

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT AND BARNET'S CLEANSING POLICY FOR HGS

The policy explained and what you can do about it if it is not working.

Grades of Cleanliness
The Environmental Protection Act 1990 defines four grades of cleanliness as follows:-

- Grade A**
No litter or refuse.
- Grade B**
Predominantly free of litter and refuse, apart from small items.
- Grade C**
Widespread distribution of litter and refuse with minor accumulations.
- Grade D**
Heavily littered with significant accumulations.

Categories of Zones
The Act sets out eleven categories of zones only the first three of which are applicable to the Suburb and adjoining roads. These three zones are:-

- Zone 1**
(Town and shopping centres, major transport centres and other public places where large numbers of people congregate.)
a) The Temple Fortune part of Finchley Road from the Bridge Lane/Temple Fortune Lane crossroads to Henlys Corner.
b) Golders Green crossroads and bus station.
- Zone 2**
High density residential areas, land laid out as recreational areas where large numbers of people congregate.
a) Finchley Road from Golders Green tube station to the Bridge Lane/Temple Fortune Lane crossroads.
b) Side roads (not in Suburb) between Finchley Road and Jewish cemetery.
- Zone 3**
(Low density residential areas, other public parks.)
All other Suburb roads and open spaces.

Gradings applied to Zones
The Act sets out the gradings applied to each zone as follows:-

Zone 1
Grade A should be achieved after cleaning. If this falls to grade B, it should be restored to grade A within six hours. If it falls to grade C, it should be restored to grade A within three hours and grade D should be restored within one hour. If the standard should fall to grade or below during the period from 8pm to 6am, it should be restored to grade A by 8am.

Zone 2
Grade A should be achieved after cleaning. If this falls to grade B, it should be restored to grade A within twelve hours. If it falls to grade C, it should be restored to grade A within six hours and grade D should be restored within three hours.

Zone 3
Grade A should be achieved after cleaning. If this falls to grade C, it should be restored to grade A within twelve hours, and if it falls to grade D, it should be restored to grade A within six hours.

Barnet's Cleansing Policy
In general, Barnet's cleansing policy is to comply with the Code of Practice issued with the Act in order to maintain each Zone in accordance with the requirements for that Zone as set out above. The actual cleaning is undertaken for Barnet by the contractors Tyler Waste Management who, it appears currently clean zones as follows:-

Zone 1
Cleaned three times every day: before 8.00am, noon and around 5.00pm. Barnet have agreed to ask Tylers to include headways to turnings off for special attention.

Zone 2
Cleaned once a week or more often as necessary.

Zone 3
Cleaned a minimum of six times a year.

In general, the policy is that all roads should be thoroughly swept and cleaned a minimum of six times a year with leaf clearance being carried out as required from the first week in October to the second week in December.

Actions that should result
What all this means is that: Temple Fortune, and Golders Green crossroads and bus station, should not be a problem!

If either the Market Place or Finchley Road immediately North of Golders Green station fall to grade B, Barnet should restore it to grade A within twelve hours.

If any other Suburb road or open space falls to grade C, Barnet should restore it to grade A within twelve hours.

What you can do
If, in your judgement, this is not happening – and at the present time there are many areas such as the headways to turnings off the Finchley Road, Falloeden Way and the Market Place, as well as Temple Fortune Lane, Hoop Lane and Meadway Gate which constantly fall to grade C – here is what you can do about it:

Telephone the Customer Complaints Unit on 081 446 5219/5237 making a note of the date and time of your complaint.

If this does not result in the area being restored to the standard required by the code of practice within the specified time, then write to the Director of Technical Services, Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, London N20 0EJ, using the following words:- "I request that area be cleaned in accordance with Section 84 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The litter problem which needs cleaning is, and I intend to apply to a Magistrate's Court for a summons against the London Borough of Barnet if the nuisance is not cleaned."

Keep a copy of your letter and send it to one of our Suburb Councillors who will follow up your complaint.

Barnet, by law, has just five days to take action. If it fails, try to take a photograph of the rubbish, with a daily paper in the picture to give evidence of the date.

On the sixth day, visit the Magistrate's Court and ask the court staff to issue a summons against the London Borough of Barnet. It costs nothing, although residents should be advised that should any action against Barnet not succeed, the Act does allow the magistrate to award costs against the person promoting the summons. However, it is understood that a person with a genuine complaint should have nothing to fear.

What else you can do
And, as well as this action – or if you don't want to take such drastic action – then join the Litter Free Zones Campaign, now in its fourth year, by contacting Peter Loyd on 081 455 4543 and offering to keep clean a part of the Suburb near your home. We now have one hundred and sixty volunteers responsible for Litter Free Zones covering 40 per cent of the Suburb. PL

Barnet Meets Residents

The periodic discussions between the residents and the Borough, initially on the changes to the refuse collection, have now become more or less regular consultation meetings on matters relating to the Conservation Area environment in the widest sense. The meeting in January, attended by a similar mix of councillors, Barnet officers, Trust and RA representatives to the previous occasions, covered a number of subjects not discussed in this forum previously.

Trees Officer Andy Branch explained the Borough policy on planting of street trees – single species planting would be considered where this already existed, but to assist disease prevention, the Borough preferred varied planting in most cases – and agreed to provide advance information on the planting programme, so that residents could make arrangements to keep an eye on, and foster, new trees; the residents emphasised the importance of ensuring that contractors adhered properly to specifications.

Progress on the privatised refuse collection was reviewed. The Borough regretted the sporadic nature of the notification of Christmas arrangements, blaming this on a failure by the leaflet delivery contractor and promising the possibility of notices stuck on bins in future, as in fact happened at Easter. The

A leaflet from the Tidy Britain Group explaining generally the anti-litter legislation as contained in Part IV of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, and showing pictures of Grades A, B, C and D cleanliness standards, is enclosed with your copy of "Suburb Directory 1992-1993".

collection service had improved somewhat after its bumpy start in August last year, but nonetheless the penalty points system had had to be activated because of continuing problems with early starts, spillage, not returning bins to the correct site, and particular problem areas (Eastholm, Westholm, Childs Way, Reynolds Close). This means that penalty points are clocked up if the contractor does not rectify within 24 hours faults in the service that have been notified by the Borough issuing default notices relating to particular incidents. A notice can be initiated by the District Officers or the Borough refuse managers, who can be notified by residents by telephone to the District Officer Service (346 0039) or the Customer Complaints Unit (446 5219/5237). All complaints should be made as soon as possible after a fault is noticed and details should include the nature of the incident, the time, and the refuse vehicle registration number. The penalty points are monitored as a rolling cumulative total over 13 weeks; if this figure reaches 7000, the contract can be terminated.

Other refuse topics included the continuing problem of black bags being left on verges at Addison Way and Lyttelton Road; the improvement in assisted collections but the need for more publicity on their

availability; publicity that Christmas box collecting was forbidden under the contract; and possible future charges for exchanges to large bins.

Street sweeping, now also a contract activity, was discussed, particularly in light of the Environmental Protection Act, which imposes street cleanliness obligations on the Borough. Residents felt that performance was inadequate in Suburb roads near the shopping areas; the Borough was aware of this and said it would be given special attention. The general policy was for six cleans per year in the relatively lightly littered residential roads, but the contractor, also Tylers (the refuse collection firm) had indicated they would sweep more frequently than this.

Recycling was discussed – the Borough is preparing its recycling plan – and an update was given on the previous autumn's ward visit by councillors, officers and residents to Northway Gardens – various actions by the Borough still outstanding. Some traffic matters were also discussed: British Gas reneging on its agreement to provide bollards for Willifield Green; a working party on traffic calming to be set up comprising Borough, Trust and RA representatives; requests for hardstandings in gardens at Eastholm and Westholm; and resurfacing of Hampstead Way from Willifield Way to Corringham Road in 1992/93, subject to availability of funds.

It was generally felt that another useful meeting had been achieved, and the next was being scheduled for this month (May).

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