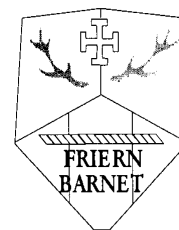


Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents' Association

Friern Barnet and Whetstone Residents' Association

- We are non-political
 - We work for all residents in the area
 - We discuss issues with Local Councillors and Council Officials
 - Associated with the following bodies
- | | |
|--|--|
| • The Federation of Residents' Association of Barnet | • The Friern Barnet & District Local History Society |
| • The Finchley Society | • Coppetts Wood Conservationists |
| • Friends of Friary Park | • The London Green Belt Council |
| • North Finchley Local Agenda 21 | |



March 2011

Internet (trial): <http://friernbarnetresidents.website.orange.co.uk>

Is the club Friern Barnet's best kept secret?

Situated right next door to Holly Park School in Bellevue Road, The Friern Barnet Club has been in existence for nearly 90 years. It is a social club and is open to members of the local community. It is a quiet place, a sanctuary, where you can go to get away from the noise and stress. It has a bar, a television room and in a separate room, three full size snooker tables.

The origins of the Club are interesting. In 1923 it was formed as the Friern Barnet ex-Servicemen's Club, and occupied premises, rented from the Council on the corner of Goldsmith Road and Friern Barnet Lane, next to the old Ambulance station.

In 1937 as part of the development of the site between Goldsmith Road and Friern Barnet Road, which provided the new Friern Barnet Town Hall, the Club purchased the plot next to Holly Park School. The building which now serves the Club, and occupies that plot of land, was put up by a local builder. In its new premises it changed its name to the Friern Barnet Club.



Friern Barnet Club in Bellevue Road is next to Holly Park School

These days local residents, instead of spending a relaxing evening in their sheds, can drop by the Club, and have a pint of lager or Guinness for £2:80 or a pint of bitter for £2:60, or a short for between £1:80 and £2:00. There they can have a quiet drink and maybe some conversation without being blasted out by loud music, or clanging gambling machines and without being close to drunken yobs.

The Club sees itself as being part of the local community. Recently it has made its premises available to the Incognito Theatre (about 100 yards away) for rehearsals, while the Incognito was undergoing rebuilding works.

It is open every evening from 7 pm to 11 pm except Thursdays and Saturdays, and from 12 am to 3 pm on Saturdays and Sundays. The Club is available for hire Saturday evenings and is currently available for hire in the daytime during the week, and so could be used for children's parties, mothers and toddlers groups, elderly groups or others looking for a hall to hire. So, should the Big Society come to Friern Barnet, the Club could be its meeting point.

To make contact about hiring the club call Dave on 07956 25 87 84 and arrange for him to show you around. Dave is at the Club every evening the Club is open.

Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents Association

AGM

**Wednesday 20th April 2011
at 7:30 p.m.**

**at Friary House in Friary Park,
entrance near corner of Friern Barnet
Lane and Friary Road, N11**

All Members Welcome

**The meeting will be followed by a
presentation from**

**Matt and Sharon Bell on —
“Localism—the power to change your
neighbourhood”**

Questionable figures threaten Barnet's Museum in Wood Street



Kitchens old and not so new—the array of artefacts the visitor sees on first entering the Museum

Many Friern Barnet and Whetstone residents are concerned about the threatened closure of Barnet Museum in Wood Street. Barnet Council are citing the need to make cut backs as the only reason they are seriously considering getting rid of Barnet's museums (the Church Farm Museum is also under threat).

The Council announce that they need to save millions of pounds and state that the Wood Street museum is an extravagance that can no longer be afforded. The Council says that the Museum costs £28,000 to run, for the year 2009-2010. This figure is incorrect. For example, they quote a 'building related cost' of £4000 and £2600 for 'building out for many years'.

The Barnet & District Local History Society have put forward business plan to the Council which would involve the Society managing the building and so saving the Council nearly all of the specious £28,000 per annum.

What is particularly galling is that while Central Government is calling for more local services to be run by volunteers, Barnet Museum is doing just that, and it is still threatened with closure.

Barnet Museum contains documents and objects relating to the history of Barnet and surrounding area, donated over the years by local residents. These include old maps, paintings, and a fine costume collection. The photograph above shows an array of household objects showing the changes in domestic life over the years. It was opened in 1938, closed during WWII, and opened ever since—

including the austerity years from 1945 –1953.

Savings can be made elsewhere. There is no reason why any Council employee should earn more than the Prime Minister. David Cameron has announced that he has accepted a salary of £142,500 per annum. This should be a benchmark for all public sector employees. Barnet Council, with great generosity, have four employees who earn more than the Prime Minister.

The Chief Executive (basic salary £200,000) and his 10 Directors have basic salaries which add up to £1.64 million per annum (as of January 2009), which is not the total cost to the people of Barnet. Barnet Council has to make a contribution to their National Insurance and their pensions, they have expenses such as travel, conferences, management training courses, possible bonuses, as well as the cost of offices and equipment.

The Directors could be socially aware and volunteer to reduce their pay so as to be not greater than that of the Prime Minister. There are obvious saving which could be made by merging various service departments, and so reducing the number of Directors. In fact Eric Pickles, the Government's Communities Secretary, has stated that council chief executives earning £200,000 or more should take a 10% pay cut and those earning £150,000 should take a 5% pay cut. Eric Pickles has also announced that any council officer being offered a salary greater than £100,000 will have to be approved by all councillors, instead of being left to the small council cabinet clique.

Council dithers over plans for North Finchley

Residents concerned with the potential development of North Finchley High Road are growing increasingly anxious with the Council's lack of a plan for the area. What we are being faced with is a number of proposals which are oversized for a pleasant low rise low density area of suburban North Finchley and Whetstone.

At present each planning application in North Finchley is treated on its merits, first by the Council, by its councillors and officers, and if the developers don't get their way, they invariably appeal and have another go at getting their way. As there is no Town Centre Plan for North Finchley, the planning applications do not have to conform to the development of the area as a whole. The great fear among concerned environmentalists (such as the 'Finchley Society' and 'North Finchley Agenda 21') is that, by such piecemeal developments, the High Road will be turned into a "canyon", flanked by high rise building on both sides of the road.

Of pressing concern is what is going to happen to the library in Ravensdale Avenue, opposite the entrance to Sainsbury's car park and the old 'Furnitureland' site. So, why does the Council want to close the Ravensdale library and move elsewhere in North Finchley. The answer would seem to be that they think that they can make some money. If only our council officers and councillors were that clever (remember the Icelandic banks disaster when nobody was responsible). In the past Barnet Council felt an obligation to provide a library for North Finchley (this may no longer be the case). It is entirely possible that the Council could sell off the Ravensdale Avenue site, promise to find us another site, and then after a year or two say that they no longer have the money. This expression of this fear, by local residents, is not cynicism but it is exactly what happened to the Totteridge library.

Furnitureland Site

The building that was Furnitureland used to be a long low rise pleasant looking building but it is looking pretty tatty these days, and something needs to be done about it. A number of plans for its development have been submitted and fortunately none have come to fruition. The first plan (2008), was for a 6 storey building and was withdrawn by the developers. The second plan (2009) was for a part 4/part 5 storey building and was refused by the council officers and refused on appeal. The third plan (2009) was for a five storey building and was refused by the councillors (overturning the council officers recommendation) and was refused on appeal.

This last plan included a provision for a library (to replace the one in Ravensdale Avenue, and that could be a problem. Either the Council will get the space free (or for a peppercorn rent) from the developers, or they will have to pay market rent. If the Council get the library for little or no rent then the developers quite reasonably will want the library to be as small as possible. However, as we know, successful libraries these days are the "big ones", so the Council will want the library to be as big as possible, as big or bigger than the one in Ravensdale Avenue.

Police Garage Site

The Metropolitan Police Garage site, on the opposite side of the road to Furnitureland and towards Whetstone has had

a number of planning applications. In 2008 the planning application was for a number of 3 to 7 storey buildings; again in 2008 there was a proposal for a number of 2 to 6 storey buildings. This planning application was recommended by the Council's officers but was overturned by the Council's planning committee. In 2009 there was another plan for 2 to 6 storey buildings but this was withdrawn.

It is now understood that the police garage will remain in its present until a new facility is built in Alperton, following which another planning application is expected.

Car Parks

Meantime, plans for the Council owned car parks are still under consideration as part of the Council's regular review of its property holdings. In this regard, it has been noted that a planning application for the former Woolworths property advised that the design had taken account of the Council's proposals for residential development of the car park at the rear.

Car parking provision has always been one of North Finchley's strengths and, having lost a large number of spaces to bus stands in the Woodhouse Road car park as a consequence of the arts depot development, there is concern about possible future closures and resultant increases in cross High Road traffic.

Most roads in the North Finchley Controlled Parking Zone have more on street parking permits issued than spaces available, particularly in the roads with limited front gardens. However, the Council continues to permit house conversions and new development with substandard or no parking provision but chooses not to exclude future occupiers from purchasing parking permits thus exacerbating the situation for existing residents.

Localism

The Coalition Government published the Localism Bill before Christmas and it is now going through its parliamentary stages. The Bill's provisions include proposals to give neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which people live through 'neighbourhood plans', empower communities to take control and ensure that the process is neighbourhood not Local Planning Authority led. It also proposes that Councils will have a duty to co-operate and to support and some limitations to the powers of the Planning Inspectorate.

Your Views

We would like to hear your views on these questions.

- * How would you like to see North Finchley develop?
- * Should existing North Finchley car parks be redeveloped for housing or other commercial purposes?
- * Should there be a "Town Centre Strategy" to guide development of North Finchley?
- * Should the Library be moved to the Furnitureland site?
- * Should we as local residents seek to prepare our own neighbourhood plan in line with the Government's "Localism" Bill?

(Please write to Robert Newton, 18 Lorian Close, Woodside Park, N11 7DZ)

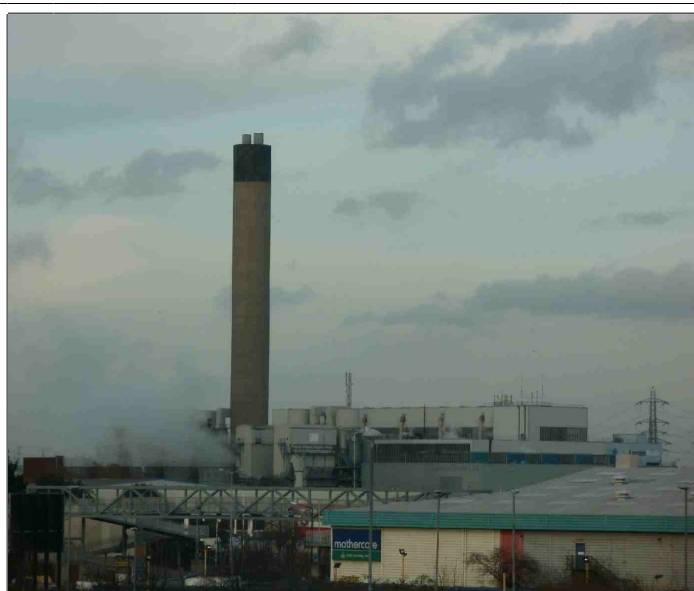
Friern Barnet is a load of rubbish—Official

The North London Waste Authority (NLWA) and Barnet Council have announced draft proposals for establishing a large waste handling site in the southern corner of Friern Barnet. The site they intend to use is the old Friern Barnet sewage works located just off the North Circular Road and opposite Friern Bridge retail park. As well as handling 300,000 tons of rubbish a year, the site is being adopted to be the depot for Barnet's fleet of waste collection vehicles.

As part of the consultation process, an exhibition outlining the plans was held on 12, 15 and 16 February 2011. Hosted by the NLWA and Barnet Council, the exhibition asked for comments and suggestions. It was well attended by concerned residents. The exhibition made clear that the proposed waste plant would not be burning waste but collecting waste from the nearby Boroughs, processing it and then dispatching the processed waste to another waste handling site, such as that at Edmonton.

The biological process for processing the waste can be very smelly and the NLWA had to admit on one of their display boards that *“depending on the type of odour control technology there may be a requirement for a stack”*. The scale model of the proposed developed site did not show a stack.

The NLWA and Barnet Council estimate that there will be 560 vehicles a day entering the site, starting at 6:00 am, which averages, for a 9 hour working day, at over 60 an hour, or one a minute, in other words a continuous stream. There has been no formal report on the impact on local residents, such as those living on Alexandra Road, Sydney Road, Atlas Road and Poplar Road. These local residents



The processing buildings at the large Edmonton waste disposal facility. are a long way from any housing

are the main users of Hollickwood Park, which will border on the waste handling site and no longer be the peaceful oasis it is now.

The fact that there will be only one way into the site and one way out doesn't seem concern the NLWA or Barnet Council. The increase in traffic, on the already traffic saturated and air polluted north side of Colney Hatch Lane has not been taken into account, but doesn't seem to concern Barnet Council.

Forthcoming Events

Friern Barnet Library:

Wednesday 16 March

“Songs from the 20th Century from the Great American Songbook” A Talk by Brian Ariel

All coffee mornings are from 10.30 – 11.30

Barnet Museum, Wood Street

“Hornblower’s Navy” by Paul Chamberlain

Monday 8 March

“In the Footsteps of the Famous in Finchley” by Paul

Barker Monday 12 April

All talks take place at the Museum’s premises in Wood Street and start at 3:00 pm (tea served from 2:30 pm).

Church Farm Museum

29 January - 27 March

“Harry Beck and the London Tube Map”

The familiar London tube map, which is 80 years old this year, was the creation of Harry Beck (1902—1974), who lived in Finchley. (There are memorial plaques in his honour at Finchley Central and on his house in Courthouse Road, N12.)

Incognito Theatre:

“The Bog of Cats” by Marina Carr

Sunday 20

March to Saturday 26 March

£8 members, £9 non-members, £5 students. Sunday performance starts at **6pm**, all other performances start at **8pm**.

Friern Barnet and District Local History Society:

“The New River” by Harry Gluck:

Wednesday 23 March

“Local Archaeology: 50 Years of HADAS” by Don

Cooper Wednesday 27 April

All meetings take place at St John’s Church Hall, next to Whetstone Police Station, Friern Barnet Lane. Starts 7:45 p.m.; cost £2 to non-members.

Barnet Walks

‘The Battle of Barnet’: Paul Barker

Explore the famous battlefield from the Wars of the Roses of 1471.

Sun March 13th 11am, Sat Apr 2nd 2.30pm, meet Great North Road and Hadley Green Road junction £7

Contacts

Correspondence

Chairman FBWRA
33 Holly Park Road
N11 3EY
axin77@dsl.pipex.com

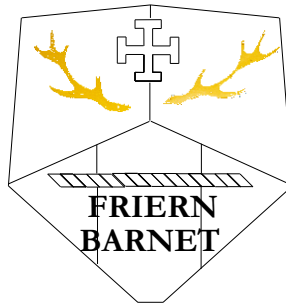
Membership FBWRA

112 Oakleigh Road North
N20 9EZ
brucestanding@msn.com

Press Officer FBWRA

153 Friern Barnet Lane
N20 0NP
l.e.bull@hotmail.co.uk

**FRIERN BARNET & WHETSTONE RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION**



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 20TH APRIL 2010 AT 7.30 PM
Friary House, Friary Park**

AGENDA

Apologies for absence

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 14th April 2010

Treasurer's Report & Certified Statement of Accounts

Election of Officers

Election of Executive Committee

Election of Independent Examiner

Chairman's Report

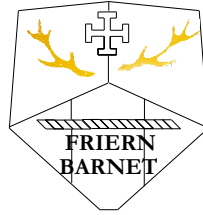
Questions and Answers

Any Other Business

Guest Speakers: Matt and Sharon Bell

“Localism: the Power to Change Your Neighbourhood”

FRIERN BARNET & WHETSONE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 20TH APRIL 2010 AT 7.30 PM

Nomination of Officers

Name of Nominator:

Person I wish to nominate for position of Chairman

Person I wish to nominate for position of Deputy Chairman

Person I wish to nominate for position of Secretary

Person I wish to nominate for position of Treasurer

Please send to:

Michael Harold, 171 Friern Barnet Lane, London N20 0NN