

BARNET ·ZERO·

Report of Barnet Citizens' Assembly

**Barnet has declared a climate emergency.
What more can we do together to make
Barnet more sustainable, now and in the
future?**

TPXimpact

Caring for people, our places and the planet



Barnet Citizens' Assembly 2023

With thanks to:

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Barnet Young People's Assembly 2023

With thanks to:

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Foreword

The climate emergency is a huge challenge affecting everyone. To address that challenge we know we must work together, putting the voices of local people at the heart of action.

So, we are delighted to welcome the recommendations from Barnet's Citizens' Assembly and Young People's Assembly on Climate Change & Biodiversity.

The proposals from both assemblies are thoughtful, wide-reaching and add real value to our collective efforts to tackle climate change. They set out the priorities we should focus on as residents see it. And they make an offer of action that they as citizens are prepared to take to help. This is real partnership. Observing the process has been inspirational, and we'd like to thank all the participants for their deliberations. We will be taking lessons from the process and applying it to other work the Council does.

We look forward to collaborating further to implement these recommendations. Raising awareness, sharing information, and working with the community on solutions will be critical to our success in getting to net zero by 2042.

This is just the start of our climate journey together, but it's a great start!



Councillor Barry Rawlings,
Leader of Barnet Council



Councillor Alan Schneiderman,
Cabinet Member for Environment
and Climate Change

Introduction

Barnet Council has a commitment to bring residents and the wider community on the journey to net zero with action that is equitable and fair. In June 2022, the Environment and Climate Change Committee agreed to deliver a citizens' assembly.

Barnet Citizens' Assembly brought together 60 randomly selected residents aged 12-90 from the London Borough of Barnet between February and May 2023 to develop recommendations in response to the question:

Barnet has declared a climate emergency. What more can we do together to make Barnet more sustainable, now and in the future?

40 residents aged 18+ participated in a citizens' assembly (30 hours), and 20 residents aged 12-17 participated in a young people's assembly (18 hours). The two groups came together at key points to share their experiences, ideas and recommendations. This report presents the work that they did together.

Themes explored by the Assembly were based on the council's draft sustainability action plan. They are areas identified as having both the scope to significantly reduce the boroughs carbon emissions, and will require borough-wide action.

Participants developed recommendations across these themes and decided which recommendations should be a priority for action. An additional theme of learning, communication and partnerships emerged through deliberation and was added.

Recommendations were developed following opportunities to share experiences and learn about climate change and sustainability in Barnet and beyond, aided by presentations and interactive activities (see page 13 for more detail about the process).

The Assembly will report to Barnet Council's Cabinet in June 2023. The council and its partners will act as a connector, enabler and influencer to plan and take action on the recommendations to support the reduction of emissions. They will continue to work together with assembly members, residents, community groups and businesses.

Vision

Assembly members worked together to write a vision for a more sustainable Barnet. It reflects their broad view on the changes required, a brief statement related to the key themes explored in the assembly, and what we need to consider to enable a fair and equitable future.

Barnet and its residents need to make changes today to enable a more sustainable future, with local commitment and positive action from the council and public.

The citizens' assembly proposes recommendations to achieve a high-quality environment that reduces carbon emissions, reduces waste, and promotes efficient use of energy. We need to use data as our guide on how we are doing.

Our recommendations also look to improve our community's mobility, engagement, general wellbeing, and the lives of the residents of Barnet.

Through education, engagement and incentivisation, we will look to provide everyone in Barnet with the information necessary to make decisions to achieve these general goals.

We intend to work together to look after our environment, heritage, to provide opportunities for all to develop a sustainable future.

We need to be more urgent and ambitious with our timelines.

Barnet needs to work together to create a more sustainable borough, with the council leading by example.

We need:

- Barnet to be a place with a vibrant **natural environment**. Everyone should have easy access to nature and should contribute to maintaining and cultivating green spaces together, including our local people, communities, and schools. Our environment should have minimal litter, and we should protect wildlife. We want more trees, hedgerows and uncut grassy areas for wildflowers and insects.
- A safe **transport** system that reduces private cars on the road and journeys using petrol and diesel, with active travel options including walking and bicycle hire. We need road infrastructure that connects east and west that doesn't have a negative environmental impact.

- **Sustainable consumption** by supporting people to learn about waste and by finding ways to recycle or reuse with reward systems. All businesses should be thriving and supported to move towards affordable locally sourced goods and sustainability, alongside more action from big businesses like supermarkets.
- **Housing** that is energy efficient and more affordable. Barnet Council should lead on initiatives to ensure more sustainable buildings, putting in place regulation for developers and fines for companies that don't support our goals.
- More **renewable energy** that invests back into the community, with returns from sharing electricity and a local network of installers and consultants. People need to be informed about energy consumption and preservation.
- To enable **Barnet businesses to commit to more sustainable action**, investing in community initiatives and promoting green credentials, with local green ratings and a league table of improvements.

We must ensure that the action we take enables a fair and equitable future, which makes it easier for people to take sustainable decisions and actions.

To do this, we need to:

- **Understand the impact** of our recommendations and implement changes in small stages that aim to accommodate everyone.
- **Continue involving our communities** in the conversation and be invested in change. It should be accessible to act and contribute.
- Have **incentives** for everyone to get involved. Action should be supported and affordable. This might require changes to rates, grants and how we make decisions, or pushing for top-down legislative changes.
- Ensure **training** to support people into green jobs and talk about opportunities in schools.
- Provide **better, cleaner, more frequent, and affordable public transport**. We need schemes and infrastructure available in all areas, not just affluent ones.

- Be mindful of the **negative environmental and social impacts** relating to production taking place outside of Barnet or the UK (e.g. electric cars).
- Ensure that everyone has **access to local services** including schools, hospitals and GPs to reduce travel and improve wellbeing.
- Ensure that everyone can **access public green space**.
- Develop **homes and buildings** that are energy efficient, with less high-rise buildings.
- Ensure everyone has access to **quality affordable food** and we promote British seasonal fruit & vegetables, as well as meat, wheat and organic products.

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Recommendations

Assembly members worked together to agree on recommendations that are priorities for us to work on together to make Barnet more sustainable. Further detail is provided from page 32.

The recommendations were developed and prioritised by members of Barnet Citizens' Assembly and Young People's Assembly. They explored the question:

Barnet has declared a climate emergency. What more can we do together to make Barnet more sustainable, now and in the future?

To reach the conclusion on priorities, members engaged in learning and deliberation focused on key themes identified in Barnet's Sustainability Action Plan with the most scope to reduce carbon emissions and which require borough-wide action.

The recommendations on the following page are presented in order of priority.

Key



Waste &
Sustainable
Consumption



Learning,
Communication
& Partnerships



Nature &
Biodiversity



Transport



Housing,
Buildings &
Renewable
Energy



Source:
Barnet
Citizens'
Assembly



Source:
Young
people's
assembly

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- 1

 - **Educate children and young people on sustainability and climate change through curriculum delivery and after school activities.**
 - **We must** include integrating courses on climate change, sustainability and green skills across schools, businesses and apprenticeships. This should be available through online courses, local career speakers at schools and work experience opportunities that enable people to develop practical skills such as horticulture.
 -
- 2

 - **Target education and communication using a wide range of channels that are accessible and appropriate to all diverse communities.**
 - **We must** create different campaigns and raise awareness across social media with concise and direct videos that are comedic and relatable created by everyone, including influencers & policymakers.
 -
- 3

 -
- 4

 -

5



Identify unused spaces and infrastructure across the borough (e.g. fields, old railway tracks, green walkways) to develop biodiverse green spaces and cycling paths for partnership between council and local community volunteers.

6



Incorporate green and sustainable design processes in all new builds / infrastructure.

7



Have an integrated sustainable transport plan for the borough.

8

We must develop a strategy to make roads safe for active travel, with an emphasis on cycle lanes.

9

We must move towards more accessible, frequent and cheaper electric bus routes for people to use across Barnet (accessible to all people including disabled people).

10



Commit to planting more trees in existing and new green spaces to promote biodiversity and wildlife.

11



Encourage more school gardens, so that everyone has access to green spaces, and use the school gardens to grow food to use in school meals.

12



Encourage and support local farming for fruits which will help create support for veganism and reduce the carbon emission for shipping.

13



Retrofit council properties and provide grants / subsidies for people in private housing to make buildings net zero.

14



We must also make housing more sustainable by installing solar panels and providing subsidies to improve appliances.

15



Encourage and educate Barnet residents on how to reduce the amount of food waste.

16



Improve waste management through easier recycling and by addressing fly tipping.

17



Encourage investment in green, public transport to improve the environment, safety and well-being.

18



We must provide schools with subsidised bikes for students to use for journeys in and around schools.

19



We must also properly invest in electric vehicles, encourage people to see the benefits and help with payment plans.

20



Use parks to promote local businesses through weekly markets and fairs.

Note:

These recommendations were prioritised from a longlist of 157 ideas shared by the citizens' assembly and additional ideas shared by the young people's assembly (see appendices 1 and 2).

Though not prioritised, these ideas still represent issues of importance to assembly members. We encourage the wider community to consider them too.

How the assembly worked

Barnet Citizens' Assembly

TPXimpact led design and facilitation of the citizens' assembly, working closely with the Sustainability Team at Barnet Council. Input and feedback was received from governance groups (see page 28) and invited contributors.

Setting the question

The question for the assembly was co-designed with a group of Barnet Council staff, elected members and community groups. The process included a [question setting workshop](#), sharing the options at a meeting of Barnet's Climate Action Group, and a survey (32 respondents). Following this process, the following question was agreed:

The question was generally preferred because it included:

- A broad focus, rather than a specific topic
- An opening statement that conveys the context of the process
- A signal that we need to act collectively across the borough
- Indication that we need to act now and that our actions will impact the future.

The specific wording was chosen with the following considerations:

Climate emergency <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In May 2022, the council declared a climate emergency and committed Barnet to becoming a Net Zero council by 2030 and a place as soon as possible after this, but no later than 2042.• We are in a crisis• We need to act now	Together <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We need to take action• We need to work in partnership across the borough• This includes individuals, households, business and government
Sustainable <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on people, places, planet• Social, ecological, economic - consider tradeoffs and tensions• Fairness and equity	Future <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What we need to start now• Decade of action• Working towards target of 2042

Selecting the themes

The Council's Sustainability Action Plan was the starting point for identifying themes, as referenced in Environment & Climate Change committee notes.

Priority themes for development of the assembly learning journey were:

- Housing and buildings
- Transport
- Business and skills
- Sustainable consumption (waste)
- Natural environment and biodiversity

These themes were identified as requiring the most community action to be addressed, and with the potential for the most long term impact and change.



What we did in the meetings

Assembly members had the opportunity to engage in just over 30 hours of activities as they came together to learn about the issues, discuss them, and worked together to agree a set of recommendations for how to make Barnet more sustainable now and in the future. All meetings were held in-person at Middlesex University Hendon Campus. They were run by 2 lead facilitators, 6 small group facilitators and support staff.

Meeting 1 - Tuesday 21 February 2023 (2.5 hours)

In this introductory meeting, Assembly Members were introduced to the citizens' assembly and its background, purpose and goals. They discussed the high-level global, national and local context for the process and started to get to know each other.

Speakers:

- Cllr Barry Rawlings - Leader of the Council
- Cllr Alan Schneiderman - Lead Member for Climate Change
- [Malini Mehra](#) - Chief executive of GLOBE International
- [Adam Driscoll](#) - Local resident & Co-chair of Council Staff Sustainability Network
- [Yogita Popat](#) - Assistant Director for Sustainability at Barnet Council

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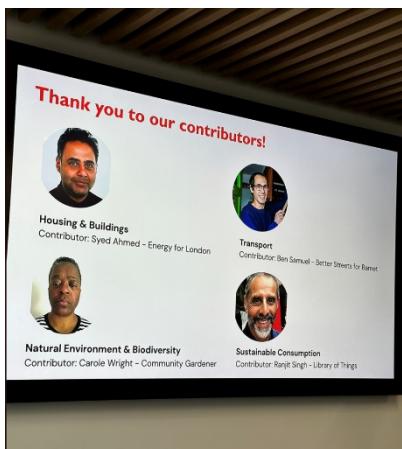
Meeting 2 - Tuesday 21 February 2023 (6 hours)

In this meeting, Assembly Members reflected on the first meeting and key themes for the assembly. There was an opportunity to connect with the youth process and their emerging ideas, before an introduction to visioning through an immersive activity.

Members also had the opportunity to engage in an interactive activity to explore climate policy called The Strategy Room facilitated by partners from UCL. In the afternoon, the Members rotated around the venue to meet with speakers to explore key themes of the assembly in more detail, considering how we interact with the environment in Barnet; how we want Barnet to prosper and flourish; and how we might need to interact differently in future.

Speakers:

- [Syed Ahmed](#) - Energy for London
- [Ben Samuel](#) - Better Streets for Barnet
- [Ranjit Singh](#) - Library of Things
- [Carole Wright](#) - Community gardener in South London



Contributors



Exhibition of views from young people's assembly



Vision activity

Meeting 3 - Monday 20 March 2023 (2.5 hours)

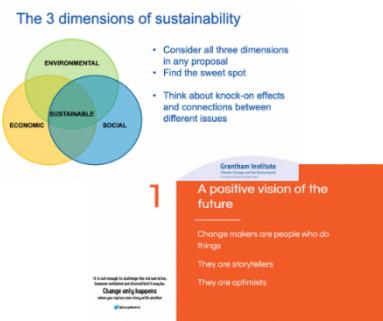
In this meeting, Assembly Members discussed the idea of fairness, equity and co-benefits to inform decision making which was used as a framework to think about how we make change happen. They then started to define their vision for a more sustainable Barnet through an interactive activity.

Speakers:

- [Neil Jennings](#) - Grantham Institute for Climate Change
- [Rachael Orr](#) - Climate Outreach
- [Yogita Popat](#) - Assistant Director for Sustainability at Barnet Council



*Update on strategy and initiatives
in Barnet*



*Presentations from Grantham Institute
& Climate Outreach*

Template for vision discussion

Meeting 4 - Wednesday 29 March 2023 (2.5 hours)

In this meeting, Assembly Members looked back at the vision for a more sustainable Barnet developed in the previous meeting. They then had the opportunity to engage informally with a number of community initiatives in Barnet through a community exhibition, before coming up with a longlist of ideas for how to make Barnet more sustainable.

Groups that engaged in this session include Barnet Cycling Campaign, The Flower Bank, Friends of the Earth Barnet, Good Gym, Greenspaces Network, Inedible Edible, North London Waste Authority and OneStoneGrove.



Community exhibition



One of the community stalls



Sharing back ideas

Optional microgroup (1 hour, online)

Opportunity to review the draft vision and synthesised list of recommendations.

Meeting 5 - Saturday 22 April 2023 (6 hours)

In this meeting, Assembly Members looked at where we are in the journey and discussed how we will make decisions as an Assembly in the final meeting. We invited a panel of council officers responsible for the key thematic areas for an 'ask me anything' session, before moving on to identifying key challenges, co-evaluating ideas and starting to prioritise. We prioritised 23 draft recommendations from a longlist.

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Ask Me Anything Panel:

- Yogita Popat, LBB Assistant Director of Sustainability
- Cath Shaw, LBB Deputy CEO
- Chris Smith, LBB Assistant Director of Estates & Decarbonisation
- Craig Miller, LBB Director of Street Scene
- Katherine Carr, LBB Public Health team
- Matthew Gunyon, LBB Greenspaces Service Manager
- Neeru Kareer, Assistant Service Director (Planning)



Ask me anything panel



Sharing prioritised ideas



Top 10 challenges

Optional microgroup (1 hour, online)

Opportunity to review the draft vision, recommendations and decision making.

Council review of the recommendations

Before the final meeting, Barnet Council reviewed the shortlist of draft recommendations and provided feedback to help participants finalise them. This included carbon impact, cost, timeline, dependencies and achievability.

Meeting 6 - Saturday 20 May and Sunday 21 May 2023 (9 hours)

In this meeting, the young people's assembly presented their recommendations and engaged in discussion with the group. Assembly members then finalised their recommendations and vision. There was an opportunity to flag gaps in their shortlist of recommendations and to decide to include new ones. Members worked with a canvas template to develop further detail connected to their ideas.

On the final day, Assembly members presented their recommendations and voted on priorities. They were counted on the day and the results announced. We closed with a celebration.

Final Ballot

Members voted using paper ballots which asked them whether they strongly agreed (3 points), agreed (2 points), disagreed (0 points) or strongly disagreed (-1 points) that each recommendation should be a priority to make Barnet more sustainable now and in the future. Each recommendation was given a score and from this, 10 priorities were identified.

Participants journey in the final weekend

We commissioned a local graphic illustrator, Beatrice Baumgartner-Cohen, to capture the proceedings of the final weekend.



Image capturing the process to finalise recommendations

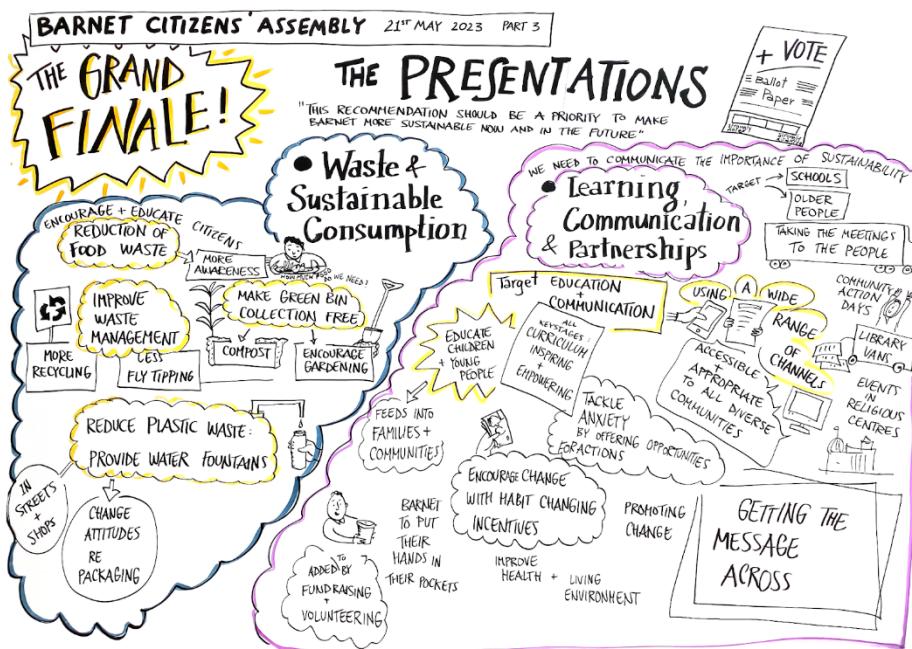
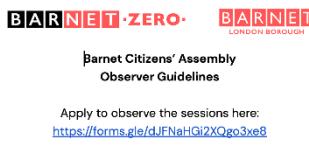


Image capturing the final recommendation presentations

Observer programme

Throughout the Assembly, we provided opportunities for the wider community to follow the journey and see the evidence being presented to the Assembly.

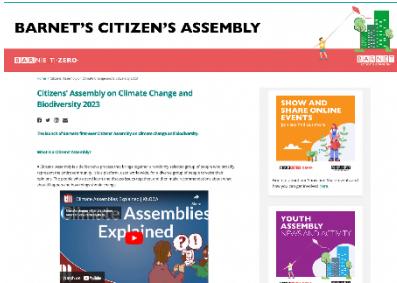
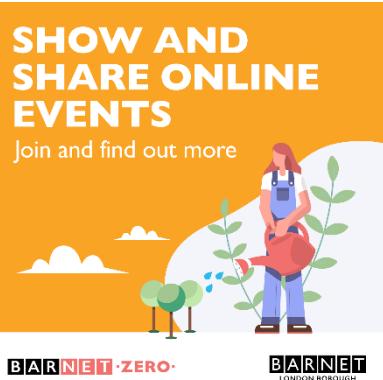
Our observer programme included:



We want as many people as possible to have the opportunity to learn about the Citizens' Assembly in Barnet. Alongside the observer programme, we are organising [Show & Share sessions](#) following each meeting.

What is an observer programme?

It is an opportunity for people to see how the Citizens' Assembly functions in person. You will learn more about the assembly and how it works.



Observing sessions

TPXimpact coordinated opportunities for people to join the sessions in-person in an observer capacity, to witness the process first hand. Anyone could sign up to attend and all spaces were allocated.

Show & Share sessions

These one hour online sessions were facilitated by TPXimpact and were an opportunity to hear about what happened in the recent citizens' assembly session and what happens next.

<https://engage.barnet.gov.uk/show-and-share>

BarNetZero website

Barnet Council updated a webpage throughout the process with information about what was happening in each of the sessions, with links to presentations.

<https://engage.barnet.gov.uk/barnets-citizen-assembly>

The Young People's Assembly

As part of the process, a co-design group of five young people came together before the assembly started in February and again once it ended in May 2023. The aim was:

- To feed into the design process led by TPXimpact to ensure that different interests and ideas, as well as ways of working and learning, were reflected in the session plans.
- To ensure that the next steps centre the voices of young people, include them in the engagement plans, and explore ways to hold Barnet council accountable moving forward.

The Young People's Assembly had 20 participants that met for three six-hour Saturday sessions between March and May 2023 at Middlesex University, Hendon campus. The focus of the assembly was on four main thematic areas: Green Skills, Nature & Biodiversity, Sustainable Consumption and Transport.

Meetings were designed and facilitated by TPXimpact with input from the expert group and council officers. They were informed by expert evidence from contributors, including input directly from Barnet Council staff. The assembly members also had the opportunity to creatively explore the thematic areas and come up with their own ideas, and ultimately recommendations, through the use of playdough, drawings, performances and facilitated discussions.

Co-design session I: Running the assembly

The first co-design session aimed to explore the questions and discuss how the assembly meetings should run. Participants were introduced to what a citizens' assembly is and context for the two assemblies running in parallel. From here, they had the opportunity to examine and reframe the question based on their understanding of climate change and sustainability.

The rest of the meeting focused on understanding the participants' priorities, interests, ways of learning and how these could be brought into the assembly sessions.

Meeting I: Learning and exploring

The first meeting focused on providing assembly members with context for the process, its background purpose and goals as well as the current situation in Barnet and key information on the four themes.

The meeting was opened by Councillor Barry Rawlings - Leader of Barnet Council - who emphasised the importance of resident voices, including those of the young people of Barnet. This was echoed by Councillor Alan Schneiderman - Lead Member for Environment and Climate Change - who stressed the influence that the assembly can have for a more sustainable Barnet.

Following this welcome, Yogita Popat - Assistant Director for Sustainability at Barnet Council - presented information on what is currently happening in Barnet and what the Council is doing to take action against climate change across the borough. The participants then had the opportunity to ask questions and have a conversation with the speaker.

The rest of the morning focused on exploring the importance of equity and fairness in climate action. Samia Dumbuya - climate activist and community organiser - presented key considerations and a framework of analysis to make change happen in a fair and equitable way. To discuss the topic in more detail, assembly members were asked to carry out a mapping exercise in their groups to identify where in their schools, homes or neighbourhoods they have access to nature and how this compares to the experiences of other participants.

The afternoon opened with a scavenger hunt icebreaker, followed by an introduction to the four themes through videos, facilitated group discussions and interactive activities. Participants had the opportunity to share ideas, experiences and questions in small groups, and were encouraged to capture notes with the support of their table facilitator.

By the end of the day, participants had a shared sense of purpose and excitement, more information to get them started in their exploration of climate and sustainability, but also a lot of questions on two themes in particular: green skills and sustainable consumption which were addressed in session two.

Meeting 2: Building understanding and vision

The second meeting aimed to share more information on green skills and sustainable consumption with Barry Mortimer - Hub Coordinator at West London Green Skills Hub - and Wendy Alcock - Incredible Edible Barnet while developing more actional ideas. The speakers delve into the topics by using images, case studies and observations from their work to help the assembly members explore the themes with more clarity.

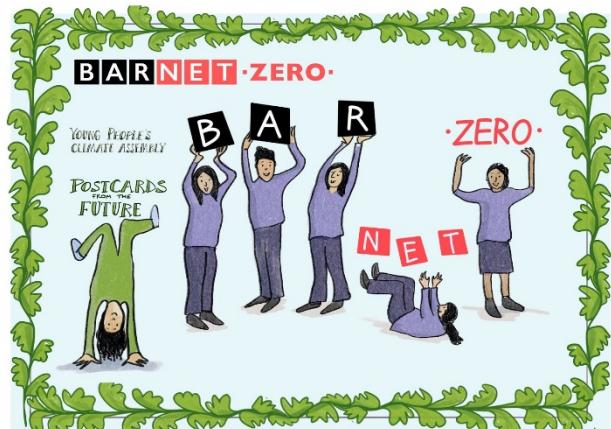
Craig Miller - Director of Street Scene at Barnet Council - also contributed to this meeting by discussing waste and recycling in the borough, and what young people can do to take climate action in their communities. Participants had the opportunity to ask questions or clarifications to all speakers.

The morning ended with a focus on how to make effective change happen. Aman Kanwar - Teacher at City London School for Girls - led this presentation by looking at how change can happen in the midst of the multi-dimensional challenges posed by climate change as well as possible solutions.

Following this contribution, the assembly members completed a theory of change template based on one or two thematic areas and building on all the ideas they had already developed in session one.

After the lunch energiser, Yogita Popat presented Barnet Council's Transport Strategy and how the participants could get involved in shaping and delivering this. For the rest of the afternoon assembly members had time to work in their groups and come up with innovative ideas for change through videos, drawing, building playdough or writing.

To close the afternoon, participants took time to individually reflect on their dreams and expectations for nature, sustainability and climate change by writing a postcard from the future to themselves. They also had the option to record, build or draw something if they preferred.



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Meeting 3: Finalising ideas

The final meeting focused on looking back at all the work done in the previous meetings and refining the ideas participants came up with from session one and develop their recommendations.

The assembly started with a recap and quiz on the topics and information covered in sessions one and two. Participants were then presented with the work done by the citizens' assembly, including their vision and draft recommendations. In their small groups, they had the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on these which were then also shared with the adult assembly members.

The rest of the day was centred around prioritising their ideas and turning these into actionable recommendations for Barnet Council. Supported by their table facilitators, participants explored one or two themes and prioritised ideas as a group. They then completed the recommendation canvas which clearly outlined the different elements that make up the recommendations, including challenges, impact and stakeholders (see appendix).

In the afternoon, the assembly members shared feedback on the EngageBarnet website which was largely positive. This was followed by a small talent show where they performed a poem, dance or talk individually or as a group to present their recommendations. Deputy CEO Cath Shaw, Councillor Barry Rawlings and Councillor Alan Schneiderman were also present for this activity.

Before the session ended, assembly members were asked to discuss how they'd like to be involved moving forward as the assembly was just one part of a bigger engagement plan for Barnet Council.

Co-design session 2: Next steps

The second co-design session aimed to reflect on the process and understand how participants might like to get involved in Barnet Council's engagement plan moving forward. After a short recap, members were asked to share their reflections on how the assembly sessions went and whether their ideas from the first co-design session were adequately included in the workshops - which they agreed they were. The focus then shifted to discussing ways to hold Barnet Council accountable for implementing the recommendations, and how participants want to be involved in next steps.

Who was involved

Groups that were involved in delivery and governance of the assembly, in addition to the participants and contributors.



Barnet Council commissioned the citizen's assembly and the Sustainability Team in the Council led work on the assembly, with scrutiny from the Environment & Climate Change committee.
<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/>



TPXimpact was contracted to lead the delivery, design and facilitation of the citizens' assembly. <https://www.tpximpact.com/>



Sortition Foundation was responsible for recruiting people to take part in the citizens' assembly. Their aim was to ensure that the assembly was broadly representative of the diversity of Barnet.
<https://www.sortitionfoundation.org/>



Facilitators were recruited locally and given training and support by TPXimpact to facilitate small group discussions and activities.



Researchers from Middlesex University led independent evaluation of the process, with reporting expected in September 2023.



The **Independent Expert Advisory Group** is an advisory group which involves people with subject matter expertise. Their role was to advise the Council and TPXimpact on the evidence and learning journey, giving input to inform plans and speaker invitations. Participants were invited by the Council and TPXimpact.



The **Oversight & Scrutiny Group** is an advisory and scrutiny group involving representatives from across the wider community, including businesses and the faith sector. Their role was to ensure that the principles of the process were upheld, to share feedback on assembly plans, and to help make links across Barnet. Participants were invited by the Council and TPXimpact.

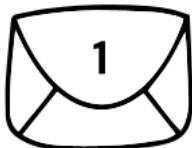
How participants were selected

This section outlines the selection process for the Citizens' Assembly and Young People's Assembly. For the former, we partnered with Sortition Foundation to randomly select 40 participants.

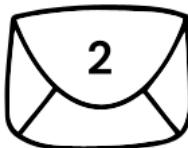
Recruitment for the Citizens' Assembly

Sortition Foundation was tasked with recruiting 40 residents of Barnet for the Citizens' Assembly, working with TPXimpact and Barnet Council to agree the approach.

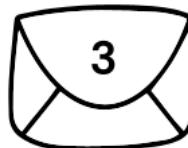
This involved three steps:



Invitations were sent to 8,000 randomly selected addresses across the borough and recipients expressed their interest in participating.



Sortition Foundation randomly selected a representative sample of 40 participants based on the information they provided.



Sortition Foundation confirmed the list of participants and hand over to TPXimpact, who led the welcome & onboarding process.

A democratic lottery system was used to create the target sample for recruitment. Thousands of households in Barnet were selected by lottery from the relevant section of the most complete and up-to-date Royal Mail Database. A second lottery is carried out from the respondents to match the target demographics for the assembly. A chart showing the target numbers, respondents and actual participants selected can be viewed in Appendix 5.

Further detail on each step can be viewed on the next page.

Step 1



You are invited to register your interest in the
Barnet Citizens' Assembly

Barnet has declared a climate emergency.
What more can we do together to make Barnet more sustainable,
now and in the future?

taking place between February and May 2023

Closing date for registering your interest in this event
is Sunday 22 January

Register at www.sortitionfoundation.org/barnet
or by phone on Freephone 0800 009 6486
(8am-10pm Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm Saturday to Sunday)

TAKE PART
AND RECEIVE
£360

Invitations were sent to 8,000 randomly selected addresses across the borough and recipients could express their interest in participating during a 3 week period. At the end of this time, around 360 people had signed up as potential assembly members.

The invitation included a following summary card (see left), letter and FAQ sheet.

Step 2

Sortition Foundation used information provided by potential assembly members as input into a "sortition algorithm", which enabled a process of randomly selecting our 40 assembly members from the pool of 360 potential members in such a way that we have a representative sample. Information considered during this selection included:

- Address
- Date of birth
- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Religion
- Information about their occupation
- If they describe themselves as having a disability.

We also asked "How would you rank your awareness of climate change?". This question was asked to ensure that there was a wide range of starting opinions about the specific subject that the assembly was tasked to consider.

Step 3

Each assembly member was contacted individually to welcome them to the process. They were guided through a questionnaire to determine any barriers to their participation, their preferred communication methods, and any support we could put in place to enable their engagement in the assembly process.

We offered a stipend to reduce barriers to participation. This was calculated at a rate rounded up from the Real London Living Wage per hour of participation.

Caring for people, our places and the planet

In addition, expenses for travel, caring responsibilities, and for any access requirements were offered. Food and refreshments were provided at the sessions.

To communicate with members throughout the process, we created a microsite that was regularly updated with information about the assembly and shared updates via email, post and phone depending on communication preferences.

Recruitment for the Young People's Assembly

Barnet young people's assembly selected 20 participants from an applicant pool of 57 young people resident in the borough. The application process involved completing an online expression of interest form with demographic information, what school the applicant attends, and a short personal statement about the applicant's interest and motivation to take part in the assembly. Invitations were sent directly to schools across the borough to circulate to their students.

Applications were reviewed and participants selected by a panel of staff from TPXimpact and Barnet Council. The approach ensured a diverse group of young people from a mix of different schools.

If selected, parents or guardians were required to sign a consent form to confirm participation. The same support to reduce barriers to participation was offered to young people and they received vouchers to thank them for their participation.



Recommendations in detail

This section provides further information about each of the recommendations prioritised by the Citizens' Assembly.



Waste & Sustainable Consumption

Encourage and educate Barnet residents on how to reduce the amount of food waste.

By acting on this recommendation, we will see less wasted food, which makes more food available to others. This helps reduce carbon emissions as there is less food being wasted.

It will address challenges of food waste (so we are aware of how to buy for our families) and overshopping (such as reducing sensitivity to best before dates).

Actions for me:

- Show others how to prepare food
- Sharing leftover food
- Use and donate excess food to food banks

Actions for the Barnet community:

- Schools to educate about waste and how to reduce it
- Teach children about the food cycle in action (for example; planting and harvesting at school) - this will teach them to care for their food and the effort behind it

Actions for the Council and their partners:

- Campaign to promote how much food waste is produced and how this can be reduced
- Use Artificial Intelligence and technology to detect usage demand and provide food based on the need only.

Improve waste management through easier recycling and by addressing fly tipping.

By acting on this recommendation, we will see waste management, we will see less rubbish and fly tipping. There will be more positive behaviour and our environment is safer and cleaner.

It will address challenges of waste on streets, builders not wanting to pay to dispose of waste, people not able to dispose of large items, and a lack of knowledge about recycling.

Actions for me:

- Separate rubbish
- Influence people to buy food with less packaging

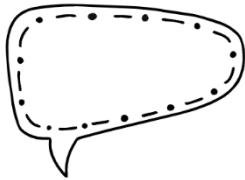
Actions for the Barnet community:

- Take collective responsibility
- Share bins
- Report offenders

Actions for the Council and their partners:

- More frequent collection of waste
- Reduce the cost of collection or make it free
- Introduce colour coded bins and diverse bins for sorting
- Promote FixMyStreet (<https://www.fixmystreet.com>)

We can work together to try to share unwanted items via apps and media.



Learning, Communication & Partnerships

Educate children and young people on sustainability and climate change through curriculum delivery and after school activities.

By acting on this recommendation, young people will take up the challenge to share knowledge with their peers, friends and families.

It will address challenges so that children from primary to secondary education will be familiar and aware of sustainability issues facing Barnet.

Actions for me:

- Share detailed knowledge with my young family
- Be open to children educating me more

Actions for the Barnet community:

- Community events to celebrate and educate
- Showcase what young people have been learning
- Showcase poetry

Actions for the Council and their partners:

- Support the curriculum programme and allow time
- Funding
- Resources

We can work together to actively participate in educating young people, and schools can support the education of adults too.

Integrate courses on climate change, sustainability and green skills across schools, businesses and apprenticeships. This should be available through online courses, local career speakers at schools and work experience opportunities that enable people to develop practical skills such as horticulture.

By acting on this recommendation, people will attend courses and school events. We can monitor the difference we are making with surveys.

This will help students to make career decisions and address challenges related to the lack of information around climate action for individuals in their everyday life.

Actions for me:

- Advocate and spread the word

Actions for the Barnet community:

- Sustainable businesses promoting their activities to schools

Actions for the Council and their partners:

- Budget to be made available to support the delivery of these activities

We can work together to support each other and coordinate efforts.

Target education and communication using a wide range of channels that are accessible and appropriate to all diverse communities.

By acting on this recommendation, we will notice more feedback, discussion and social media activity. There will be a change of habits.

It will address challenges related to the lack of knowledge, communication and interest in the topic. It will also address inaccessibility of information and data.

Actions for me:

- Participation
- Encouraging neighbours, friends and family

Actions for the Barnet community:

- Establish and support programmes, including community hubs
- Target campaigns and education for all ages, genders, languages and ethnicities
- Create different forms of content, ie videos, face to face, messaging to business

Actions for the Council and their partners:

- Provide training resources, venues, data, key performance indicators
- Target campaigns and education for all ages, genders and ethnicities
- Use different forms of content

We can work together to create champions for education and communication.

Create different campaigns and raise awareness across social media with concise and direct videos that are comedic and relatable created by everyone, including influencers & policymakers.

By acting on this recommendation, we will address the lack of knowledge about what actions are being taken in Barnet to inspire and encourage communities. It will engage young people who are currently indifferent to the problems our world faces.

We can measure the difference we make by sending out surveys before and after to assess engagement levels, with figures by location and age. Videos can include pledges (e.g. walk to school) and online sign up sheets can be attached to reward systems.

Actions for me:

- Make online pledges

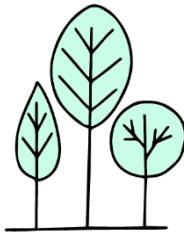
Actions for the Barnet community:

- Make online pledges

Actions for the Council and their partners:

- Create rewards for people that make online pledges
- Try to find money in a budget to create records for online sustainable pledges

We can work together to support each other and coordinate efforts.



Nature & Biodiversity

Commit to planting more trees in existing and new green spaces to promote biodiversity and wildlife.

By acting on this recommendation, we will see a significant increase in tree growth and support an increase in biodiversity. It will also improve aesthetics.

It will address challenges related to carbon capture, heat reduction and poor air quality.

Actions for me:

- Raise awareness in my community (e.g. on social media)

Actions for the Barnet community:

- Plant fruit trees in schools

Actions for the Council and their partners:

- Increase numbers from 5,000 trees to significantly higher
- Plant fruit trees
- Include in the planning process.

Identify unused spaces and infrastructure across the borough (e.g. fields, old railway tracks, green walkways) to develop biodiverse green spaces and cycling paths for partnership between council and local community volunteers.

By acting on this recommendation, we will see several changes including:

- Increased usage and footfall
- Increased cycling participation
- Positive mental and physical health
- Increase in wildlife and biodiversity
- Better air quality
- Increased trust in Barnet Council

It will address challenges related to the reduction in nature, air pollution, the unattractive urban environment, and lack of access to green space.

Actions for me:

- Residents should identify and suggest spaces to Barnet Council

Actions for the Barnet community:

- Do not use astroturf - choose more sustainable products
- Develop and support a garden / wildlife competition

Actions for the Council and their partners:

- Dog specific areas in parks or dog free zones
- Inclusive spaces
- Consultation with the community
- Communicate progress to community
- BarNetZero campaign idea with Green Spaces Team

We should listen to each other and work together to maximise green spaces for biodiversity, for wildlife, for plants, for less water run-offs and sustainable drainage systems. There should be green spaces for households and flats.

Encourage more school gardens, so that everyone has access to green spaces, and use the school gardens to grow food to use in school meals.

By acting on this recommendation, meals will be available in schools. We can educate young people on green skills and spreading awareness on fun hobbies that also address the climate crisis.

It will address challenges of dealing with turning food waste into compost and teaching young people to cook.

Actions for me:

- Make suggestions through people leadership

Actions for the Barnet community:

- Teach each other about how to maintain a community garden

Actions for the Council and their partners:

- Provide funding for school gardens
- Require a garden in each school

We can work together to raise awareness and funding.

Encourage and support local farming for fruits which will help create support for veganism and reduce the carbon emission for shipping.

By acting on this recommendation, we will make fresher produce and support more people to become vegan to reduce carbon emissions. Local farming will also create employment opportunities.

Actions for the Council and their partners:

- Create a campaign to raise awareness for seasonal foods.

Use parks to promote local businesses through weekly markets and fairs.

By acting on this recommendation, we'll promote more locally sourced food. It is more sustainable as there are less transport miles, less fossil fuel, and a greener world.

It will increase the feeling of community, educate and create awareness of green skills, and reduce the cost of local food / produce.

Actions for me:

- Add to the stalls
- Volunteer

Actions for the Barnet community:

- Present on social media
- Donate food

Actions for the Council and their partners:

- Develop and present ideas
- Lead on these events.



Travel

Have an integrated sustainable transport plan for the borough.

By acting on this recommendation, we will improve air quality, reduce journey time and improve reliability, and have a cheaper cost per mile. We'll know we've made a difference if using sustainable transport becomes a default behaviour and people have a positive outlook.

It will address challenges related to health, emissions and clean air, congestion, loneliness (as people will be better connected), and the compacted travel radius.

Actions for me:

- More walking
- Make a sustainable modal choice

Actions for the Barnet community:

- Collective support
- Car pooling
- School buses

Actions for the Council and their partners:

- Establish a capital account for 2 generations
- Role modelling
- Campaign and advocacy
- Market correction
- Service regulation
- Joined up thinking regarding the impacts

We can work together with volunteer and community organisations, and enforce, convince and encourage people to use more sustainable transport.

Develop a strategy to make roads safe for active travel, with an emphasis on cycle lanes.

By acting on this recommendation, we will have a cycling proficiency course in Barnet that is available to everyone in school. We hope to make cycling an appealing option to all members of society by making it a requirement at school.

Having cycle lanes will create separate space for cars, people, bikes, so everyone is safe.

It will address challenges related to people's concern that it's not safe enough to cycle.

Move towards more accessible, frequent and cheaper electric bus routes for people to use across Barnet (accessible to all people including disabled people)

By acting on this recommendation, we will encourage more use of public transport and more people will use it, which reduces the amount of carbon emissions.

Currently buses are infrequent, not full, and we have to wait for them.

We will need more buses and bus drivers to meet demand, which will increase jobs. We acknowledge that this also raises questions about the manufacturing of buses.

Actions for me:

- Send TfL an email to tell them what they need to do to make Barnet sustainable

Actions for the Barnet community:

- Use silent, peaceful protest
- Online protest (zoom)

Actions for the Council and their partners:

- Work with TfL to increase routes
- Campaign for this recommendation

Encourage investment in green, public transport to improve the environment, safety and well-being.

By acting on this recommendation, there will be less traffic on the road and cleaner air. The borough will become more accessible, with less stressful journeys and less cars on the road.

It will address challenges related to air quality and congestion on the roads. There will be better internal links within the borough and more affordable and inclusive travel.

Actions for me:

- Commit to driving less if transport was better
- Consume less fuel
- Create less pollution
- Better air quality

Actions for the Barnet community:

- Educate and encourage each other

Actions for the Council and their partners:

- Work in better partnership with TfL
- Invest in partnerships
- Educate
- Offer discounted travel cards to use public transport (incentives)

We acknowledge that Barnet needs to be more specific about what the word 'green' means to avoid greenwashing or astroturfing.

Provide schools with subsidised bikes for students to use for journeys in and around schools.

By acting on this recommendation, more people will travel with bikes and we'll see an improvement to air quality. We should try to give bikes to as many people as possible.

It will address challenges related to the cost of bikes for individuals. It will improve health, wellbeing and fitness.

Actions for me:

- Learn how to ride a bike
- Start a campaign - social media, presentations in school

Actions for the Barnet community:

- Educate each other on safety when driving and cycling
- Loan scheme for a short while until students grow up

Actions for the Council and their partners:

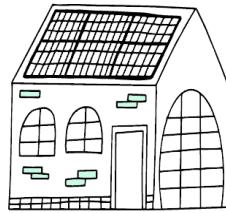
- Provide cycles (bike swaps/loans)
- Provide more training for cycling and promote with posters around the area

We can work together to take care of bikes, and to use and donate second-hand bikes.

Properly invest in electric vehicles, encourage people to see the benefits and help with payment plans.

By acting on this recommendation, we will reduce pollution and carbon emissions.

We'll know we have made a difference through quantitative measures of the concentration of MP 2.5 and other pollutants as well as the level of carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide in the air. We can monitor statistics of the number of people buying electric vehicles in relation to the concentration of pollutants in the air.



Housing, Buildings & Renewable Energy

Incorporate green and sustainable design processes in all new builds / infrastructure.

By acting on this recommendation, we'll see an improvement to Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings and energy costs will be cheaper. Barnet will look visually better and we'll create a better world for the next generation. We'll create a better community and pride if buildings are not high rise or grey structure.

It will address challenges related to mental health, finances and energy costs.

Actions for me:

- Invest in local green projects
- Volunteer

Actions for the Council and their partners:

- Planning and inspections
- Use green architecture, e.g.
 - Solar panels
 - Central heating system
 - Double glazing and insulation
 - Green roofs
 - Shared cars in buildings

This recommendation requires longer term investment, including in district heat networks.

Retrofit council properties and provide grants / subsidies for people in private housing to make buildings net zero.

By acting on this recommendation, we'll meet Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) goals and energy costs will be cheaper.

It will address challenges related to individual needs, finances and energy costs.

Actions for me:

- Support the programme
- Educate current and future generations
- Improve my own home

Actions for the Barnet community:

- Educate current and future generations
- Agree to disagree on fair and equitable challenges

Actions for the Council and their partners:

- Look at solutions that work with the local environment
- Learn from other countries that are doing better
- Inspection of buildings

This recommendation requires us to consider how grants would be distributed in a fair and equitable way. We can work together to figure out the best approach. This could involve prioritising people on low income, or providing different grants for different income brackets. As we retrofit, we should also use natural, sustainable and non-profit building materials, and consider photovoltaic cell systems rather than solar.

Make housing more sustainable by installing solar panels and providing subsidies to improve appliances.

By acting on this recommendation, some people will save on energy bills in the long term. It will improve energy efficiency. If more people draw power from solar panels, there is less reliance on fossil fuels.

We acknowledge that solar panels are expensive, so we must remove cost barriers.

Actions for me:

- Encourage friends and family to install solar panels/more efficient appliances

Actions for the Council and their partners:

- More investment into solar panels installation campaigns
- Campaigns to increase awareness of the benefits of efficient appliances.