



Environment Committee

25 November 2020

Title

Member's Items

Councillor Alan Schneiderman – HOSTING A 'TINY FOREST'

Councillor Jo Cooper – MAKE OUR PARKS SAFER

Geoff Cooke – FULL AND OVERFLOWING LITTER BINS ON STREETS AND IN PARKS

Laurie Williams – SUSTAINABLE PARK BENCHES

Laithe Jajeh - POLICY REGARDING CROSS OVERS

Report of

Head of Governance

Wards

All Wards

Status

Public

Urgent

No

Key

No

Enclosures

None

Officer Contact Details

Paul Frost, 020 8359 2205, paul.frost@barnet.gov.uk

Summary

Members Items have been received for the Environment Committee. The Committee are requested to consider the items and provide instructions.

Officers Recommendation

That the Environment Committee's instructions in relation to these Member's Items are requested.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Members of the Committee have requested that the items tabled below are submitted to the Environment Committee for considering and determination. The Environment Committee are requested to provide instructions to Officers of the Council as recommended.

Alan Schneiderman	HOSTING A 'TINY FOREST' Tiny Forests are densely packed forests of native trees that fit into the size of a tennis court. This brings all the benefits of a forest - climate cooling, lower flood risks, biodiversity, improved air quality, and physical and mental wellbeing right into the heart of local areas. Tiny Forests are being planted across Europe and are being promoted in the UK by the environmental charity, Earthwatch. I ask that officers work with GoodGym Barnet, a volunteer organisation that is interested in fundraising and engaging the community to start a Tiny Forest project in Barnet.
Jo Cooper	MAKE OUR PARKS SAFER Barnet's parks and open spaces are valued by residents and more important than ever during the Covid-19 pandemic. I request that the Committee considers whether it would be possible to increase funds for maintenance and enforcement in our parks by making more use of community infrastructure levy and section 106. If it is possible, I ask that we make a referral to the relevant committee asking for this to be considered, and, if agreed, that a report is brought back with options. I also ask for a review of how to involve the police and council services in developing specific plans to reduce and design out crime in parks.
Geoff Cooke	FULL AND OVERFLOWING LITTER BINS ON STREETS AND IN PARKS What statistics exist and what effect has the Covid-19 pandemic had on usage and frequency of emptying litter bins on streets and in parks?

<p>Laurie Williams</p>	<p>SUSTAINABLE PARK BENCHES</p> <p>Park benches made from recycled plastic can be strong and environmentally friendly and are used in Trent Park in Enfield. I request that officers consider whether these could be used in Barnet's parks.</p>
<p>Laithe Jajeh</p>	<p>The Environment Committee in April 2019 introduced a change to the policy regarding cross overs whereby a road that had existing grass verges outside a resident's property would no longer be permitted to have a drop kerb installed to access their property.</p> <p>The intention of the policy change was to ensure sufficient parking provision remained in roads within the borough and to protect grass verges and the overall appearance of our roads and footpaths.</p> <p>Having been contacted by many residents, I believe in hindsight that this was an over simplification of policy and the end result goes above and beyond the intent of the committee.</p> <p>Good examples of unintended consequences are areas of new developments intermingling with existing housing and as a consequence a strain is now placed upon the parking provision of roads. This can be evidenced on the Ridgeway in Mill Hill Ward, The Fairway in Hale Ward, Laleham Ave in hale Ward and Westmere in hale Ward. As residents are no longer able to apply for a cross over, they are being forced to park a significant distance from their properties or they are parking on the grass verges themselves. This neither benefits the residents nor the appearance of the streets themselves.</p> <p>I therefore propose to the Committee that we reverse the decision previously made and enable residents to apply for cross overs in instances where grass verges exist in front of their property.</p>

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 No recommendations have been made. The Committee are therefore requested to give consideration and provide instruction.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 N/A

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Post decision implementation will depend on the decision taken by the Committee.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 As and when issues raised through a Member's Item are progressed, they will need to be evaluated against the Corporate Plan and other relevant policies.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 None in the context of this report.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

5.3.1 A Member (including Members appointed as substitutes by Council) will be permitted to have one matter only (with no sub-items) on the agenda for a meeting of a committee or Sub-Committee on which s/he serves. The matter must be relevant to the terms of reference of the committee.

5.3.2 The referral of a motion from Full Council to a committee will not count as a Member's Item for the purposes of this rule.

5.4 Risk Management

5.4.1 None in the context of this report.

5.5 Equalities and Diversity

5.5.1 Members' Items allow Members of a Committee to bring a wide range of issues to the attention of a Committee in accordance with the Council's Constitution. All of these issues must be considered for their equalities and diversity implications.

5.6 Consultation and Engagement

5.6.1 None in the context of this report.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 None.