

# HOUSING OUTLOOK

The magazine for  
Barnet Council tenants  
and leaseholders

Winter 1999/2000

## Coming up roses

**T**he residents of Rapide and Ratier blocks fought off tough opposition to win the first ever Grahame Park in Bloom competition. The contest was organised by the Community Development Group in partnership with the council. The competition was open to all residents sharing communal gardens on the estate.

### Garden changes in Barnet

An improved service has been introduced for the communal grass and gardens in the Barnet housing area. This means grass will be cut 18 times a year instead of 16 and any litter or leaves will be removed from shrub beds and hedges once a month.



### Healthier roses for the Millennium

You may also have noticed a change in how the rose beds are weeded. Using weedkiller over previous years has affected the health of rose bushes.

We are now giving the roses time to recover before using any more weedkiller. The beds are being dug over each month instead.

If you have any grounds maintenance problems on your estate or would like information about this please contact your Housing Office. If you would like more information about the new garden contract for this area, please contact Peter Headland on 0181 359 4911.

### SOME OF WHAT'S INSIDE

- Kitchen makeovers .....p3
- It's Question Time .....p3
- Security .....p4 & 5
- Racial harassment.....p6
- Barnet Lifeline .....p6

Buug-yarahani wuxuu ka hadlayaa guriyayntaada

**Bu evinizle ilgili bir dergidir.**

આપણે આ વિષે માહિતી આપણે આ માહિતી આપી છે

Αυτό είναι το περιοδικό σας για το σπίτι σας

這本雜誌是關於你的家宅的

یہ آپ کے گھر سے متعلق آپ کا میگزین ہے۔



Tom Jarvis receives the Grahame Park in Bloom trophy

# What is racial harassment?

Racial harassment is a crime. Barnet Council and its housing staff are committed to putting a stop to harassment so that everyone can live peacefully and without fear. The council uses the definition from the Stephen Lawrence Enquiry "a racist incident is any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person".

## What to do

If you or any of your neighbours experience an incident, which you feel has a racial motive, report it. The tenancy agreement is clear that the council will not tolerate harassment and will take action against the person doing it.

Examples of incidences you should report are:

- threatening or abusive behaviour
- physical assault
- damage to property, homes or vehicles
- graffiti

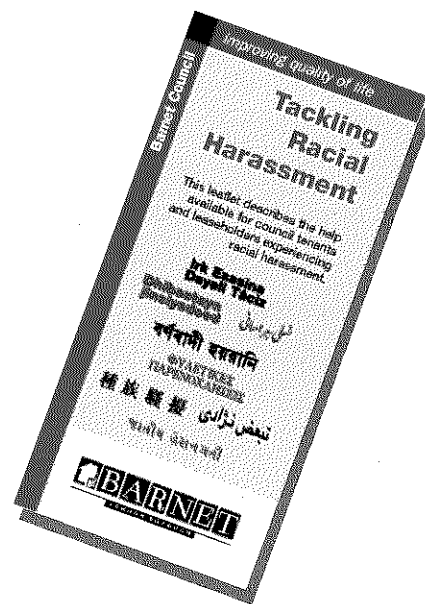
If you witness an incident contact the Police in an emergency on 999. If the incident has already happened contact 0181 200 1212. You can also report it to the council's Community Care Helpline - 0181 359 4123 or to your housing office.

All information is treated in confidence and will not be passed to anyone without your consent. Remember to keep a record of any incident.

## How we can help

Our staff have been specially trained to deal with reports of racial harassment. We can also organise extra security and the help of other organisations. We will organise the removal of racist graffiti quickly and do any repairs within 24 hours.

The council treats racial harassment seriously and can take action against the person causing the harassment by:



- taking out an injunction - which if breached means they can be arrested without a warrant
- starting court proceedings to evict the tenant or leaseholder

Together with the Police and local organisations, the council aims to combat and stop harassment by:

- supporting victims
- investigating and monitoring incidents
- prosecuting offenders.

## Barnet Lifeline Centre

Barnet Council's Lifeline Centre has been refurbished and a new computer system installed in time for the Year 2000.

The Centre provides reassurance and emergency help 24 hours a day for people living in sheltered housing or

with a Lifeline alarm installed in their home.

The system operates down a telephone line and the calls are received by the computer operator at the Lifeline Centre. By simply pushing the button on their pendant or pulling the alarm cord in their home, someone needing help can alert the operator very quickly.

The operator is able to speak directly to the person to find out what's wrong before sending the right help.

If you are interested in having an alarm like this, please contact The Lifeline Centre on **0181 359 4841**.



## Asbestos Survey

Our Consultants, Adams Environmental Ltd, have surveyed over a quarter of our homes since September. If your home has been picked for a survey this year, you will receive an asbestos information leaflet. Then the company will make an appointment with you. When they do visit, check their identification badge. If in doubt, check!

As a guide, the proposed timetable is:

### Hendon & Grahame Park

December 1999 - March 2000

### Barnet

March - June 2000

### Finchley

June - September 2000

We hope to keep to this but with a project of this size, there may be a slight overlap. The company has found everyone very helpful and would like to thank you all.