

# Childs Hill News

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@BarnetLibDems

jack@barnetlibdems.org.uk

www.barnetlibdems.org.uk

# CHILDS HILL LIBRARY TO CLOSE?

The closure of Childs Hill library took a step closer this month with the Barnet Tories unanimously voting to put the future of Barnet libraries out to consultation. Make no mistake this is an attempt to rip out one of the most important social assets from our community.

Three options have been proposed; all of which will result in the reduction of quality of the library service.

Option 1 will see **Childs Hill Library reduced to 540sq ft**, an 85% shrink in library space. It will be **unstaffed** for considerable time. **Option two will see Childs Hill Library close completely.** Option 3 will see it shrink and be **run by volunteers** only.



Cllr Jack Cohen says "Our library is a much-loved and used community resource"

Cllr Jack Cohen says, "Consultations from this Conservative council are a sham." He continues, "The Conservatives have been trying to close Childs Hill library for 40 years and we have fought them each time and fought them off. The first thing the Conservatives do when elected in Childs Hill is threaten to close the library."

**The Barnet Liberal Democrats strongly condemn these options.** Of course the Barnet Tories say we need to save money but do not forget their meagre 21p a week tax cut, supported by Labour in May this year. The true repercussions of this tax cut is the abolition of some of our most important educational and social assets in this Borough.

Sign the petition now to voice your support for our Libraries. Go to <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/p/barnetlibraries> or scan this QR code with your smartphone or tablet or send back the form overleaf .



**THE 1% TORY TAX CUT SAVED 21p A WEEK. IT MAY COST US THE LIBRARY.**

**Cllr Jack Cohen holds 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 [clt.j.cohen@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:clt.j.cohen@barnet.gov.uk) or phone Jack Cohen on 020 8446 5390**

### **Multiple Occupation**

**Many residents complain to us about the inappropriate conversions of houses to multiple occupation.** Although there is a place for such uses for example renting out to students, many of the examples we see are not suitable but as the law stands planning permission is not needed if the number of single people does not exceed six.

**This is about to change.** Barnet is considering making what is called an article four direction. This means planning permission will be needed to convert any property no matter how many people will be living in it.

**Cllr Jack Cohen says,** “We have a real problem with overcrowding particularly in Cricklewood area of Childs Hill. I am pleased that the council has listened to us and now intends to take action.”

### **Lib Dems in Government**

Because the **Liberal Democrats** nationally pushed through the raise of **the personal tax allowance to £10K** this means a **tax cut of £700 per year.**

**We stand for a stronger economy in a fairer society.**



### **Parking Charge**

It is some considerable time since the Courts quashed Barnet’s huge increase in parking charges for residents permits and visitor vouchers. Barnet had to refund the money. The Liberal Democrats gave advice at the time on how to make a claim, and we have been assisting local people ever since.

**Cllr Cohen has recently learned that almost 7000 residents still have not claimed a permit refund and that a sum of £1.2M is set aside in Barnet’s Accounts. It is still not too late to make a claim.**



### **Liberal Democrats put tackling climate change at the heart of our policies**

**We were the first party to talk about climate change in Parliament – back in the 1980s when the environment was an unpopular issue.**

Ever since, we have worked to make Britain greener. In the Coalition Government our Environment Minister, Ed Davey, has worked to make sure the environment stays at the top of the agenda, even though it isn’t a priority for the Conservatives.

We cannot build a stronger economy for the long term without creating a greener, more sustainable economy. The 1.6 million new jobs since 2010 and over £5bn investment in hi-tech, Green and science industries, together with the establishment of the first Green Investment Bank show the Liberal Democrats are taking the lead on the environment.

## **Help the Liberal Democrats defend Childs Hill Library**

Cllr Jack Cohen has represented you at Barnet Council for over 20 years. Quality local public services are central to a Liberal Democrat philosophy; they offer people of all backgrounds the opportunities to better their lives and that includes libraries. Susette Palmer says, “We saved Childs Hill Library last time the Tories tried to shut it. With YOUR help we will do so again.

**I would like to help the Childs Hill Liberal Democrats save Childs Hill Library**



Name..... Phone.....

Address.....

Email.....

If you return this slip the Liberal Democrats and their elected representatives may use the information you’ve given to contact you. Some contacts may be automated. You can always opt out of communications at any time by contacting us.