

BARNET SOCIETY

CAMPAIGNING FOR A BETTER BARNET SINCE 1945

SUMMER 2019

Life goes on for Barnet, Brexit or not

The country may give the impression of being paralysed by the failure of Brexit negotiations, but the reality is that life still goes on, particularly in a time of harsh austerity.

Whatever happens after October 31, the vital public services on which we depend will still be grappling with depleted resources.

Schools, hospitals, roads, the environment generally, will still be in the spotlight.

Mindful of this, The Barnet Society organised a forum recently (*Barnet Beyond Brexit*), attended by 140 people, to look at the big changes likely in the area over coming years. This includes how we live and work, and how we prepare our young people – and retrain our oldsters – for both; and the physical consequences for our surroundings. *Robin Bishop* and *Nick Jones* sum up the proceedings.

Education and training.

Panellists were unanimous that while a new secondary school was needed for the borough, the old football stadium at Underhill was the wrong site.

Chris Fairbairn, principal of Totteridge Academy, which is only 600 metres away, said he was concerned that the government was opening a new school so close to an existing and improving secondary school, which was not yet full.



Panel

Theresa Villiers MP

Cllr Ross Houston, recently Barnet Labour spokesperson on housing

Richard Knox-Johnston, Chair of the London Green Belt Council and the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England SE Region

Bob Burstow, Educationist and instigator of the Barnet Teenage Market

Chris Fairbairn, Headteacher of The Totteridge Academy

Violet Walker, Headteacher of Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Cali Ibrahim, Senior Employment & Skills Officer, London Borough of Barnet

Violet Walker, head teacher at Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School – which is also only a short walk away from Underhill – agreed that the location of the Ark Academy, which would

offer a total of 1,200 places, was “unfortunate” when the greatest need for additional places was in areas such as Hendon and Colindale.

Theresa Villiers explained that she had always opposed the construction of the new academy because it was not in the “right place”. “It should have been in the west of the borough, and not Underhill, but I believe Totteridge Academy and QE Girls’ will continue to thrive. They are both such great schools, and they will thrive, thanks to the inspirational leadership of the two heads, Chris and Violet.”

Ark Pioneer Academy’s first principal is Aishling Ryan and she has started meeting potential parents and pupils at a series of drop-in sessions being held in Dollis Valley, New Barnet and High Barnet.

Underhill is the fifth Ark Pioneer Academy to be established in North London, and it opens in September offering 180 places for its founder cohort of year seven pupils in what Ms Ryan says will be first class facilities with a rigorous academic curriculum and strong discipline.

A question on the impact of the new academy on local schools dominated much of the discussion on High Barnet’s future prospects for education and training.

Mrs Walker acknowledged that

**Barnet Society AGM,
Thursday June 13, 2019,
St Mark's Church, Potters
Road, Barnet, EN5 5HY,
starting at 7.30pm**

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Youth employment and housing top bill

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the borough needed more school places but because Ark Pioneer Academy was a mixed school, she did not think it would have much impact on QE Girls' "as long as our results are good". QE Girls' had been oversubscribed for the last two to three years and had increased its annual intake from 180 to 196 pupils and currently there were 183 girls on the waiting list.

Mr Fairbairn said Totteridge Academy's annual intake of pupils had risen from 70 to 140 at present, but the school was not yet full, although he was confident about its future prospects.

He appealed to prospective parents to visit Totteridge Academy, advice that was backed by another panellist, Bob Burstow, secretary of the Barnet Town Team, who has spent his working life time in education. He said the Ark Academy chain seemed to be city orientated and he was not sure about its appeal in the suburbs. Ark did have an inspirational website, but he thought parents would be well advised to take Mr Fairbairn's advice and visit Totteridge Academy to see for themselves what was on offer.

Barnet Councillor Ross Houston, formerly Labour's spokesman on housing, agreed with the other panellists that the provision of an Ark Academy would meet a demand but was in the wrong part of the borough.

He regretted the fact that sitting the academy at Underhill was a decision taken by the government in which Barnet Council had played no role.

Youth Employment

The forum was given details on future apprenticeships and jobs at two major development projects – the new Premier Inn to be constructed on the site of the former Barnet cattle market and a 100-place care home to be built on the Marie Foster site in Wood Street.

Cali Ibrahim, Barnet Council's senior employment and skills officer and a London apprenticeship ambassador, said the provision of apprenticeships in construction work was a condition of planning approval.

He would be working with Jobcentre Plus to make sure that as many local people as possible secured the 50 full



The Forum panel

time jobs at the new Premier Inn and the 70 full time jobs at the Signature Senior Lifestyle care home. Premier Inn say the new hotel on the former market site in St Albans Road is due to open by the end of next year.

Housing and green space

Robin Bishop, chair of the Society, said that the Barnet Society was founded to protect the Green Belt and the best features of our area, from Arkley to New Barnet. So he asked Theresa Villiers, Ross Houston and Richard Knox-Johnston to confirm their commitment to retaining Barnet's existing Green Belt in full.

Theresa Villiers confirmed that she is committed to preserving the Green Belt, and so is the Government. She would review the housing targets but, she said, "I believe we must build more homes to give our young people somewhere to live. I think we can do that without encroaching on the green belt land around High Barnet."

Ross Houston said that this is a real challenge in London, and failure to build housing in London is a major planning failure. He and the Mayor are adamant that the Green Belt and other open spaces should be preserved. Open space can be reclaimed, as has been done successfully in the Lee Valley.

He said that the housing targets are challenging, and most will be built in the west of the Borough. His biggest concern was that housing must be genuinely affordable. He also confirmed that the local political parties are currently looking at the London Plan and Barnet's Local Plan.

We must get these right.

Richard Knox-Johnston queried the government's estimate that 300,000 new homes are required. Where did that figure come from? The National Audit Office's report last month Planning for New Homes questioned both the method of calculation and the ability of the planning system to deliver it.

He also expressed the CPRE's and LGBC's concern that since 2016 over 200,000 new dwellings have been proposed for London's Green Belt – which is intended to be protected from any development except under exceptional circumstances. But CPRE research has shown that there is more than enough brownfield land within the affected local authority areas to accommodate at least 260,000 homes. It was a delusion that building in the Green Belt provided affordable homes. Civitas has reported that the UK has an affordability crisis rather than a housing shortage. He also observed that the Green Belt is becoming a critical issue in local politics.

In response to a question by Jenny Remfry about the plans to build over 150 homes on farmland at the Whalebones green space between Wood Street and Barnet Hospital, Ms Villiers said she remained totally opposed to the development.

She was supported by Richard Knox-Johnston. He said that as the Whalebones estate was in a conservation area there was no justification whatever for it to be redeveloped.

Welcome to Ark, the school of hard knocks



Ark principal Aishling Ryan

Few other educational establishments have caused as much controversy as the new Ark Academy in Underhill. Largely opposed by most educational, political and environmental groups, it was nevertheless forced through against the wishes of local people, with justification for the project being given by the council's own planning officers.

That said, the school is here and will open its doors in September to its first intake of 180 pupils.

The principal, Aishling Ryan, has told Nick Jones that working together with other local schools and welcoming the involvement of community groups are among her key objectives.

Construction of the super-size new school on the site of the former Barnet Football Club stadium at Underhill is now in its final stages.

Despite fears about congestion and considerable controversy over its sitting so close to Totteridge Academy and Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School, Ms Ryan is confident the 1,200-place academy will add to the success of local schools and will help satisfy a growing need for additional places.

She says strategies are in place to meet concerns about the choice of Underhill as the location for one of the government-inspired free schools and she has established good working relationships with both Barnet Council and other

secondary heads. The council's latest assessment in March indicated a continuing shortfall of secondary school places in and around High Barnet and continuing evidence that local children were still taking places some distance away in Finchley and Potters Bar.

Several measures would be taken to ease potential traffic congestion, including visits to each of the homes of the first 180 pupils during which they would discuss with parents best practice, such as walking to school or the use of public transport.

Ark Pioneer Academy would also operate an extended school day – starting at 8.25am and finishing at 4.30pm. “An extended school day is designed to encourage our pupils to take part in extra-curriculum and enrichment activities so they can develop their own interests as part of the school day. This will also allow time for extra lessons in English and maths.”

Initially the new academy, which is non-selective and co-educational, has no defined catchment area and applications are currently being processed for the first 180 places, for which there is already a waiting list.

“We are here to serve the community in and around High Barnet and we are looking forward to working with other local schools”



Theresa Villiers, MP, was welcomed on her visit to Barnet Ark Pioneer Academy by the principal Aishling Ryan. From left to right, Ms Villiers, Ms Ryan, Laurie Grist, head of projects Ark schools, and Claire Barnes, chair of governors



The new school

“We are particularly keen to establish firm links with local primaries and we hope to collaborate with them in encouraging their pupils take advantage of our state-of-the-art teaching facilities.”

Ms Ryan says pupils at the academy will benefit from a host of activity areas including a fully equipped gym and sports centre, and specialist areas for arts, music, information technology and science laboratories.

These facilities will also be available for the use of local community groups, including sports clubs and dance classes, several of which have already expressed an interest.

During the planning process, the Ark Academy network promised that local organisations would have access to the new school's facilities and Ms Ryan said she was keen to honour those undertakings.

When asked about newspaper reports that indicated some new schools in England were being built without internal sprinkler systems, Ms Ryan said she could give a personal assurance that all fire safety requirements had been met in full during the construction process.

Barnet is the fifth to be opened by the Ark Academy group of free schools. Ms Ryan, who was appointed principal in September, was previously vice principal at the Wembley Ark Academy, which opened in 2010.

“All four of the Ark Academies in London are rated as outstanding by Ofsted and I hope to repeat that level of popularity here in Barnet. The Ark John Keats Academy at Enfield started with a catchment area of six miles, but that has now reduced to 0.3 miles which indicates its success.”

At least one bit of the ailing High Street is in the Pink



Tracie Murchison (left) and Petra Patrick believe the Pink Shop offers small creative businesses a valuable High Street outlet
Injecting fresh life into High Barnet's distressed High Street is a challenge for retailers, but two women entrepreneurs believe that their range of a frequently-changing craft goods and products is proving popular, writes Nick Jones.

Tracie Murchison and Petra Patrick opened the Pink Shop in a former café at the High Street entrance to Brake Shear House, and in the six months they have been trading, 60 small creative businesses have rented tables to sell their merchandise.

Most displays change every two weeks, so a fresh range of products is regularly on offer and their pitch is that shoppers should call in to see who is "popping up in the Pink Shop".

The Brake Shear House complex of workshops and buildings, including the Pink Shop's premises, are earmarked for demolition to make way for two blocks of flats but the redevelopment by Shanly Homes is currently on hold and several businesses and traders have taken

short-term leases of vacant workshops and properties.

The challenge facing Barnet High Street is highlighted by a recent run of shop closures.

Quality Jewellers, close to the Pink Shop, is the latest to close its doors but other recently-vacated premises nearby include Reni's café and Shake-Tastic smoothies, and further along the High Street, Clarks' shoe shop and the Londis convenience store. Ms Patrick said she and her partner believed that a shop offering a frequently changing array of goods and products – including jewellery, pottery, soaps, clothing, vintage and reclaimed items and interior design – was a concept that was innovative and attractive to artists and creative businesses.

"At any one time, there are an average of eight or nine different traders and businesses renting our display tables and we aim to change them every two weeks, so there is a constant turnover of products on offer.

"We can offer small business, artists

and craft makers a High Street presence rather than having to opt for fairs and markets which can be highly unreliable.

"Our aim is to be highly flexible in what we offer, so in late April we hosted a pop-up fashion event for Little Beans to display a range of luxury clothing brands and children's clothes and shoes."

Ms Murchison said they were delighted to have given a new lease of life to their High Street shop, which is an attractive bow-fronted property dating back to the early 1900s and which most recently was a café but prior to that a launderette.

The two entrepreneurs, both individual craftswomen, are no strangers to the concept of pop up shops in High Barnet.

They were among the original backers of Room 89 and Love Barnet's pop-up shop.

Ms Patrick has developed a range of hand-made beaded and gemstone jewellery and Ms Murchison creates one-off art works and decorative items.



Quality Jewellers and Shake-Tastic smoothies are two of the latest casualties in a recent run of shop closures in Barnet High Street.

Child's play, as mum's grown-up idea wins entrepreneur award

A business plan for opening a combined space for a children's play area and community activities in Barnet High Street has won this year's Entrepreneurial Barnet Competition.

Joanne Merchant, a High Barnet mother of two, scooped up the top prize of £3,000 in financial backing plus business mentoring advice.

She launched her plan to open a High Street family hub – to be known as the When I Grow Up Club – last year and started a crowd-funding appeal. She beat three other finalists from a field of 70 entries, including students from Middlesex University, Barnet and Southgate College and residents in the London Borough of Barnet with business or social enterprise ideas.

On being declared the winner, she told guests at the grand final "It all feels very surreal. I have never won anything before, so I am really shocked to win, but I'm overwhelmed and really happy."

Gail Laser, founder of Love Barnet, congratulated Ms Merchant on her presentation in the finals of the competition, which is sponsored jointly by Middlesex University, Barnet Council, Brent Cross, and Barnet and Southgate College.

"Jo's business plan was well prepared and really focused at a community level, ticking all the boxes about regenerating the High Street by attracting new businesses."

Ms Merchant's proposed location for the family hub is a building on the east side of the High Street close to the junction with St Albans Road, which is currently occupied as an office and showroom for the estate agents Statons.

If she can attract investors for her business plan, which would require a budget of £260,000, she would take out a lease on the premises and fit out the showroom with a



Mother of two Joanne Merchant with the judging panel for Barnet entrepreneurs' award. From left to right, Sharniya Ferdinand, Vanessa Fernandes, Joanne Merchant, Steve Leverton, Terry Magennis

bespoke children's play area, a café for healthy eating, retail space and an area for creative classes, events and workshops. She has already secured planning permission for the building's potential change of use.

"High Barnet is a family-dense area and an innovative, inspiring and creative hub for families and the community will help transform the High Street which has never fully recovered from the recession.

"Winning this award will help to pay my fees and means I can now go out and seek backing from potential investors.

"My long-term plan is to create a When I Grow Up franchise and open family hubs in other high street."

The three other finalists were Zac Morrison, a first-year Middlesex University student, with a pitch for his start-up Mono-Designs which sells clothing and bags printed with art work; Avinoam Baruch, who

proposed a real-time forecasting model for street-level flood prediction; and Anthony McCollum who outlined his nutrition selection App known as Foodwatts.

The four finalists were each awarded £500 and the top prize was £3,000 to invest in the business, plus mentoring advice.

The judges were Terry Magennis, of Hammerson, co-owner of Brent Cross; Steve Leverton of business financial specialists Cornmill Associates; Sharniya Ferdinand, business inclusion co-ordinator at NatWest; and Vanessa Fernandes, a beauty company managing director and Middlesex University



Artist's impression of the children's play area in the When I Grow Up family hub

Hunger the fallout from benefits mess

Chipping Barnet foodbank is currently experiencing a spike in demand following the introduction of universal credit which is resulting in some social security claimants finding themselves caught out by the loss of previous benefits, writes Nick Jones

Barnet is one of the areas where the switch to universal credit is underway and volunteer helpers believe this is leading to arrears in payments, a rise in hardship and an increase in requests for food and essential supplies.

The foodbank – at St Peter’s Roman Catholic Church, Somerset Road, New Barnet – is open on Tuesdays between 12 noon to 2pm, and on Saturdays, between 10am and 12 noon.

At the Tuesday foodbank, one woman who arrived early said it was only her second visit.

She was desperate for help because she said her social security payments were £400 in arrears. Her job seeker’s allowance and housing benefit had both been stopped but her first universal credit payment had yet to



Helpers Jacqui Hoye and Jane Cattell

be paid. “I’m now behind with my rent and council tax, and it is very worrying for me and my boy, who is at college and who gets very hungry. It has been a real relief being able to come to the foodbank.”

Her story was said by foodbank warehouse manager, Harold Williams, to reflect the added hardship from universal credit.

Chipping Barnet foodbank, established in 2012 and now supported by 160 volunteer helpers, has experienced a steady increase

in demand. In the 12 months to last August, a total of 1,719 people were given food – including 673 children – and that represented a 4.6 per cent increase on 2017.

Mr Williams praised the generosity of Barnet residents, worshippers at seven churches, local schools and shoppers at the High Barnet and Whetstone branches of Waitrose and Morrisons at Borehamwood, who all help to make sure the foodbank is well supplied.



Harold Williams and Monica Phelps prepare various food items



Harold Williams, foodbank warehouse manager, checks dates of donated food

People needing help arrive with a voucher after being referred to the foodbank by a wide variety of local charities, agencies, doctors, priests and other front-line staff.

All donated food is stored and distributed according to sell-by dates and by keeping strictly to the expiry dates the foodbank ensures that as little as possible is wasted.

As well as an allocation of tins of meat, fish and vegetables, soups, cereals, puddings, sugar, tea, coffee and other essential non-perishable foodstuffs, the foodbank has a table offering extra treats where people can help themselves to whatever else might have been donated.

“At present we still have a selection of surplus Christmas treats that people can choose from the help-yourself-table. That is where we can offer other items, for example tinned

and packet products that might just be passed their best-before dates but are still entirely wholesome,” said Mr Williams.

“We do make use of almost everything we are given, and we are proud to say we throw away less than half of one per cent of all the food that is donated.

“One donation that definitely had to go in the bin was a 1995 tin of Plumrose chopped ham and pork. That’s the oldest item we’ve ever been given since we started in 2012 – but the Cardiff foodbank beat that with a 50-year-old tin of Campbells tomato soup.”

At the Tuesday foodbank, team leader Monica Phelps checked the vouchers of those seeking help and assessed their needs. Once they have been given their food allocation form – with varying amounts for single people and families – other volunteers hand out the food.

“We never really know how many people will arrive, but it has been noticeably busier recently and sometimes we have people queuing up outside the door.

“Since I have been helping, we have noticed an increase in the number of people coming to the foodbank who are in work but who still need help.”

Starring roles for Bull Theatre old girl

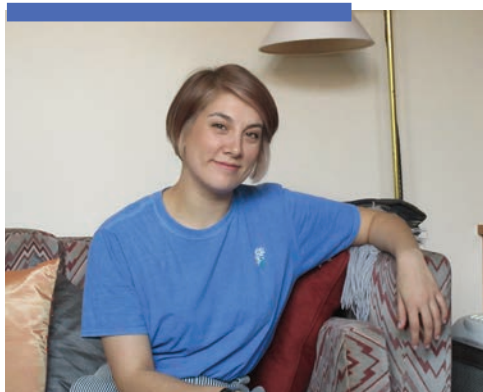
After-school drama classes at the Bull Theatre provided an all-important source of inspiration for a Barnet schoolgirl who is now starring in musical comedy productions that have regularly sold out at the annual Edinburgh Festival, writes Nick Jones.

Allie Munro (25) is currently touring the country with *Vulvarine*, the latest show by the Fat Rascal theatre company, which includes a London run starting in mid-June.

Vulvarine, which has a comic cartoon-like story line, is the fifth creation of Fat Rascal's artistic director Robyn Grant, who is busy writing their sixth show, which is a musical parody of a Disney fairy tale, ready for this year's Edinburgh Festival.

Allie and Robyn studied together at the University of Essex's East 15 acting school at Loughton.

At the end of their acting and contemporary drama course, they staged their first joint show *Buzz*, a musical comedy, which was written and directed by Robyn, and in which Allie took the lead.



Allie relaxing at home

Then, they took *Buzz* to the 2016 Edinburgh Festival and sold out their month's run.

"Performing lead parts in Fat Rascal productions is a dream come true," said Allie, whose long-term ambition is a career in West End theatre.

"Robyn is such a fantastic writer and lyricist, and she so values the input of the rest of the company, that we work really well together as a team.

"Her scripts are very risqué and empowering; very current too with

lots of pop culture references and digs at the political themes of today.

"We were over the moon when one reviewer suggested Robyn's imagination and writing was as inspiring as that of the *Fleabag* creator, Phoebe Waller-Bridge."

The success of Fat Rascal's two founders so soon after leaving acting school is an illustration of the strength of British theatre and the seemingly limitless opportunities for aspiring actors, writers, dramatists and artists.

Allie's love of theatre began when she and a friend, Katharine Armitage, who both lived near Ravenscroft Park, staged plays in the garage at Katharine's house

"We were only seven or eight and we called it the Blue Hutch Theatre – named after Kathryn's blue rabbit that lived in the garage. We used to raise money from our performances for Cherry Lodge cancer care."

Allie then did after-school acting classes at the Bull Theatre, and also with Stagecoach in East Barnet, before securing a place at East 15.

"*Buzz* was our first production on graduating and Robyn's script was very British, very tongue in cheek, a musical comedy all about the history of a woman's vibrator, and it went down a bomb at the 2016 Edinburgh Festival.

"We followed that at the Drayton Arms theatre in Kensington with a pantomime, *Puss in Boots*, a political musical comedy about an evil king who locked up the queen, at the time when Donald Trump and Hilary Clinton were constantly in the



Allie Munro stars as a feminist super hero in *Vulvarine*

headlines. For the 2017 Edinburgh Festival, Robyn wrote another comedy musical, *Tom and Bunny Save the World*, all about how Britain survives when taken over by zombies who turn out to be strong, feisty female characters.

Fast Rascal's fourth production was *Beauty and the Beast*, another musical parody based on a gender swap between boys and girls.

Vulvarine, which is now on a UK tour, was written for the 2018 Edinburgh Festival, and again stars Allie as a feminist super hero who takes on and defeats a typical condescending mansplainer played by Robyn.

"Comedy theatre is a great British success. We do dry comedy so well in this country and audiences do relate to it.

"Feisty women are a running theme in our productions, not just girl friendly, but leading the story line.

In a way Brexit has helped us, giving Robyn so many themes to exploit and plenty of punchlines.

"Robyn has pulled together a tremendous team since she set up Fast Rascal. We now have a producer Laura Elms; we get help from a composer; and everybody chips in with ideas for our song and dance routines. To begin with we were just scraping by financially, but we are now getting an income from our efforts."

Vulvarine: June 11-July 6, King's Head Theatre, Islington

A clean sweep for anti-litter volunteers



Clean-up volunteers, including (from left to right) organiser Nanna Blomquist, MP Theresa Villiers, Alex Blomquist and Barnet Councillor David Longstaff

A spring clean-up of litter organised by the High Barnet Green Beings community group attracted over 90 volunteers and was such a success that plans are already being made for a repeat anti-litter drive in early summer, writes Nick Jones.

Nanna Blomquist, a mother-of-three, organised the Saturday afternoon clean-up to promote the launch of a local group of Green Beings to campaign for greater environmental awareness.

Such was the enthusiasm of the volunteers, who included the Chipping Barnet MP Theresa Villiers and Barnet Councillor David Longstaff, that Ms Blomquist was able to declare that numerous side roads and locations were “unrecognisably litter free” for the first time for years.

Priority was given to streets and passages leading off the High Street, including Moxon Street, the passageway and approach road to High Barnet tube station, gardens around Chipping Barnet Library, Wellhouse Lane bus terminus and the Byng Road playing fields



and car park. “It was a fantastic afternoon. The interest and support from passers-by was incredibly encouraging and we are now looking forward to an even more successful clean-up in the early summer,” said Ms Blomquist.



Family affair

She organised a crowd funding appeal <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/for-a-greener-cleaner-and-better-high-barnet> to raise money towards the cost of purchasing high-visibility vests and long-handled litter pickers.

“Thank you to everyone who donated. We would like to grow the fund further so we can print flyers and other marketing material for future events.

“Our next target is tackling the massive and disgusting problem of cigarette butts littering the streets and parks.

“Together we can make High Barnet a more sustainable, greener, cleaner and better place to live.”

Theresa Villiers paid tribute to

Ms Blomquist for her initiative and praised the volunteers who had taken part in the Green Beings’ first clean-up. “It was a pleasure to join in and do my bit. I feel strongly about the need to combat litter and it was great to meet like-minded people who are prepared to get stuck in.

“I have asked Transport for London many times to clean-up the land around High Barnet tube station, but they never do.

“The Green Beings team did a fantastic job, and the areas they targeted are looking so much better.”

Barnet Council supplied 200 plastic refuse sacks for the clean-up and collected them from Church Passage and other locations.

FINE MESS

Littering: £80, £50 if paid within 10 days. *Dropping litter anywhere is an offence. Litter is everything from food packaging to cigarette butts and chewing gum. It can also include feeding birds.*

Dog fouling: £80, £50 if paid within 10 days. *If your dog fouls in a public place and you fail to pick it up it, it is an offence.*

Spitting: £80, £50 if paid within 10 days *It is an offence to spit on public surfaces, roads, pavements or streets.*

Urinating: £80, £50 if paid within 10 days. *It is an offence to urinate on public surfaces, roads, pavements or streets.*

Flyposting: £80, £50 if paid within 10 days. *It is an offence to displaying advertising material on buildings and street furniture without the consent of the owner.*

Fly-tipping: You could be fined £400 (£300 if paid within 10 days) or prosecuted. *Fly-tipping is the illegal dumping of waste. It can vary in scale significantly, from a bin bag of rubbish to larger bulky waste items dumped, such as mattresses or white goods.*

Commercial waste duty of care: £300, £180 if paid within 10 days *Businesses have a duty of care to ensure their waste is removed by a licensed waste carrier. If we suspect a business is not dealing with its waste correctly, we can issue a notice requiring the production of waste transfer documents. Failure to produce the documents results in the issue of a fine. Businesses can find out more about their.*

Accommodation for nurses: old and new

Barnet Hospital's first nurses' home, now used for offices, is celebrating the 90th anniversary of its opening – just as work is underway to provide new accommodation for key nursing staff.

The original nurses' home – built for what was then known as the Wellhouse Hospital – is situated in Bells Hill, and the opening ceremony on 14 March 1929 was performed by the Marchioness of Salisbury.

After several decades without a nurses' home, Barnet Hospital will soon be able, once again, to offer accommodation for its key nursing staff.

Work is underway to convert a former Barnet College building at the corner of Fitzjohn Avenue and the High Street.

Graseby House, which was opened in 1995 to provide student accommodation and a teaching area and spa for students on beauty and therapy courses, is being



Below: the original nurses' home invite from 1929



Above: Barnet Hospital nurses' home barriers

adapted to provide nursing staff accommodation on the first, second and third floors.

On the ground floor there will be NHS offices and a walk-in advice hub supported by the Royal Free charity.

The former Bells Hill nurses' home, now in a poor state of repair, is being used as offices by several NHS directorates.

Barnet Hospital has had an on/off policy when it comes to providing accommodation for its nursing staff and other key workers.

Blocks of new flats for the nurses were built opposite the Arkley public house but after lying derelict for many years were recently demolished to make way for the new Elmbank estate built by Linden Homes.

Another former nurses' home, for staff at the ex-Victoria Maternity Hospital, is about to be demolished to make way for a new care home on the Marie Foster site in Wood Street.

The opening of the Bells Hill nurses' home in 1929 followed the redevelopment of the Barnet Union Workhouse, which was renamed the Wellhouse Hospital in 1920.

Wellhouse Hospital had become a recognised training school for



Graseby House on the High Street, which will be the new nurses' home

probationer nurses and the Barnet Guardians realised that if they were to have adequate staff "they must provide accommodation for their nurses and other female officers".

Wellhouse Hospital was renamed Barnet General Hospital in 1950 and is now part of the Royal Free NHS Foundation Trust.

Some of the windows and doors of the former nurses' home are boarded up for safety reasons and the only clue to its current use is a notice stating that it is Thames House and is used as offices for the post-graduate medical centre annex, the surgical and medical directorates and the women's and children's directorates.

In response to questions about the poor state of repair of the former nurses' home, the Royal Free Foundation Trust said that it was "considering options" for its long-term future.

Help at Spires for heart attack victims

Staff and sales assistants at the Spires shopping centre are keen to publicise the location of a defibrillator that has been installed at the High Street entrance with the help of a £500 donation from the Barnet Residents Association.

Already many of those employed at the centre have been trained to operate a defibrillator and they hope shoppers and passers by will make a note of its location and take time to

read the instructions. If a member of staff is not available – and the defibrillator can be accessed even when the Spires is closed – all it needs is a 999 call to get the code to unlock the equipment and start resuscitation.

The installation of the defibrillator is just one of the community-inspired initiatives of the Spires management.

Fern Golder, who has an Institute of Occupational Safety and Health



Fern Golder with Spires defibrillator certificate, is among the Spires' staff who have been trained to use the defibrillator

Open all hours: petition against park plan

Barnet Council's latest cost-cutting proposal is to end the long-standing practice of locking up gates to parks, gardens and car parks at nightfall, writes Nick Jones.

Abandoning this safeguard – which was introduced to prevent anti-social behaviour and vandalism – could eventually save the council £75,000 a year.

So far there is no plan to cease the overnight locking up of prominent High Barnet parks such as Ravenscroft Gardens or the Old Court House Recreation Ground.

But the council's environment committee has decided to make a start at six locations, including Tudor Sports Ground in Clifford Road, New Barnet; Oak Hill Park, East Barnet; and Dame Alice Sports Ground, Oakleigh Park.

A petition protesting at the plan to leave parks, green spaces and car parks unlocked overnight has already attracted over 1,500 signatures.

Roger Chapman, organiser of the protest, is urging local residents to

express their opposition to this “false economy” by adding their names online: <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/keep-barnet-parks-locked-overnight>

The six sites chosen for the first phase of the cost-saving scheme are only partially locked at dusk, and there is already access at night at other points.

“Therefore, ceasing locking at these six pilot sites would have no impact on the security or safety of the park,” says a report presented to the committee.

Consultations will now be held about ceasing the locking at dusk of park gates at six other locations, including Greenhill Gardens on the Great North Road and Highlands Gardens in Leicester Road, New Barnet.

In order to assess the impact of ending overnight locking-up, the committee has asked council staff to list and investigate the number of incidents of anti-social behaviour at the six pilot sites and then take that into consideration before proceeding further with the six sites in the second phase.

The committee says there are currently no proposals to cease overnight locking at 14 other locations, including Old Court Recreation Ground; Ravenscroft Gardens; and Victoria Park, in Ballards Lane.

Before proposals are considered for any extension of the scheme, the committee will review impact of ceasing overnight locking at the six pilot sites and then the six sites in phase two.

When the committee decided to

start the withdrawal of overnight locking, they were told that “unfortunately” no response had been received in time from the police.

However, any comments from the police will be included in public consultation about future implementation of the new policy.

A survey of crime and anti-social behaviour in Barnet's parks singled out Old Court House Recreation Ground as one of those which the police considered was among “the most problematic” because of issues such as moped riding, underage drinking, noise and taking of prohibited substances.

In 2018 there were three anti-social behaviour incidents in both Old Court House Recreation Ground and Ravenscroft Gardens.

In his petition, Mr Chapman said he considered this a “false economy” on the council's part because he is convinced it will lead to an increase in anti-social behaviour and vandalism, as happened in the past when the parks were left unlocked.

“Many Barnet parks are currently locked at night, and as locked parks are often surrounded by residential properties, this increases safety to residents and their property.

“Rather than save the council and police money, this will increase costs in the long run.

“Since the council proposed this measure to leave parks unlocked overnight in November 2018, there has been no public consultation and it is purely a short-term money saving measure.”



Anyone for table tennis?



The Spires has opened a ping-pong lounge free for youngsters.

Fern Golder, the Spires' centre administrator, said the two table-tennis tables inside a vacant shop unit have been in almost constant use since they were set up last year, and they have been much appreciated by local children and pupils at nearby schools and Barnet College.



Early break sets Bones on way to 60 years



Joan Bone serving customers at her husband's fruit and vegetable stall just inside the St Albans Road entrance to the former Barnet Market

David and Tyler Bone are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the opening of the family's fruit and vegetable stall at Barnet Market, writes Nick Jones.

Their success can be gauged by the length of the queues that form every Wednesday and Saturday morning for the fresh produce which the Bones have purchased the night before at the new Spitalfields Market in Leyton.

Tyler Bone recently took over running the business from his father David, son of Albert Bone who in 1959 opened the first fruit and vegetable stall at what was then the Barnet cattle market.

"My father Albert used to buy chickens, eggs and rabbits at the market for his green grocer's shop in Edmonton, and one day he asked the market gvnor, Mr Young, if he could start a fruit and vegetable stall" - David Bone.



Father and son, David and Tyler Bone

"It was such a success that my dad gave up his shop for the twice-weekly stall in Barnet.

"I started working on the stall when I was seven and when I left school dad let me open a separate vegetable stall and we have been here ever since.



David Bone set up a stall alongside his father's fruit stall after leaving school

"It's always been a family affair. My father's father, Albert Bone senior, used to help, and now my son Tyler runs the business, so that's four generations who've been serving at the market.

"Over the years the whole family has come along: my dad's wife Joan helped him with the stall, as did her mum May, and so did my sisters, Roma and Rachel.

"The family connections live on and we get second and third generation customers coming up to us and they are always asking how everyone is."

Tyler Bone, who is 28, hopes the family's name will live on at Barnet. "I'd love to see a fifth generation Bone

helping on the stall. I'm working on it!"

Much of the stall's success is due to the wide range of Indian, Oriental and Caribbean fruit and vegetables that the Bones have on sale.

"We arrive with our lorry at the new Spitalfields Market in Leyton at 11pm on Tuesday and Friday nights and then scour the market for the fruit and vegetables we hope will sell well.

"Of course, the supermarkets can beat us, so we are always hunting for produce that you can't get at the price or quality that we can offer.

"We get back to Barnet at about 3am in the morning and start setting up the stall at 6am, ready for the market to open.

"We're getting used to our new pitch by the bandstand entrance to the Spires and hoping that one day the market area will be extended and improved."

Spires welcomes JD Sports

Well-known sportswear retailer JD Sports has opened a branch at The Spires and it is already proving to be a popular shopping attraction.

Kris Weeks, centre manager at The Spires, said: "We are really excited to welcome JD Sports to The Spires. It is brilliant news for our shoppers, who we know will love being able to buy brands like Nike, Adidas, Calvin Klein and The North Face right here in Barnet."



JD Sports is the latest multiple to open an outlet in the Spires. Manager Gabriel Raducanu is pictured with sales assistant Stacie Levy

A welcome buzz about the place

Robin Bishop, Chair's Annual Report



There seems more buzz about Chipping Barnet lately, and the Barnet Society can claim some of the credit. We know our area is full of interest - historical, architectural and natural. The problem is protecting its qualities and persuading the Council and others to invest in their enhancement.

Our leading campaigner has been Gail Laser, longstanding Committee Member and recently Vice Chair, who was declared one of four local champions for 2018 by the national Save The High Street campaign and

was runner-up for a Visa/Daily Mirror High Street Heroes Award. For over a decade, Gail (and a few others) have been fighting to improve our town centre. Progress has often seemed glacial, so it's great that she's received national recognition.

Over the last year, Barnet Market has joined the Teenage Market on The Spires bandstand site; the future of both is looking better. Our High Street may still be struggling, but new shops are opening in and around The Spires. A hotel is being built.

Mixed residential and workspace projects are being proposed for the

Brake Shear House site and for Moxon Street. Our neighbourhood demographics are changing as housing at Elmbank, Brook Valley Gardens and elsewhere is built out, so there's a new market for local goods and services to be tapped.

Visitor numbers have increased: 6,000 came to watch the re-enactment of the Battle of Barnet on the Byng Road playing fields last summer, many from miles away, and more are expected at this year's repeat on 8 & 9 June. The Wars of the Roses – Barnet's own Game of Thrones – has triggered a popular appetite for our history. Only a few years ago Barnet Museum was threatened with closure; now it is thriving, and the Council has realised that our heritage is an asset.

The Society didn't instigate these initiatives, but we've supported them wherever we can. And we did initiate (20 years ago) the idea of greening Chipping Barnet High Street. This summer it will go ahead at last, along with widening of the pavements and other pedestrian improvements. Working closely with the Chipping Barnet Town Team, the Society helped win funding from the Mayor of London and get public support for the project, and we are finalising design details with Highways as I write.

When the government announced a Future High Streets Fund, the Council prioritised North Finchley for its bid. We and the Town Team insisted that it should also include Chipping Barnet, and we were given three weeks to put together a case.

Together, we did it. We identified the problem: Chipping Barnet is an old market and coaching town in need of transformation.

And we agreed that it has potential as a hub for creative and niche small and medium enterprises, a destination for tourists and a base for countryside explorers. It's a modest but achievable aim.

Activities like these have raised the Society's profile and attracted significantly more members and donations, for which we're most grateful.

2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - NOTICE

The 74th Annual General Meeting of The Barnet Society will be held at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 13 June 2019 at St Mark's Church, Potters Road, Barnet EN5 5HY for the following business: (Please note change from our usual venue)

1. Talk (to be arranged)
2. Approval of the minutes of the 73rd AGM on 14 June 2018
3. Approval of the 73rd Annual Report (comprising Chair's, Planning & Environment and Membership Reports)
4. Approval of the Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2019
5. Election of Independent Examiner
6. Election of Treasurer: Derek Epstein is proposed by the Committee. (All other Officers continue in post)
7. Election of members to serve on the Committee
8. Any other business.

The Membership Secretary's report will be presented at the AGM

Light refreshments will be served

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2018-19

President	Aubrey Rose
Vice Presidents	Judith Clouston, David Lee, Jenny Remfry, Robin Marson
Independent Examiner	Jim Nelhams
Committee Members 2018-19:	
Chair	Robin Bishop (until 2020);
Vice Chair	Nick Jones (until 2021);
Secretary	Jonathan Supran (until 2021);
Treasurer	Mary Carroll (until 2019);
Membership Secretary	John Hay (until 2020);
Minutes Secretary	Frances Wilson (until 2021) Jessica Vamathevan (until 2020); Simon Cohen, Andrew Hutchings, Gail Laser, Eamonn Rafferty (until 2021); Susan Skedd (until 2021) John Gardiner & Andreas Tjirkalli (co-opted)

You are welcome to raise points from the floor or stand for the Committee on the day, but if possible write/speak to me beforehand.

Robin Bishop, Chair

robin.bishop@gmx.co.uk 020 8449 0088 / 07913 107046

Sunset View is key conservation victory

Robin Bishop, Annual Planning & Environment Report

Our most significant planning success last year was the rejection of substantial extensions to No.1 Sunset View. It's a fine Arts & Crafts house in the Monken Hadley Conservation Area (CA) which we've nominated to join the Local List of buildings of architectural interest. Although the Council had refused it, the owner went to appeal. Had he succeeded, it would have defeated the whole point of a CA and severely impaired his neighbours' daylight and views. In gratitude for our advice and support over two years, Bill & Sherrie Foster most kindly donated £250 to the Society.

Casework has been busier than I can recall. In the last year we've reviewed over 100 planning applications and commented on 35. We objected to 21, supported 11 and were neutral about 3. In 68% of the cases the planners have agreed with us. But several big cases we've been involved with are still unresolved.

Plans for 150 new homes on the Whalebones Estate were exhibited in February, but no application has yet been submitted. There's much to be said for the designs, but the necessity for so much development on this vital green space in the Wood Street CA hasn't been explained. Unless the plans are scaled down, the Committee is minded to oppose them.

We were neutral about the revised scheme for Brake Shear House (186 High Street) but objected to residential overdevelopments at Kingmaker House (New Barnet) and Meadow Works (Pricklers Hill, v2); planning decisions on all are awaited.

The most controversial case was for a Premier Inn on the old market site. After consulting our members, there was a clear majority in favour. The least controversial, for a care home on the former Marie Foster Home site, we also supported. The planners approved both.

Broader planning matters have also kept us busy. We stay abreast of developments in and around London via active membership of the Federation of Residents' Associations of Barnet, the London Forum and the London Green Belt Council (LGBC),



No.1 Sunset View, a fine Arts & Craft house has been nominated for the Local List. Extensions to the side and back of the property have been refused

and I've accepted an invitation to sit on the LGBC Executive Council.

We commented in detail on the Mayor of London's draft London Plan. We also commented on Hertsmere and Enfield's draft plans, both of which contain proposals to build on Green Belt land close to our borders.

Safeguarding our green spaces has been especially important. The biggest this year, Whalebones, I've already mentioned. We also objected to small but concerning proposals in the Green Belt off Meadway (new classrooms for The Pavilion Study Centre – decision awaited) and Barnet Road (a warehouse behind No.129 - refused). We expressed concern, too, about the Council's idea for a community and leisure hub on Barnet Playing Fields. Not

only would this be the size of a small primary school in the middle of Green Belt land, it would duplicate facilities supposed to be available for community use at the adjacent Ark Pioneer Academy! Elsewhere, in Haringey, we've objected to the Pinkham Way Site of Importance for Nature Conservation being included in the North London Waste Plan (to which Barnet belongs).

Barnet's own draft Local Plan should be out by the time you read this.

As part of that, we commented (generally favourably) on Barnet's draft Housing and Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategies. We also supported the Council's proposed policy to discontinue developers' right to convert commercial buildings into housing without needing planning permission.

We supported, too, the Council's proposed High Barnet Public Space Protection Order to control rough sleeping and public nuisance. We also opposed changes to some local bus routes, including reducing the number of streets served by the 384 (decision awaited).

In addition, we responded in detail to the Council's consultation on its contracts with Capita, particularly criticising the poor performance of regeneration, highways, planning enforcement and customer services. We favoured in-house services and argued for more joined-up approaches, including more meaningful engagement with local organisations like ours.

Finally, a few recent news items...

Rejected:

- Avalon, Rowley Lane – We had objected to this pretentious overdevelopment (8 flats behind a palazzo façade, v2).
- Cotswold Lodge, Stapylton Road – To our surprise, after we had supported this careful makeover proposal.
- 151-153 High Street – We were neutral about the replacement front extension and 7 homes that would have replaced HR Owen's car premises.

Withdrawn:

- 50 St Albans Road (fka The White Lion) – The former coaching inn's stables have been saved for now.

Report and Accounts 2018/19

Barnet Society Accounts : 2018/19

Profit & Loss

	Apr '18 - Mar 19	Apr '17 - Mar 18	£ Change
INCOME			
Membership Fees	4,543.83	4,074.31	+470
Accrued Mem'ship Income for 19/20	40.00	0.00	+40
Member Donations	571.50	0.00	+572
Sir Sydney Chapman Legacy	1,000.00	268.00	+732
Bank Interest Earned	8.14	2.70	+5
Book Sales	30.00	100.00	-70
Total Income	6,193.47	4,445.01	+1,748
Gross Profit	6,193.47	4,445.01	+1,748
EXPENSE			
Bank Fees			
Paypal Fees	43.74	38.32	+5
Bank Fees - Other	22.99	19.00	-19
Total Bank Fees	66.73	57.32	-14
Computers and Internet			
Software	270.84	515.16	-244
Website	0.00	80.25	-80
Total Computers and Internet	270.84	595.41	-325
Donations & Contributions			
Barnet Teenage Market	0.00	500.00	-500
Donations & Contributions	50.00	20.00	+30
Total Donations & Contributions	50.00	520.00	-470
Events			
AGM Event	194.82	154.80	+40
Annual Q&A - Beyond Brexit	131.77	407.05	-275
Xmas Stall Event	121.00	141.00	-20
Total Events	447.59	702.85	-255
Honorariums			
Arrears payment from 17/18	500.00	0.00	+500
Quarters 1-4 (in arrears)	2,000.00	2,000.00	
Total Honorariums	2,500.00	2,000.00	+500
Newsletter			
Design	1,004.00	750.00	+254
Printing	1,377.00	1,700.06	-323
Post & Stationery	651.12	0.00	+651
Total Newsletter	3,032.12	2,450.06	+582
General Expenses			
Subscriptions	105.00	150.00	-45
Accrual - Open Spaces Sub.	45.00	0.00	+45
Postage	20.00	0.00	+20
Gifts & Flowers	0.00	170.00	-170
Travel & Subsistence	28.20	0.00	+28
Printing - Leaflets & Banners	231.54	293.54	-62
Total General Expenses	429.74	613.54	-184
Total Expense	6,797.02	6,939.18	-142
Net Ordinary Income	(603.55)	(2,494.17)	+1,748
Profit for the Year	(603.55)	(2,494.17)	-1,891

These accounts have been independently examined and verified.

Barnet Society Year Ending : 31st March 2019

Balance Sheet

	31 Mar 2019	31 Mar 2018
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Accrued Income	40.00	0.00
Books and Post Cards	30.00	30.00
Total Current Assets	70.00	30.00
Cash at bank and in hand		
HSBC - Deposit Acct	4,722.92	5,414.78
HSBC 2381	484.02	160.99
PayPal	26.88	256.60
Total Cash at bank and in hand	5,233.82	5,832.37
Total Current Assets	5,303.82	5,862.37
Current Liabilities		
Accrued expenses	45.00	45.00
Total Current Liabilities	45.00	45.00
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	5,258.82	5,862.37
NET ASSETS	5,258.82	5,862.37
Capital and Reserves		
May Finnerty Memoriam Reserve	1,000.00	1,000.00
Capital Account	4,862.37	7,356.54
Profit for the Year	(603.55)	(2,494.17)
Shareholder funds	5,258.82	5,862.37

Note to the accounts: The Society also holds a stock of 473 copies of Rambles Round Barnet books, parts 1 & 2

Commentary

INCOME

Overall income rose due to an increase in members, a legacy and donations from members.

Membership fees increased by 12% due to extra marketing and PR events.

In April '18, the Society received £1,000 from the will of the Late Sir Sydney Brookes Chapman.

There were donations of £350 from individual members and £185 collected from the Beyond Brexit event.

Sales from books and postcards have fallen.

EXPENDITURE

IT costs fell 47%, mainly due to website design updates.

Expenditure on events including the AGM was reduced.

Honorarium payments included a £500 late payment from the previous year.

The quarterly newsletter had an increase in both design and printing. The design increase was due to a change in supplier and an updated look.

The printing increase was primarily due to 180 additional copies for the Spring publication, reflecting an increase in membership, and an increase in price per copy.

Annual affiliation subscriptions are made to: The London Green Belt Society, The London Forum, Open Spaces Society and Federation of Residents' Associations in Barnet.

BALANCE SHEET

The net result of all income and expenditure this year shows a loss of £603.55. Although still a loss, there was an overall improvement on the previous year of £1,890.62

Continuing to invest in the quality of the newsletters, events, website and social media to increase in awareness of the society is having a positive impact on income.

As a result of the lower loss made this year, the amount of funds available remain steady and healthy.

The total funds available as of 31st March 2019 are £5,258.82

Last year's AGM minutes

THE BARNET SOCIETY

Minutes of the 73rd Annual General Meeting

Held at Christ Church St Albans Road
Barnet EN5 4LA

Thursday 14th June 2018

Chairman

Robin Bishop welcomed everyone to the formal proceedings of the AGM.

Present

There were 46 members present.

Apologies for Absence

Angela & Peter Morris, Derek Epstein, Bill & Sherrie Foster, John & Elizabeth Hodgson, David Lee, Tricia Narracott-Wales and Adele Winston

1.0 Approval of Minutes of the 72nd AGM 15th June'17

RB said the Minutes were published in the latest Newsletter – Approval was proposed by Nick Jones and all voted in favour with none against.

2.0 Approval of 73rd Annual Report

2.1 Chairman's report

Robin Bishop said it had been a good year for the Society - his report is published in the latest Newsletter so he provided some updates. We held a very successful Forum in February when we invited 13 Councillor candidates to answer questions about their proposals regarding local building, planning and environmental issues. We are not a political organisation and cannot say we influenced the local election results, but we did raise local awareness about these issues. We have, however, made ourselves heard on a wide range of topics including major developments such as the Ark Pioneer Academy and the high street pavement build-outs and tree planting.

He thanked in particular Nick Jones our 'Barnet Bulldog' and our webmaster Martin Standley and Newsletter editor Eamonn Rafferty,

who have all helped raise our profile. We also had a stall next to the Town Team at the Christmas Fayre and the Medieval Festival where we showed new proposals for the area together with our responses and suggestions. There was interest in the work we are doing and this has led to our membership increasing which is higher now than it has been for a decade.

GDPR – Robin said we had done our best to adopt the regulations regarding data protection. We have reviewed and documented our membership data procedures and sent all our existing members a letter asking them to consent to us keeping their personal details. He asked members if they had done their part as they have to reply to the letter or we will not be able to send them any more news.

2.2 Planning & Environment Report

Robin Bishop has published his report in the latest Newsletter giving details of all the projects that have been examined and commented on. There are some major developments in the pipeline which will have a big impact on the area. We have also commented on the Mayor of London's draft strategies for transport, environment and housing. However despite our high profile it has been depressingly difficult to get the ears of the Council let alone any action but there is one case where we could make a difference

• **The High Street pedestrian improvements** – The Council consultation is taking place now and there is only one week left for you to register your support for the scheme. The Council has displayed the scheme in the library and on line. Together with Barnet Residents Association, we are exhibiting in the shop in the Spires and asking for your comments.

We have been working for years to enhance the town centre and we support this scheme subject to details of tree species and signage this is our last chance and it is being paid for by TfL.

Other Public Consultations

• **Barnet & King George V Playing Fields** – Barnet have asked for suggestions to improve these but unfortunately this received very little publicity and we had no time to respond.

• **Feasibility study for a new community sport and leisure facility** – This is on the site of the former pavilion on the KGV site.

• **Whalebones** – The developers have been consulting with us for the past 18 months on the future of the estate. The latest proposal is to accommodate the artists and bee-keepers close to the hospital, there will be publicly-accessible woodland along Wood Street and 100-180 new homes adjoining the Elmbank development. The Society's current position is as stated 2 years ago. There are 2 criteria which should underpin this development.

1. Any new building or landscape must be of high design quality
2. It must be an exemplar of environmental sustainability, retaining as much existing natural habitat as possible.

• **Meadow Works** – Last year we objected successfully to a planning application to demolish all the small businesses on the site and build a 6 storey wedge of 78 flats quite alien to the 2 storey houses around it. A scaled-down version has now been submitted – a 3&4 storey rectangular blocks with 57 flats – Again we have objected.

• **Barnet Market & Premier Inn** – These planning applications are linked as we are committed to securing the future of the market. A hotel was not our first choice use of the market site but we felt it was an unusually sympathetic design and would bring economic benefits. We therefore support the proposals but with strict conditions which are published on line.

Opposing view to Barnet Market & Premier Inn Proposal

Nick Saul asked if he could present a contrary view to the above proposal. He said it was very serious that we

Continued on Page 16

Minutes from last year's AGM



Continued from Page 15

were giving away the protection of an old site as the market had a charter dating back many years but this is separate issue.

He said the developers were using a text book confidence trick proposing a four-storey hotel without a car park and no doubt when/if they got permission they would apply for more.

He said Premier Inn want to build 50 new hotels in London and this is one of many. He said there would be problems with neighbours, increased traffic and parking. He said there would be lorries coming in from outside and the imposition on neighbours would be intolerable. This is a residential area and not an overgrown car park. He said there would be no benefit to the town as staff will not be able to afford to live in Barnet.

Finally, Nick Saul said that he supported the Society's constitution but more effort should be made by the Committee to consult neighbours and general members of the public before responding to applications. Robin Bishop said it will be reviewed at our next Committee meeting in July and invited Nick Saul to attend.

2.3 Membership Report

John Hay has published his report in the Newsletter and he provided an update. Regarding GDPR a lot of members have responded to our request by letter and by clicking on

the button in email. He and Derek Epstein have been working on the current database in Excel and it can now produce renewal letters and everything else we want it to do. Membership dropped but has now picked up following our publicity and there will be 410 household memberships following the medieval festival.

3.0 Approval of the Treasurer's Report & Accounts for the year ended 31st March'18

Mary Pettinger (formerly Carroll) the Treasurer produced the report published in the Newsletter. It shows a net loss of all income and expenditure this year of £2,494.17 and the total funds available as of 31st March'18 are £5,862.37. They have been independently audited by Jim Nelhams.

The approval of the report was proposed by Robin Bishop and seconded by Jonathan Supran. Everyone approved.

4.0 Election of Independent Examiner for 2018-19

Jim Nelhams was nominated by Robin Bishop and seconded by Nick Jones and approved by all.

5.0 Election of Officers (3-year terms)

5.1 Continuing in post

Chair – Robin Bishop until 2020

Membership Secretary – John Hay until 2020

5.2 Proposed for election

Vice Chair – after 5 years Gail Laser is stepping down but will remain on the Committee. Eamonn Rafferty proposed Nick Jones and seconded by Nick Saul – Nick Jones was elected without opposition.

5.3 Proposed for re-election

Secretary - Jonathan Supran
Treasurer- Mary Pettinger (Carroll) until 2019 as moving house
Minutes Secretary – Frances Wilson Nominated by Committee and seconded by Jenny Remfry. All elected without opposition.

6.0 Election of members to serve on the Committee (3 year terms)

Continuing in post
Jessica Vamathevan until 2020
Proposed for re-election
Andrew Hutchings
Eamonn Rafferty
Gail Laser
John Gardiner
Nominated by Committee and seconded by Christine Klein. All elected without opposition
Proposed for election
Simon Cohen
Susan Skedd
Nominated by Robin Bishop and seconded by Jim Nelhams. Both elected without opposition.

7.0 Conclusion

Jenny Remfrey, Vice President, thanked Robin Bishop and the Committee for their hard work and wished them good luck in the coming year.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

