

**THE CHANGE WE CAN
ACHIEVE
TOGETHER**



**Barnet
Labour**

www.barnetlabour.org.uk

**IT'S TIME FOR
CHANGE**

Promoted by Lee Griffiths on behalf of Barnet Labour Party, both at 38 Church Lane, London N2 8DT.

FOREWORD FROM CLLR BARRY RAWLINGS LEADER OF BARNET LABOUR

Barnet is a brilliant place, with its beautiful parks and green spaces, its leafy suburbs, its vibrant high streets and town centres, and its heritage and history.

It's a place where people take pride in their area, and where neighbours get on well and help one another.

And it's because of Barnet's people and its diverse communities that help support each other, that our borough is such a special place.

Local people tell us about their ambitions for Barnet. They want Barnet to be a place where they feel safe on our streets, where people believe they can succeed and where everyone is looked after.

But decisions by the Boris Johnson's Conservatives nationally and locally have meant fewer police, neglected estates and town centres, poorly run services, potholes, dumped rubbish and tower block blight.

And with the cost-of-living crisis made so much worse by this Conservative Government, many hard-working families are struggling now more than ever, especially following the pandemic with its impact on jobs and businesses.

Locally, Barnet's Conservatives have refused to declare a climate emergency and failed to take climate change seriously with little action to date.

And they have broken all 5 of their local election promises.

We believe Barnet deserves better, and we want to help make things right.

We have a vision of Barnet where our neighbourhoods feel safe for everyone, where our high streets and town centres thrive and are better connected, where people earn a living wage and can afford to buy a home, and where they can live close to family.

We want to ensure sustainability is at the heart of everything the Council does, future proofing our borough, safeguarding our environment, and protecting our green spaces and biodiversity for the generations to come.

To achieve our ambitious plans, we know we must work in partnership with you, whether that's on community-led regeneration, or co-design of local services. Whatever we do, Labour in Barnet will put the community first,

One of our first priorities if we win the election will be to focus on getting the Council to get the basics right: weekly waste collections, regular street sweeps, crack down on dumped rubbish, faster and better repairs of roads and pavements, and more efficient services so we are not costing you more.

And our first action will be to rebate you the 1% Conservative Council Tax Hike that was forced through in March.

On Thursday 5 May you have a chance to vote in the Council elections for who you think will stand up for your area and work hard for a better future in Barnet. In our manifesto we set out just some of our ideas that we want to work in partnership with you to achieve.

Our commitment to you is to put the community first, deliver on our 5 key pledges, and work with you on the things you care about.

After 20 years of Conservative neglect, it's time for change, and with your support on 5 May we will change things for the better in Barnet.



BARNET LABOUR PARTY

OUR CONTRACT

WITH THE BOROUGH

We have an ambitious vision for Barnet. If we win the Council, we will work hard to try and achieve as much of it as we can over the next four years. Our promise to you is that a Labour Council **will** deliver on our 5 key pledges:

-  We will freeze your council tax in 2022 and keep it low.
-  We will invest in more CCTV, better lighting and community safety hubs.
-  We will protect and enhance green spaces and declare an immediate climate emergency.
-  We will protect weekly bin collections & bring back the community skips service to tackle fly-tipping.
-  We will stand up to developers: we need more affordable family homes not tower-block blight.

OUR COMMUNITY

Our vision for Barnet starts with our commitment to always work with local communities.

We will work in partnership with you on the things you care about. We've listened and we are on your side and here to help.

Our aim is to empower our communities as we believe this is key to levelling-up and tackling inequality.

Barnet has amazing community groups, volunteers, and faith and charity organisations, which are the foundation and heart of our borough. This was never more evident than during the pandemic when it was the community sector that rose to the challenge, leading the way to ensure people had food, medicine, advice and support.

We are now in the middle of the worst cost of living crisis for decades with rising energy bills and food prices, and inflation at a 30-year high, and this is hitting residents hard.



Over the last 20 years with the local Conservatives running the Council, Barnet's share of council tax has almost doubled in cash terms.

At the last local election in 2018, they promised to keep council tax low, but hiked it up by the legal maximum each year for the following three years, with another 1 per cent increase imposed again this year.

To help you, we will freeze Barnet's council tax this year, and give you back the 1% Conservative Council Tax Hike forced through in March. Going forward we will keep council tax low. A Labour council will cost you less on council tax than the Conservatives.

We will give residents a say in how Barnet Council spends money, hearing from you about your priorities for the Council's budget.

We will prioritise getting the Council's reporting websites and phonedlines working better.

We will ensure regeneration is community-led, and there is co-production with residents on any new Council developments.

We will ensure decision-making is more transparent, efficient and accountable.

We will tackle inequality, establishing a Citizens Assembly on Sustainability which will ensure all residents benefit from green growth, and that nobody is held back.

We will reduce the overall budget for councillors' allowances.

We will listen to residents, introduce People's Question Time and 'Leader Listens' events each year. We will also webcast Council meetings.

We will work in partnership with you on new models

of community co-production and community engagement including community-led commissions and citizens' assemblies, learning from best practice in other London boroughs, and piloting different approaches to use what works best for you.

We will support the Barnet Voluntary Sector Manifesto: Working together for a better Barnet.

We will work to bring privatised services back in-house, and in the meantime ensure contractors deliver on their promises.



SAFER STREETS

We know from listening, that residents want to feel safer on streets across the Borough, with a strong focus on tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

Barnet Conservatives have failed to invest in our community safety infrastructure until very recently – CCTV in Barnet has not been reviewed and properly upgraded since 2013!



We believe Barnet needs a more robust and joined-up approach to community safety with better co-ordinated multi-agency action.

We will deliver neighbourhood community safety hubs bringing the police and community safety teams together on our high streets so people can raise their concerns directly.

We will invest in innovative

CCTV and better lighting, working with residents and the police on a programme of 'Street Safe' audits to clean-up our public spaces and make them safer.

We will invest in our community safety teams, providing a named community safety officer for each ward who will work with residents on community safety action plans based on local priorities, informed by these 'Street Safe' audits and our wider review of public places.

We will make sure Barnet is 'No place for hate', challenging all identity and faith-based crime.

Ending violence against women and girls

Barnet Conservatives' response to the crisis in safety for women and girls was slow and uninspiring. There were no local events for solidarity and support, and their strategy refresh was long delayed, with no real community engagement or new initiatives.

In April 2021 Barnet Labour hosted an online listening event with women's groups, sharing experience and exploring responses. We also launched a short online survey to hear women's concerns and put their voice at the heart of local action to improve safety for women and girls.

We will build on this pro-active approach to improving safety for women and girls, working with women's organisations and local residents, and looking at best practice in other London boroughs who are already leading a range of new initiatives.

We will launch a full review of our public places, leading a community safety assessment of our streets, parks, car parks, housing estates, new developments, and transport hubs.

We will create a network of safe spaces across the borough, for women to seek help if they are in danger or experiencing abuse or harassment.

We will change attitudes and behaviour to end violence and abuse against women and girls, challenging harassment and hostility being tolerated, excused and repeated through co-production of awareness raising campaigns with communities, schools and colleges.

We will improve domestic violence services, and review council services to embed good practice across the council, ensuring we learn from residents' experiences and improve services to support victims of domestic abuse, violence and harassment.

We will campaign to make misogyny a hate crime, enabling women and girls to report cases of abuse and harassment as a hate crime, as is possible in some other areas.

Standing up for you against government cuts

As London Mayor Boris Johnson closed many police stations including in Golders Green, Whetstone and Finchley and cut Police Community Support Officers by 65 per cent. The closure of High Barnet Police Station and local Safer Neighbourhood Team Hubs, and the loss of over 300 police officers and PCSOs in Barnet are a direct result of over £1 billion of Conservative government funding cuts to the Metropolitan Police Service since 2010.

Barnet Conservatives have repeatedly failed to press their government for more support to fight crime locally.

A Barnet Labour Council will campaign for more police alongside delivering our own targeted programme of measures to help the communities we serve feel safer.

CLIMATE CHANGE & BIODIVERSITY

The climate emergency is real, but Barnet's Conservatives have not been taking it seriously.

They have refused to declare a climate emergency locally and dragged their feet in developing the Council's Sustainability Strategy.

We will future proof our borough, putting sustainability at the heart of everything the Council does.

Political commitment, immediate priorities and target setting

We will declare an immediate climate and biodiversity emergency and put sustainability at the heart of everything the Council does.

We will appoint a Lead Councillor and Lead Officer with specific responsibility for Climate Change and Biodiversity.

We will achieve net zero carbon in Barnet by 2042 or earlier (currently 2050 or earlier), and for the Council by 2030 or earlier (currently 2030).



We will strengthen the Council's approach to sustainability to make it more robust and comprehensive and focused on more ambitious targets and best practice from other local authorities that are further into their journey in tackling climate change.

We will hold a Citizens Assembly on Climate Change & Biodiversity to co-produce and monitor delivery of an ambitious Sustainability Strategy and Climate Action Plan with local people,

community groups and businesses to achieve our net zero targets, ensuring that all residents benefit from green growth, and nobody is held back.

Here are some of the targets and ideas we want to feed-in to the Citizens' Assembly process.

Housing and buildings

We will appoint a Lead Officer for Healthy Homes to develop a Healthy Homes plan for both social and private sector homes which addresses energy efficiency and water efficiency; and to work with local businesses to develop a local network of suppliers to help achieve the plan's aims.

We will increase the number of well insulated homes working towards the FoE target of 100% by 2030 (currently 42%).

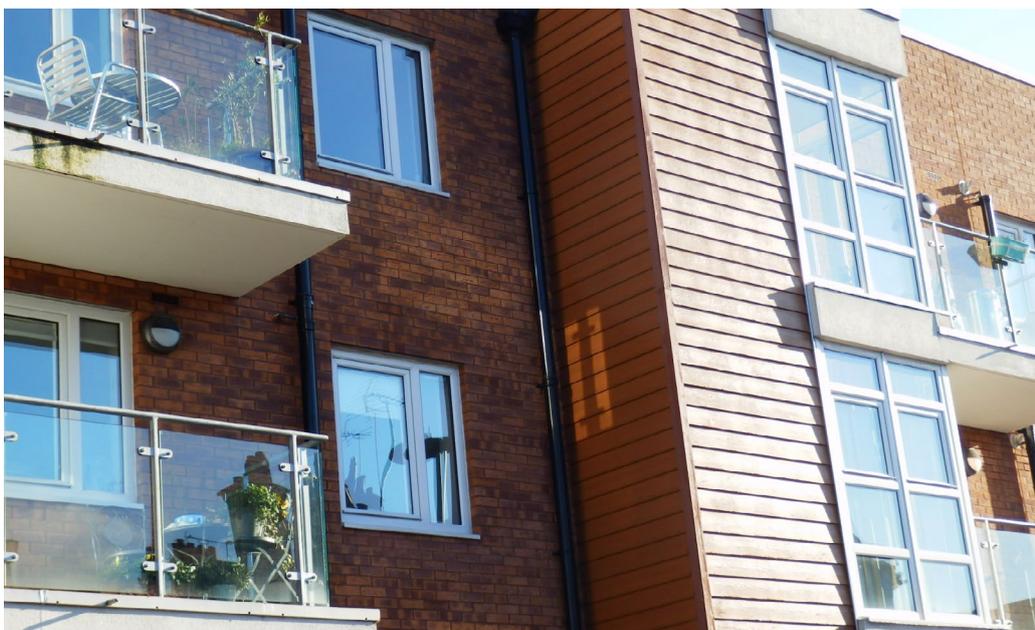
We will increase the number of eco-heating systems in homes and businesses working towards the FoE target of 58,929 by 2030 (currently approximately 36 in Barnet).

We will ensure Barnet applies for all possible funding streams to help retrofit its social housing stock to achieve EPC B by 2030, including using levers such as the Mayor of London's £10bn Innovation Partnership, and working with his national retrofit centre of excellence to develop successful plans to secure funding in the next round of the Government's £160m Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.

We will look to provide local one stop shop services in our neighbourhood community hubs to offer residents trusted advice, support and help to assess and improve the health of their homes.

We will help residents secure grants to retrofit private homes.

We will ensure Barnet has a comprehensive fuel poverty action plan.



We will ensure the Local Plan and all related plans and policies comply with London Plan policies on Zero Carbon development and are implemented robustly, including ensuring that carbon offset payments are secured and directed at suitable zero carbon projects in Barnet.

We will work to ensure new development is zero carbon.

Transport and active travel

We will ensure that the Council's long term transport strategy improves road safety and encourages walking and cycling.

We will increase the availability of electric vehicle car clubs.

We will increase electric vehicle charging points working towards the FoE target of 1219 by 2030 (currently approximately 139 in Barnet).

We will explore borough wide real time monitoring of air quality possibly funded by businesses or crowd funding.

We will introduce 20mph zones where residents want them.

We will work with home delivery companies to develop delivery hubs and last mile delivery by bike, e-bike, or on foot.

We will work towards 100% of schools with travel plans (STARS accredited).

We will support and promote park runs, walking groups, and cycling groups.

We will encourage walking with better signage for walkways and green spaces.

We will continue to support plans for an orbital rail service in Barnet.

Energy

We will appoint a Lead Officer for Energy to ensure all opportunities to promote clean energy, energy efficiency and de-carbonisation are pursued, whether through grants or other funding streams, income generation, or capital projects.



We will ensure Barnet completes required HECA reports outlining the Council's plans on energy.

We will aim to increase local renewable energy networks to try and generate 132 GWh by 2030 (currently 4 GWh in Barnet).

We will ensure the Council's plans for solar panels does not include solar farms built on green spaces.

Waste

We will protect your weekly bin collection **guaranteed**.

We will also ensure there is renewed focus on helping people reduce, reuse and recycle waste.

We will encourage an increase in composting.

We will bring back the Council's separate food waste collection service.

We will work to stop single use plastic in Barnet both by the Council and by encouraging businesses and residents to use alternatives.

Environment, biodiversity and green spaces

We will develop and campaign on a 'Clean Air for Barnet' pledge and join the Idling Action London campaign to reduce air pollution.

We will ban glyphosate use in Barnet.

We will protect the Greenbelt, our parks and open spaces - we will not build on them

We will scrap the Conservatives' 'low quality, low value' category of green spaces - all green spaces should be valued

We will introduce a dedicated parks ranger service.



We will make sure everyone has access to green space, working towards zero neighbourhoods deprived of green spaces.

We will grasp woodland and rewilding opportunities, planting trees and tiny forests where residents support this.

We will work in partnership to deliver proper protection of the Welsh Harp, support the community's Vision for the Harp, and develop a robust boroughwide biodiversity strategy.

We will employ a permanent biodiversity officer to help work with local environmental groups to develop our biodiversity strategy.

We will support the Barnet Green Spaces Network Manifesto, and work with them to deliver it.

Community, partners and businesses

We will look at best practice in other local authorities to help Barnet produce a programme of climate education initiatives.

We will work in partnership with the community, businesses and partners to promote a circular economy.

We will work with local businesses, Middlesex University and Barnet College to develop the skills needed in the green economy and build a local network of suppliers.



We will increase the number of green jobs, working towards the LGA target of 2489 jobs by 2030; and we will increase the number of green apprenticeships, working towards the FoE target of 1470 by 2023.

We will look at collaborations between the

Council, community organisations and local business to help deliver outcomes through creating new business models and financing models in different areas including healthy homes, composting, electric vehicle charging, last mile delivery, mobility as a service, local renewable energy networks, and shop local initiatives.

The Council as an organisation

For our Climate Action Plan development:

We will ensure all Council reports have 'Climate change / sustainability implications' for every decision.

We will ensure the Council has a Climate Action Plan which covers The Climate Emergency UK climate action plan checklist.

We will divest from fossil fuel companies in Barnet's Pension Fund.

A CLEANER BARNET

We've had 20 years of the Conservatives running Barnet Council, and while council tax has gone up services have got worse and our area looks neglected, with potholes, litter and dumped rubbish everywhere.

It fosters a feeling of decline and makes people feel unsafe.

We will focus on getting the basics right: weekly waste collections, regular street sweeps, crack down on dumped rubbish, faster and better repairs of roads and pavements.

We will protect your weekly bin collection service, guaranteed.

We will bring back the quarterly community skips service to tackle fly-tipping and help you plan disposal of bulky household items.

We will maintain quarterly deep cleans of residential streets and support environmental community action groups.

We will improve the quality and efficiency of pothole and pavement repairs, and boost funds for reactive maintenance.

We will take tough enforcement

action against those that dump rubbish or commit other enviro-crime and learn from best practice awareness raising campaigns in other London Boroughs, like LB Barking & Dagenham's 'Wall of Shame' campaign.

We will work with residents, our community safety officers and the police on a programme of 'Street Safe' audits to clean-up our public spaces and make them safer.



QUALITY HOMES

Development in Barnet has gone badly wrong. The Barnet Conservatives promised to stop over-development – they have not stopped it.

Under the Conservatives there's been rampant overdevelopment of completely unaffordable blocks of flats with insufficient community benefit or infrastructure, and with loss of green space.

The Conservative Government is driving this overdevelopment. They are set to impose a target of around 4,000-5,000 more properties a year in Barnet.

We will stand up to developers: we need more genuinely affordable family homes not tower-block blight.

We will stand up to the Conservative Government and call them out on their ridiculous housing targets.



We will not build or allow development on any green space.

We will ensure the new Local Plan is strengthened with tougher policies on Height and Density.

We will develop a low and medium rise streetscape design-led housing model using Create Streets best practice examples to stop the proliferation of tower blocks.

We will bring the planning service back in-house and work in partnership with residents to co-design any new council developments.

We will introduce a local design review panel to improve the quality of our built environment and enable any design issues to be discussed at early stages of the planning process when there is still time for dialogue and changes.

We will produce a Supplementary Planning Document on viability to maximise the number of affordable homes secured in schemes.

We will adopt a new target of 50 per cent affordable homes on all new development.

We will work to ensure new development is zero carbon, and towards healthy homes by working to eliminate fuel poverty and improve energy efficiency and water efficiency.

We will innovate new affordable homes products to ensure low and middle-income groups can afford to achieve their dream of owning their own home.

We will help renters by cracking down on rogue landlords, extending the private sector licensing scheme wherever we can across the borough.

We will raise awareness of tenants' rights through a private tenants' rights charter.

We will deliver at least 1,000 new council homes at the London Affordable Rent level of 50% of market rates, ensuring regeneration benefits existing residents first and foremost by introducing a local lettings policy giving them first dibs on new homes.

We will establish a Barnet best practice policy for regeneration.

We will develop and introduce a policy on local marketing of new homes.

We will develop and introduce a scheme to buy back former council homes sold under right to buy, to help ensure our stock of social homes is not reduced over time.

We will review the Council's housing allocations and revert to a two-offer scheme.

We will scrap 2 and 5-year flexible tenancies, reintroducing secure tenancies for all council tenants.



TOWN CENTRES & LOCAL ECONOMY

Our town centres and high streets have taken a real pounding during the pandemic, and they need our support as we emerge from it and recover.

Our vision is to place sustainability at the heart of local recovery, promoting a shop local / buy local culture, and supporting a more circular local economy as we move forward.

We will develop a new strategy for our Town Centres with sustainability at its heart, working in partnership with town centre teams and engaging with local businesses, residents and community groups.

We will ensure town centre regeneration is supported by residents and local businesses, learning the lessons from bad regeneration that has taken place, and making sure any money spent provides lasting improvements.

We will run 'Support Your High Street' and 'Shop Local/Buy Local' campaigns and create connected spaces for small businesses and communities.



We will develop a BuyBarnet App, to support our high streets which will connect residents with local traders across the Borough and make it easy for people to find local shops, services, events and offers, and enable them to buy some local goods for delivery and make reservations and appointments.

We will develop an empty shops strategy, working to ensure premises don't stay boarded up for extended periods of time, and link this to our affordable workspace strategy, arts and culture strategy, sustainability strategy and community hub plans.

We will support and encourage co-operative solutions to Barnet's economy and promote credit unions.

We will work to stop the proliferation of pawnbrokers, pay day lenders and betting shops in our high streets and town centres.

We will work with local businesses, Middlesex University and Barnet College to develop the skills needed in the green economy and build a local network of suppliers.

We will increase the number of green jobs, working towards the LGA target of 2489 jobs by 2030; and we will increase the number of green apprenticeships, working towards the FoE target of 1470 by 2023.

We will work to deliver a state-of-the art Library facility as part of the Brent Cross regeneration.

We will encourage creative and digital industries, taking advantage of our proximity to Elstree Studios.

We will develop a new vision for skills in Barnet, working in partnership with different groups to share and transfer skills including digital and green skills.

We will work with Barnet Homes and other social housing providers to help people get back to work, developing new accreditation schemes for people who are volunteering.

We will ensure the Council's procurement policy supports the local supply chain through social value.

We will appoint a 'Digital Champion' to promote digital connectivity and inclusion.



We will work with local employers towards becoming a London Living Wage borough, so everyone gets a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.

A BETTER BARNET

Our borough is such a special place where our diverse communities get on well together, help one another and want to make sure everyone is looked after.

We want to help support our communities to be even happier, healthier and to make sure everyone is able to get the most out of life.

Adults' social care

We will focus on independent living and 'living well at home' developing a new model of social care that puts the service user at its heart and using advances in technology to keep people independent.

We will be a strong voice for social care, lobbying for national change to fix the social care crisis and ensure that wellbeing and independent living is at the heart of any new settlement for adults' social care.



We will develop a new strategy on engagement with adult social care users, learning from best practice, and working in partnership with the voluntary sector.

We will introduce a Users' Charter for social care and health, guaranteeing a voice in service delivery, and will include user representation on the Your Choice Barnet Board.

We will develop and support the local small business homecare sector,

promoting homecare agencies that are local, and boosting skills and professional recognition for carers in partnership with Barnet College and Middlesex University.

Mental health

The Covid pandemic exacerbated the already growing pressure on mental health services and it's more important than ever that the Council and local health services work together to support both adults and young people and their families. We will draw on best practice in other local authorities and work with our NHS, the community and voluntary sector to support local services.

We will champion good mental health, including for young people, introduce a Barnet

Charter for Mental Health, and expand mental health service champions into the community, schools and other settings, working to ensure that the Council, the NHS and other providers deliver services in a more integrated way.

We will support mental health campaigns like Thrive LDN, particularly in its work on Youth Mental Health and suicide prevention.

Health and health inequalities

The Covid19 pandemic laid bare the health inequalities within our system and the Council should work actively with the NHS and public health to identify sources of health inequalities, including the impact of other council services such as housing.

We will work in partnership with our local communities to help residents to lead healthier lives and tackling these health inequalities highlighted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

We will review Council strategies to ensure a clear link with public health outcomes. Using our statutory powers of scrutiny, we will challenge local NHS changes to ensure they improve the health of all Barnet residents; be proactive in making health and social care integration work for all Barnet residents and resist creeping privatisation of NHS services.

Dementia, and the ability to live well as long as possible, is a growing challenge for our communities across the borough. The Council, the NHS, local businesses, the voluntary sector and community organisations need to work together to meet that challenge. We will regularly review the Dementia Manifesto for Barnet and our support services, to make sure Barnet is the most dementia friendly borough.

We will encourage a wider range of individuals and organisations to consider becoming active Dementia Friends.

Children, young people and families

We will work towards 'Outstanding' Children's Services and stand up against Conservative Government cuts to school funding, campaigning to ensure a sustainable future for our maintained nurseries and all our schools.

Following the pandemic, we will work to ensure that all our children's education is supported to get back on track.

We will work to provide more transitional housing for care leavers.

We will develop a new vision for youth services.

We will work with parents and providers to increase access to affordable childcare and to provide more early help for children and families.

VOTE LABOUR
FOR A BETTER BARNET

The local
elections are on
Thursday
5th May 2022