



Cost cutting is leaving us all with 'dirty streets'

By David Melsome

Barnet is fast becoming London's dirty borough, warns a local resident, with massive cuts halving the number of street cleaners since 2017 and Barnet Council "abandoning" its responsibility for cleaning the majority of streets.

David Attfield, of Summerlee Avenue, N2, has met council officials on several occasions to ask what can be done to keep streets clean, and also organised a petition last year to take to the council's Environment Committee.

Less often, less thorough

David says that many streets in East Finchley have only had a cursory sweep in the past year to remove autumn leaves, with no other cleaning taking place. This has led to a build-up of rotting

under £10 a head) compared with over £9 million in Haringey and in Camden (£35 and £37 a head).

Mr Attfield is not giving up. He urges anyone concerned about the state of our streets to email Barnet Council leader Richard Cornelius directly on cllr.r.cornelius@barnet.gov.uk or Environment Committee chairman Dean Cohen on cllr.d.cohen@barnet.gov.uk

Council response

A Barnet Council spokesperson said the council remained



Left to rot: Litter and leaves clog Talbot Avenue, N2.

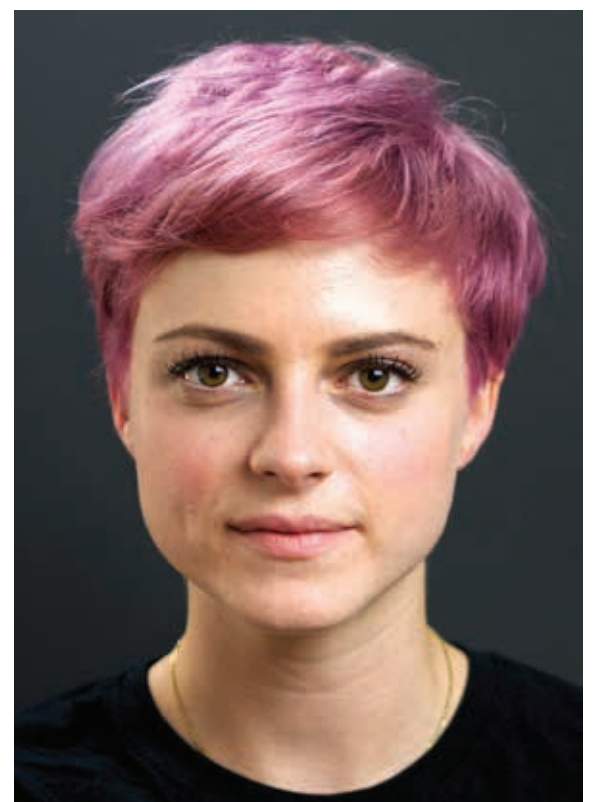
leaves and other litter. He said: "Prior to the cuts, the council was committed to sweeping residential streets every six weeks, in itself not particularly ambitious given that Haringey and Camden sweep streets weekly or fortnightly."

As well as highlighting budget cuts, David argues that policy changes have added to the problem in East Finchley, with money put into buying mechanical sweepers which cannot operate in residential roads where there are parked cars.

Borough comparisons

Figures suggest that this year Barnet will spend £3.57 million on street cleaning (amounting to

firmly committed to keeping the borough clean and tidy for local residents and businesses. In the instances where its sweepers couldn't reach under parked cars, manual litter picking is carried out. The spokesperson said: "We regularly empty the borough's 3,000 plus litter bins, and Barnet's town centres are cleaned every day. We also have dedicated flytipping and graffiti teams, who tackle problems such as flytipping, litter and graffiti where they arise. We are committed to providing a service that is efficient and effective for residents but at the same time, one that keeps within our budget."



Eye contact: Two of Ivan Berg's portraits on show in Hampstead Garden Suburb.

These faces are no fakes

Thirty striking portraits of subjects aged 16 to 82 are on show at the *WOMAN* exhibition by photographer Ivan Berg throughout

March. All are photographed using dramatic lighting reminiscent of the style of Dutch master Rembrandt, against a signature

plain black background.

Fellow artist Alyson Hunter commented: "Ivan Berg's portraits are arresting because they are shot without the artifice usually used to portray women. It is refreshing to have the female portrait move into the reality of women's lives."

WOMAN is on show in Hampstead Garden Suburb's Fellowship House gallery in Willifield Way, NW11 6YD. Viewing times are Tuesday and Friday afternoons from 2.30pm to 4pm and on Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm to 9.30pm. Admission is free.

Return Destination

Organisers of the Destination East Finchley project are hoping to set up a permanent exhibition at the tube station following the success of their temporary display there two years ago.

The Destination project invited people in N2 to tell the personal stories that brought them and their families to live and work in East Finchley. Postcards and notes displayed on boards at the station were hugely popular with commuters.

Since then, organisers have

been working with Transport for London and designer Peter Curzon to produce a more permanent display, featuring a colourful wall map, quotes and poetry and celebrating journeys from all over the world to our part of London. An opening date is expected soon.

Battery recycling

Dead batteries are not accepted in the blue bins collected each week by the council but there are numerous places in East Finchley where you can take them for recycling.

Both electrical stores on the High Road offer the service. Everything Electrical, close to the tube station, has a green bin just inside its entrance where you can drop batteries of any kind. EF Electrical Contractors, close to Kitchener Road, will take old batteries and also recycle fluorescent tubes and small electrical appliances like toasters and kettles. Amy's Housewares, next door to Budgens, has a battery recycling box near its sales counter and will also recycle BRITA water filter cartridges.

Local schools, Martin Primary and Highgate Primary, also have battery recycling bins on the premises. *Are there other local recycling services we don't know about? Email the-archer@lineone.net and we will tell our readers.*

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