

September 2026 • barnetpost.co.uk



News | P.4

Tories refuse
to condemn ex
neo-Nazi's role

News | P.9

Council loses
£58million
housing grant



Comment | P.10-11

Different views
on council
funding crisis

Arts | P.17

Beckett play
comes to
Artsdepot



[@barnetpost](https://twitter.com/barnetpost)
[socialspider.com](https://twitter.com/socialspider)



[@BarnetPost](https://www.instagram.com/BarnetPost)



[/barnetpost](https://www.facebook.com/barnetpost)
[bsky.social](https://www.facebook.com/bsky.social)



[/News from
Barnet Post](https://www.facebook.com/BarnetPost)

28th August



Full
Moon

100%/0.51

New moon
10th Sept

24th Sept



Waxing
Gibbous
95%/0.51

WE'RE A
**SOCIAL
ENTERPRISE**
BUSINESS WHERE SOCIETY PROFITS



Prime Minister Andy Burnham delivers a speech as he visits Jewish Care in Golders Green

Credit: Lauren Hurley/No 10 Downing Street

Council leader to underpaid workers: ‘You’ll only get your money by taking it from disabled children’

BY LEILA DAVAUD

“It is insulting,” said a Barnet Council waste worker who asked to stay anonymous while a dispute with the council is ongoing. Explaining the current situation to *Barnet Post*, he added: “We are owed twelve years of holiday pay, twelve years during which some of us worked overtime for the council and the community. And all they have to say is that we get six months of backpay or nothing? No.”

The dispute started over a year ago, when council employees contacted their trade union, Unison,

about a new payment appearing on their payslips.

John Burgess, Barnet Unison branch secretary, told the *Post*: “Legislation was passed in 2013 which said if you do regular overtime, you attract what’s called a holiday payment.

“For example, every £100 of overtime you work, you get £8.33 on top. The problem is, we discovered that Capita never paid it for the whole time they ran payroll.”

Private company Capita had provided payroll services for the local authority between October 2013 and 31st March 2025 as part of a controversial outsourcing model

dubbed ‘Easy Council’.

In 2025, the council gave the payroll contract to another private company, Liberata. The new provider started paying said holiday pay to people who work regular overtime, highlighting its absence throughout the previous decade.

Capita has made clear that it delivered the service as instructed by Barnet Council.

Burgess said: “We immediately brought it up to the council. This involves hundreds of employees; depot workers being the largest group impacted.”

The depot is the operational base for street cleansing, waste collection

and ground maintenance services.

More than a year later, he said the matter is far from being settled. “The council came back to its employees with a ridiculous offer.

“Six months of backpay, based on the argument there is not enough money to repay everyone. On their own figures that works out at around 4p for every £1 actually owed. For a depot driver that’s the difference between roughly £600 and the £14,400 they’re actually owed.

“It made a lot of people angry. It was rejected by all depot workers.”

Continued on page-2



ABOUT

Barnet Post is the borough's free community newspaper: written by and for local people, giving you the chance to learn more about what is going on in your area and to read (and write) stories about what matters to you.

CREDITS

Editor
David Floyd

Designer
Jonathan Duncan

Head of Advertising
Klaudia Kiss

Local Democracy Reporter
Joe Ives

Reporter
Leila Davaud

Contributors
Nick Sandamas, Dave McCormick, Catherine Lusted, Dan Tomlinson MP, Cllr Peter Zinkin, Cllr Simon Radford, Anjola Fashawe

CONTACT


barnetpost@socialspider.com


The Mill, 7-11 Coppermill Lane
E17 7HA

ADVERTISING


07728 520 116
Mark Brown


mark@socialspider.com



BP is regulated by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). For more information on BP's complaints policy and how to make a complaint visit: barnetpost.com/complaints



ABC audited distribution 15,026 circulation (average per issue). Free to read.

Published on 28/08/26



Continued from page-1

The situation came to a head in July when workers had the opportunity to ask for accountability at one of council leader Barry Rawlings' regular round of depot briefings.

The waste worker was present and recounted the workers' discussion with Cllr Rawlings: "We asked why the council hadn't gone to Capita to find out what went wrong. He was uncomfortable and evasive, until he started shouting at us. I kept asking where the money had gone and his answer was: 'The only way you're gonna get your money back is by taking it away from the disabled children'".

Also present at the briefing, a street cleaning worker confirmed the event. "There were about 90 of us that day. We were shocked! Not only did he confirm it had been spent, but he disrespected us once more with this response."

His colleague from waste stated: "There is no turning back. It has been a long time coming. It's not the first issue we have reported that is being dismissed. We are taking action!"

John Burgess added: "The internal strike ballot ends on the 18th of August. The depot is like a real powder keg at the moment, an industrial ballot is expected to take place in the following weeks."

At a Unison meeting, employees wondered "how the council can possibly

think it is handling the situation correctly?"

The waste worker added: "Legally we can't do anything because the relevant time limits have passed. We need to rely on them choosing to be morally good. It is not looking well at the moment."

A Barnet Council spokesperson said: "Although there is no legal basis for a backdated claim, we are in discussion with the trade unions about the appropriate level for a goodwill payment, recognising the significant financial challenges the council faces."

"It's not the first issue we have reported that is being dismissed"

"We have engaged with the unions, who were aware of the court ruling that gave rise to the change. We introduced changes to overtime payments to reflect holiday pay for affected staff with effect from 1 April 2025."

"We are happy to work with the unions to review why payments were not introduced by the provider at an earlier stage."

In its response to the *Post*, a spokesperson for Capita said: "Capita previously delivered payroll services to Barnet Council as a managed service. These services were provided at the direction of the council, in accordance

with the council's policies. Capita adhered to the terms of the contract."

A council spokesperson told the *Post*: "The council is in discussion with Capita about how this situation arose."

Green Party councillor Charli Thompson, however, has come forward in support of the depot employees. She said: "These are the people who empty our bins, clean our streets and maintain our public spaces. This is hard physical labour, working outside in incredibly difficult conditions, including through the recent heatwaves."

"In my ward Woodhouse, street cleaning and bin collection comes up regularly in conversations with residents. People are dependent on this service and want to see more

investment in it, not an undermining of it. We must value the people who provide it, with good pay and fair conditions."

"Barnet should be demanding that Capita contributes towards putting this right. Public services should be delivered in-house, with democratic accountability and workers employed on decent terms and conditions."

Both waste collection and street cleansing workers emphasised that last point. The latter insisted: "We said from day one, back in July 2025, that if the council was short of money the answer was to go after Capita. Why are they not doing it?"

Charity boss criticises Met over handling of Levy double murder case

BY JOE IVES, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

A sexual violence charity boss has criticised the Metropolitan Police for "deeply disturbing" failings in the case of double-murderer Simon Levy.

Levy, aged 40 and from Tottenham, was found guilty last month of murdering Carmenza Valencia Trujillo and Sheryl Wilkins in 2025, as well as of two counts of rape, grievous bodily harm, and intentional strangulation of another woman the same year.

Citing insufficient evidence, the Met released Levy on bail as a suspect in the murder of the first victim, 53-year-old Carmenza, who had been killed in March 2025. While on bail, Levy murdered Sheryl Wilkins, aged 39, in August 2025.

When first jailed for sexual offences in 2021, Levy sexually assaulted a female prison officer. He also committed a number of sexual assaults, including rape, on trains across London between 2023 and 2025.

Appearing at the Old Bailey on Wednesday, 12th August, Levy was given a whole life sentence for the two murders, plus the rape and assault of the third victim, who survived.

Solace Women's Aid, based in Camden, is London's largest domestic abuse and sexual violence charity.

In a statement on Monday, 10th August, Solace chief executive officer Nahar Choudhury condemned the Met's investigations into Levy as "deeply disturbing" and of "repeated failing".

Choudhury continued: "For far too long, survivors have told us that they have been dismissed, disbelieved and failed by the Met, leaving them, and other women, without the support and protection they need."

The charity's CEO said the police's responses "must be

fully scrutinised and the misogynistic culture which has allowed these systemic failings to persist must be urgently stamped out".

Barnet Council recently agreed to extend its contract for women's refuge services with Solace until the end of March 2030. The contract will cost the council around £210,000 per year.

According to the local authority, the charity "provides safe, secure accommodation and specialist support for women and children fleeing domestic abuse" in Barnet.

The Barnet refuge service is described as playing a "critical role" in preventing violence against women and girls in the borough. In addition, it acts to improve outcomes for victims and their children and "strengthen multi-agency safeguarding responses".

Under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the council has a legal obligation to provide accommodation-based support for victims of domestic abuse.

The work of Solace Women's Aid is also part of the council's violence against women and girls (VAWG) strategy 2025-29, described as a "borough-wide vision to prevent violence, support victims, and hold perpetrators accountable".

Sir Mark Rowley, Metropolitan Police commissioner, called the Levy case a "whole system failing", arguing that it was only after Levy's second murder that the Met had the "combined evidence" to move forward.

In a further statement released by the Met last month, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Kevin Southworth said: "We know that this case has raised questions around the way Levy was handled and we have carefully reflected on the opportunities missed to prevent his violent offending."



Sheryl Wilkins



Carmenza Valencia-Trujillo

NEWS

Islamic faith school set to drop fee-paying model from September

BY JOE IVES, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Barnet will have its first council-maintained Islamic faith school this month, with the local authority taking a key role in a formerly independent primary school.

Barnet Hill Academy, in West Hendon, is set to change from being fee-paying to a 'voluntary aided' school and nursery from the start of the new academic year.

It follows a decision signed off last month by Barnet Council's executive director of children's services, John Anthony.

It means that Barnet Hill Academy, which had been operating as an independent Islamic faith school in Montagu Road for the past 20 years, will be accessible to more primary school pupils aged four to eleven years.

The council hopes the move will help provide school places to more of the borough's Muslim community, in response "to a clear and evidenced demand from residents".

The local authority says it has a legal responsibility “to secure diversity in the provision of schools, increase opportunities for parental choice and



**Barnet Hill
Academy,
West Hendon**
Credit: Google

consider parental representations”.

The council says “no changes are proposed to the age range, capacity, accommodation or operating arrangements of the nursery provision” following the introduction of the council’s role.

As of the 2021 Census there were 47,700 Muslim residents in Barnet, just over 12% of the borough's population.

A council report explained that the borough's current school provision "reflects the major faiths present in the borough", including Church of England, Roman Catholic

and Jewish faith-based education.

However, the council argues that “Islam is not represented within the state-funded education sector in Barnet.

“As a result, Muslim families do not have the same opportunity as those of other faiths to access a school aligned with their religious ethos.”

Up until now, Barnet Hill Academy operated as an independent, fee-paying school. This, the council said, meant that “access is limited to those able to afford the associated fees, restricting provision for the majority of the borough’s Muslim community”.

Voluntary-aided schools are founded by voluntary bodies, usually religious organisations. Receiving a mixture of funding from the local authority, a governing body and the Department for Education, the education counts as part of provision offered by the local authority.

In forecasts, described by the council as “ambitious”, the school

is projecting pupil numbers to essentially double from the 2026/27 school year to around 400 pupils by the early 2030s, aided by the removal of fees.

Audited financial statements for the last three financial years “indicate” that the private school has been struggling to balance the books lately, with income levels not having “consistently met expenditure requirements”.

As a result, the council has sought a 'deed of indemnity' from Barnet Hill Academy in respect of liabilities arising before Tuesday, 1st September, when the school came under the wing of the local authority and began to receive public funding.

A statutory four-week “representation period” was held from 8th May to 5th June, during which respondents were invited to express their views directly to the council, who reported that all respondents expressed “unequivocal support for the proposal”.

- Advertisement

THIS IS HOSPICE CARE

**North
London
Hospice**

The care of around 1 in 5 of our patients is paid for thanks to gifts left in wills.

**Help hospice care live on, for all,
for now, forever.**

For your guide on how to leave a gift in your will, please visit our website

northlondonhospice.org/wills



NEWS

Barnet Tories refuse to condemn party role for former neo-Nazi

Barnet Conservatives have rejected calls from Barnet Labour to “remonstrate” with their party’s leader over her support for a former neo-Nazi.

In an open letter sent to opposition leader Peter Zinkin last month, council leader Barry Rawlings criticised Kemi Badenoch for defending the selection of Joshua Bonehill-Paine as a council candidate in Somerset, before offering him an advisory role when he subsequently decided to step down.

Cllr Rawlings then called on Cllr Zinkin to “urge” Badenoch to drop Bonehill-Paine as an adviser and show his disapproval at her expression of sadness that he was no longer a candidate.

Bonehill-Paine already had a lengthy track-record of far-right activity when he was arrested in June 2015 for inciting racial hatred against Jews. Having been found guilty in December that year, he was jailed for three years and four months.

The Jewish Chronicle reported that the offences he was jailed for included plans to destroy Israeli flags and burn the Talmud at a rally in Golders Green. The event was promoted with imagery mocking the Holocaust.

In 2016, he was sentenced to an additional two years in jail for a campaign of online antisemitic abuse against Jewish Labour MP Luciana Berger.

He described Berger, who is now a member of the House of Lords, as “evil”, a “money-grabber” and as being responsible for the death of Jesus. He labelled his online campaign against the MP “Operation Filthy Jew Bitch”.

Speaking following Bonehill-Paine’s conviction in 2016, Berger said: “The protracted campaign of vitriol and hate had a deep impact on me and my family.”

While in prison, Bonehill-Paine completed the Home Office-accredited ‘Healthy Identity Intervention Programme’ and passed the government’s Prevent deradicalisation programme. He has since been involved in counter-extremism activity.

Reacting to news he had been selected as a council candidate, Berger told the BBC: “There is a big difference between going back into society and teaching others possibly about what you did and why it was wrong, to making the leap to standing for public office.”

She added: “I think there’s a massive distinction there.”

Writing on X following his appointment

BY DAVID FLOYD



▲
Labour council leader Barry Rawlings

as an adviser, the Labour peer said: “The decision to welcome this individual as an adviser to the Leader of the Opposition is no better than allowing him to stand as a council candidate.”

Berger added: “It is a privileged and influential national role. As a victim of this man’s heinous crimes this appointment is an insult.”

In his open letter sent on Wednesday, 5th August, Cllr Rawlings asked Cllr Zinkin: “Will you publicly urge Kemi Badenoch to ensure that Mr Bonehill-Paine is stood down from any official role within the Conservative Party immediately.

“Will you also remonstrate with her for saying that it is ‘sad’ that he is no longer a candidate, that you would not want him as a candidate in Barnet or anywhere in the UK and that he should not have been selected in the first place.”

The council leader added: “We live in a time of surging extremism on right and left, and it is critical that those of us who believe in a tolerant liberal society take a stand. I urge you to do so now.”



In his response published the following day, Cllr Zinkin declined to condemn his party’s Westminster leader.

Cllr Zinkin said: “As a member of the Jewish community and a councillor for Golders Green, I understand the concerns that many have expressed.”

Describing the reaction of the Jewish community, he said: “Whilst many have been upset by the decision, others understand the principle articulated by Kemi Badenoch that individuals who have genuinely changed and demonstrated remorse should not necessarily be denied any opportunity for rehabilitation. There are genuine differences of opinion on this issue, and it would be wrong to suggest otherwise.”

He added: “As a councillor representing a ward with a significant Jewish population, and having dealt with very recent major incidents of antisemitism and intimidation affecting local residents, I do not take these matters lightly. The pain caused by antisemitism is real, and those responsible must be held



▲
Conservative leader Peter Zinkin

accountable for their actions.”

Reflecting on Bonehill-Paine’s role in tackling antisemitism after leaving prison, he said: “Such examples are uncommon. Far too often, those who have propagated antisemitic views neither apologise nor seek to make amends. Where genuine contrition is shown, and where efforts are made to educate others about the dangers of hatred, that should be acknowledged.”

He then contrasted Badenoch’s approach to that of the Labour Party and added: “More broadly, I believe it is important to judge political leaders by their record. Kemi Badenoch has consistently been a friend of the Jewish community in Barnet and across the United Kingdom. She has spoken out against antisemitism, supported Jewish communities during difficult times and Golders Green in particular.

“She has shown moral clarity in confronting extremism. Her record stands in stark contrast to the rotten culture that was permitted to fester within the Labour Party for many years and which severely damaged trust between Labour and Britain’s Jewish community.”

Get a year of local news!

Sign up for an annual supporter package and get 12 issues of Barnet Post straight to your inbox or door.



£50 per year for 12 digital copies delivered to the email address of your choice



£84 per year for 12 print copies delivered to the postal address of your choice

“
Bonehill-Paine planned to destroy Israeli flags and burn the Talmud at a rally in Golders Green
”

Advertisement

MORE WAYS TO MOVE IN BARNET

From gym workouts and fitness classes to swimming and more, you'll find many ways to move at a leisure centre near you.

better.org.uk/barnet



Better is a registered trademark and trading name of GLL (Greenwich Leisure Limited), a charitable social enterprise and registered society under the Co-operative & Community Benefit & Societies Act 2014 registration no. 27793R. Registered office: Middlegate House, The Royal Arsenal, London, SE18 6SX. Inland Revenue Charity no: XR43398

NEWS

Barnet Council-owned company faces strike threat amid claims of ‘mismanagement’

“We’ve had enough of being abused,” said Sarah, an employee of The Barnet Group, a private company owned by Barnet Council.

Similar to her colleagues who agreed to testify, Sarah requested that her name be changed to protect her identity. Explaining this decision, she added: “We have been punished for speaking up before. I can’t afford to lose my job.”

Sarah recounted her story to *Barnet Post* and Unison representatives as part of a dispute with The Barnet Group, which has rejected its workers’ demands for the same terms and conditions as council workers.

She explained: “Even though the company is owned by the council, we don’t have access to its pension scheme, sickness scheme, grading/pay structure, overtime rates or even the standard council working week.”

Currently, over 1,000 people work for The Barnet Group which includes Barnet Homes, covering housing, and Your Choice Barnet, covering social care with care workers in supported living, day centres and similar services.

John Burgess, Unison Barnet branch secretary, said: “Our position is clear, Barnet Group workers should not be treated as second-class council workers. We want the national pay award matched, council terms and conditions matched, and access to the Local Government Pension Scheme.”

Union representatives have been negotiating with The Barnet Group and the council, “but the CEO, Elliott Sweetman immediately rejected our claims,” he explained.

A spokesperson for The Barnet Group confirmed: “Employees are employed on The Barnet Group’s own terms and conditions, which are separate from those of directly employed council staff. As a result, there are some differences across a range of employment provisions, including pension arrangements and other contractual terms and conditions.

“The union submitted a number of claims, including seeking application of the national local government pay award. National pay negotiations between the employers and trade unions are ongoing and the outcome of those negotiations is not yet known. The Barnet Group will consider this year’s pay award once the national negotiations have concluded.

“Other elements of the local claim, including proposals relating to wider terms and conditions and pension arrangements, were considered through the appropriate



BY LEILA DAVAUD

▲ Barnet Council's offices in Colindale Credit: Barnet Council	collective bargaining arrangements but were not agreed following consideration of their financial and operational implications.”	Eva, from Your Choice Barnet, said: “We are trapped in this company. We are asked to do missions that don’t fit our job description, if we even were given one when we started working.”	
	Workers from both Barnet Homes and Your Choice Barnet requested an internal strike ballot. John Burgess said: “It returned a 100% vote for strike action.”	A spokesperson for The Barnet Group responded: “All employees are issued with job descriptions that set out the main purpose and responsibilities of their role. While no job description can cover every task that may be required, employees may be asked to undertake additional duties that are appropriate to and commensurate with their role. Job descriptions are	
	The union will now proceed with a full strike ballot.	While the decision to keep The Barnet Group employees on separate terms from council workers triggered the action, several Unison representatives say it is only the latest grievance.	

“We are paid crumbs... Some employees need to go to the foodbank to feed their family!”

reviewed and updated periodically as roles evolve.”

Eva continued: “We are paid crumbs as if we were mere dogs. Some employees need to go to the foodbank to feed their family! And that is because even if we do overtime, weekends or night shifts, we are stuck on a flat rate and don’t even match the minimum wage of council workers.”

Helen Davies, Unison Barnet branch chair, said: “We get to a point where people ask for 60-hour weeks in order to be able to pay their bills. It is not safe! There is a clear lack of regulation and checks on the management of the company.”

Hearing this, another worker, Michael, added: “People are struggling with the cost of living crisis. They work hard jobs for the council that not many accept to do nowadays, and they are thanked by being asked to stay silent. Meanwhile employees are getting sicker due to their work conditions. This is not acceptable, it is pure mismanagement!”

Grace at Your Choice Barnet said: “I couldn’t take it anymore. I decided to speak up, not even for me but for the safety of our patients. I was punished for it. Annual leave was rejected, my schedule was often changed overnight. I have been working here for a decade and I was bullied, mocked, and pressured. It is isolating, when you are loyal to your employer, trying to do a good job and are forced to do the opposite.”

A spokesperson for The Barnet Group said: “[We] take any allegation of inappropriate management or unfair treatment seriously. We are committed to fostering a culture in which employees feel able to raise concerns, provide feedback, and speak up about issues affecting them and the services they deliver.

“We have a range of formal and informal channels through which employees can raise concerns, including through management, established policies and procedures, and recognised trade unions, and we are committed to addressing any concerns appropriately. We value the contribution of our workforce and remain committed to constructive engagement with employees and recognised trade unions.

“The Barnet Group keeps its reward and employment offer under regular review and offers a competitive pay and benefits package. The Barnet Group remains committed to supporting and engaging constructively with its employees and recognised trade unions.”

Unison is now holding an official strike ballot in both services. It began on 1st September and will close on 13th October.

NEWS

Health body had ‘no options’ to prevent Finchley Memorial Hospital pharmacy closure

BY DAVID FLOYD

The health body that runs Finchley Memorial Hospital has said it has “no further options available” to extend the contract for the hospital’s pharmacy.

Last month, Finchley and Golders Green MP Sarah Sackman launched a campaign to protect pharmacy services at the hospital following news that the current Fairview pharmacy would close at the end of August.

This is due to the pharmacy’s contract with North West London Integrated Care Board (ICB) not being renewed.

In her letter, Sackman said: “The on-site pharmacy is another vital service provided at the hospital. Those who visit the hospital regularly depend on the convenience of using it.

“The specific services offered and the integration with the hospital cannot be replicated elsewhere. Barnet Council’s Health and Wellbeing Board has assessed that the closure will mean there is a gap in local provision.”

In a statement, she added: “Every day, patients leave the Urgent Care Centre and walk-in services

► Finchley Memorial Hospital Credit Wikicommons



with prescriptions that need to be dispensed immediately. The ability to collect medication before leaving the hospital is an obvious benefit to patients, reduces delays to treatment and avoids unnecessary additional journeys.

“I struggle to understand how removing that service can possibly be considered an improvement in access to healthcare.

“The alternative pharmacies listed on the closure notice are not a realistic substitute for many members of our community.”

Barnet Post understands that, while the ICB was not actively seeking to close the Fairview pharmacy, it had originally been commissioned in 2013 under a specific type of contract designed to meet particular local needs.

As a result, it was not part of the main national framework for NHS community pharmacies and therefore its contract could not be extended unless the ICB could provide proof of exceptional need.

Responding to Sackman’s campaign, Louise Coughlan, the ICB’s chief pharmacist told the Post: “We understand the concerns raised by local residents and by Sarah Sackman MP regarding the closure of Fairview Pharmacy at

Finchley Memorial Hospital.

“Having already extended the contract as far as we were able, unfortunately there were no further options available.

“We undertook a review of local pharmacy provision and services and assessed the need for services in the area.

“This identified nine alternative pharmacies within a one-mile radius, with sufficient capacity and range of services to meet the needs of local people.

“We have a responsibility to make decisions based on local need and to ensure public money is invested responsibly, to deliver value and achieve the greatest benefit for local residents.

She added: “We would welcome any applications to open a pharmacy on this site, or close by, through the established process that all community pharmacies follow.”

Advertisement



“Moving in was scary at first, but having my sister with me made it easier – we look out for each other and don't feel so alone.”

BARNET Fostering

The difference is you!

Make a lasting impact on a child's life and receive:

- Expert training
- Generous financial rewards
- 24/7 Guidance and support
- Flexible options to fit your lifestyle
- Access to a passionate fostering community

020 8359 6274





Caring for people, our places and the planet

NEWS

Whetstone residents ‘fed up’ after months fighting against freeholder

Leaseholders at Thatcham Court blame freeholder Beechwood Developers Ltd for multiple power outages and daily grievances during construction work, reports Leïla Davaud

“It’s a nightmare” said Jeremy Owens, spokesperson for the majority of Thatcham Court leaseholders in Whetstone. He added: “It has been a year of asking Beechwood Developers Ltd to simply do their job!”

According to Owens, the company became the freeholder of Thatcham Court in 2024. It also took on the role of managing agent, and at the time already had an extension plan for a side build. That plan received planning permission in April 2025. Additional flats on the roof were approved later.

Owens said: “Almost a year ago, work started on the side build with no warning, nor any notice or consultation, which I believe is a breach of our leases.”

Immediately, residents started complaining about “multiple loss of power, use of communal power and water by the constructor and issues with drainage compliance”.

Owens added: “We have tried to get in touch with Beechwood, to no avail.

“In February of this year, the Planning Inspectorate allowed two roof building plans – five flats on the third floor and three flats on the fourth floor – in addition to the ongoing construction of the two flats on the side of the building.”

Excavation and scaffolding appeared on all fronts of the building. He continued: “Again with no notice and, more significantly, before the submission of the required Construction Design and Management (CDM) documents. Since then, it’s been a real battle to make them follow simple rules.”

The residents said their first direct interaction with Beechwood came only at the end of April, when the company announced the work would officially start.

Which, Owens said, “is ironic, since it had clearly been going on for weeks and had already been problematic”.

Encouraged by other leaseholders, he contacted Barnet Council, hoping to find support. He said the council’s transparency and complaints team for planning and building control told him more than once that “until that notice, there was no evidence of work being undertaken”.

Owens challenged this, with photos to back it up:



Thatcham Court
Credit
Jeremy Owens

“Still, I was told it did not consist of actual work, even when we experienced loss of water from work on the main water supply.”

The CDM relating to the work was eventually published. “But it was inaccurate, containing parts of another CDM document unrelated to the building,” he said. “A corrected version was later issued, still inaccurate in places, but by then the consultation period had closed. We couldn’t challenge it. Very convenient!”

Barnet Council told *Barnet Post* there was no evidence the developer had done anything wrong from a planning perspective.

A council spokesperson told the *Post*: “The council is aware of concerns raised by residents regarding Thatcham Court and has considered these over an extended period. Council officers have assessed the planning issues raised and are satisfied they have

been addressed in accordance with the council’s statutory duties. There are no outstanding planning conditions relating to the development.

“Many of the concerns raised relate to matters such as leasehold arrangements and private disputes between residents and the freeholder, which fall outside the remit of the local planning authority.

“The council acts impartially and does not support any party in a private dispute. We are unable to comment further on correspondence between residents, developers or other parties.”

Owens continued: “Beechwood finally replied to our complaints and agreed to meet us, though what they promised during that meeting was not fulfilled. We asked to be put in touch with a structural engineer, which was agreed to... until we were told it wouldn’t happen.

“Scaffolding expanded without notice, again. UK Power Network was forced to intervene after an electric

cable was left bare on the side build and damaged in a thunderstorm, leaving the whole neighbourhood without power. And this is just the tip of the iceberg.”

He said Beechwood agreed to six months’ free service charge as compensation for the disruption, and that communal electricity and water costs for the duration of the works will be covered by the freeholder rather than charged to residents. Upon completion, all communal areas are due to be improved, including new paintwork, new carpets and new front doors.

However, many issues remain unresolved. “We still do not have policy documents or the promised schedule, among other things. We are fed up. We’re not even opposing the build, we are merely asking Beechwood to accept responsibility, to give us proof that the work is safe, and to be honest. We don’t want to complain and fight. We have lives, jobs. Yet here we are, complaining and fighting to feel safe in our own homes.”

Beechwood Developers Ltd was contacted for comment on several occasions but had not responded at time of publication.

Once a month not enough?

Sign up for our newsletter so you get the biggest stories from Barnet each week!

Sign up:
eepurl.com/im4QqM

Residents say work started with no warning

NEWS

Council loses £58million in housing funding following opposition ‘call-in’ of cabinet decision



BY DAVID FLOYD

Barnet Council has missed out on over £58million of funding for affordable homes after a controversial housing scheme was delayed due to objections from opposition councillors. The council had been allocated the grant by the Greater London Authority to enable it buy 208 affordable homes from developer Vistry as part of the Dollis Valley Estate Regeneration Scheme. The final phases of the redevelopment of the estate were halted in 2023 when developers Vistry said plans to build a mix of 221 homes, with 126 privately owned and 95 affordable, was no longer viable. The council agreed a new deal with Vistry for all 208 homes constructed to be affordable (187 social rent and 21 for key workers) and to be bought by the council for management by Barnet Homes. Plans for the acquisition were approved at a cabinet meeting in July, however the decision was ‘called in’ by Conservative councillors. Call-in is a mechanism established by the Local Government Act 2000 to enable councillors to challenge a decision that causes them significant concern. It is designed to be used only in exceptional circumstances where councillors believe the council’s decision-making processes have not been correctly followed. As a result of the opposition councillors’ action, it was not possible for the council to approve the Dollis Valley scheme by the date set by the GLA and the funding was withdrawn, so the call-in meeting, which

took place on Tuesday, 4th August was only able to consider next steps. The plans had been particularly controversial because residents, who bought homes on the estate built during earlier phases of the regeneration scheme, objected to the impact of affordable homes on the overall housing mix. The deal would have seen the estate become 60% social rent whereas it had originally been intended to be 60% privately owned. In their call-in request, Conservative councillors raised doubts about the council’s business case and said: “We submit that the decision of the cabinet is contrary to the policy framework, namely the council aim of being financially responsible and meeting financial sustainability.” Their case was that the cabinet had not been given sufficient accurate information to make a decision about the possible implications of the scheme for the borough’s finances. However, the tight deadline meant that, irrespective of whether the arguments raised at last month’s call-in meeting were successful, the option to go ahead was no longer available. Following the meeting, *Barnet Post* contacted the council to ask what would happen next. A spokesperson told the *Post*: “The council was notified by the Greater London Authority (GLA) on 28th July that the delay to the project timetable means it no longer supports awarding grant funding to the scheme. “As a result, the cabinet decision to approve the full business case and the council’s

acquisition of 208 affordable homes as part of phases four and five of the Dollis Valley Estate Regeneration Scheme can no longer be implemented.” Asked what the council’s response was to the concerns raised by opposition councillors, the spokesperson said: “The council considered the full business case before taking its decision on 21st July and was satisfied that the proposals represented an appropriate route to securing 208 affordable homes as part of the regeneration of the Dollis Valley Estate. “The Section 151 Officer provided finance clearance for the report, attended both the finance and growth overview and scrutiny committee and cabinet meetings, and was satisfied that the decision supported the council’s objectives of being both financially responsible and building quality, affordable homes. “Financial responsibility means the council must tackle the root causes of budget pressures which include homelessness and temporary accommodation. The delivery of affordable homes at Dollis Valley would have avoided costs in the future for Barnet residents.”

“Councillors raised doubts about the council’s business case”

They added: “It is regrettable that we cannot now build these affordable homes, which would both have saved the council money on temporary accommodation and provided homes to families who need them. “However, following the subsequent change in circumstances relating to the GLA grant funding, the original proposal can no longer be implemented and officers will now return to cabinet with alternative recommendations for consideration.” At the call-in meeting, councillors agreed on a series of recommendations to cabinet designed to improve the provision of information before major decisions are taken. Responding to the recommendations, opposition leader Peter Zinkin said: “Good decision-making depends on transparency, proper scrutiny and access to complete information. “These recommendations will ensure councillors have time to consider important matters and that residents can have confidence in robust scrutiny.” *Barnet Post* approached the GLA for a response to the call-in request. A spokesperson said that the *Post* should direct its query to Barnet Council.

Advertisement

COMING SOON AT ARTSDEPOT

IN THE BRAIN
PERFORMED BY SHECHTER II
Wed 9 & Thu 10 Sep

5 MISTAKES THAT CHANGED HISTORY
Sat 26 Sep

BROTHERS IN bAND:
The Very Best of DIRE STRAITS
Wed 30 Sep

TOTO THE NINJA CAT & THE GREAT SNAKE ESCAPE
Fri 2 - Sun 4 Oct

OCKHAM'S RAZOR: COLLABORATOR
Wed 7 Oct

SURINDERELLA
Sat 17 & Sun 18 Oct

arts depot

Box Office: 020 8369 5454
artsdepot.co.uk

artsdepot,
North Finchley,
N12 0GA

NEWS

COMMENT

Barnet Council’s budget gap set to become highest in London, new analysis shows

BY JOE IVES, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER & DAVID FLOYD

Barnet Council is on track to have the largest budget gap in London by 2028, BBC analysis has revealed.

The local authority is projected to have a budget deficit of nearly £113.5million by the end of the 2027/28 financial year – the second largest of any council in England.

The findings, released last month, come as part of research by the BBC’s Shared Data Unit looking into town hall finances in the UK.

Across England only Hampshire County Council, with an expected deficit of nearly £180m, is expected to be in a worse position than Barnet by the end of 2027/28.

Nevertheless, the North London council insists that it is “a tightly run ship” navigating its way through a “perfect storm” created by years of government funding cuts and soaring costs for essential services such as temporary accommodation and adult social care.

The scale of the problem potentially facing the local authority comes despite £9.42m of planned savings – equating to £23.25 per Barnet resident – being made for the 2026/27 financial year, which started in April.

The BBC’s analysis found that over eleven times this amount would have to be saved over the next two years to plug the financial gap. The projected shortfall per resident by 2027/28 is £280.17.

At the same time, the overall band D council tax bill went up nearly £77 this year, taking the annual fee to over £1,600. This hike came despite the local authority receiving substantial ‘exceptional financial support’ (EFS) from the government.

The council needed £55.7m of EFS to balance the books for 2025/26 and a further £79.3m to do so in 2026/27. EFS allows councils to treat some day-to-day spending as longer-

term capital expenditure, which is usually funded through borrowing.

Recent analysis carried out by KPMG for neighbouring Haringey Council found that, at current rates, each £1m of EFS borrowing could cost town halls “approximately” £62,000 a year in borrowing costs.

The BBC Shared Data Unit’s research has found that councils across the UK will need to plug a combined £3.8billion budget gap by the end of next year, despite planning £3.2bn of savings in 2026/27.

However, even after making those savings, councils are forecasting a further £3.8bn shortfall by the end of the 2027/28 financial year.

Responding to the recent findings, a Barnet Council spokesperson said: “The council is taking measures to ensure that its future financial sustainability is viable by investing in prevention, housing and digital and data transformation, reducing costs in demand-led statutory services like social care and homelessness and working alongside neighbouring boroughs and London Councils to ensure best practice is being adopted.”

They also argued that “a speedy resolution” to the Casey Commission, an ongoing independent review of the adult social care system due to be published in 2028, would help “struggling” councils “get on a firmer financial footing”.

The findings coincided with the publication of a government-commissioned report by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (Cipfa), which was asked to look into the council’s finances following its requests for EFS.

The report described the council’s financial position as “highly fragile” and criticised the “gap between strategy and delivery” when tackling its budget problems.

“
Only Hampshire is expected to be in a worse position
”

Putting Barnet Council’s finances onto a sustainable footing



Simon Radford, cabinet member for financial sustainability

BY CLLR SIMON RADFORD

Putting Barnet’s finances onto a sustainable footing is our top priority, so we welcome the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government’s (MHCLG) review of the council’s financial position.

The report, conducted by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (Cipfa), which was published last month, recognises the scale and pace of change required to solve our £200m structural deficit.

We have current council spend under control and have already reduced our call on exceptional financial support (EFS) by £10m, but demand for services that are a legal duty is growing twice as fast as our income and far outstrips our central government funding. We effectively have a broken system that needs fundamental and fast reform from government, including through initiatives like the Casey Commission on adult social care.

Nevertheless, our plan is to try to reach financial sustainability by March 2029, and we will be bringing that plan to cabinet on 12th October. The task is mammoth – we need to find that £200m of savings or cost avoidance within three years, which requires some very painful decisions in the coming months and years, and a brutally honest conversation with residents.

The Cipfa report identifies issues that we have already been working on, validating our analysis and approach to balancing our books, but with a focus on our position two years ago (2024/25).

We have already made significant progress that is not reflected in this historical picture, with our financial sustainability programme board (FSPB) in place to strengthen direction and support robust decision making by the council’s management team.

Results include getting the cost of adult social care below the national average per adult whilst maintaining top quartile performance, as well as stabilising in-year spend on temporary accommodation.

Cipfa has made two recommendations which will be of particular interest to residents: that Barnet reviews its historically low council tax levels, due to government’s expectation in our funding settlement that we set band d council tax at £2,060, and that we bring the frequency of bin collections into line with that of most other boroughs.

On council tax, we have already assumed an increase close to the legal maximum of 5%, which would take the band d level to £1,703. Any further increase would need either permission from the government or a referendum result in favour.

Council tax impacts household budgets, particularly for those on low and middle incomes, so we have always said we would do the hard work to find savings and efficiencies before considering further increases.

We are doing that work but recognise that government has set an assumed level of council tax, known as the ‘notional level’, that they expect us to collect – for us that’s an increase of over 30%, which would need a significant safety net for those who would be impacted the most.

On Cipfa’s waste proposal, we are already planning to push up recycling rates next year by

looking at fortnightly waste collections. This is in response to the cross-party recommendation that recycling rates must be increased to 50% in line with the North London Joint Waste Strategy.

We are doing everything we can, including bearing down on the biggest things that drive the need for statutory services in the first place like reduced independence and poor health.

The reality is, though, that none of the levers in our control can tackle the scale of future demand for these services without national policy intervention. Cutting all non-statutory spend would stop the work that helps prevent the need whilst only reducing the council’s budget by £18m compared to the £200m forecast demand.

“
We have a broken system that requires fast reform from government
”

With our very large and growing older population, we must get a speedier resolution on adult social care funding. As the Barnet ‘Graph of Doom’ predicted 15 years ago, if government does not fix the adult social care crisis it’s not just the NHS that will collapse, it will be local government too.

Cabinet will continue working with the council’s senior management team on delivering our commitment to closing the £200m budget gap by 2029. Most importantly, we will be starting that open and honest conversation with residents in earnest after the summer holidays.

Simon Radford is Barnet Council’s cabinet member for financial sustainability

COMMENT

Cipfa has confirmed what Barnet Conservatives have been saying for years



BY CLLR PETER ZINKIN

As a result of Barnet’s disastrous financial situation, the government commissioned an external assurance review to make sure that the council was doing all that it was supposed to do to restore its financial position.

The review focused on governance, finance and delivery. These are all areas Barnet Conservatives have raised concerns about for many years. Too often those concerns were dismissed or ridiculed.

Now the independent review by Cipfa has confirmed many of the warnings we repeatedly made.

The report’s central conclusion is stark. Barnet’s problem is not a lack of strategies, plans or governance structures. If anything, there are too many. The real problem is the widening gap between strategy and delivery. Cipfa concludes that the council is better at identifying risks and problems than taking the action needed to address them.

This is precisely what Barnet Conservatives have been saying in *Barnet Post* articles for the past few years.

In November 2024, I warned that Labour’s claimed savings were largely fantasy and that the council faced a growing budget gap. In March 2025, I described Labour’s budget as a “desperate gamble” reliant on borrowing rather than a credible recovery plan.

Throughout 2025, I repeatedly highlighted the growing disconnect between reports, strategies and the reality facing residents. At the time these warnings were dismissed as

opposition rhetoric. Today, Cipfa has independently reached many of the same conclusions.

The report also vindicates concerns we raised over scrutiny and decision-making. When Conservative councillors in the last few weeks called in the Dollis Valley decision (see page 9), we raised concerns about resident engagement, financial exposure and the late publication of reports. Cipfa has now identified exactly the same issues, warning that large agenda packs, late papers and descriptive reporting undermine effective scrutiny.

Likewise, the report raises concerns about the council’s exposure through its capital programme, companies and joint ventures – an area where Conservatives have repeatedly sought greater transparency and accountability. Cipfa’s warning that governance arrangements have not kept pace with the scale of financial exposure should concern every resident.

Perhaps most significant is the report’s assessment of Barnet’s culture and leadership. Cipfa describes an organisation that has become cautious and slow to make difficult decisions – typical of a Labour administration. This reflects concerns we have expressed for years. Difficult decisions delayed do not become easier; they become more expensive.

However, the report is not without its weaknesses. While it rightly criticises the council for producing large volumes of paperwork and strategy documents, it is notably lighter on practical solutions. Barnet’s fundamental challenge is massive growth in demand running into hundreds of millions of pounds. The report offers relatively few tangible proposals capable of addressing a problem on that scale within the timescales required.

Indeed, Cipfa identifies only a handful of specific options that the council has not yet pursued. Two of the most prominent are further consideration of council tax increases and less frequent residual waste collections. Yet residents have made their views on these issues abundantly clear.

Barnet residents are already facing rising costs and have consistently opposed reductions to waste collection services. Under Cipfa’s direction these proposals will now form part of the discussion, but sadly, they are nowhere near sufficient to bridge the scale of the financial challenge facing the borough.

None of this is to say that Barnet’s problems exist in isolation. The Labour government’s Fair Funding Review and wider local

government finance reforms have done nothing to ease pressures on authorities such as Barnet. If anything, they have increased the pressure on councils already struggling with rising demand and constrained resources.

Ultimately, that funding gap risks falling on residents through higher council tax and reduced universal services. The paradox that Barnet faces is that the excess demand comes from individuals entitled to support by statute but paid for by all residents whose universal services are being cut to pay for the statutory obligation to these individuals.

That is why we welcome this report. Not because it tells us anything we have not already said, but because it provides an independent assessment that cannot be ignored.

The challenge facing Barnet today is not entirely of this administration’s making. Rising demand for adult social care, children’s services and temporary accommodation has placed enormous pressure on councils across the country. But Barnet’s position has undoubtedly been made worse by Labour’s failure to recognise the warning signs and act when action was still possible.

Too often difficult decisions were postponed; uncomfortable truths were ignored; and concerns raised by the opposition were dismissed. The result is the position we find



Tory group leader
Peter Zinkin

ourselves in today.

Barnet can recover, but recovery will require honesty about the scale of the challenge, a relentless focus on delivery rather than announcements and endless strategy papers. Difficult decisions need to be taken before they become unavoidable. If there is one lesson from the Cipfa report, it is that if Labour ignore problems, it does not make them disappear. It only makes them harder and more expensive to solve.

Peter Zinkin is leader of Barnet Conservative group.

Advertisement

PHOENIX
CINEMA

BECOME
A MEMBER

DO YOU WATCH
MORE THAN 3
MOVIES IN A YEAR?

DID YOU KNOW THAT
OUR STANDARD TIER
MEMBERSHIP RETURNS
ITS INVESTMENT AFTER
ONLY 3 VISITS?

COMMENT

12

Number 10 North is for North London too

When the prime minister says Number 10 North is about nothing less than remaking the British state, some people expect a North London MP to bristle. Why should power move to Manchester? What does my constituency get out of it?

My answer is that Number 10 North is for North London too.

Let me give you an example: housing. I grew up on free school meals and was homeless for a time as a child, so housing has always been a cause very close to my heart. I've lost count now of the number of times I've met constituents in my patch of North London, who are into their thirties and forties and yet still living with their parents despite dearly wanting a place of their own.

Some make it – and I am very thankful to my in-laws who allowed my wife and I to live with them to help us save for a deposit – but for many, it's a dream that's simply out of reach.

Thousands across my constituency and the whole of London are left to consider constantly: how big a deposit will I need to be able to buy? What else can I do to scrape together more savings? How can I afford the essentials next month once I've paid my rent?

Much of this is because our economy is flying on just one (London-shaped!) engine. In fact, the UK is the most regionally imbalanced large economy in the world. We are the only country of our size with just one big city whose productivity sits above the national average.

Manchester, Leeds and Birmingham are fantastic places, but measured against Munich, Lille and Barcelona they are underperforming economically, as are many of the towns and villages around them.

And that hurts London too, because London absorbs the consequences. Millions across the country face a choice: stay near mum and dad near where you're from and compete for the relatively few high-productivity jobs nearby – or move south to London and its surrounds. Millions choose to move south.

The result is a London housing market that is profoundly overheated, not to mention some of the longest average commute times in Europe. This has become normalised. Yet it need not be so.

So, what does the vision of Number 10 North that the prime minister has expounded mean for a constituency like Chipping Barnet?

First, if cities like Manchester and Leeds were to offer more of the economic opportunity that London offers, fewer people are



Dan Tomlinson MP says moving power to Manchester is good for Chipping Barnet

▲

Prime Minister
Andy Burnham
visits Jewish Care
in Golders Green

Credit: Lauren
Hurley / No 10
Downing Street

forced to make the journey down south. That is not London losing out. That is pressure coming off London's housing market, its hospitals, its transport network, its schools.

Second, devolution is not some-

thing that happens to London. It is something London gets too! Every argument for giving a city like Manchester real control over transport, skills and land is an argument for giving the capital the same.

“

We are the only country of our size with just one big city whose productivity sits above the national average

”

If the Mayor of London could raise money through a visitor levy and put it towards local infrastructure (for example extending transport networks such as the DLR or Bakerloo Line), that means that Londoners are better off.

A greater say over business rates would let London back its own growth sectors rather than waiting on a Whitehall spending round.

Third, the fixes are complementary rather than competing. London's binding constraint is homes. The rest of the country's binding constraint is connectivity. It is harder to travel between our northern cities than between comparable cities anywhere else in Europe. That must change. Building greater transport connections across the country doesn't take away opportunity from London: when the rest of the country thrives, London is better able to thrive.

That is why I am taking up the role of growth minister with real excitement and looking forward to working out of Number 10 North.

It is a major step towards a more united country; to one in which the whole country is thriving.

Opportunity has never been evenly spread across this country. Too many people have grown up being told that to get on in life, they had to get out.

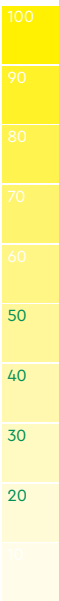
What Number 10 North offers instead is empowerment: communities with the ability to do more for themselves, to shape the places they live rather than wait on somebody else's permission.

And that applies to London every bit as much as to Manchester, to Swansea, to Stirling, to Belfast. As communities right across the United Kingdom are empowered, we get more places that succeed. And places that succeed are the bedrock of a stronger economy, which is what pays for everything else we care about.

A good school for your kids. Streets where you feel safe to walk home. A hospital appointment when you need one. A home you can actually afford. The ability to go on that summer holiday you were looking forward to.

So I welcome Number 10 North. Not because London's turn is over, but because we are all part of one national story, and a country where every community can do more for itself is a country where my constituents do better too.

Dan Tomlinson is Labour MP for Chipping Barnet. He is exchequer secretary to the Treasury and minister for growth. An earlier version of this piece appeared in the Evening Standard.



ADVERTISE HERE!

WE STILL HAVE PROPER CIRCULATION.

IT IS  CERTIFIED.

CHECK HERE 

WE LOVE PRINT JOURNALISM.



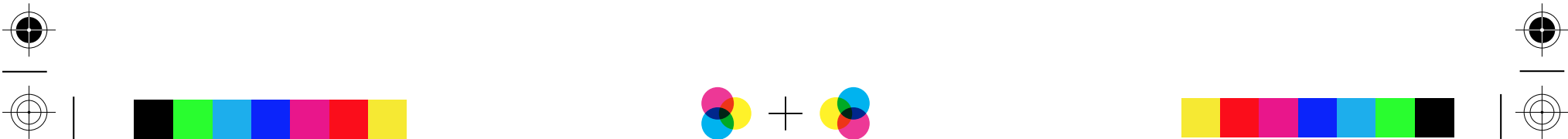
Next edition print deadlines

Barnet Post issue #42 October
Print date: 24th September
Publication date: 25th September

Scan here to email our team for a quote

 **Mark Brown**
Email mark@socialspider.com
Call 07728 520 116

 **Klaudia Kiss**
Email klaudia@socialspider.com
Call 07732 000 430



Period poverty: the problem is still here

Anjola Fashawe investigates period poverty and talks to campaigners tackling the issue

Nearly a decade after ‘period poverty’ entered mainstream political debate, campaigners say the crisis has not disappeared but has instead become quieter, slipping into the background of a wider cost-of-living reality.

Girls are missing school and using makeshift products

In schools across the UK, campaigners describe a troubling pattern. Girls are missing lessons every month, some bleeding through their uniforms, others using toilet paper, socks or scraps of fabric as makeshift pads because they have nothing else.

For Tina Leslie, founder of Freedom4Girls, these experiences reflect a wider, often hidden crisis. Her organisation provides period kits through its Dignity Kits programme, delivered in partnership with the Alpine Group. It also offers menstrual health education to girls and women in Kenya, while supporting communities in Leeds and Leicester. She tells me a lack of access to basic products can leave girls confused, isolated and at risk.

“They were using socks and T-shirts and one of them had had a period for two years and didn’t even know what it was,” Leslie explains. In Kenya, the consequences can be even more severe. “Girls there use ash, dung, bits out of their mattresses, rags, corn husks, some just sit in a hole because they haven’t even got anything to use.” The lack of access to products can carry serious risks. “There’s a lot of transactional sex, sex for pads, they’ll get pregnant, or get HIV or syphilis.”

She adds that in some cases, girls are forced to rely on whatever is available, including using their mother’s pants during their period.

Young women are isolating themselves

Back in the UK, the same patterns appear in less visible ways. Linda Allbutt, founder of the Staffordshire-based charity Period Power, shares with me the long-term consequences of period poverty. Her organisation has supplied more than 200 foodbanks, charities and family hubs, distributing nearly £500,000 worth of products over eight years.

“We know of girls who miss school every month because they can’t afford period products,” Allbutt tells me. “We know of women isolating themselves because they’re using toilet paper, or old socks, or rags, anything that would suffice as a make-do product.” She adds that the impact extends beyond immediate discomfort. “If you can’t fulfil your potential because you can’t go to school for one week in four, we’re losing talent.”

► Period Dignity Kits programme in Kenya
Courtesy of Freedom4Girls



Shame is keeping the crisis hidden

While the issue is often framed around access to period products, campaigners say that only captures part of the picture. Shame plays a central role in shaping how and whether people seek help at all. Meri Jimenez, head of communications, fundraising and external engagement at The Hygiene Bank, notes that stigma continues to keep the scale of the issue hidden.

“50% of people in hygiene poverty are too ashamed to go and ask for help,” she says. “They are afraid of telling a relative or a friend that they didn’t shower yesterday because they ran out of shampoo, that they don’t have any deodorant, that they have to miss work because of it.”

The charity, founded just seven years ago, now operates more than 150 projects across the UK, supported by over 800 volunteers and working with more than 1,600 community partners, including schools, food banks and refugee organisations.

Support is not one-size-fits-all

Across these settings, need varies widely and often extends beyond what is publicly discussed. Charities report supporting women fleeing domestic abuse who need small, portable hygiene kits they can take with them at short notice.

For some, particularly those with additional needs, alternative and more sustainable options such as period pants can offer a more practical and accessible solution. This is

especially important for people with disabilities, long-term health conditions and sensory needs.

“We give them out to people with autism, disabled people, and trans men,” says Leslie. “Trying to use a pad when you’re disabled can be really difficult, sometimes being able to just put pants on instead is much easier. The material is also really soft, so it works better for people with sensory issues.”

Yet even well-intentioned solutions can fall short if they do not reflect people’s realities. “There is a balance between sustainability and need,” Jimenez explains. “Some families reject period pants because they need hot water to wash them, they need to pay for electricity, and at the end of the month that all adds up.” Albert tells me she has seen similar patterns in the UK. “When we go to homeless shelters, they’re not wanting reusable products at all. They don’t have washing facilities.”

Rising costs are pushing more women into period poverty

Across the UK, ActionAid UK says around one in five young women report struggling to afford period products in the past year. As household budgets tighten, non-food essentials are often deprioritised.

“If anybody is struggling to pay their bills or put food on the table, they’re going to struggle to buy period products,” Allbutt adds. “Until all poverty’s eradicated, period poverty’s going to exist.”

At the same time, the organisations supporting them are under increasing strain. Donations to charities fell by more than £1bn in 2025, according to a report by the Charities Aid Foundation, while demand continues to rise.

Jimenez highlights that securing funding is becoming increasingly difficult. “We spend a lot of time reaching out, trying to build partnerships with companies that can support us financially or through donations.”

She adds: “The more people understand, the more we can reduce stigma.”

Despite growing demand, awareness remains limited. Research by the Hygiene Bank suggests that around 20 million people in the UK have not heard of hygiene poverty or understood how it affects those around them, highlighting how hidden the crisis can be.

“There is support out there,” Jimenez notes. “But that barrier, the shame and stigma, is what prevents people from asking for help.”

For campaigners, increasing visibility remains one of the most important tools in tackling the issue. “Interviews like this are really important,” she explains. “Because the more people understand hygiene poverty, the more we can reduce stigma, raise funds and get products to those who need them.”

Everyone can play a part by learning more and speaking up.

This article was originally published by the youth communications charity Exposure: www.exposure.org.uk

Advertisement



North London
Grammar School

Open Day

Saturday, 3rd October, 10am - 1pm

Discover life at NLGS and the opportunities available for every student.

- ✓ 53% of GCSE grades at 7+ in 2026 . Our eighth consecutive year of rising results.
- ✓ TOP RATED Value-for-Money Private School - *The Telegraph*, 2026.
- ✓ Rated OUTSTANDING across every area of our provision - *ISI Inspection report 2025*.



Register here



Co-educational, Independent school, from Reception aged 4 to 18 years

📍 110 Colindeep Lane, Hendon, NW9 6HB

☎ 0208 205 0052

✉ admissions@northlondongrammar.com

FEATURES

16

Barnet churches help local families clear more than £700,000 of debt in five years

Christ Church Barnet and The Stable Church Barnet launched the Debt Centre in hope of helping local people to sort out their finances reports Leïla Davaud

“It can happen to anyone, anywhere,” says Beth Raynor, coach at the Debt Centre, as she discusses getting into financial difficulty. She adds: “There is no shame or guilt.”

For the last four years, she and her co-worker have been working with over 20 volunteers from Christ Church Barnet, The Stable Church Barnet and five other churches to help local families get their finances back on track.

She explains: “The Debt Centre, in partnership with UK Debt and the Christians Against Poverty (CAP) charity is a free local debt advice service. If the initiative comes from places of worship, anyone from Barnet, of any faith, any gender, any origin can request our services. No exception.”

Launched in 2021, the Debt Centre meets with two households per month. “We offer a minimum of three meetings. We assess their situation, come up with a plan and put it into action.”

In five years, 47 people have been helped and over £700,000 worth of debt has been paid back or cleared through insolvency. “One piece of advice that I always give is: don’t delay. As soon as you’re at risk of debt, or already in debt, contact us. There is help and hope to resolve the matter promptly.”

In the London region, CAP client data shows an average debt of £13,000, with repayment typically taking eleven years. Mental health is the leading cause of this debt, cited by



The CAP Barnet Team at their anniversary celebrations: Debt Centre manager, Karen Hedges, Debt Centre administrator, Tao Smith and Debt coach, Beth Raynor

20% of clients, followed by low income (17%) and relationship breakdown (10%).

CAP has outlined four key traits shaping who its services are built for. Clients often need face-to-face support, have little to no financial cushion (no savings, missed payments, mounting bills) and face vulnerabilities ranging from health issues to major life shocks like job loss or bereavement. Low income remains a common thread throughout.

Beth explains: “Debt is the fruit of something happening in somebody’s life. Our goal is to figure out what triggered the financial struggle and, hopefully, we are able to treat it to the root. Sometimes, it’s as simple as foodbank vouchers that can win some time to settle a few bills.”

Karen Hedges, London Barnet

Debt Centre’s manager, says: “Many of the people we’ve helped were really struggling when we first met them but it’s amazing to see the hope and confidence restored in their lives again now.

“As we are a local team, we’re able to provide an amazing free, face-to-face service, with practical help such as food shops or fuel top-ups when needed, along with emotional support and encouragement. This has helped restore hope, saved family relationships, improved people’s mental well-being and changed many local lives for the better.”

Speaking of big changes, budget coaching is one of the Debt Centre’s key services. Beth Raynor says: “For a lot of people, budgeting is really hard. They have not been taught, it seems too complicated.

Our goal is to teach people so they don’t need the centre in the future.”

So, in September, Beth and her colleagues will meet with students to introduce them to simple budgeting tools. “The cost of living crisis is still very much a reality and young people are facing it while trying to start their life. It’s important to help them.”

Beth regrets that, on average, people wait up to three years before seeking help. “It is our job to help you. Come to us. There is no judgement. Our mandate from Jesus is to help people get freedom. Freedom of debt is part of the belief!”

If you are struggling with your finances, you can find out more about what services the Debt Centre and CAP offer in your area by visiting capuk.org/help or calling 0800 328 0006.

Back to school with Barnet Libraries

BY CATHERINE LUSTED

The new school year has arrived and libraries are here to support children starting and returning to school with a booklist to support the transition.

All of Barnet’s libraries provide a range of books to help with homework. Covering every subject, your local library will help you find reliable and accurate information for study. You can visit any library and choose books from the shelves or use the select and collect service to order titles through the online catalogue to collect from your local library.

Libraries’ online resources give you free access to subscription websites to help with homework and research. Find out about thousands of subjects on Encyclopedia Britannica which features photos, maps and videos or discover famous people on Who’s Who. All online resources are free to use with your library card and PIN.

Libraries can help students find information too. Ask library staff for help in staffed opening times or contact LibrariesOnlineHelp@barnet.gov.uk with homework queries for suggested resources.

A new school year is a great time to join the library and borrow from the huge range of books, eBooks and eAudiobooks for children. Best of all, it’s free!

To find out more, visit: barnet.gov.uk/libraries

Are you enjoying the Post?



If you want more, you can find new stories every day online at barnetpost.co.uk

ARTS & CULTURE 17



David Westhead in *Krapp's Last Tape*
Credit Artsdepot

Krapp's Last Tape comes to Artsdepot

As the North Finchley venue unveils its autumn programme, Londoners will get the chance to experience Samuel Beckett's celebrated tragicomedy for one night only – actor David Westhead tells Leïla Davaud why it can't be missed

The one-act play *Krapp's Last Tape* follows a man who records a tape every year on his birthday. Now 69 years old, he listens back to a recording made when he was 39.

What follows, says actor David Westhead, is “a tragicomedy filled with hilarious memories, unfulfilled ambition and the mourning of lost love, all wound up in an old reel of tape”.

His own journey with the play began 30 years ago while he was travelling through Europe.

“I was in Lithuania and I wanted to see a play. I ended up following arrows through the streets that led me to a showing of *Krapp's Last Tape*. I found myself in some sort of stranger's front room, with just a man and his tape recorder. I absolutely loved it.”

That chance encounter has stayed with him ever since. Now, Westhead and Academy Award nominee Stockard Channing are bringing this production to audiences across the United Kingdom.

David says the aim of touring to venues such as Artsdepot is a deliberate one; “to make quality theatre accessible outside the West

End and give them a chance to do a good deed at the same time”.

That good deed comes through charity support. Money raised from ticket sales goes to the Wembley to Soweto Foundation, providing photographic training and life skills to disadvantaged young people, helping them move their lives forward and make a positive contribution to society.

For Westhead, that sense of community is central to the experience, making the production about more than simply revisiting one of Beckett's best-known works.

Audiences can also take part in a Q&A following the performance, offering an opportunity to explore the play and its themes with the artists after the curtain falls.

Krapp's Last Tape plays at Artsdepot's Studio Theatre on Thursday, 5th November at 7.45pm, with tickets from £19.

The production forms part of Artsdepot's 2026 programme, which brings theatre, dance, comedy, music, magic, family entertainment and more throughout the year.

Tickets are on sale now on artsdepot.co.uk

Lamppost sculptures to illuminate Barnet's heritage

BY DAVID FLOYD

Barnet residents have a shiny new way to explore the area after the installation of four new lampposts providing guidance to the borough's cultural and historical sites.

‘Waylamps of Barnet: A Heritage Discover Trail’ sees the lampposts, created by landscape, art and architecture practice Wayward in collaboration with andre kong studio, located at four different points along the 125 bus route between Colindale and North Finchley.

The sculptures known as ‘Waylamps’, which are funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, and supported the Mayor of London's borough of culture programme, form a trail that Barnet Council says will enable “residents and visitors to discover the people, places and stories that make the borough unique”.

The four Waylamps are named after major figures connected to the borough: animator Lotte Reiniger; writer and comedian Spike Milligan; suffragist Muriel Matters and former Mayor of Barnet Agnes Slocombe MBE.

They do not form a single walking route but act as starting points for people to discover local landmarks including cultural venues and green spaces.

Anne Clarke, the council's cabinet member



A Barnet Waylamp
Credit Luke O'Donovan

for culture said: “The Waylamps of Barnet is a wonderful example of how creativity can help us see our borough differently.”

“Created with residents and rooted in local history, the Waylamps reflect the spirit of Light and Flight by bringing together art, heritage and community in a way that is imaginative, welcoming and accessible to everyone.”

“We hope people of all ages will enjoy discovering something new about Barnet and about the places they call home.”

Andrew Sampaio Kong of andre kong studio said: “The Waylamps celebrate discovery, movement and curiosity, literally casting the community's imagination into the landscape.”

“Rather than creating a single prescribed route, we were excited by the idea of a constellation of meandering destinations, making exploration more accessible and inviting people to wander, linger and uncover new stories along the way.”

Download the free Field Guide and find out more at lightandflight.co.uk/projects/barnet-heritage-trail

Advertisement

Discover NW7Hub

Your Community Space in Mill Hill

NW7Hub is a vibrant, volunteer-led charity supporting local residents through our Foodbank, Community Allotment, partnership Library, wellbeing activities, and a growing calendar of events.

We rely on the generosity of our community. If you're able to donate, volunteer, or support our work, you'll be helping local families directly.

Join us, get involved, or simply drop in - everyone is welcome.

Find out more go to nw7hub.org.uk
<https://www.facebook.com/nw7hub/>
<https://www.instagram.com/nw7hub/>



FEATURES

18

Walking through the past

Dave McCormick takes an evening stroll through history and community in Barnet Vale

On one of the cooler July evenings, a group of people went for a sociable, gently guided walk around three publicly accessible gardens in Barnet Vale – Incredible Edible Barnet community garden at St John’s United Reformed Church (URC), Highlands Gardens and Greenhill Gardens.

Along the way we learned about the history of Barnet Vale and the gardens, how to record nature observations using a smartphone app, why the water feature at Highlands Gardens is not working, and what connects local residents to the families that founded Lloyds and Barclays Bank.

The past
Before 1849, the area had a small number of people living on the privately owned Lyonsdown and Greenhill Estates. By 1931 the estates were history and Barnet Vale



Walk participants

had around 11,000 people living in a mix of houses and flats.

The trigger for growth came in 1849 when the Lyonsdown Estate, which covered the area now bounded by Potters Road, the Great North Road, Greenhill Gardens, Longmoor Avenue and Pymmes Brook, was sold to the Great Northern Railway Company who sold on the land they didn’t need to the British Land Company for development.

The following year, New Barnet Railway Station opened and the combination of a railway link into London, and the opportunity to buy a home, attracted people to the area.

By 1890 the area had been transformed

into a place with shops, churches, pubs, a town hall, a reservoir, a gas and water company and houses of different styles and sizes.

A number of churches of different denominations were built close to each other on, or near, Station Road. One, St Augustine’s Presbyterian Church, became St John’s United Reformed Church, which is now the home of the Incredible Edible Barnet community garden.

Highlands House and Gardens, on the edge of the old Lyonsdown Estate, was built in 1897 for stockbroker Joseph Bevan Braithwaite. The gardens were purchased by East Barnet Urban District Council in 1930 and Highlands Gardens was opened to the public the following year.

The Greenhill Estate, which bordered the Lyonsdown Estate, was once part of the larger Pricklers Estate which was sold by the Crown in 1558 (the local part of the Great North Road is called Pricklers Hill).

The estate stayed in private ownership until 1926 when it was broken up and auctioned for development. The lake area of the estate had been scheduled for social use by the council, but it was not until 1951 that

Greenhill Gardens was finally purchased by the council and opened to the public.

The present
While Greenhill and Highlands Gardens are rooted firmly in the past, Incredible Edible Barnet has re-imagined and re-purposed the church grounds so that they provide a place for people to come together to learn about growing food and connect with nature.

The future
During the walk, conversations turned to discussing what we can do to help our gardens adapt to the changing weather and meet the current and future needs of our communities. Should we preserve the past or create a new future?

At the community garden the fig tree is thriving while other plants are desperately



The fig tree Credit Dave McCormick

in need of water – possibly a reminder that adaptation and resilience are vital for the health of nature and society.

Maybe more walks and discussions are needed to decide what actions we should take?

LOCAL NOTICES

Published: 28th August 2026

Licensing Act 2003

Notice Of Application
For A Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that **Gully Gangs UK Pvt. Ltd** have applied to the Licensing Authority of London Borough of Barnet for a Premises Licence to permit:

- The sale of alcohol for consumption ON and OFF the premises; the provision of late night refreshment; and regulated entertainment during the hours specified in the premises licence application
- For the premises **Gully Gangs** situated at **13 Finchley Lane, NW4 1BN**

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at 8th Floor, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, London, NW9 4EW. Appointments to inspect the register can be made by telephoning 020 8359 7443 during office hours.

Any person wishing to submit relevant representations concerning this application must give notice in writing to the London Borough of Barnet, Licensing Team at the address above, giving in detail the grounds of the representation no later than: **15/09/2026**

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Authorities Sub Committee and will therefore pass into the public domain.

Representations must relate to one or more of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

It is an offence liable on conviction to a fine up to £5000 under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application.

Dated: 23rd day of August 2026

HERE HERE HERE HERE HERE HERE

YOUR LICENCE YOUR LICENCE YOUR LICENCE YOUR LICENCE YOUR LICENCE YOUR LICENCE

ADVERTISE YOUR ADVERTISE YOUR ADVERTISE YOUR ADVERTISE YOUR ADVERTISE YOUR

We offer licence advertising for local businesses

If you need to advertise your licence application in Barnet your local newspaper can help you

Email licences@socialspider.com

Call 07728 520 116 or 07732 000 430

Get your paper

Pick up the Post all across the borough!

Check out where barnetpost.co.uk/pick-up

*a selection of our regular stockists, but it is not an exhaustive list

SPORT



Good start for the Bees

Promotion-chasing Barnet FC have been quick out of the League Two blocks this season, reports Nick Sandamas

Last season, an excellent run of eight wins from the final nine games unfortunately wasn't quite enough to propel the Bees into the play-offs.

With a good close season of recruitment and a fairly good pre-season campaign behind them, the Bees' first competitive match of the season was a Carabao Cup tie against League One Cambridge United at the Abbey Stadium and, despite a decent performance, Dean Brennan's new look side lost 2-1.

Kabongo Tshimanga gave the Bees the lead early in the second half but two quickfire goals in the space of ten minutes meant an early exit for the black and amber.

Next up for the pre-season promotion favourites was Salford City in the opening League Two game of the season.

The Bees put on a show for their fans as goals from new signings Oisin Callagher and Charlie Lakin, and the ever dependable Tshimanga, secured a 3-1 win which also secured a first ever victory over the Ammies at the fifth attempt.

Then an Arsenal U21 side arrived at The Hive on a Tuesday night for the opening EFL Trophy group game.

Despite making ten changes from the Salford match, Barnet ran amok against the young Gunners, running out 5-1 winners.

Again it was the new signings on the scoresheet as Tom Knowles fired a hat-trick with the other goals coming from Jack Maskell and academy product Bright Siaw.

Next it was the long journey to face Shrewsbury Town and it was a great afternoon as the Bees left Shropshire with all three points in another 3-1 win.

Experienced midfielder Jake Reeves (who had only arrived at the club on a season-long loan from AFC Wimbledon 48 hours earlier) opened the scoring in the 13th minute.

Josh Davison levelled matters for the Shrews before half

time following a goalkeeping howler by Matt Cox, but goals in the last ten minutes from Lakin and Knowles put the Bees on top of the early table and also secure their seventh league win on the spin dating back to last season (a club record in the league).

As the *Post* went to press they faced Cheltenham Town in a lunchtime kick-off where they hoped another good result would see them maintain their perfect start.

September sees the men in black and amber face away trips to Exeter City, Chesterfield and Crawley Town with home games against Accrington Stanley and Fleetwood Town.

Following such a strong start, hopes are high that the Bees will be in the promotion picture next May.

LISTINGS

PHOTOGRAPHY

Lens & Canvas – Beyond the Frame
Tuesday 1st – Monday 14th Sept
Artsdepot, 5 Nether Street, Tally Ho Corner, North Finchley N12 0GA

Discover an eclectic mix of photography and artwork by Debbie Jaye and Richard Szerman in this exhibition of exciting new work in photography and painting. "A realism meets surrealism experience" not to be missed.

Free entry
No advance booking required – just turn up on the day.
Visit artsdepot.co.uk/exhibition/lens-canvas-beyond-the-frame

RUNNING

Takeover Club Community Run
Sunday 6th Sept, 8:30am–9:30am
Pinnacle Fitness & Health Club, 1–3 Totteridge Lane N20 0EX

Join this friendly North London running community for a fun and inclusive community run. The Takeover Club hosts runs every other Sunday, alongside pace-group sessions, technique and stride sessions with a coach, and special pre-race shakeout runs.

All paces are welcome, including runners who prefer a slower pace and walkers.

Free to join
Visit thetakeoverclubcouk.wordpress.com

GARDENING

New Barnet Amateur Gardeners & Floral Art Society Meeting
Tuesday 8th Sept, 7.30pm–9.30pm
St John's Church Hall, Mowbray Road, New Barnet EN5 1RH

Join this friendly monthly group, where visitors are always welcome. Meetings include refreshments and the opportunity to buy plants grown by members, with donations supporting charity. There is also a raffle, including completed floral displays on floral-art evenings.

Meetings take place on the second Tuesday of each month.

Entry Members £3 | Visitors £5
Annual household subscription £14
Visit barnetgardenandfloralart.co.uk

CONCERT

Organ Open Day and Recital at Monken Hadley Church
Saturday 12th Sept, 10am–2pm
St Mary the Virgin Church, Hadley Green Road, Monken Hadley, Barnet EN5 5PZ

Discover the church's wonderful organ with Jonathan Gregory. The free open day includes talks, demonstrations and the chance to have a go at playing the instrument. All ages are welcome. Places to play the organ are available by advance sign-up only.

The day is followed by an Organ Recital at 7pm, with welcome drinks from 6:30pm.

Free open day
Organ Recital: £15 | £5 NUS and Under-18s
Email katie.morris2@btinternet.com

TALK

1953 – The Year of the Floods
Monday 14th Sept, 3pm
St John the Baptist Church, Wood Street, Barnet EN5 4BW

Join Barnet Museum and Local History Society for a fascinating talk with Terence Atkins exploring the floods of 1953 and their impact. The Local History Society organises regular lectures covering a wide range of local and wider-interest topics.

Talks last approximately 45 minutes
Entry £3 | Barnet Museum and Local History Society members Free
Visit barnetmuseum.co.uk

EXHIBITION

Battle of Britain – Unsung Heroes
Running until 31st December
RAF Museum, Grahame Park Way, Colindale NW9 5LL

Turn the spotlight away from the familiar dogfights and iconic fighters and discover the untold courage and quiet determination that helped Britain achieve victory during the Battle of Britain. This tour explores the contribution of Bomber and Coastal Command, Commonwealth and occupied-European pilots, WAAFs, the Dowding System and supporting technology, as well as civilian organisations including the Observer Corps, aircraft repair teams and the Air Transport Auxiliary.

Entry £10
Visit rafmuseum.org.uk

ICE CREAM

Lewis of London Ice Cream Farm: Moo-land
Open daily, 10am–5pm
Lewis of London Ice Cream Farm, Highwood Hill, Mill Hill NW7 4HB

Full of outdoor fun and aMOOsement! Moo-land features a sandy beach with toys and diggers, deckchairs for grown-ups, ride-on tractors and a field full of bouncy cows. There's also a role-play area where children can explore what it's like to work in the milking parlour and ice cream factory, before serving customers in the ice cream parlour.

Recommended age: twelve months–five years
Children (age 1+) £5.50
Adults £1.50
Visit lewisoflondon.co.uk/ice-cream-farm/events

THEATRE

The Unfriend
27th Sept – 3rd Oct
Incognito Theatre, Holly Park Road, Friern Barnet N11 3HB

Play by Steven Moffat, directed by Nick Vause. While holidaying on a cruise, Peter and his wife Debbie befriend Elsa, a loud and brash Trump-loving widow from Denver. Imagine their surprise when Elsa invites herself to stay a few months later.

Tickets £12 | £10 members | £5 students
Visit ticketsource.com/Incognito



We love printing Barnet Post but it does not bring in enough in advertising income to cover costs. Please sign up as a supporter to keep the paper in print.

If you like what we do and want us to carry on, become a supporter to make it happen:

**barnetpost.
co.uk/support-us**



We are thankful to our current supporters:

Fatema Ahmed, Charlotte Thompson, Michael Gilbey, Paul Salman, Chris Smith, Lisa Bard, Simon Radford, David Burns, Claire Farrier, Holly Kal-Weiss, Binita Shah, Simon Watson, Ray Floyd, Catherine Loveday, Anne Clarke, Michael Levitsky, Ged Sagar, Eamonn Rafferty, Ms A M Poppy, Mark Fineberg, Rob White, Bruce Mackay, John Stephen Corcoran, Guy Thursby-Pelham, Philip Cohen, Malcolm Douglas, Peter Boustred, Ros Staines, A Rosenfelder, Joanne Donnelly, Dianne Parlett, Kate Tokley, Dan Tomlinson, Martin Earl, Rabbi Jeffrey Newman, Jeremy Kemp, George Ttoouli, Pat Caplan, Stroma Leith, David Radford, Richard Stock, Anne Hutton, Quinton Dighton, Kunal Dhanani-Sumaria, Oluwasegun Oyenigba, Gill Sargeant, Ian Wood, David Allen, Gina Steels, Angela Sheehan, Barbara Pearce, Simon Ellinas, Matthew Freedman, Laura Miller, Longming Yan, Jennifer Remfry, Sami Walbury, Emily Tam, Bill Todd, Richard Fawcett, Josh Welby, Kate Brown, Nick Sandamas, David Brindle, Simon Radford, Stefan Bach, Anne Hutton, Alan Ware MBE, Adam Daulby, David Rawcliffe, Charles Harvey, Leonora Petrou, John Turner, Catherine Salinger, Sophie Noden, Blue Weiss, Alison Warner, Mike Wiffen, John Standeven, A Eleso, Sylvia Cohen, Charles Leonard, Yee-Kwan Ip, Krisztian Posch, Jenny Murley, Godfrey Manning, Michael Levitsky, Peter Wilkinson, Joseph O'Connor, Penelope Igoe, Andrea Malam.