

featuring Marjorie Harris, Ken Murrell and Andrew Harper

With a Barnet Council by-election coming up on 5 May for the seat vacated by Vanessa Gearson, Style editor Deborah Warland asked three of the candidates to write a few lines on what the Suburb means to them. Ladies first...



Marjorie Harris, Liberal Democrat candidate
I fell in love with the whitewashed cottages and abundant blossom in the Suburb in 1968.

It is a haven to live in and return to – the place where my children grew up and were educated within a neighbourly and diverse community, and where I can still walk home in the dark after chairing Horticultural Society meetings or going to the Proms at St Jude’s.

We have two wonderful primary schools, but I wish Henrietta Barnett School catered for more local children. We have The Institute, where I took my first course even before we moved in. I mourn its loss at the heart of the Suburb, once it departs for Finchley. We have the H2 bus, but I wish the H3 worked better.

I love living here, surrounded by handsome houses, lovely gardens and woods and parks to walk in, but the Suburb is not an architectural mausoleum. Its inhabitants share the same concerns of all citizens.

As many of you know, I am always campaigning on local issues. I care and I want to get things done. In Hampstead Garden Suburb the Liberal Democrats are the opposition, not Labour. I would be honoured if you would elect me to Barnet Council.



Ken Murrell, Labour candidate
Thirty years ago I had never heard of the Suburb. A chance entry at the end of an estate agent’s list led me to this leafy oasis within the hustle and bustle of Greater London. With three daughters born on and attending school on the Suburb, this is the ‘village’ where our family has been privileged to put down it’s roots. The Suburb is now ‘home’ to us all.
The Suburb means an accumulation of memories, through Garden Suburb School, Horticultural Society, Residents Association, the many other activities and the friends made within this interlocking community. This is a suburb where genuine neighbours still exist, who help each other and do become life-long friends.
The varied architecture, woods and open spaces of the Suburb are a constant personal pleasure. Where else can you walk through our countryside to view London from Parliament Hill and the equally stunning view of our churches and the Suburb from the Heath Extension. The outstanding Suburb environment was not retained by chance, but is the legacy of the efforts of past residents. The Suburb still requires watchful care and to me is worth working for.

Finally, with all the stress of modern life, what could be better than a warm evening in the calm of a Suburb garden?



Andrew Harper, Conservative candidate
I am thrilled to have the possibility of representing Hampstead Garden Suburb ward on Barnet Council and grateful to be able to address *Suburb News* readers.

My memories of this area go back a long way. While I’ve lived here for over 20 years, my first contact was in 1974 when, as students, my brother and I lodged in Rotherwick Road. Later, I met my wife when we were both singing in the choir at St Jude’s. Our children were born and raised here, both attended Garden Suburb School.

Since leaving full-time work in 2003, I have been seeking ways of becoming more involved with my local community. It would be a great privilege to serve and support this special area as a councillor; I’m well aware of its unique nature and thankful to be part of it.

I am particularly mindful of the challenge of preserving the uniqueness and heritage of the Suburb - which we must do - while accommodating modern-day living. I share the concerns of people here. As a Conservative councillor, I believe I would be well placed to work for the Suburb, alongside my two ward colleagues and as part of the majority group on the Council.


The NAOT

Natural Footwear Centre

for the most fabulous collection of comfortable shoes and sandals (some with removable insoles) that are not available from the High Street shops.



1029 Finchley Road (opposite Alyth Gardens),
Temple Fortune, NW11. Tel: 020 8455 3623
Open Mon-Fri 10-5.30; Sat 10-4; Sun 11-3
www.naturalfootwear.co.uk



The Garden Suburb Gallery, which is run by Residents Association volunteers and supported by the HGS Trust, sells Suburb books, maps, cards and the work of more than thirty local artists. Browsers are welcome.

The Garden Suburb Gallery

at the Temple Fortune end of Hampstead Way, tel 8455 7410