

Culture, Leisure, Arts and Sports

Labour has brought drive and ambition to the borough's Culture, Leisure, Arts and Sports agenda, compared to the 20 years of lacklustre Conservative rule.

We have put Barnet on the cultural map through our work with residents to produce the borough's first Cultural Strategy and have run a programme of community events and festivals to celebrate Barnet's diversity and cultural heritage.

Barnet's libraries have more people attending events than ever before



A lot done already

Here's just a few key things we've delivered:

- We secured the future of our only **public theatre and arts centre, the artsDepot**, with a lease for the next 50 years at peppercorn rent to allow them to continue to thrive and serve the local community.
- We have **revamped 39 of the borough's tennis courts** and brought state-of-the-art sports facilities to Barnet from basketball to baseball.
- We further developed the **'Fit and Active Barnet'** Strategy to encourage resident participation in physical activity.
- We **saved Hendon Library**, retaining it and refurbishing it in its historic location to preserve its heritage and traditional features.
- We have **doubled the number of cultural events** in libraries from 1,000 to 2,000 and doubled the number of people attending events in libraries from 20,000 to 40,000 per year.
- We have also **doubled the number of health and wellbeing events** held in libraries every year to more than 500.
- We competed for London's 'Borough of Culture', winning the runner-up **'Cultural Impact Award prize of £200,000'** from the Mayor of London to put towards a year of cultural events.
- We have established Barnet's **new 'Arts Heritage Trail'** that highlights Barnet's cultural heritage.
- We brought the **London Festival of Architecture** to Barnet for the first time – and the organisation now organises events in Barnet every year.
- We have built on the successes of Fit and Active Barnet, working with Public Health to help thousands more residents to live healthier as well as more active lives.
- We developed and launched a **new borough Cultural Strategy**, co-produced with local residents and community groups.

Lots more we will do

- We will deliver the new **'Light and Flight' festival** later this year, celebrating Barnet's role in the history of flight through art and virtual reality experiences for residents, funded by the council's winning of the Mayor's Cultural impact award, and grants from the Arts Council and the Lottery Heritage Fund.
- We will bring **new art installations** to our high streets.

Lots to lose under the Conservatives

- We had to campaign throughout the Conservative years to stop libraries shutting, including the historic Hendon Library.
- The Conservatives had no arts and culture vision for the borough and failed to revitalise sports facilities in the borough.