session on building a sustainable future for Barnet and joined forces with assembly members to discuss action in the community to tackle climate change together. This event was hosted by Middlesex University and included a workshop by Citizens' UK.

Over 60 representatives from community groups and residents attended to form action teams to deliver key recommendations from the Citizens' Assembly. These action teams will meet and work together with the council for the next six months to achieve their goals,

focusing on reaching and collaborating with as many people across Barnet as possible.

There was inspiring energy in the room and it is clear that there is an impressive amount of amazing work being delivered already. These action teams will be focusing on how collaboration amongst these groups and with the council can deliver even further faster.

**Paul Salman of Good Gym Barnet said of the event:**

*'As a representative of GoodGym Barnet and Tiny Forest, I was proud to witness the genuine interest and commitment from all participating groups. The positive news is that these discussions are set to continue, facilitated by the council. This marks a significant step toward realising a more sustainable and eco-friendly future for Barnet.'*

If you're interested in joining an action group to take part in community action to deliver the citizens' assembly recommendations then email us on **Barnetzero@Barnet.gov.uk**.

**Join our journey and stay informed on future sustainability-related events and initiatives.**

**Sign-up to our BarNET ZERO E-bulletin here: [engage.barnet.gov.uk/net-zero](https://engage.barnet.gov.uk/net-zero) #BarNETZERO**



SCAN ME

**In June, we will host the first Barnet Climate Action Month,** which will include a public event to share the progress that has been made against the recommendations from the Citizens' Assembly, both by the council and by the amazing collective work in the community.

Get in touch about sustainability events happening in your area this summer by emailing: **Barnetzero@Barnet.gov.uk**

For more information on the Citizens' and Young People's Assembly and to read the council's response to the recommendations visit: **[engage.barnet.gov.uk/response-to-recommendations-from-the-citizens-assembly](https://engage.barnet.gov.uk/response-to-recommendations-from-the-citizens-assembly)**



SCAN ME

# Keeping Barnet safe



Physical



Psychological



Financial



Sexual Abuse



Emotional

**Multiple forms of abuse can occur at once.**

If you or someone you know is at risk of domestic abuse, there is support available.

## Barnet Homes' Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop

Drop in every Thursday from 9.30am to 12.30pm for free confidential advice, information, and support (no appointment needed) for anyone experiencing abuse.

Domestic abuse can happen in relationships, with family members, an ex partner, in the workplace, at college or school and it can happen in the community. We are committed to making it stop.

Legal advice

Immigration

Housing

Welfare and benefits

Employment support

Health and wellbeing

Find us: 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

For more information call: 020 8359 7947

(Wednesday – Friday)

## Do you know an inspirational woman or girl who is making a difference in our community?

InspirationALL  
Award Winners  
2023



# InspirationALL

CELEBRATING BARNET'S WOMEN AND GIRLS

Nominate now: [engage.barnet.gov.uk/iwdawards](https://engage.barnet.gov.uk/iwdawards)



# People

## Championing mental health **Feeling low? Stressed? Anxious?**

Sometimes a friendly face and a listening ear can make all the difference.



Hilary, Gail and Mario (pictured) are three of the borough's Mental Health Champions who host drop-in sessions at Colindale and Chipping Barnet Libraries.

*'We offer a welcoming face to anyone in our community who needs information and support with issues affecting their mental health. We do our best to listen and provide signposting, and we're passionate about what we do. We don't pretend to have all the answers, but pop in for a chat and we'll do what we can to help you.'*

**The free drop-in sessions take place at Colindale and Chipping Barnet Libraries.**  
**Drop-in sessions in March**  
 Every Wednesday, 2.30-4.30pm



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

## Mental health support and services in Barnet

**The Barnet Wellbeing Service** offers a one-stop shop for all mental health and wellbeing needs. Contact **03333 449088**, Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm or email [info@barnetwellbeing.org.uk](mailto:info@barnetwellbeing.org.uk)

**Andy's Man Club** in Barnet offers peer-to-peer support for men (over 18) every Monday at 7pm (except bank holidays) to connect and speak openly about their mental health in a judgment-free and confidential environment. Visit the **Meritage Centre, Church End, NW4 4JT** or contact [info@andysmanclub.co.uk](mailto:info@andysmanclub.co.uk) for more info.

**BICS** supports young people's mental health and wellbeing. They have podcasts, videos, online support groups and workshops and other resources for you to explore in your own time.

Visit [barnet.gov.uk/talk-about-it](http://barnet.gov.uk/talk-about-it)  
 Call **020 8359 3130** Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm,  
 Email [BICS@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:BICS@barnet.gov.uk).

For more mental health support, visit [barnet.gov.uk/stayconnected](http://barnet.gov.uk/stayconnected)

## Measles cases are rising - are you and your child protected?

### When to get your child vaccinated:

AGE	VACCINE SCHEDULE FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS	HOW TO GET IT?
8 weeks	6-in-1 vaccine (1st dose) Rotavirus vaccine (1st dose) Men B vaccine (1st dose)	Contact your GP to make an appointment. If your child is under 5, you can check their red book to see which vaccinations they have already had.
12 weeks	6-in-1 vaccine (2nd dose) Pneumococcal (PCV) vaccine (1st dose) Rotavirus vaccine (2nd dose)	
16 weeks	6-in-1 vaccine (3rd dose) Men B vaccine (2nd dose)	
1 year	PCV (2nd dose) Hib/MenC MMR (1st dose) MenB (3rd dose)	
2 to 15 years old	Flu (every year)	For children aged 2 to 3, contact your GP to make an appointment. Primary school and secondary school aged children (Reception to Year 11) will be offered the vaccine in school.
3 years and 4 months to 5 years	MMR (2nd dose) 4-in-1 pre-school booster	Contact your GP to make an appointment.
12-13 years	HPV vaccine (one dose)	Offered to girls and boys in school Year 8 in the spring term.
14 years	3-in-1 teenage booster MenACWY	Offered in school Year 9 in the summer term



*"Vaccines are crucial to protect against many infectious diseases. There are many diseases that we are worried*

*are starting to emerge again like whooping cough, mumps or measles. Prevention is better than cure, and the childhood immunisations vaccination programme is effective at protecting against these diseases."*

**Dr Ilozue, GP,**  
 Brunswick Park Medical Practice

**Follow the vaccination schedule and contact your GP if you or your child is not up to date**

**For more information visit:**  
[nhs.uk/vaccinations](http://nhs.uk/vaccinations)

# Creating a dementia friendly community



With over 7,000 Barnet residents expected to be living with dementia by 2040, let's work together to create a dementia friendly community that supports people living with dementia and their families and carers to live well.

## Volunteer for Age UK Barnet



*'My visits mean so much to Jack and it's been so rewarding for me.'*

**Emma, Age UK Barnet volunteer**

Emma visits Jack every week to listen to music and play chess, which he regularly wins! Jack has early stage dementia. Dementia befrienders play games, carry out reminiscence activities and have a good chat and a laugh with their clients.

*'An increasing number of our clients are living with dementia and we are always looking for walking buddies, befrienders or help in our day clubs. There's no need to fear dementia and memory loss - volunteers get great training and support from us.'*

**Lisa, Age UK Barnet Volunteer Manager.**

For more details contact Lisa on [lisa.robbyns@ageukbarnet.org.uk](mailto:lisa.robbyns@ageukbarnet.org.uk) or call her on 020 8432 1422.

## Learn and get involved

If you wish to join the local **Dementia Friendly partnership**, please email [Seher.Kayikci@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:Seher.Kayikci@barnet.gov.uk). The partnership welcomes people affected by dementia, carers and anyone who wants to make a difference.

## Support to live well with dementia

**Age UK Barnet** offer a Dementia Adviser Service to provide support for the whole family, as well as activities including the Dementia Café, singing groups, befriending and day clubs for all people living with dementia who are over 55.

Visit [www.age-uk/barnet/our-services](http://www.age-uk/barnet/our-services) or call 020 8203 5040.



*'I really do love coming here. They're fantastic people, it's clean, and it's like a second family. It's nothing special, but everything special.'*

**Norma, Age UK Barnet day club visitor**

**Barnet Carers** offer support for carers of people living with dementia, including practical advice and mental health and wellbeing support.

Visit [www.barnetcarers.org](http://www.barnetcarers.org)

For more information and support to live well with dementia, scan the QR code or visit: [www.barnet.gov.uk/dementiasupport](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/dementiasupport)

Scan for dementia services and support in Barnet



## People

# Check your health today, for a healthier tomorrow!

Checking for and identifying any possible health issues before they develop and become harder to treat is the best way to a longer and healthier life. Busy lives can mean we put off making that health appointment, or a fear of the unknown can mean we would choose to prioritise pretty much anything over a routine cancer screening. It's all understandable. But prevention is better than cure – and there are a number of free and easy to access programmes in Barnet to check and support your health.



## Community Health Screenings

Over 40? Check your blood sugar levels, cholesterol levels, blood pressure, and height, weight and body mass index (BMI), all for free. You do not need to be registered with a GP. Find a community health screening near you: [www.barnet.gov.uk/healthscreen](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/healthscreen)

## Cancer screening in Barnet

Cancer is something many of us would rather not think about, but preventing harm starts with awareness and attending cancer screenings when we're invited. Routine NHS cancer screenings include bowel, breast and cervical screening. Lung health checks are also being offered in Barnet. Early diagnosis of cancer is strongly associated with more successful treatment – a simple check will give

you piece of mind, and it could save your life. Visit: [yourhealthbarnet.org/canceraware](http://yourhealthbarnet.org/canceraware)

Visit [barnetmencap.org.uk/cancerscreeningpack](http://barnetmencap.org.uk/cancerscreeningpack) to download a guide for family carers and easy read formats for people with learning disabilities to help understand who should attend, and what happens at a screening appointment.

## Will National No Smoking Day be the day you quit for good?

NHS

### Top 3 Quit Smoking Tips

1. Pick a quit date and add it to your calendar
2. List your reasons to quit
3. Use stop smoking aids to help manage cravings

**Wednesday 13 March is National No Smoking Day** – a great opportunity to set a quit date! You're much more likely to quit for good with the right professional help, visit [yourhealthbarnet.org/quit-smoking](http://yourhealthbarnet.org/quit-smoking) for free tips, tools and local support.

## Do you have a Healthy Heart?

**Barnet's Healthy Heart Peer Support programme** offers free, in-person support sessions to help you understand the risks of high blood pressure and learn how to make healthy lifestyle changes that help to reduce the risk. If you're part of an African, Caribbean or South Asian community you have a higher risk of having high blood pressure or

cardiovascular disease. Meet other people who share the same risks as you do, share experiences, and learn to improve your heart health and maintain it. **Contact the team at [healthyheart@inclusionbarnet.org.uk](mailto:healthyheart@inclusionbarnet.org.uk) or call 020 3475 1316.** Visit: [inclusionbarnet.org.uk/healthy-heart-project](http://inclusionbarnet.org.uk/healthy-heart-project)



**Neena Patel, Chair of Barnet Asian Women's Association, participated in a Healthy Heart session:**

*'We learned about the importance of diet and exercise, and how to talk to family about healthy eating. Lots of attendees identified social and cultural pressures as a barrier to a healthier lifestyle, but thanks to the knowledge shared, helpful tips and discussions, we all went away feeling more relaxed and more able to make healthy changes to our routines.'*

## Drink less. Feel good.

If you think you might be relying on alcohol more than you'd like to be, or it is affecting your health or relationships, why not try to drink less? Download the free **DrinkCoach** app for motivational tips and support right in your pocket. Take the free two-minute alcohol test to help understand your drinking habits, or sign up for free coaching from an expert to help you cut down: [yourhealthbarnet.org/drink-less](http://yourhealthbarnet.org/drink-less)

Visit [yourhealthbarnet.org/check-support-your-health](http://yourhealthbarnet.org/check-support-your-health)



or scan the QR code for more opportunities to check your health in Barnet.



# Barnet Council and Adopt London North encourage residents to think about adopting a child

**The power of family and a permanent home can be transformational for children who need an adoptive family, and we encourage you to find out if adoption is right for you. We hear from Ava\* and Thom\* as they share their adoption story.**

“When we started our assessment, we were offered the option of adopting through Early Permanence (EP).

“This meant Thom and I would be assessed as adoptive parents, but with specific training on being foster carers so we could care for a child at the earliest period of their life.

This has huge benefits, as it means children experience fewer moves - whatever the final decision. We had training to ensure we understood the role and what we needed to do.

“After being recommended as EP adoptive parents, we were approved to adopt and we began our search. It felt strange. It was becoming a reality. There were discussions and meetings

about one child who was due to be born who social workers felt Thom and I could best meet their needs. After reading the report about this child’s mother and brother (already adopted), I felt a connection and felt we could love and support this unborn child. Months later, our worker called to say the child, a little girl called Leah\* had been born.

“Then everything becomes a whirlwind of care for Leah. Having social workers, care staff, midwives with forms to complete, routines and information to share, medical appointments, court updates. The important dates were to take Leah to see her birth mother.

“As part of our training, we’d learnt about the reality of what was happening at this stage. We needed to trust the process and let decisions be made that put this little girl at the centre and that’s what EP is about - taking time to make sure children get the best outcome, and as much as we wanted to be parents, we wanted the right decisions to be made.”

Months later the decision was made that Ava and Thom could go on to adopt Leah and officially become her legal guardians.

Ava told us:

*“Our family talk about adoption openly.*

*“We know there might be challenges ahead, but Thom and I plan to manage them, alongside the joys as a family. For now, life is non-stop. Every day one of my two children will say something that makes my heart explode. This is where I was meant to be.”*

\*Not their real names

## Barnet Council and Adopt London North encourage you to find out about adopting a child

The power of family and a permanent home can be transformational for children who need an adoption.

**Find out if adoption is right for you.**

For more information, scan the code or contact the team today!



**020 7527 4777**

[adoptlondonnorth@islington.gov.uk](mailto:adoptlondonnorth@islington.gov.uk)



## People

# We caught up with Nasrin, to talk about the Shared Lives service in Barnet

**Shared Lives offers a personalised approach to care in the community by matching individuals with care and support needs, with highly skilled carers.**

Unlike traditional forms of care, under a Shared Lives arrangement, individuals will visit the home of their Shared Lives carer either for a few hours during the day or stay overnight; or may even choose to live with their Shared Lives carers, while receiving the care and support they require to lead a fulfilling life.

Nasrin, a Shared Lives carer, has supported Kate for around 15 years, and helps her with various aspects of daily living, her education schedule, and goal of one day living independently.



### Nasrin, tell us about yourself.

I work as a psychotherapist, and provide emotional and practical support to children and their families, which is a skill I have embraced while working with shared lives. I was also a foster carer for many years which has given me a lot of experience supporting individuals in my home.

### Tell us a bit about who you support as a Shared Lives carer.

I support a young female with global development delay. She was placed with me as a fostering arrangement at the age of eight. She is now 23 years old. I have watched her grow and become a wonderful young lady. I am grateful for shared lives as I am able to continue

to support her as an adult and hopefully one day help her transition into independent living.

### What does a typical day look like for you?

We start the day where I support her to get ready, help make breakfast and a packed lunch in time for college. While she is away, I'm able to start work as a psychotherapist and have some time to organise the house for her return. In the evening, we prepare dinner together and then relax for the night with the rest of the family.

We enjoy the occasional baking session or try making new dishes together. She also enjoys drawing, colouring and playing with the family dog! As a young

girl with cognitive development delay, it is important that I support her with keeping up with her personal hygiene. She also suffers with asthma, so there is upkeep that she requires in this area including attending health appointments and covid vaccinations.

### What is your advice to someone who is considering becoming a Shared Lives carer?

There is a lot of satisfaction in helping another human being. We develop and learn a lot about ourselves in the process. It is a joyous and rewarding experience being a part of someone's story.

I would highly recommend Shared Lives to anyone who has a spare room and is able to help!

If you have space in your heart and your home, do not hesitate to share it with someone who needs you. Call us on 020 8359 3576.

## Could you be a Shared Lives carer?

- Benefit from generous pay with tax-free allowances
- Share your life and enjoy the opportunity to work from home
- Multiple roles available!

### Contact us now:

☎ 020 8359 3576

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

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



# BARNET Fostering



## One of the best decisions I ever made

**Barnet held its annual end of year Foster Carer festive celebration event at Arkley Golf Club.** The event was attended by 39 foster carers who were recognised for their selfless dedication to the community over the years. Foster carers were connecting with each other while enjoying food, music and celebrating their hard work and dedication toward providing a loving home for children and young people in need. The highlight of the event was the awards presentation, where foster carers were recognised for long service awards between five and 30 years of service.

*“I think it is one of the best decisions that I have ever made. For me, it is 20 years but doesn’t feel like that...”*

Pam Decaine, one of the foster carers who received an award, has looked after 19 children over the past 20 years. Pam said: “I think it is one of the best decisions that I have ever made. For me, it is 20 years but doesn’t feel like that – it just feels like yesterday.” Fostering is one of the best decisions she has ever made as its about helping to make a difference, seeing children’s development and milestones, and being part of their family.



Pam Decaine and Cllr Tony Vourou

Pam and many other foster carers’ contribution reflect the meaningfulness of fostering, which is about providing a safe and loving home for children and young people who, for many different reasons, are not able to remain with their birth families.

The rising cost of living and the pandemic greatly impacted fostering and Barnet’s ability to recruit sufficient numbers of fostering households to meet the needs of children. Any of us can foster a child or

young person and we need your support to take part in fostering and provide children and young people with love and care. Fostering can sometimes be demanding, but the fulfilling experience can make a real difference in someone’s life.

If you’re interested in becoming a foster carer, please get in touch with Barnet Fostering Recruitment Team today on **020 8359 6274** or **fostering@barnet.gov.uk**. Visit **www.barnet.gov.uk/fostering**

**JOIN OUR NEXT**  
Fostering  
Information  
session

# BARNET Fostering

The  
Difference  
is You

Join our next virtual information session **www.barnet.gov.uk/fostering** and go to fostering events to book your place.

**Date:** Thursday 11 April 2024  
**Time:** 6.30 - 7.30pm

We run regular fostering information sessions, where you can learn about fostering, the approval process, and an opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

Caring for people, our places and the planet



# People

## FREE Activities for children and young people

Find out about **FREE** family-friendly activities, advice, support and information about the BACE Holiday Activities available during the Spring Holidays. BACE is for children and young people aged 4\*-16 who are eligible for benefit-related Free School Meals in Barnet.

\*4-year-olds must be enrolled in reception at school.

For the spring break our holiday activities will include multisport camps, musical theatre, laser quest, family swimming and film screenings at Finchley Youth centre as well as family fun days.



Book your activities at <https://barnetyouth.uk/baceholidays>



Fully funded by the Department for Education



## Positive Activities: FREE activities for children and young people all year

If you are not eligible for the BACE programme, you can still access the Positive Activities programme which runs during the school term times and through the school holidays. Positive Activities is **FREE** to all children and young people who attend school or live in Barnet.

During Positive Activities sessions, we believe in nurturing the potential and enriching the lives of young people aged 0-19, and up to 25 for those with additional needs or disabilities in Barnet. Our mission is to craft a foundation for lifelong learning and personal development for the young people that live or go to school in our borough.

### Diverse programmes, limitless possibilities

We understand that every young person is different, so we have a variety of workshops and sessions available. From the invigorating energy of sports to the creative expressions of arts and music; from the explorative realms of educational workshops to the thrilling adventures outdoors; and from the innovative world of media and technology to the engaging community events – we have something for every young mind including all young people with SEND.



Visit [barnetyouth.uk/positive-activities](https://barnetyouth.uk/positive-activities)

Caring for people, our places and the planet



# Dance Barnet

**Dance Barnet is a fun, free dance competition inspired by the popular show ‘Strictly Come Dancing’ to make dance accessible to everyone and to encourage more disabled people and people with long-term health conditions to be active.**



step  
change  
studios



Dance Barnet is open to disabled people aged 11 and over who live, study or work in the borough. Applicants can attend a free dance workshop and learn a dance routine to support their audition. These sessions aim to improve physical and mental dance skills and techniques through the power of dance.

Dance Barnet is a partnership between the council and Step Change Studios, an award-winning dance company that provides dance programmes in the community for people of all ages and abilities. Dance Barnet is for all abilities, from ballroom to Bollywood - no dance experience is required.

Cllr Ammar Naqvi, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Arts & Sports, said:

“We’re delighted that the borough will host an exciting new forum for creative expression in 2024, Dance Barnet. We want Barnet to be a place where everyone has the opportunity and support to become more physically active.”

“We’re thrilled to be working with Step Change Studios to provide an inclusive activity for residents of all abilities and disabilities with the chance to get involved in physical fitness and improve their health and wellbeing while having fun.”

“This competition is just one of the many ways we’re dedicated to delivering for our residents by providing opportunities for children and adults to get active and improve their physical and mental health and wellbeing.”

Ten finalists and their professional dance partners will be selected to participate in a grand final in the Pentland Theatre at artsdepot at 11.30 am on Thursday 16 May, and compete with a professional dance partner for the first-ever Dance Barnet title.

**A celebrity judging panel will decide the winner.**

Tickets to the finals are free but must be booked through the artsdepot booking office available from 1 March:  
[www.artsdepot.co.uk/whats-on/](http://www.artsdepot.co.uk/whats-on/)

Visit: [www.better.org.uk/fab-dance-barnet](http://www.better.org.uk/fab-dance-barnet)

## People

# Under 25? Do you know your sexual health?

There's been a rise in rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in under 25s in the UK, including right here in Barnet. Take charge of your sexual health!

## Chlamydia. Have you tested?



Chlamydia is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in the UK and is passed on through sex without a condom. Anyone who's sexually active can catch chlamydia and it is particularly common in sexually active teenagers and young adults.

You can get a test online, at a sexual health clinic or at your GP. You may be offered a chlamydia test without asking for one as part of the NHS Chlamydia screening programme, at your GP or local pharmacy. If you're offered a test, you should consider taking it.

## Get tested!

Not everybody gets symptoms, so if you think you may be at risk it is important to get tested, even if you think you feel fine.

- Order a free test kit online from Sexual Health London [www.shl.uk](http://www.shl.uk)
- Visit one of Barnet's Sexual Health Clinics: [www.sexualhealth.cnwl.nhs.uk](http://www.sexualhealth.cnwl.nhs.uk)

## Get free testing for HIV

HIV can be spread through sexual intercourse, drug use and sharing needles, contaminated blood products or mother to child transmission. You cannot get HIV through kissing, hugging, spitting, or sharing a toilet or swimming pool.

- Get tested for HIV at an HIV Point of Care Testing location near you: [www.brook.org.uk/find-a-service](http://www.brook.org.uk/find-a-service)



## Sexual Health Clinics in Barnet



Under 18s can walk-in during opening times for contraception, testing and treatment.

**Vale Drive Primary Care Centre (EN5 2ED)**

**Edgware Community Hospital (HA8 0AD)**

Edgware Community Hospital also offers a dedicated sexual health drop-in clinic for under 18s every Tuesday 3.30-6.30pm.



## Sexual health support



- Sign up to the **Come Correct** scheme and pick up free condoms from local outlets displaying the **Come Correct** logo like youth services and pharmacies: [comecorrect.org.uk](http://comecorrect.org.uk).



- Get **emergency contraception** for free from some community pharmacies in Barnet.
- **The Bridge Service** helps people with learning disabilities (aged 16 and above) to access sexual health services in the borough of Barnet.

Scan the QR code to find out more about the sexual health services and support available for under 25s in Barnet.



SCAN ME

Be proud of your choices. Get tested!  
Visit [yourhealthbarnet.org/gettested](http://yourhealthbarnet.org/gettested)

# Get up and grow!

Across Barnet, residents and communities are coming together to grow their own food. Working together to grow our own food is great for our health and wellbeing, lighter on your pocket and good for the planet. Become a community food growing leader or join one of Barnet’s grassroots community growing groups.

## Training Community Food Growing Leaders

Running a community food growing space takes energy, experience and know-how. Barnet Council is pleased to announce a one-year programme which will create four community food growing spaces and offer training to Barnet residents who would like to learn how to run a community food growing site.

Scan the QR code to find out more:  
[forms.office.com/e/sTtH9UpUyc](https://forms.office.com/e/sTtH9UpUyc)



## Incredible Edible Barnet

This group grows fruit, vegetables and edible flowers outside St John’s Church in New Barnet. They grow food in a public place to show the community what seasonal food looks and tastes like. They grow organically with nature and the planet in mind which also supports the local wildlife.

### Join a community session



The group meets alternate Saturdays 10am to 12pm.

**Next dates:** 13 April, 27 April, 11 May. **Get in touch to check future dates:**

**FB:** IncredibleEdibleBarnet

**Twitter:** @IncEdibleUK

**IG:** @Haveagrow

## Community Orchard on the Stonegrove Estate



The Stonegrove Community Trust is developing its first community orchard. In January, 30 residents and volunteers helped to plant 13 fruit bushes

and seven fruit trees – including fig, apple, pear, and greengage. Barnet residents are very welcome to join the Garden Club and Community Orchard Project which meets every Wednesday from 10.30 to 12pm at OneStoneGrove. Contact Poppy Fishman for more information:

[poppy@sct.london](mailto:poppy@sct.london)

## The Roundabout Garden

A new project will turn the Cloister Road roundabout into a productive and attractive community-driven garden. Local residents and volunteers will plant and maintain the garden and community members will be invited to contribute ideas, volunteer and share in the harvest. The garden will be designed to incorporate a variety of flowers, vegetables, fruit, and herbs, creating a vibrant and diverse green space for the community to enjoy. Get involved! Contact [roundaboutgardennw2@gmail.com](mailto:roundaboutgardennw2@gmail.com).

## Food Growing at Tarling Road Community Centre



Last year a small, grassed area in front of Tarling Road Community Centre in N2 was converted into three growing beds. It was a challenge as there was no running water. Now there is a

tap installed beside the garden and growing is in full swing.

The group is looking for new members, so get involved!

Contact [brown.kate@btinternet.com](mailto:brown.kate@btinternet.com)

## Barnet Community Harvesters



A grassroots initiative that harvests Barnet’s surplus fruits such as apples, pears and plums, and shares their haul with food banks and community groups. Since 2020, they’ve harvested nearly

five tonnes of fruit. Whether you have fruit to share, or want to help pick and distribute fruit, it is a great way to connect with nature and your community. Get involved! Contact:

[barnetcommunityharvesters@gmail.com](mailto:barnetcommunityharvesters@gmail.com)

## The Barnet Food Plan

Find out more about Barnet’s Food Plan by scanning the QR code or contact

[food@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:food@barnet.gov.uk)



For more food-related events and activities in Barnet, including top tips to eat well, healthy and affordable recipes to try, and plenty more, visit [yourhealthbarnet.org/eatwell](https://yourhealthbarnet.org/eatwell).



# Places

## BRENT CROSS CRICKLEWOOD REGENERATION UPDATE



# London's newest mainline station, Brent Cross West, is now open.

On Sunday 10 December, the first new mainline station to open in London in over a decade threw open its doors in Barnet. A big thank you to everyone who visited the station and took part celebrating the official opening by Mayor of London Sadiq Khan, and London Assembly Member Anne Clarke, who also represents Barnet's Cricklewood Ward.

Up to 5,000 people visited the station throughout the day, including local residents, commuters and rail enthusiasts.

We want to thank all the businesses and partners who made the day more fun for everyone. On the day, crowds were treated to live music from local organisation Just In Carnival playing steel pans, and a brass band, Oompah Brass, playing pop classics.

We also worked with local businesses that provided family arts and crafts workshops, as well as food and drinks businesses, including Gussy's Ice Cream serving mulled wine and snacks, artisan coffee from Cricklewood Coffee Roasters, and delicious pizza from the popular Happy Face Pizza.



Giles Round artwork and escalators (left) Eastern entrance of Brent Cross West (right)



Mayor of London arriving at Brent Cross West (left). Cricklewood councillors on the 189 test bus (right)



Just In Carnival playing steel pans



Happy Face Pizza cart on station opening day

You can plan your journey ahead, and book your tickets at: [thameslinkrailway.com/travel-information/plan-your-journey/brent-cross-west-station](https://www.thameslinkrailway.com/travel-information/plan-your-journey/brent-cross-west-station)



The station has been designed to provide more sustainable types of transport in the area, with new bus routes planned for either side of the station. Currently the 316 has been extended to stop at Brent Cross West's western entrance. The 189 will run from the eastern entrance from Saturday 17 February.

For more information on Brent Cross West, visit [TransformingBX.co.uk/brentcrosswest](https://www.TransformingBX.co.uk/brentcrosswest)



# BRENT CROSS WEST... ....DID YOU KNOW?



**Central London in as little as 12 minutes**

**Three stops to connect to the Elizabeth Line**

**Up to 8 trains an hour**

**Step-free access from street level to platforms**

**102 Barnet residents employed to build the station**

**Helping us achieve our net zero carbon pledges**

**Connecting communities with a public overbridge**

**Journeys from Bedford to Brighton, and Luton Airport**

**Gateway to Brent Cross Town**

## A gateway to Brent Cross Town

There are a few exciting things coming up this year at Brent Cross Town, look out for:

- Europe's first indoor baseball centre, The 108 is officially open. Visit the108.com.
- The completion of the first residential buildings, with residents expected to move in in the second half of the year.
- The popular Community Fund which will help local organisations and projects with funding.
- A spring, summer and autumn programme which will have plenty of fun and free activities for locals.
- Religious and cultural celebrations, including Eid in the Park, Chanukah and Christmas festivities.
- A series of masterclasses and workshops where you can learn a new skill like flower arranging or bread baking.
- A number of skills and employment initiatives supporting residents to access education, training and employment opportunities.

Sign up to our newsletter at [transformingbx.co.uk/newsletters](https://transformingbx.co.uk/newsletters) to keep updated on the latest activities happening across the Brent Cross Cricklewood regeneration programme.

# SPRING INTO DIGITAL

More than 40,000 Barnet residents already subscribe to Barnet First eNewsletter.

Get all the latest news on:

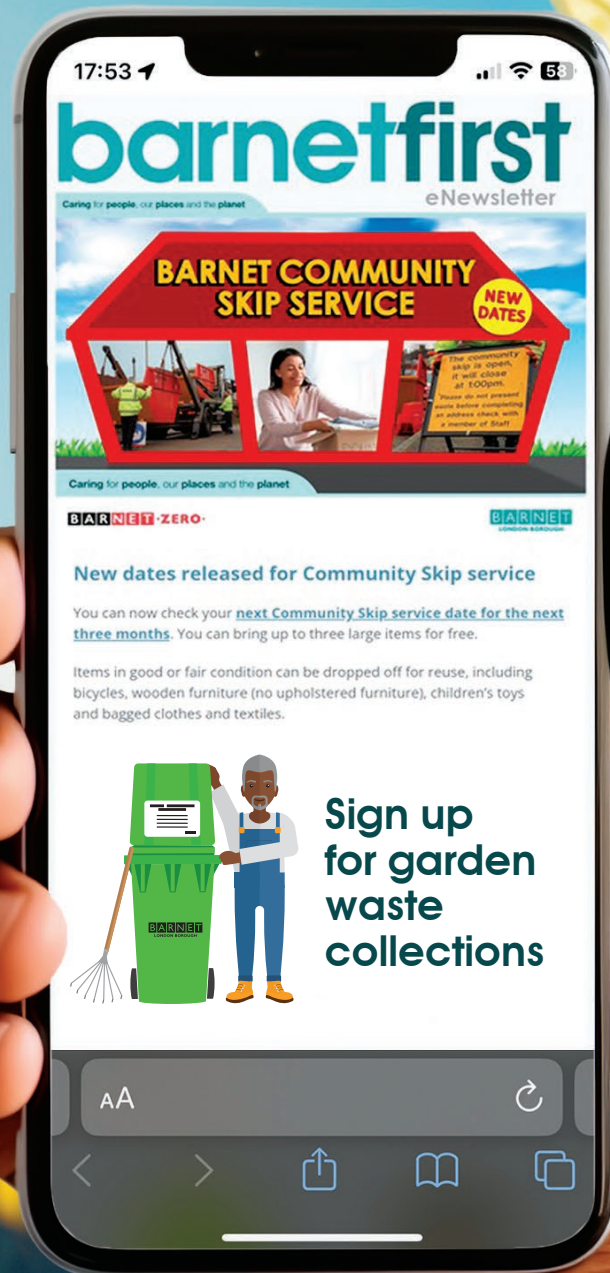
- Waste and recycling
- Cost of living support
- Travel and transport
- Roads and pavements
- Jobs and training
- Schools and education
- Leisure and libraries
- Health and wellbeing
- Family friendly events and much more!

Get Barnet First in your inbox, every week



SCAN ME TO SUBSCRIBE

[barnet.gov.uk/barnetfirst](https://www.barnet.gov.uk/barnetfirst)



Caring for people, our places and the planet

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**BARNET**  
LONDON BOROUGH

# How to get funding for community projects

**Following changes to the way the council is governed last year – and the introduction of an executive Cabinet replacing the committee system – there are new ways for you to get involved with how the council spends some of its money and what topics it should focus on in your communities.**

Did you know, every year, thousands of pounds are allocated via our Area Committees through a funding stream called the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL)? This is money collected from developers and the funds raised are spent on infrastructure to support

the development of an area. The council can use this funding to pay for infrastructure or anything else connected with the demands that development can place on an area.

Investment can include funding for a range of projects in your local community, from improvements to playgrounds to environmental projects or social projects to improve community resources.

The council wants to be resident-led in how we spend NCIL money. In the first instance, speak to your local councillor (see the list of councillor contacts at the back of this magazine) and make a suggestion that they can take forward to the next Area Committee.

The council is also in the process of finalising its timetable of ‘scrutiny

reviews’. These are ‘deep dives’ into certain topics. The council’s Overview and Scrutiny function has powers to scrutinise not only the services provided by the council but also by partner public service organisations such as the NHS, police or housing associations, as they too have a significant impact on the wellbeing of the population. If you have any ideas of topics that should be focused on throughout the rest of 2024, email [scrutiny@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@barnet.gov.uk).

To find out more about any of this, as well as other ways to engage with local democracy, visit our webpages at [www.barnet.gov.uk/your-council/council-and-democracy](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/your-council/council-and-democracy).



## COULD YOU JOIN TEAM BARNET?

### Job opportunities at Barnet Council

Have you ever thought about working for Barnet Council? We have a huge range of job opportunities in areas ranging from social care to highways, street scene, education and administration. We can offer temporary or permanent roles, part time or full time, at locations across the borough, including some with opportunities for home working.

**Our values - caring, learning, inclusive and collaborative - all help to make Barnet a great place to work and develop your career.**

Find out more about working for Barnet Council at [barnet.gov.uk/jobs-training-and-skills](http://barnet.gov.uk/jobs-training-and-skills)

### Job opportunities at The Barnet Group

The Barnet Group employs around 1,000 staff, providing a range of services to people who live in council-owned homes, who are homeless or facing homelessness, care and support clients from Barnet and other local authorities, and private customers. As a not-for-profit organisation, any income generated is reinvested into building and maintaining homes, improving public services, and supporting communities.

Find new and open job opportunities at The Barnet Group at [thebarnetgroup.org/careers](http://thebarnetgroup.org/careers)

## Engaged and Effective Council



# Get ready to vote on Thursday 2 May in the Mayor of London and London Assembly elections.

Elections for the **Mayor of London and Greater London Assembly** will take place on Thursday 2 May 2024. There are three separate elections:

- The Mayor of London
- 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.

Barnet residents that are British, Commonwealth or European Citizens, over 18 and currently on the Electoral Register (or who register by the deadline **Tuesday 16 April 2024**) can vote in all these elections.

You must be on the Electoral Register to vote on 2 May 2024



Registering to vote is quick and easy, visit [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) or scan the QR code with your smartphone.

You must apply to register to vote before **Tuesday 16 April 2024**.

Please remember, even if you 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 by phone **020 8359 5577** or email [ero@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:ero@barnet.gov.uk)

## Ways to vote: There are 3 different ways to vote.



### 1. Vote in person at your local polling station

Polls will be open from **7am-10pm** on **Thursday 2 May**.

A requirement for voters to now show photo ID when voting at a polling station.



**2. Voting by post** is a convenient and secure way of voting, especially if you are unable, or would prefer not to go to your polling station.

Any registered voter can apply for a postal vote. You do not need to give a reason. A postal vote pack will be sent you by post before polling day. Postal voters do not need to provide photo ID.

You now need to apply to vote by post online. To complete your postal application, you will be required to:

- provide your national insurance number
- provide your date of birth
- upload your signature

Please ensure your signature is on plain, white paper and that the photograph is clear and light with no shadows.



You must complete your online application for a postal vote by **5pm on Wednesday 17 April 2024**.  
[www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote](http://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote)

### 3. Apply to vote by proxy

A proxy is when you appoint someone to vote on your behalf. Your appointed proxy will be allocated to vote at your polling station and must provide their photo ID. Your proxy must be eligible to vote in the election. You must complete your online application for a proxy vote by **5pm on Wednesday 24 April 2024**. [www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote](http://www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote)



Engaged and Effective Council

You now need photo ID to vote at a polling station

# Voter ID

The UK Government has introduced a requirement for voters to now show photo ID when voting at a polling station.

Make sure you're ready. Check you've got the right ID or apply for a Voter Authority Certificate now.



## Some examples of approved forms of photo ID



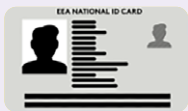
UK, Channel Islands or EEA photo driving licence



UK, Commonwealth or EEA passport



Blue Badge scheme card



National identity card issued by an EEA state



PASS card issued by the National Proof of Age Standards Scheme bearing the PASS hologram



Oyster 60+ or a Freedom Pass



Biometric Immigration Document

## Questions about Voter ID?

### Can I use an expired document as photo ID?

Yes. Expired photo ID documents can be used as long as the photograph still looks like you.

### Is a photocopy or digital copy of my photo ID accepted?

No. Only original documents can be accepted.

### Can I use photo ID with a different name (e.g. because I've got married or changed my name by deed poll)?

No. The name on your photo ID must be the same name you used to register to vote, unless you bring additional evidence to support the change e.g. marriage certificate or change of name deed.

### I vote by proxy at elections – does the person voting on my behalf need to show photo ID at the polling station?

Yes. The new rules apply to everyone voting in person at polling stations, including people voting for someone else as their proxy. Your proxy will need to show their photo ID or apply for a Voter Authority Certificate.

# No ID?

### What if I don't have any of the documents on the list?

If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID, you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate at [voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk](https://voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk) to use as photo ID at the polling station.

### What is a Voter Authority Certificate?

The Voter Authority Certificate is an official document which will contain your name and photograph and can only be used for voting purposes.

### Can Voter Authority Certificates be used as photo ID for anything other than voting?

No, this is only valid for use when voting in person at a polling station.



To find out what types of ID will be accepted, and for more information on Voter Authority Certificates, visit the Electoral Commission website [electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID) or call their helpline on 0800 328 0280.

## Engaged and Effective Council

# Engage Barnet

Have your say on our strategies, policies and proposals



## Have your say on our new Parks and Open Spaces Strategy

Barnet has some wonderful parks and open spaces providing a range of benefits for residents, visitors and those who work in the borough. A future challenge is to protect, maintain and improve these valuable assets to ensure they meet the current and future needs of our residents, whilst delivering some of our wider aspirations, such as ensuring our biodiversity can respond to climate change.

We have been working hard to improve the quality and provision of Barnet's parks since we launched our last Parks and Open Spaces Strategy in 2016 and our parks are becoming increasingly popular with local people and

community groups, many of who play an important role in shaping improvements and investments to their local parks.

We would like your help to shape our new Parks and Open Spaces Strategy. The strategy will aim to create a connection and commitment to care for our planet, work collaboratively with residents and stakeholders and make best use of resources whilst identifying opportunities to improve the quality of our parks for everyone to enjoy.

Share your views by Monday 18 March at [engage.barnet.gov.uk](https://engage.barnet.gov.uk) or scan the QR code.



## Share your views on the future of maternity, neonatal and children's surgical services in North London



Everyone is invited to share their views on the future of maternity, neonatal and children's surgical services in North Central London.

The consultation is looking to hear views from patients, staff, residents those using our services, and community, voluntary and professional groups on proposals for

changes to maternity and neonatal care and children's surgery.

Read the proposals, find out more and share your views by

Monday 18 March at [engage.barnet.gov.uk](https://engage.barnet.gov.uk) or scan the QR code.



Find out more and give us your views at [engage.barnet.gov.uk](https://engage.barnet.gov.uk)

Engaged and Effective Council

# Contact your councillors

**Barnet Vale**



Cllr Richard Barnes | Cllr Marianne Haylett | Cllr David Longstaff

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Cllr.M.Haylett@barnet.gov.uk  
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**East Finchley**



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**High Barnet**



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**Brunswick Park**



Cllr Paul Lemon | Cllr Giulia Monasterio | Cllr Tony Yourou

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**Edgware**



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**Mill Hill**



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**Burnt Oak**



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**Edgwarebury**



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**Totteridge Woodside**



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**Childs Hill**



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**Friern Barnet**



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**Colindale South**



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Cllr.G.Sargeant@barnet.gov.uk

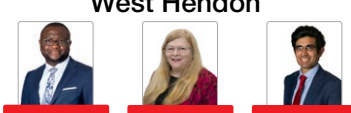
**Garden Suburb**



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**Cricklewood**



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**Golders Green**



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**Whetstone**



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**East Barnet**



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**Hendon**



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Cllr.M.Shooter@barnet.gov.uk

**Woodhouse**



Cllr Geoff Cooke | Cllr Anne Hutton

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Full Council meetings

Tuesday 21 May 2024, 7pm at Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BQ

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

# Get ready to vote on Thursday 2 May

in the Mayor of London and London Assembly Elections



**Check your Household Notification Letter.  
Make sure you are registered to vote.**



Registering to vote is quick and easy, visit  
**[www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)**  
or scan the QR code with your smartphone.