



Keeping Barnet Green

11

Protecting our Parks and Green spaces

Caring for our borough and the planet

Barnet's green spaces are the pride of the Borough.

The Conservatives gave up on too many of our green and open spaces labelling them as 'low value, low quality' so they did not have to invest in them.

They gave up on an ambitious recycling agenda, taking away separate food waste collections and the free community skips service – driving up fly-tipping. They had no plan to take the important task of tackling climate change and air quality seriously.

Labour scrapped the Conservative's 'low value, low quality' green space category and **we have reinvested in our parks, bringing unused open space back into use and improving facilities.**

Summer Park patrols take action to clamp down on anti-social behaviour, and we have declared a climate emergency to set Barnet on course to be a Net Zero borough by 2042.

But **we want to go further**, creating a Regional Park to make more open space accessible to the public, helping protect even more of the green character of Barnet.



A lot done already

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

- We brought disused places like Westcroft Open Space back into use and **invested in new facilities** in parks and green spaces like Halliwick Rec.
- We have **planted nearly 5,000 trees** with a further 900+ planned for this year.
- We have supported residents to 'green up' their neighbourhoods, for example in Childs Hill and East Finchley, where we installed hedging around a school and **planted new pocket parks**.
- We brought two Barnet parks – Cherry Tree Wood and Mill Hill Park – up to the 'gold standard' **winning 'Green Flag awards** for both.
- We revitalised facilities including 39 Tennis Courts, 20 play areas and introduced the **first of its kind inclusive and accessible playground** – 'Fair Play', in East Barnet.
- We restored the **free community skips service** to boost re-cycling and tackle fly-tipping.
- We introduced **summer patrols for our larger parks** with powers to issue fines for anti-social behaviour.
- We **declared a climate and biodiversity emergency**, putting Barnet on the way to reach Net Zero by 2042.
- We have acted to **protect nature**, from planting more trees, to creating more connected green corridors for wildlife.

Lots more we will do

- We will protect our green spaces, **plant 4,000 more trees** and create a 'Regional Park' increasing access to even more green space.
- We will continue the **separate weekly food waste collections**, which helps increase re-cycling rates.
- We will bring at least **two more parks up to the 'gold standard'** by going for Green Flag award status.
- We will maintain the **free community skips service** to continue to increase re-cycling and help tackle fly tipping.
- We will boost promotion of our **free doorstep collection service** for bulky electrical waste such as fridge freezers.
- We will **maintain summer park patrols** with the power to continue issuing fines for anti-social behaviour.
- We will boost our work to **crack down on fly-tipping** and litter to keep Barnet clean by using our revamped CCTV system and fines.
- We will support residents who want to 'green up' their neighbourhood.
- We will **protect our allotments** so that Barnet residents continue to have the opportunity to "grow their own" and encourage other food growing projects.
- We will continue to drive the borough towards a Net Zero target of 2042, and **build on our biodiversity and nature recovery work.**

Lots to lose under the Conservatives

- They gave up on our green spaces, refusing any investment in those they deemed 'low value, low quality' and lacked ambition to bring them up to the best standard.
- They would axe the free community skips service, fuelling fly-tipping.
- They don't believe in recycling food waste.
- They outsourced the summer park patrols, without the powers to take full action against anti-social behaviour, which cost more money.
- The Conservatives are led by a self-described 'Net Zero sceptic' who cannot be trusted to tackle climate change.