



Barnet Homes Emergency Repairs

Following a complaint by Councillor Susette Palmer about Repair operatives arriving late at night without warning to carry out emergency repairs Barnet Homes have agreed that as from Monday, when Lovell, the emergency contractors attend a property after 9pm on the emergency out of hours service they will call the resident ahead of



their attendance. "When we all have to be careful who we open our doors to late at night this is clearly a sensible step to take." said Cllr Palmer "and I am glad Barnet Homes took it on board."

CHILDS HILL CHILDREN'S CENTRE UNDER THREAT

Conservative run Barnet Council is planning cuts to Children's Centres. These could lead to the centre in Childs Hill being trimmed back to a 'hub' for children currently at other centres. This will dilute the good work that the centre and its devoted staff provide for the children of our area. "This would definitely be a retrograde step" said Cllr Monroe Palmer, "All your Councillors have attended events at this centre and are aware of the good work it does for children & their carers"



Your Councillors at the Children's Centre.



Monroe's Peerage

As many of you will have read in the newspapers Monroe has been appointed to the House of Lords. He takes his seat in The Lords this January as Lord Palmer of Childs Hill. He assures residents that he remains a Councillor for Childs Hill* Ward and remains Chair of Barnet Council's Audit Committee. He officially becomes Lord Palmer of Childs Hill however he asks residents continue to call him Monroe. His contact details have not changed. Cllr Jack Cohen said, "Monroe has worked tirelessly for local people for over quarter of a century. This honour is richly deserved."

** Those of you interested in local history might like to know that Garter King of Arms originally wrote Child's Hill with an apostrophe. Research showed that it was originally spelt like that but the apostrophe has been dropped by common usage.*

PUPIL PREMIUM UNVEILED

The Coalition Government has unveiled further details of the Pupil Premium a key Liberal Democrat policy which will ensure that the most disadvantaged children in our borough, including those at schools in Childs Hill, get the help they need.

The Pupil Premium was one of four key front page manifesto commitments on which the Liberal Democrats fought the last General Election. Making it a reality will help improve the social mobility and life chances of hundreds of thousands of children from less privileged backgrounds over the coming years. Cllr Jack Cohen, our education spokesman said, "Spending more money on the schools attended by children from the poorest homes will help those children to achieve their full academic potential, while benefiting all children at the schools concerned. I am very pleased that the Coalition Government is providing this extra money to our local schools."

MORE POWER TO OUR ELBOWS?

One of the measures being put forward for legislation by the Coalition Government is the possibility of Council's reverting to the old system of Council Committees which gave all Councillors, not just the Cabinet, a greater input into how our Borough is run. We would welcome this.

Home Library Service

A free Service run by Barnet Libraries

•This is a book delivery service to residents who have difficulty using their local library due to age or physical disability.

•The service visits each reader once every four weeks with a selection of books chosen to suit the individual.

•Large print and spoken word books, music and DVDs are also available.

If you are interested, please call 0208 359 3901

OUTRAGEOUS PARKING RISES

As we go to press there are shocking proposals by Conservative controlled Barnet. For details see over. Your Liberal Democrat Councillors are **TOTALLY** opposed to these crass proposals.

MORE LOCAL NEWS OVER → → → → → → → → → → → → → → → →

How to contact your Liberal Democrat Councillors:

Home phones: Jack Cohen 8446 7940 Monroe and Susette Palmer 8455 5140

Email: cllr.j.cohen@barnet.gov.uk cllr.m.palmer@barnet.gov.uk cllr.s.palmer@barnet.gov.uk

Website: www.chld.org.uk or write to us c/o The Town Hall, The Burroughs, NW4 4BG

Ward surgeries . Childs Hill Library the first Thursday of each month from 7.00-8.00p.m. Otherwise phone or email us.

We hold a ward surgery on Council related problems in Childs Hill library on the first Thursday of every month from 7.00-8.00pm at other times you can email us at cllr.s.palmer@barnet.gov.uk cllr.m.palmer@barnet.gov.uk cllr.j.cohen@barnet.gov.uk or phone Jack Cohen on 8446 7940 or Monroe or Susette Palmer on 8455 5140.

PROPOSED NEW TORY PARKING FEE RISES

Under new shocking proposals by Conservative controlled Barnet, Residents Permits go up from £42 to £100 and visitors permits go up from £12 to £48 per book. There are also increased meter charges.

Your Councillors will NOT be supporting these proposals but fear that the Tory majority will be sufficient to push them through.

Free bays

Adding insult to injury the Tory Administration of Barnet Council has announced that it intends to convert all free parking bays in our Controlled Parking Zones into Residents Bays. A full list of the parking bays affected are available if you contact us. If there are such bays which you believe should stay as free bays contact Monroe and we will make representations to Council Officers. This means that visitors and residents will lose the free bay during the hours restricted by the CPZ and the new voucher prices are prohibitive. Councillor Susette Palmer said, "So if I have 2 friends round for coffee it could cost me £9.60 in vouchers. This Administration is money-grabbing mad."

New Parking Meters

Councillor Susette Palmer has been taking up residents complaints about the new meters. In theory they take coins but if they are not working you have to use the phone option which means you need to have a mobile phone and a credit card with you. She would be interested to hear your views.

Wayside NW11

There have been many complaints about Wayside being dangerous because of the number of parked vehicles in this narrow road which is used as a 'rat run' from the Hendon Way. This has led to 'road rage' and vehicles driving over the pavement. This is especially dangerous outside Basing Hill Park. Councillor Monroe Palmer has had numerous meetings with Council Officers to try and find a solution. Monroe believes the best solution would be to extend the Controlled Parking Scheme to include Wayside which should stop all day parking. However, so far, he has only been able to negotiate an interim solution which will be some lengths of double yellow lines on both sides of Wayside leaving room for some parking and also gaps for cars to pass each other safely.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Jack Monroe and Susette wish you all a Happy, Healthy, 2011.

SNOW AND ICE

What can we say? The country, as usual, seemed ill-prepared on the basis that it doesn't happen often enough to justify large investment to deal with the problem when it occurs. It does, however, seem to occur more often. In Barnet the Refuse teams, augmented by the Parks Service, worked long hours clearing and gritting starting at 5.00 am and continuing to dusk. They concentrated on the priority 1 routes- the main roads- and then on the busy through roads. What was mainly outside the manpower and equipment available were the footways outside town centres and many side roads, particularly cul-de-sacs. As ward Councillors we find this unsatisfactory making it dangerous to walk and drive in much of our locality. No doubt we will be left with a legacy of potholes caused by the ice and snow. In last year's budget debate Councillor Susette Palmer forcibly pointed out that provisions for this winter based on what happened last year were not enough, but to no avail. Outside Barnet the travel situation, particularly at Heathrow was ludicrous. "I am not at all sure that we have got the balance between 'days of work' lost, holidays and family celebrations ruined and the amount of investment needed to keep the country running" she said.

CHILDS HILL LIBRARY

The Childs Hill's Librarians tell us that they are planning a "Knit and Natter Group" at the Library in the New Year. If you are interested please let them know. Phone 020 8359 3900 or email childshill.library@barnet.gov.uk

Barnet are currently conducting a review of the Library Service. Councillor Susette Palmer is keeping a watching brief on the process. She believes local libraries are a valuable resource for local residents of all ages. Remember, with Libraries, like so many other things, if you don't use them you stand to lose them!



New Year is a time for reminiscing! The photo is Susette being awarded Beacon Status Award for Barnet's Libraries.

Chinese in Barnet.

Barnet has one of the largest Chinese populations in London so we are glad to welcome the formation of an associate party group "The Chinese Liberal Democrats". More information at <http://chineselibdems.org.uk>

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JOIN THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS NOW!

I would like to join the Liberal Democrats.

Name.....

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Phone.....email.....

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Address.....

Return to Cllr Palmer, 31 The Vale NW11 8SE or email cllr.m.palmer@barnet.gov.uk