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Barnet UNISON launches Enews Lotto!

Do you receive Barnet UNISON **Enews**?

From **Friday 2nd September** you can enter our free monthly draw to win a **fantastic** prize of **£50** worth of gift vouchers.

Open and **read** Barnet UNISON Enews then **answer** the question which will be relating to the content.

Email your answer and your **full name** to contactus@barnetunison.org.uk

If you answer each

weeks correctly prior to the closing date/time you will be rewarded with **5 more** entries to that months draw.

It's that simple

If you are not currently receiving Barnet UNISON Enews simply send an email titled Barnet UNISON Enews and your email address to contactus@barnetunison.org.uk

**** terms and conditions apply see website for details**

Barnet Independence Day – independence from outside interests

We will be publishing a number of posts about Council workers and why we are promoting independence day.

Regulatory Services which includes:

Trading Standards & Licensing, Land Charges, Planning & Development, Building Control & Structures, Environmental Health, Highways Strategy, Highways Network Management, Highways Traffic & Development, Highways Transport & Regeneration, Strategic Planning & Regeneration, Cemeteries & Crematoria

It is our view that decisions made by staff working for regulatory services in particular those relating to public health must be **100% independent** and free from any **'conflict of interest'**.

If our members are no longer working for Barnet Council there is a genuine fear that this will lead to:

- ☹️ lack of **transparency** as to how decisions are made
- ☹️ lack **accountability** as to how public money is being spent
- ☹️ lack **public confidence** that decisions are in the public interest
- ☹️ lack **impartiality** of decision making because of commercial/shareholders interests will take priority over local communities in Barnet.

The above fear reflects a more widespread cynicism the public feel about how **parliamentary democracy** has been undermined by the continuing shocking revelations about the [News of the World](#), [phone hacking](#) & the role of [Police](#) and the [Prime Minister](#) David Cameron.

Barnet Independence Day – local Press

By Kim Inam

COUNCIL workers are planning a day of industrial action after months of working to rule in protest at Barnet Council's outsourcing plans.

About 400 members of Unison, who have been taking part in industrial action in recent months, have decided to walk out for a day to hammer home their message.

Members working in trading standards, planning and building control, environmental health, highways and regeneration and cemetery, registrars, revenue and benefits officers will strike on September 13, which has been labelled "Independence Day" by the union's representatives.

Full article [here](#)

UNISON in talks with the Council on Trades Dispute

UNISON has been in talks for the last 6 weeks and a proposal is going to be discussed in a meeting this afternoon. The branch will be keep all our members fully briefed of any offers made by the Council.

One Barnet lunchtime briefing - Tuesday 6 September

Barnet UNISON One Barnet briefings will now take place only once a month. It is important that you try to find time in your lunch break to attend the meeting in order you know what is going on.

We are providing a special briefing for all our members on

Tuesday 6 September at 1pm The Oak Room, Building 4, NLBP.

You should know by now about the proposal for strike action on **Tuesday 13 September** which we have dubbed '[Barnet Independence Day](#)'.

This action will be carried out by members working in the following services:

Trading Standards & Licensing, Land Charges, Planning & Development, Building Control & Structures, Environmental Health, Highways Strategy, Highways Network Management, Highways Traffic & Development, Highways Transport & Regeneration, Strategic Planning & Regeneration, Cemeteries & Crematoria; Parking Services, Revs & Bens,

In addition to the strike action we are inviting all our members to participate in a **MASS RALLY** outside Hendon Town Hall on [Tuesday 13 September](#) from 5.30 pm.

Please come along to support your fellow UNISON members

If anyone needs reminding as to what we are facing listen to 'Carmel's story' view this short [video](#) clip.

I look forward to seeing you on **6 September**.

Refreshments - Sandwiches and hot drinks will be provided

President Obama, Libya and One Barnet

Curious? Take a look [here](#)

Barnet Independence Day - [FAT CATS](#)

Earlier this year Channel Four Dispatches made a programme entitled [Secret Fat Cats](#) ; please take a look at this short video [here](#)

Plymouth Council derecognises Plymouth UNISON branch.

Unison is planning to hold a mass rally outside the Civic Centre tomorrow – and meetings for members.

The event coincides with a day of action being held by Plymouth Trade Union Council.

Plymouth City Council told Unison last week it would no longer be recognised as a staff negotiator after it refused to sign an agreement to change terms and conditions.

The deal is aimed at cutting **£18million** from the council's wages budget.

Full story here

<http://www.thisisplymouth.co.uk/Unison-forced-quit-Civic-Centre-office/story-13184807-detail/story.html>

You can send **message of support** to Plymouth UNISON on their Facebook page [here](#)

Pensions Fund Committee [Thurs 1 Sept, 7pm](#) - please attend.

UNISON Members are advised to try and attend this [meeting](#). It concerns your Pension.

A presentation will be given to the Committee. This will outline the in principle approach to pensions when dealing with the transfer of employees to a new employer in the context of the One Barnet Programme.

View report [here](#)

The branch is strongly recommending those UNISON members in the Pension scheme to pop down to this meeting which starts 7p.m.

Middlesex University – strike ballot looms

The trade Union representing lecturers (University College Union UCU) are set to ballot on proposals to cut **300 jobs** at the university

To view full article in Barnet press click [here](#)

UPDATE ON NATIONAL PENSION NEGOTIATIONS

It is important for all our members to keep up to date with what is happening in the Pension negotiations.

You can keep up to date here at the national UNISON Pensions web page

<http://www.unison.org.uk/pensions/lgps.asp>

Pension ePetition to defend you Pension please sign

Public & Private Pension Increases - change from RPI to CPI

Most union members in a pension scheme will be detrimentally affected by the Government's change to a worse measure for increasing pensions when in payment each year.

For some, this change represents a **15% reduction** in their benefits. Sign up to this e-petition to seek to spark a Parliamentary debate. 100,000 signatures are needed for this purpose

To sign click [here](#)

Pensions and TUPE Branch Meetings in September

- 🕒 **Weds 7 Sept 1pm** Committee Room 1, **Barnet House**
- 🕒 **Tuesday 13 Sept** 12 noon **Oak Room** Building 4

In light of the imminent proposals to attack our pensions and the council's policy of mass privatisation the branch is providing our members with up to date information on pensions and TUPE.

Come along, bring your lunch and join us to help protect our pensions

10 Key Facts about your Pension Scheme

1. LGPS funds collectively form the biggest single pension fund in the country and fourth largest in the world making it a major shareholder in business and the UK economy. Together the 101 LGPS funds hold more than **£150billion** in investments and assets - enough to pay benefits for over 20 years. More than **four million** people are members of the LGPS in the UK either as active, contributing members, pensioners or deferred members.

To view the rest click [here](#)

REDUCTION IN LIBRARIES LIKELY TO BE UNLAWFUL'

While we have all been anticipating the outcome of the high court case between library campaigners and Brent Council - the first time the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 has been tested in court – an interesting letter appeared in The Times on 16th August which may provide a pointer to the verdict.

The letter was written in response to a piece by Caitlin Moran on library closures that lyrically summed up the feelings of many library users with the words:

A library in the middle of a community is a cross between an emergency exit, a life-raft and a festival. They are cathedrals of the mind; hospitals of the soul; theme parks of the imagination. On a cold, rainy island, they are the only sheltered public spaces where you are not a consumer, but a citizen instead. A human with a brain and a heart and a desire to be uplifted, rather than a customer with a credit card and an inchoate “need” for “stuff”.

The piece elicited this response from Mr. Francis Bennion, a retired barrister and the person who drafted the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964. His words will be of interest to all campaigners for libraries and are therefore reproduced in full:

I read Caitlin Moran’s account of the debt she owes her threatened public library as the only alma mater she has ever had (The Times Magazine, 13 August 2011) with particular sympathy. Nearly half a century ago I was struggling to draft appropriately the Bill that became the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964. I was instructed to draw a reasonable line between the requirements of the public and the limited resources of local authorities. The Act is still operative. Various attempts to enforce it by judicial review are pending.

The Act says a local authority which is a library authority must “provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons . . . whose residence or place of work is within the library area of the authority or who are undergoing full-time education within that area”. Its stock of “books and other printed matter, and pictures, gramophone records, films and other materials”, must be “sufficient in number, range and quality to meet the general requirements and any special requirements both of adults and children”.

Under this provision a severe reduction now in the public library facilities which were being provided by a particular library authority two or three years ago is likely to be

unlawful. This is because there is a presumption that the earlier provision did not exceed what was required under the Act.

The Act also says that the Government must “superintend, and promote the improvement of, the public library service provided by local authorities in England and Wales, and . . . secure the proper discharge by local authorities of the functions in relation to libraries conferred on them as library authorities”.

It does not appear that the statutory duties I have mentioned are being adequately fulfilled at present. The Act does not contain any provision for reduction of the duties because of a need for “cuts”.

Don't forget to sign the 'Love Your Libraries' petition to force a commons debate on library closures at: <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/1269>.

Barnet College – update on merger, Pensions, meetings

Merger

A quick update that talks about the merger with Southgate College.

Talk will soon be starting soon, your local rep (Christalla) and the regional organiser (Laura) will be attending these meetings.

If you have any questions or concerns please email Christalla.Tsattala@barnet.ac.uk

Future UNISON meeting

15 September Barnet College Wood Street venue Lecture Theatre 12 to 1 pm

Please try to attend.

A date for

Pensions briefing for Barnet College members

Monday 26 September, Hendon Town hall, from 7pm

Refreshments will be provided

Updated Petitions

We have some **new petitions** which need your support. Please take **2 minutes** to sign these petitions

[Stop the One Barnet Programme](#)

[Save Friern Barnet Library](#)

[Save Royal Brompton Hospital's children's cardiac services](#)

[The People's Petition for a Million Climate Jobs](#)

[Demand a Public Inquiry into Legionella in Fremantle Care Homes](#)

[Save our NHS](#)

[Save Our Library](#)

[Save Barnet Museum](#)



You can follow Barnet UNISON on Twitter by clicking on [here](#) or

The Facebook logo, featuring the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a dark blue rectangular background.

Click here [John Burgess](#)

Barnet UNISON Your Friend at Work