

Fosters Estate Update

Andrew Dismore MP

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I promised to keep you up to date on developments in your area, the Fosters Estate. I have just had my annual formal 'walkabout' inspection visit on the estate, with the Council and Barnet Homes, so I thought I should report back to you on my findings and issues I have taken up.

Decent Homes Initiative

I was pleased to see the work underway on the Government financed decent homes initiative, to replace kitchens, windows and bathrooms, and attend to external cladding of the blocks. There will be a "deep cleanse" of all the blocks common parts, when the work is finished.

Grounds Maintenance

I was concerned about the extent of weeds on the estate, which I asked Barnet Homes to raise with the Council's grounds maintenance department. Shrubs also needed cutting back. I understand the intent is to replace the flowers and shrubs beds over the autumn and winter. The beds in the grassed areas will be raised, to prevent them being removed, as happened last time.

Litter picking also needed attention in some areas, and holes left by scaffolding needed repair.

Repairs

A number of issues were raised with me by residents, prior to my visit. Residents will be consulted about more secure doors for 1-44 Upper Fosters. The torn flooring in one of the Lower Fosters blocks has already been repaired with extended matting. I was also pleased to see repairs I had identified on my last visit had been done, for example in relation to fencing around the perimeter of the estate.

Mini Motorbikes

The Police tell me this is a growing problem throughout the area, and with the encouragement of the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team, I am starting a campaign about this. These "minimotos" are illegal, in that although marketed as toys, they are anything but! They must comply with the same road safety rules as full sized motorcycles if used anywhere except on privately owned land. They do not usually comply with the Construction and Use Regulations and they are dangerous. If they do comply, then they should be taxed, insured and riders should hold a licence and wear crash helmets. The police have the power to seize minimotos and prosecute those that do not comply with these rules, especially if they are making a noise nuisance or are causing a danger to pedestrians and other road users. I have started a petition about this, and I enclose a copy – please sign it, encourage friends and neighbours to do so as well, and return it to me FREEPOST, if you agree with my stand!