

North Road Estate Update

Andrew Dismore MP

July 2006

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

Roads and Paths

A number of residents had raised with me the need for repairs to the road surfaces in North Road. The Council have agreed to do this as an urgent repair. I have asked for a timescale for this. I also pointed out that East Road's surface needs attention, as well as a number of the footpaths and pavements, particularly where tree roots have created uneven surfaces. I have asked the Council to attend to these.

Litter

Although I visited just after the so-called "estate action day", I was disappointed to see just how much litter – some obviously there for a considerable time – had been missed. I have asked the Council to revisit this.

Grounds Maintenance

This also needed a lot of attention, with uncut grass and untreated weeds. The new contractor is supposed to weed spray three times a year, but this clearly had not been done effectively. The Council will investigate and deal with this.

Fly tipping

This appears to be a general problem in various parts of the estate. The Council will remove the rubbish and is actively investigating the possibility of prosecuting offenders.

Graffiti

This also is a problem in need of more attention. The Barnet 'payback' scheme has been providing help from young offenders on the estate who are

required, under tough supervision, to help with environmental improvements, like cutting back overgrown shrubbery and graffiti removal.

Wood Court

This has now been demolished. I checked that appropriate pest control measures were taken, and remain in place, to deal with any vermin infestation, like rats. I am concerned that the site is not as secure as it could be, and have asked the Council to raise this with the contractor.

Car repair business and motor trading

There is strong evidence of unlawful motor trading, carried out by an unofficial and unapproved car repair business, neighbouring the estate. The Council are collecting the evidence they need for enforcement action.

Child Guidance Centre building

I am checking what is going on with this closed building, and neighbouring land.

Mini Motorbikes

The Police tell me this is a growing problem throughout the area, and with the encouragement of the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team in Burnt Oak, 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!