



The Barnet Society

Campaigning for a better Barnet

ANNUAL REPORT

2011



Seen over Chipping Barnet at about 1.30 p.m. on 29th April 2011

THE BARNET SOCIETY

(Affiliated to the London Forum, the London Green Belt Council,
and the Open Spaces Society)

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2010-2011

President: Mr Aubrey Rose, CBE

Vice-presidents

Mr R.Marson
Mr David Lee

Dr J. Remfry

Life Members

Mr A Neville

Mrs M Howells

Committee

Mrs. Judith Clouston	(Chairman)
Mrs. Gail Laser	(Vice Chairman)
Mrs. Becky Glenister	(Hon Secretary)
Mrs. Penny Dye	(Treasurer)
Mr. Dennis Bird	(co-opted)
Mr. John Gardiner	(until 2013)
Mr Derek Epstein	(until 2013)
Mr Peter Willcocks	(until 2013)
Ms Mary Rossiter	(Minute Secretary, co-opted)

Honorary Secretary

Mrs. Becky Glenister

Honorary Treasurer

Mrs. Penny Dye, 10 Salisbury Road, Barnet, EN5 4JP

Independent Examiner

Mr. Peter Mellows.

Honorary Membership Secretary

Mr. John Gardiner, 66 Trafford Road, Barnet, EN5 4LR

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 66th

Annual General Meeting of The Barnet Society

will be held at

7:30 p.m. on Thursday 16th June 2011

Pennefather Hall, Christ Church, St Albans Road, Barnet, EN5 4LA

for the transaction of the following business:

1. To confirm the minutes of the 65th AGM held on 17th June 2010. (see page 12)
2. To receive and adopt (if approved) the 66th Annual Report.
3. To receive and adopt (if approved) the Hon Secretary's Report. (see page 7)
4. To receive and adopt (if approved) the Hon Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2011 (see page 10).
5. To approve a motion proposed by the committee to increase membership fees to £8 (single membership) and £12 (family membership)
6. To receive a report from the Hon Membership Secretary (see page 7)
7. To receive a report from the Planning & Environment Subcommittee (see page 8)
8. To elect the Officers for the ensuing year.
9. To elect members to serve on the committee.
10. Any other business. Members are very welcome to raise points from the floor but are asked to speak to the Secretary beforehand.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Barnet Society has had a busy and eventful year.

New officers were voted onto the Committee at the last AGM, including one for each post (which hasn't been the case for some time). This has introduced a new enthusiasm and effectiveness. I would like to thank all our Committee members for their contributions over the last 12 months. I would also like to do the same for the 'unsung heroes' of the Society – the band of regular volunteers who deliver our Newsletters, who make the tea at our events and who are always ready and willing to help out in numerous ways. No organisation can exist effectively without such help and it is greatly appreciated.

During the year, we have been involved in a number of local campaigns and we've re-branded and re-launched our website. The re-branding was an opportunity to think about the purpose of the Society and your Committee agreed that our roots were in campaigning, and that is where we should still concentrate our efforts, hence our new strap-line, '*Campaigning for a better Barnet*'. We also felt that the website needed a re-vamp, so we worked with one of our members, Martin Standley, to give it a complete overhaul. We agreed that the principal purpose of the website is to attract new members, who want to find out what we do, but it also offers a chance to post News on a regular basis on the issues and campaigns we are running. If you haven't looked at it yet, please do, and let us know if you think we can improve it further. Our huge thanks go to Martin for taking on the task and for teaching one of our Committee members how to update it!

Onto the campaigns, then. The first is the ongoing (or not) Chipping Barnet Town Centre Strategy Board. As you will recall, this emerged as a result of campaigning that the Barnet Society had been doing in the previous year. It started well in 2010 with many meetings and discussions, during which most of those involved were able to achieve a remarkable degree of unanimity. The only problem was that we were not getting a strategy document produced. The Council Planning Department were very helpful and positive, but didn't seem able to provide the kind of report that is required, even though these had been produced for other town centres in the Borough (albeit by outside consultants). Towards the end of last year, the Board was told the whole exercise was being put on hold whilst the Council appraised the likely impact of the Localism Bill. In fact, we think that the draft document, which included our 'Vision' for Chipping Barnet as part of an Action Plan, was vetoed by Councillors who considered some of the ideas unsupportable. However, instead of addressing these and talking to us about them, they chose to hide

behind emerging Government policy. This is deeply frustrating (and insulting) to all those involved. And matters such as improvements to the junction outside Barnet College appear to have been quashed too. Something must be done for the safety of the students, but the Council are keeping very quiet about what. We have been assured that there will, at least, be Planning Briefs for the key sites such as The Spires and the TA Centre (which may be put on the market as a result of Defence spending cutbacks). This is not enough, though. The whole point of the strategy was that the town centre should be looked at as a whole, not as a series of individual plots. We continue to agitate (and irritate) however and will not give up. The original idea, when we met the Council with Theresa Villiers back in Summer 2009, was to work out ways of re-invigorating our historic town centre and to do all we can to make it thrive again. In spite of the Council's resistance, we will not give up!

Then there is Barnet Market. After months of speculation, the owners finally made an application to extend the time to implement their 2005 planning consent in September last year. The Council asked the applicants for additional information as a result of changes in both national and local planning policy. Only one of the items was provided during the autumn and the Council gave the applicant an inordinately long time to provide the rest (they could have rejected the application on the grounds that the information was not provided in good time). At the time of writing this, we do not know whether the Council will support the application or not, but we have been working with Friends of Barnet Market and have written 3 long letters of objection on their behalf. The reason for this, principally, is that we do not believe the applicant has the best interests of our historic market at heart. The latest information clearly reveals (unintentionally) that the proposal is to build 14 flats for sale with some sort of commercial use of the ground floor - it is obviously not an application to secure the future of our beloved market. In fact, we believe it will ensure that it cannot survive. Of course, the redevelopment of the market site should be seen in the context of the whole town centre, not as an isolated site. The Town Centre Strategy Board would, ideally, like to see the market moved back to the heart of the town or, at the very least, linked into it. Which brings us back to the Strategy, or lack of it.

And so onto Barnet Museum. Out of the blue (although we should have seen it coming), the Council announced its intention to withdraw funding to our Museum in December last year. We understand that savings need to be made, but Barnet Museum is mostly funded with time, given with huge generosity by its group of valiant volunteers. We objected but, of course, the Council pressed on and then, again very frustratingly, refused to say clearly what they want. Their initial intention was to cut the small annual grant and, we

assumed, the running costs ie lighting, insurance etc. The funding of these has been secured, but it appears the Council want more. They say they want to charge the Museum a commercial rent, but will not be drawn on what that means. Again we have written to strongly support the Museum and to say that, as the Council will have made its savings, we suggest it should grant the Museum a lease at peppercorn rent, particularly in recognition of the time it has been housed in the premises (predating Barnet Council by several decades). We continue to campaign to keep this valuable local resource.

Last, but certainly not least, our Vice-Chair, Gail Laser has taken her enthusiasm and energy for campaigning for a better High Street a step further by becoming Chair of the Barnet Traders Association. Our High Street, like many others, has suffered from a combination of factors over recent years. Some of the larger chain stores, such as Next, have moved out because they want bigger store sizes and we cannot attract others until we can offer these. Some stores have gone as a result of the economic situation. The new Morrisons opening at Sterling Corner is another blow. Our High Street has to compete with more and more nearby stores and retail centres, particularly those that offer free parking. We organised a Retail Forum last November to encourage dialogue between various town centre interests – a representative for the owners of The Spires, the owner of Barnet Market and other traders attended, along with a wide range of other interested groups. Plans for the redevelopment of The Spires were briefly outlined and there was an explanation of the role of the Town Centre Strategy Board. Whilst plans for The Spires appear to be on hold again, at least for the time being, there are many things that can be done to raise the profile here and Gail is busy with her newly-appointed Committee making sure that they happen.

On all of these matters, we will continue to campaign hard. All of them are linked to one another, of course, and we still see the Town Centre Strategy as key to the future. Much of the current frustration can be removed if the Council chooses to act.

JUDITH CLOUSTON

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Barnet Society had not had anyone filling the role of Hon. Secretary for quite some years, so my first year in post has involved quite a bit of 'finding my feet' and carving out a useful role on the committee. I am hoping that as time goes by I can contribute more by setting up a useful contact list for the committee's internal use to improve lines of communication between the Society and other organisations in and around Barnet. I am also currently compiling a PR and marketing directory to help us distribute information and publicise events to a wider audience. I hope I can help the Barnet Society to enhance its public profile letting local people know about the valuable work being done to protect and improve our town centre.

I have very much enjoyed getting to know the Barnet Society this year. Having lived locally for more than 16 years this is a lovely opportunity for me to contribute to my family's home town.

BECKY GLENISTER

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

We welcome Dr A Miln, Mrs Sheila Burton Durchslag, Linden Reilly, Mr and Mrs Batchelor and Mrs B Preston who have joined the Barnet Society over recent months. My thanks to those who responded to the final reminder notice regarding unpaid subscriptions. If you find the annual payment of fees irksome, help is at hand for we are now giving members the option of setting up a standing order to take care of this chore. Goodbye to the "Have I paid, When did I pay, Have I paid twice?" uncertainties. A standing order will also serve as a personal vote of confidence in the Barnet Society and the importance of its work. Additionally it will spare us the need to issue reminders which are in themselves a further cost to the Society.

Longstanding members will notice that the customary renewal form has a revised format. It is not printed on coloured paper, it is twice the usual size and it requests a larger payment. For many years we have striven to hold down the annual subscription in order to attract the maximum membership. However costs continue to rise and the assertive campaigning work the Society is increasingly engaged upon – the Market, the Gaming Centre, the Town Centre Strategy initiative – make heavy demands on our slim resources. Thus we have concluded that it would be of benefit to individual members and to the Society as a whole to request approval for a rise in the level of fees at the AGM in June. It is proposed that the cost of individual membership be raised from £5 to £8 and from £8 to £12 for a family. The renewal form

invites members to renew at the higher level, but you are quite entitled to pay at the existing rate. Our thanks go to those, who for some time, have generously added a little extra to their payment, enabling us to keep the charges stable for so long.

The Treasurer is exploring how the Barnet Society might qualify for Gift Aid status, thus completion of the relevant section of the renewal form will permit the Society to benefit from Gift Aid as soon as the issue is clarified. Of course the best way to improve income is to recruit more members. To this end we plan a campaign of leaflet distribution in the Autumn and those prepared to help with delivery – your own road perhaps - should sign the list at the AGM or contact me directly. One final request, please read the renewal form carefully, complete the relevant sections and **RETURN IT TO ME** however you choose to pay. I need to have forms returned, even from those people who may have already sent in payment. Thank you all for your continuing support, financially and in so many other ways.

JOHN GARDINER

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Starting to find my feet after a year in this role - but it will be a long time, if ever, before I can begin to match David Lee's 15 years of experience and energetic commitment.

In her Chair's Report, Judith details the two key planning issues affecting the Town Centre – the Town Centre Strategy and the preservation of our ancient Barnet Market.

In respect of virtually all planning and environment issues affecting our town, Barnet Council holds the key and, sadly, they seem these days to be fumbling to operate it. Civic societies are accustomed to chivvying and battling with their local councils to act in the best interests of their communities but, today, the situation is greatly exacerbated by the existence of one over-riding justification for inaction – “there is no money”.

Within our own Council, the situation has not been helped by management changes at the top. Dorne Kanareck, Director of Environment & Operations (a.k.a. Highways) resigned last autumn and that directorate is now to be combined into a super-directorate with Planning, Environment and Regeneration. The Directorship of this behemoth is up for grabs with both Stewart Murray – the existing “planning” boss - and Pam Wharfe – Acting head of “highways” – both believed to be in the running.

Last but not least, the proposal to outsource all of the Council’s planning and environment functions – originally dubbed “Future Shape”, latterly “One Barnet” – is gathering pace and inevitably places a cloud of uncertainty over all officers serving in those areas.

Judith describes in her report the struggle to progress a planning strategy for our Town Centre. Meanwhile, however, the planning strategy process for the Borough continues to take its course with the publication last autumn of the two key documents under the Local Development Framework, the “Core Strategy” and the “Development Management Policies”, both of which the Society commented upon during the consultation period. An Examination in Public will take place later this year.

So, aside from “strategies”, what’s happening “on the ground”?

Barnet College is now complete and operational and provides a sympathetic improvement to the town centre and a fine new open space which will hopefully in due course be host to local events. Tudor Hall has been refurbished and revealed in all its glory.

The Council has issued new guidelines on shop fronts to gradually improve the appearance of our High Street whilst the Barnet Traders Association – recently reconstituted with Gail Laser (our vice-chair) as its chairman – is arranging new floral displays and planning other initiatives to improve and promote the High Street.

Down in the Dollis Valley, the Society (with the London Wildlife Trust and others) lost the battle to prevent Ravenscroft School from enclosing and “urbanising” a prominent stretch of Green Belt land to avoid its pupils having to walk a few minutes down the road to use any of the 15 football fields in its immediately vicinity.

Development proposals for the Dollis Valley Estate are eagerly awaited – two development groups have been invited to submit proposals – but the LDF indicates a density that we fear will result in over-development.

The development of a new golf course at Dyrham Park, expected to start later this year, will involve hundreds of lorry-loads of landfill being trundled into the site continuously over a two year period. In giving consent, Hertfordshire County Council has laid down constraints on lorry routes but has not imposed all of the rules and penalties that SPACES and The Barnet Society advocated. It is to be hoped that we will not see a repeat of the experience in 2002-2003 when hundreds of lorries trundled up Barnet High Street during the construction of the nearby Bridgedown Golf Club.

New planning procedures will flow from the Localism Bill, published before Christmas. Of particular interest to civic societies are the new Neighbourhood Planning procedures. The local stakeholders involved in the Town Centre Strategy Board are giving serious consideration to setting up a “Neighbourhood Forum” to create a Neighbourhood Plan for the Town Centre which, if endorsed by a referendum of residents, would become a statutory development plan.

The Barnet Society continues to take an active role on the Conservation Area Advisory Committee which comments to LBB on all planning applications within the Wood Street and Monken Hadley conservation areas. And the Council has indicated that it might accede to the request by The Barnet Society and other local residents groups to join up the two conservation areas by assigning conservation area status to the “missing” middle section of the High Street, provided someone else does the donkey-work of preparing the necessary Conservation Area Appraisal, a task we are hoping to undertake.

So no shortage of work for the Society to pursue in the coming year. Keep an eye on our stylish revamped website for the latest updates.

DEREK EPSTEIN

TREASURER’S REPORT

The subscriptions have fallen slightly this year, with some members not renewing their subscription due either to moving out of the area, or possibly age related as many of our members are in the older age bracket. We are hoping to recruit new members in the current year, but also feel it is now time to increase the cost of membership and this will be proposed at the AGM. The rate has not increased at all during my time as treasurer.

The expenditure this year is £221.67 lower than last year, with most costs in line with what is expected. Revamping the website, which we are hoping will bring in new members, was an additional cost. We have also given £50 to Friends of Barnet Market again this year.

The net result this year is a small loss of £47.38, making the total funds £6,847.74. The accounts have been examined by Mr Peter Mellows and a copy is included in this report.

I will be at the A.G.M. and I am prepared to stand for Treasurer again for the coming year.

PENNY DYE

**BARNET SOCIETY
TREASURER'S REPORT
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the Year ended 31st March 2011**

Year to 31st March 2010		Year to 31st March 2011
	INCOMING RESOURCES	
2,486.50	Subscriptions	2,361.00
20.00	Sales	32.00
11.86	Bank Interest	5.00
<u>2,518.36</u>	Total Incoming Resources	<u>2,398.00</u>
	RESOURCES EXPENDED	
1,121.23	News letter printing & expenses	1,207.80
545.00	Shells(£195) & Leaflets (£350)	0.00
60.66	Website	369.30
<u>1,726.89</u>		<u>1,577.10</u>
324.96	Lectures	437.08
2,051.85		2,014.18
250.00	Affiliations to Other Associations & Societies	172.00
98.25	Stationery, Postage, Phone & Other Administration	74.25
266.95	Other Activities including AGM costs	184.95
<u>2,667.05</u>	Total Resources expended	<u>2,445.38</u>
<u>(148.69)</u>	SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) for the year/period	<u>(47.38)</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st March 2011

	ASSETS	
6,685.98	HSBC Deposit Account	6,727.98
209.14	HSBC Current Account	107.76
0.00	Prepayments	57.00
0.00	Less Creditors	(45.00)
<u>6,895.12</u>		<u>6,847.74</u>
	FUNDS	
7,043.81	Opening Balance at 1st April 2010	6,895.12
(148.69)	Current Surplus/(Deficit) for the year to date	(47.38)
<u>6,895.12</u>		<u>6,847.74</u>

Report of the Independent Examiner

I have examined the above accounts and no matter has come to my attention during the course of my examination which, in my opinion needs to be brought to the attention of the members



21st April 2011

Minutes of the 65th Annual General Meeting of The Barnet Society held in the Hyde Room, Chipping Barnet Library, on Thursday 17th June 2010

Present:

Mr Aubrey Rose	President
Dr Jenny Remfry	Vice President
Mr Robin Marson	Vice President
Mr Peter Willcocks	Chairman
Mrs Penny Dye	Hon. Treasurer
Mr David Lee	Planning & Environment
Mr John Gardiner	Membership Secretary
Mrs Judith Clouston	Committee
Mrs Gail Laser	Committee
Dr Mary Rossiter	Minutes Secretary

There were some 30 members of the Society present including Mrs Theresa Villiers MP

Apologies for Absence

Mrs Margaret Chatfield, Councillor David Longstaff, Mr P Mellows, Mr and Mrs C Nightingale, Mr and Mrs D Tyler, Mr and Mrs D Wales, Mr and Mrs A J Williams.

President's welcome

The Chairman invited the President, Aubrey Rose, to chair the AGM.

Mr Rose, in response to a request from the floor, invited those seated at the table (Peter Willcocks, Penny Dye, Mary Rossiter) to introduce themselves. He welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting particularly the very many new members. He thanked the Committee members and officers for all the hard work done in the past year, with a special tribute to David Lee.

He reminded the meeting of the privilege of living in Barnet, including multiple cultural activities, the proximity of the countryside, the rapidly growing Barnet branch of U3A, the rebirth of Barnet College and the saving of Barnet Market. He highlighted the voluntary work done in Barnet and the many challenges still to be faced. The Barnet Society works hard keep in touch and encourage everyone in all that is happening locally.

1. Minutes of the 64th AGM

The minutes of the 64th AGM, held on 18th June 2009, were agreed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

Proposed Barbara Rossiter, Seconded Judith Clouston

2. 65th Annual Report

The 65th Annual Report was introduced by Peter Willcocks, received and adopted. There were no comments.

Proposed Gail Laser, Seconded David Lee

3. Hon. Treasurer's Report

Penny Dye referred to her report and accounts on pp12 -13 of the Annual Report. Since then the accounts have been approved by the Independent Examiner Peter Mellows. His report is available for inspection on request.

The report was approved and adopted by all present

Proposed George Speyer, Seconded Jenny Remfrey

Election of Independent Examiner

Penny Dye proposed a vote of thanks to Peter Mellows and commended his re-election as Independent Examiner. This was agreed by all present.

4. Hon. Membership Secretary's Report

John Gardiner referred to his report on p5 of the Annual report. He expressed thanks to those who had added kind words on their renewal applications and to those who had delivered leaflets by hand. He thanked particularly David Ely for helping with the collation and distribution of the newsletters

Thanks to the recruitment campaign there were 90 new members. There are now nearly 500 members of the Society. He thanked also those who had added a little extra to their subscriptions so that the rate could be kept at a low level.

The President thanked him for all his hard work.

5. Report from Planning & Environment Subcommittee

David Lee referred to his report on pp 6-11 of the Annual Report, written in April. Since then:

The Local Development Framework (LDF) has been delayed again and will probably be ready for public consultation in the autumn.

The Brent Cross enlargement scheme will now go ahead. Eric Pickles, the new Government Minister has rejected the proposal for a public enquiry.

The North West London Light Railway Proposal is the subject of the guest speaker later in the evening.

The North West London Waste plan will proceed and will affect the London Borough of Barnet. No details are available about the public consultation.

There is enormous support for Barnet Market including now 5,000 signatures on the petition for resurfacing.

The Dollis Valley redevelopment is proposed as a low-rise development with a maximum of four stories.

The new government has pledged not to build the Heathrow 3rd runway

Trees: In 1995 (Barnet Society 50th year) 1000 trees were planted in Whiting's Hill. Not only are they thriving but seedlings are growing. One of the three memorial trees is also thriving.

The new "Easy Council": LBB needs to be watched carefully particularly in respect of the discharge of planning matters.

Barnet College: the last visit with the contractor will be 3.7.10 at 10am.

There were no immediate questions.

Aubrey Rose then paid tribute to David's work over the years, his liaison with all local societies, his defence of Barnet Market (in collaboration with Chris Smith and FOBM) and not least "Lee's trees" opposite the station. There was loud applause by all.

Questions from the floor:

A query about Development in Hadley Highstone which might impinge on the Green Belt: David Lee knew nothing more of the issue and suggested contacting Hadley Green Residents' Association.

The derelict British Legion Hall in Moxon Street: Judith Clouston reported that there is a planning application to convert it into 2 small work-spaces with 2 new dwellings. The proposal includes retention of the old building and, on the whole, should be supported.

The report was approved and adopted by all present

Proposed Judith Clouston, Seconded Gail Laser

6. Election of Honorary Officers.

Peter Willcocks took the chair to propose Aubrey Rose as President for a further year. This was approved by all and Mr Rose resumed chairing the meeting.

Jenny Remfrey and Robin Marson were reappointed as Vice-presidents.

The committee has proposed David Lee as Vice-President. Peter Willcocks paid tribute to David's 15 years of tireless and dogged work on the committee, his ability to get things done and the trees. This was accepted to widespread acclaim.

Proposed Peter Willcocks, Seconded Jenny Renfrew

David responded with thanks, recalling with gratitude many previous Officers of the Society. He pointed out that there was still much work to be done and expressed good wishes to (and vigour by) the new committee. There was more applause.

(at this point Theresa Villiers arrived and was welcomed and congratulated on her re-election as MP for Chipping Barnet and on her position as Minister of State for Transport.)

Peter Willcocks resigns as Chairman but remains on the Committee with responsibility for the Newsletter

The committee has proposed Judith Clouston as Chairman, Gail Laser as Vice-Chairman and Becky Glenister as Honorary Secretary; this was accepted by all.

Penny Dye was re-elected as Treasurer

7. Election of Committee Members

Terence Atkins and Alan Howells have resigned from the committee.

John Gardiner was re-elected as Membership Secretary.

Under the constitution Dennis Bird resigned from the committee but was co-opted for the next year.

The committee has proposed and the meeting accepted Derek Epstein as member with responsibility for Planning & Environment. (David Lee is also happy to advise)

Mary Rossiter continues as Minutes Secretary.

There were no other nominations.

The Officers and Committee for 2010-2011 therefore are:

Mr Aubrey Rose	President
Dr Jenny Remfry	Vice President
Mr Robin Marson	Vice President
Mr David Lee	Vice President
Mrs Judith Clouston	Chairman
Mrs Gail Laser	Vice Chairman
Mrs Becky Glenister	Hon. Secretary
Mrs Penny Dye	Hon. Treasurer
Mr Derek Epstein	Planning & Environment
Mr John Gardiner	Membership Secretary
Mr Peter Willcocks	Committee (Newsletter)
Dr Mary Rossiter	Minutes Secretary (co-opted)
Mr Dennis Bird	Co-opted

The President asked the new Honorary Officers and Member to introduce themselves. He then invited the new Honorary Officers to sit at the AGM table

8. Any other business

- (i) David Lee reminded the AGM that the Society had written requesting a Public Enquiry about the Potter Bar rail crash. There is no record that there had been a response. He proposed that the Chairman should write again requesting an enquiry. This was agreed by show of hands (one vote against). Judith Clouston will write again
- (ii) George Speyer described the sharp dangerous paving on Hadley Green which has caused accidents. It was agreed that the Council should be reminded about this.
- (i) David Lee spoke on behalf of Chris Smith in his unavoidable absence. Although the Market is returned to its proper site, resurfacing is needed urgently. There was much discussion about this and the intransigence of the present owners in spite of the petition.

Maura Howells added that proper facilities such as toilets were needed to encourage stallholders.

Judith Clouston reminded the AGM that the owners' planning consent will expire in November and that it is likely that something will happen before then, although it is not clear what.

Aubrey Rose thanked Chris Smith and FOBM for all their efforts.

9 Mrs Theresa Villiers

The President invited our MP to address the AGM.

Theresa Villiers paid tribute to the Barnet Society as doughty defenders of the community.

She is a strong supporter of Barnet Market. The Council have offered to resurface it and pressure should be put on the owners to co-operate.

The walkabout organised by David Lee had generated a lot of good ideas and she will keep up the pressure on the Council.

Last week the new government removed gardens of private houses from the "brown-field" development category.

The new government is abolishing the Labour Party's housing density targets. This will give local authorities more flexibility in planning.

Judith Clouston as Chairman expressed her personal thanks to Mrs Villiers for all her work and support.

The President then formally closed the AGM

10. Guest Speaker

John Cox gave a detailed illustrated talk about the 3-year campaign for a North and West London Light Railway with particular reference to the proposed Brent Cross development and the North London Line.

The population of Greater London is expanding. Most of the non-car transport in Greater London, present and planned, is radial in nature as illustrated by Mayor Boris Johnson's "The London Plan". There will be an Inner London orbital system ready for the Olympics. There is great need for an orbital system further out.

All relevant boroughs agree to this in principle. It could be achieved by joined-up, long-term planning using the re-development of brown-field sites. He illustrated how this will not be possible if the full Brent Cross development goes ahead.

Of the various non-car, low-carbon methods, he favours a Light Railway. He quoted a government proposal which was discovered to have been written by Theresa Villiers.

Mrs Villiers spoke to commend the excellent campaign and would discuss with the Council what could be done, in the light of the Brent Cross development proposal.

Judith Clouston added that the Barnet Society supports the North and West London Light Railway campaign and thanked John for his informative talk.

11. Finally

Judith Clouston as incoming Chairman thanked all those who had participated in the last year and at this meeting.

She too acknowledged with thanks David Lee's contribution to the Society.

She will be speaking about the Chipping Barnet Town Centre Strategy Board on 14.7.10 at 7.30 pm at Church House Lower Hall.

The meeting having concluded at 9.20pm, all then enjoyed refreshments and informal discussion.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 18th – 25th June:** High Barnet Festival – details in our next newsletter.
- Tuesday 12th July 2011:** A walk led by Owen Jones in the Colne Valley near Aldenham.
- Saturday 10th September:** Barnet Society Garden Party – details in our next newsletter



CONTACTS

Chair	Judith Clouston	chairman@barnetsociety.org.uk	
Editor	Peter Willcocks	editor@barnetsociety.org.uk	8449 6153
Hon Secretary	Becky Glenister	secretary@barnetsociety.org.uk	
Membership Sec	John Gardiner	membership@barnetsociety.org.uk	
Planning	Derek Epstein	planning@barnetsociety.org.uk	8275 0976
Website	www.barnetsociety.org.uk		

NOTES