

BARNET'S CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATIONS 2023

SUMMARY BOOKLET



engage.barnet.gov.uk/barnets-recommendations

Caring for people, our places and the planet

BARNET·ZERO·

BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH

FOREWORD

The climate emergency is a huge challenge affecting everyone. To address that challenge we know we must work together, putting the voices of local people at the heart of action.

So, we are delighted to welcome the recommendations from Barnet's Citizens' Assembly and Young People's Assembly on Climate Change & Biodiversity.

The proposals from both assemblies are thoughtful, wide-reaching and add real value to our collective efforts to tackle climate change. They set out the priorities we should focus on as residents see it. And they make an offer of action that they as citizens are prepared to take to help. This is real partnership. Observing the process has been inspirational, and we'd like to thank all the participants for their deliberations. We will be taking lessons from the process and applying it to other work the Council does.

We look forward to collaborating further to implement these recommendations. Raising awareness, sharing information, and working with the community on solutions will be critical to our success in getting to net zero by 2042.

This is just the start of our climate journey together, but it's a great start!



*Councillor Barry Rawlings,
Leader of Barnet Council*



*Councillor Alan
Schneiderman, Cabinet
Member for Environment
and Climate Change*



Group photograph of the Citizens' Assembly and Youth Assembly coming together at the final recommendations session

INTRODUCTION

Barnet Council has a commitment to bring residents and the wider community on the journey to net zero with action that is equitable. The commitment for becoming a net zero borough as soon as possible, but no later than 2042 is an ambitious one, and the only way to do this is if residents, communities, and businesses work together. In January 2023, the London Borough of Barnet launched its Citizen's Assembly for Climate Change and Biodiversity.

Barnet Citizens' Assembly brought together 60 randomly selected residents aged 12-90 from across the borough between February and May 2023 to develop recommendations in response to the question:

“ **Barnet has declared a climate emergency. What more can we do together to make Barnet more sustainable, now and in the future?** ”

40 residents aged 18+ participated in a citizens' assembly (30 hours), and 20 residents aged 12-17 participated in a young people's assembly (24 hours) two groups came together at key points to share their experiences, ideas and report presents the work that they did together.

Themes explored by both Assemblies were based on the council's draft sustainability action plan. These were areas identified as having both the scope to significantly reduce the borough's carbon emissions and protect its biodiversity and require borough-wide action.

Recommendations were developed following opportunities to share experiences and learn about climate change and sustainability in Barnet and beyond, supported by presentations and interactive activities.

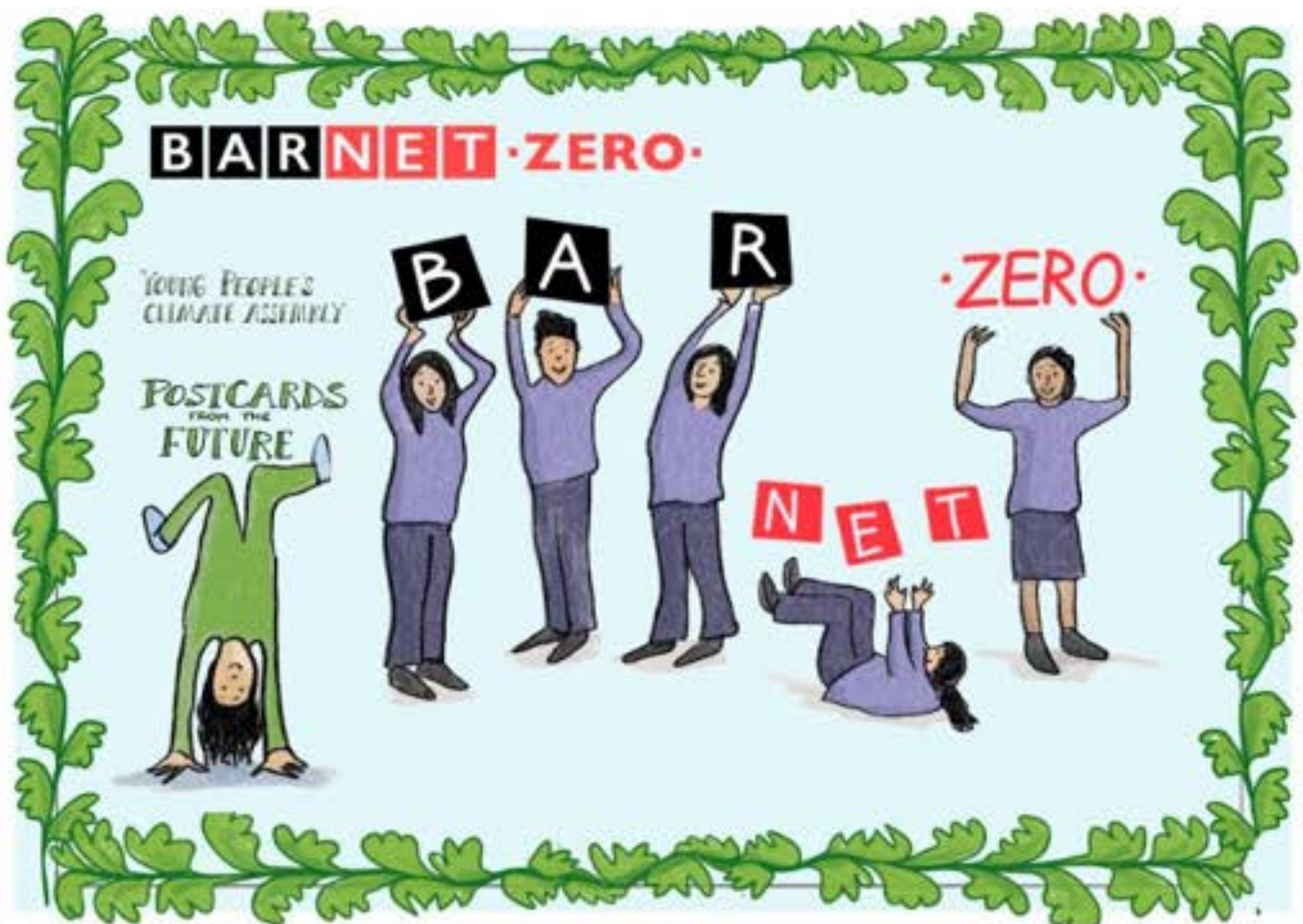


Live digital illustrator, Beatrice Baumgartner-Cohen, demonstrated the Citizen's Assembly process in a series of images that outline the key stages.

VISION

Assembly members worked together to write a vision for a more sustainable Barnet. It reflects their broad view on the changes required to act on the climate emergency, a brief statement related to the key themes explored in the citizens' assembly, and what we need to consider to enable a fair and equitable future.

Barnet and its residents need to make changes today to enable a more sustainable future, with local commitment and positive action from the council and public.



The citizens' assembly proposes recommendations to achieve a high-quality environment that reduces carbon emissions, reduces waste, and promotes efficient use of data as our guide on how we are doing.

Our recommendations also look to improve our community's mobility, engagement, general wellbeing, and the lives of the residents of Barnet.

Through education and engagement and we will look to provide everyone in Barnet with the information necessary to make decisions to achieve these general goals.

We intend to work together to look after our environment and heritage, to provide opportunities for all to develop a sustainable future.

We need to be more urgent and ambitious with our timelines.

More information on the vision developed by the citizens' assembly is available in the full citizens' assembly recommendations report.

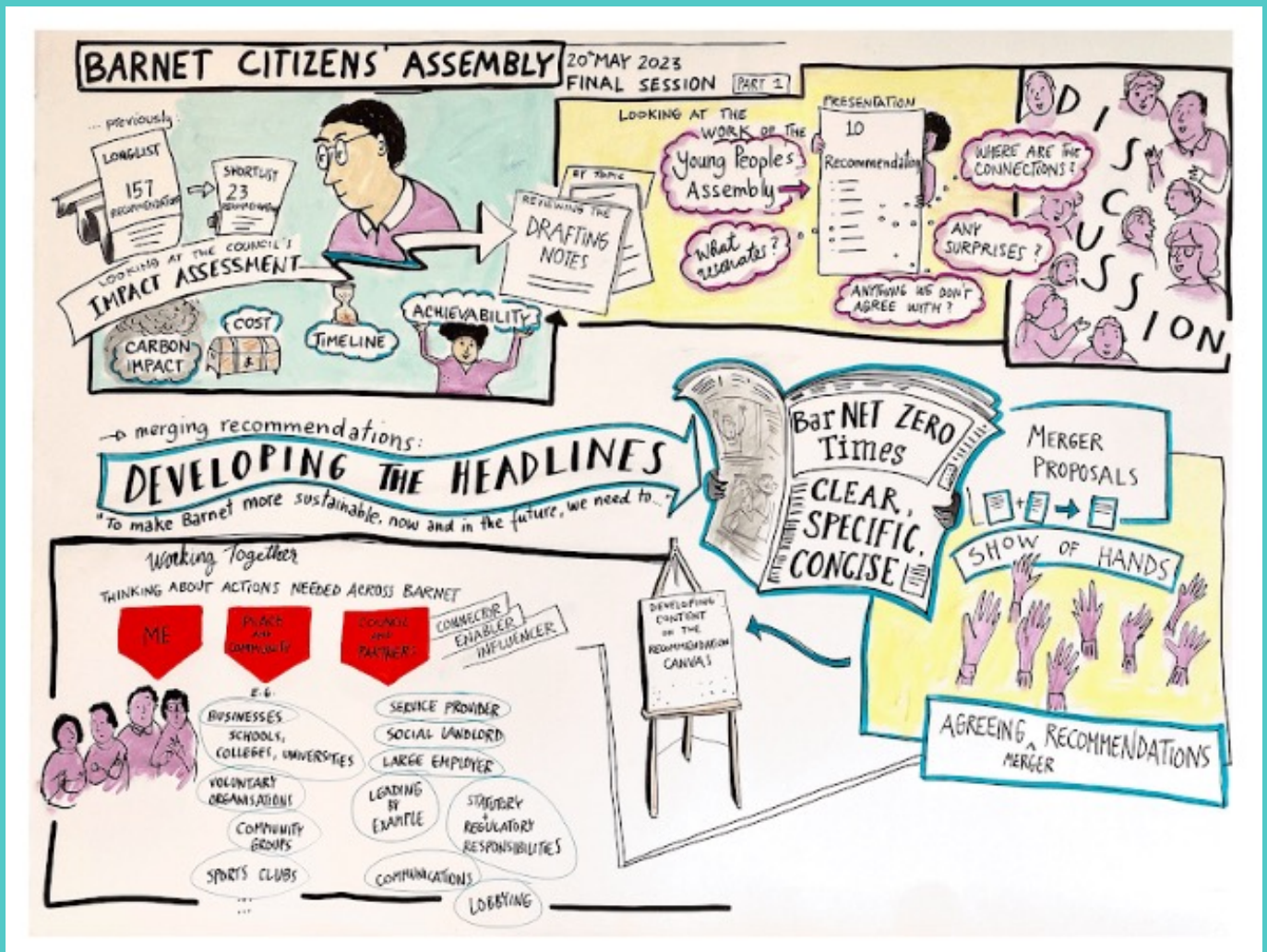
RECOMMENDATIONS

Assembly members worked together to agree on recommendations that are priorities for us to work on together to make Barnet more sustainable.

A series of 20 recommendations under 5 key themes, were developed and prioritised by members of Barnet Citizens' Assembly and Young People's Assembly.

They also developed 'Actions for me' and 'Actions for the community' under each recommendation, to provide ideas to encourage wider participation in our journey to reaching net zero carbon in Barnet.

These recommendations are grouped by theme at and not order of support from the assembly.



THEME I

Waste & Sustainable Consumption

1 Encourage and educate Barnet residents on how to reduce the amount of food waste.

Actions for me:

- Show others how to prepare food
- Food sharing (leftovers)
- Use of food banks
- Donate excess food to food banks

Actions for the Barnet community:

- Schools to educate about waste and how to reduce it
- Teach children about the food cycle in action (for example; planting and harvesting at school) - this will teach them to care for their food and the effort behind it

Challenges this will address:

- Food waste - ways for us to make aware of how to buy enough for families.
- Overshopping - for example; sensitivity to best before dates.

2 Improve waste management through easier recycling and by addressing fly tipping.

Actions for me:

- Separate rubbish
- Influence people to buy food with less packaging

Actions for the Barnet Community:

- Collective responsibility
- Share bins
- Report offenders

Challenges this will address:

- Waste on streets
- Builders not wanting to pay to dispose of waste
- People not able to dispose of large items
- Lack of knowledge about recycling



Mayur, Barnet resident

THEME 2

Learning, Communication & Partnerships



Curtis, Barnet resident

3 Educate children and young people on sustainability and climate change through curriculum delivery and after school activities.

Actions for me:

- Share detailed knowledge with younger family members
- Children may educate me more

Actions for the Barnet community:

- Community events to celebrate and educate
- Showcase what young people have been learning
- Showcase poetry

Challenges this will address:

- Children from primary to secondary education will be familiar and aware of sustainability issue facing Barnet

4 Integrate courses on climate change, sustainability and green skills across schools, businesses and apprenticeships. This should be available through online courses, local career speakers at schools and work experience opportunities that enable people to develop practical skills such as horticulture.

(Young People's Recommendation)

Actions for me:

- Advocate and spread the word

Actions for the Barnet Community:

- Sustainable businesses promoting their activities to schools

Challenges this will address:

- Helping with career decision making for students
- Lack of information around climate action for individuals in their everyday life

5 Target education and communication using a wide range of channels that are accessible and appropriate to all diverse communities.

Actions for me:

- Participation
- Encouraging neighbours, friends, family etc.

Actions for the Barnet community:

- Programmes including community hubs
- Target all ages, genders, language, ethnicity
- Different forms of content, for example; videos, face to face, messaging to businesses

Challenges this will address:

- Lack of knowledge, communication
- Lack of interest
- Inaccessibility of information and data

6 Create different campaigns and raise awareness across social media with concise and direct videos that are comedic and relatable created by everyone, including influencers & policymakers.

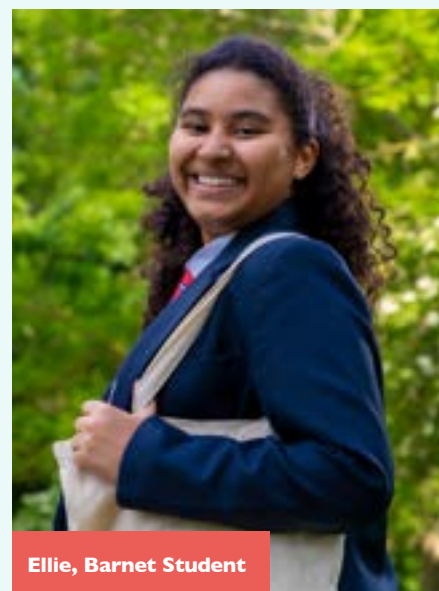
(Young People's Recommendation)

Actions for me:

- Make the pledge

Challenges this will address:

- Lack of knowledge about what actions are being taken in Barnet to inspire and encourage communities
- It will engage young people who are currently indifferent to the problems our world faces



Ellie, Barnet Student

THEME 3

Nature & Biodiversity



Leila, Barnet resident

7 Identify unused spaces and infrastructure across the borough (for example; fields, old railway tracks, green walkways) to develop biodiverse green spaces and cycling paths for partnership between council and local community volunteers.

Actions for me:

- Residents identify and suggest spaces to Barnet Council

Actions for the Barnet community:

- Do not use astroturf - choose more sustainable products
- Garden and wildlife competition

8 Commit to planting more trees in existing and new green spaces to promote biodiversity and wildlife.

Actions for me:

- Raise awareness in my community (for example; on social media)

Actions for the Barnet Community:

- Fruit trees in schools

Challenges this will address:

- Carbon capture
- Heat reduction
- Support biodiversity
- Aesthetics
- Air quality



Snnehal, Barnet Student



9 Encourage more school gardens, so that everyone has access to green spaces, and use the school gardens to grow food to use in school meals.

(Young People's Recommendation)

Actions for me:

- Suggestions through people leadership

Actions for the Barnet Community:

- Teach each other about how to maintain a community garden

Challenges this will address:

- Educating the youth on green skills
- Spreading awareness on fun hobbies that also aid the climate crisis
- Deals with food waste into compost
- Teaching young people to cook

10 Encourage and support local farming for fruits which will help create support for veganism and reduce the carbon emission for shipping.

(Young People's Recommendation).

Challenges this will address:

- They will create employment opportunities

11 Use parks to promote local businesses through weekly markets and fairs. *(Young People's Recommendation).*

Actions for me:

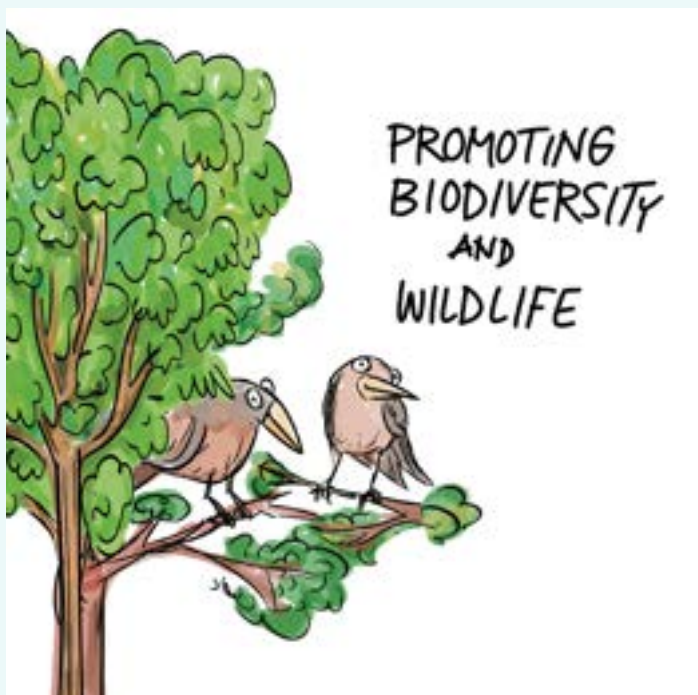
- Add to the stalls
- Volunteer

Actions for the Barnet Community:

- Present on social media

Challenges this will address:

- Increases feeling of communities
- Educates and creates awareness of green skills
- Reduces cost of local food and produce



Ted, Barnet Student

THEME 4

Travel



12 Have an integrated sustainable transport plan for the borough.

Actions for me:

- Walking
- Sustainable modal choice

Actions for the Barnet community:

- Collective support
- Car pooling
- School buses

Challenges this will address:

- Health
- Emissions and clean air
- Congestion
- Loneliness
- Compacted travel radius



Niiashie, Barnet resident



13 Develop a strategy to make roads safe for active travel, with an emphasis on cycle lanes. (Young People's Recommendation)

Challenges this will address:

- Most people don't think it's safe enough to cycle
- Cycle lanes will create separate space for cars, people, bikes, so everyone is safe

14 Move towards more accessible (must be accessible to all people including disabled people), frequent and cheaper electric bus routes for people to use across Barnet. (Young People's Recommendation)

(Young People's Recommendation)

Actions for me:

- To send TfL an email to tell them what they need to do to make Barnet more sustainable

Actions for the Barnet community:

- Use silent, peaceful protest
- Online protest (zoom)

Challenges this will address:

- Encourages more use of public transport, as currently they are infrequent and you have to wait
- Buses aren't as full

15 Encourage investment in green, public transport to improve the environment, safety and well-being.

Actions for me:

- Commit to driving less if transport was better
- Consume less fuel
- Less pollution
- Better air quality

Actions for the Barnet community:

- Educate each other
- Encourage each other

Challenges this will address:

- Cleaner air
- Less congestion on roads
- Better internal links within the borough
- More affordable and inclusive travel



16 Provide schools with subsidised bikes for students to use for journeys in and around schools.
(Young People's Recommendation)

Actions for me:

- Learn how to ride a bike
- Start a campaign - social media, presentations in school

Actions for the Barnet community:

- Educate each other on safety when driving and cycling
- Loan scheme for a short while until students grow up

Challenges this will address:

- Cost of bikes for individuals
- Health and wellbeing (fitness)
- Air quality



17 Properly invest in electric vehicles, encourage people to see the benefits and help with payment plans.
(Young People's Recommendation)

Actions for me:

- To send TfL an email to tell them what they need to do to make Barnet more sustainable

Actions for the Barnet community:

- Use silent, peaceful protest
- Online protest (zoom)

Challenges this will address:

- Encourages more use of public transport, as currently they are infrequent and have to wait
- Buses aren't as full

THEME 5

Housing, Buildings & Renewable Energy



18 Incorporate green and sustainable design processes in all new builds and infrastructure.

Actions for me:

- Invest in green and local projects
- Volunteer

Challenges this will address:

- Financial and energy costs
- Visual - Barnet will look better
- Better world for next generation
- Mental health
- Create a better community and pride if buildings are not high rise or grey structure



Daniel, Barnet Student

19 Retrofit council properties and provide grants and subsidies for people in private housing to make buildings net zero.

Actions for me:

- Support the programme
- Educate future generations
- Improve my own home

Actions for the Barnet Community:

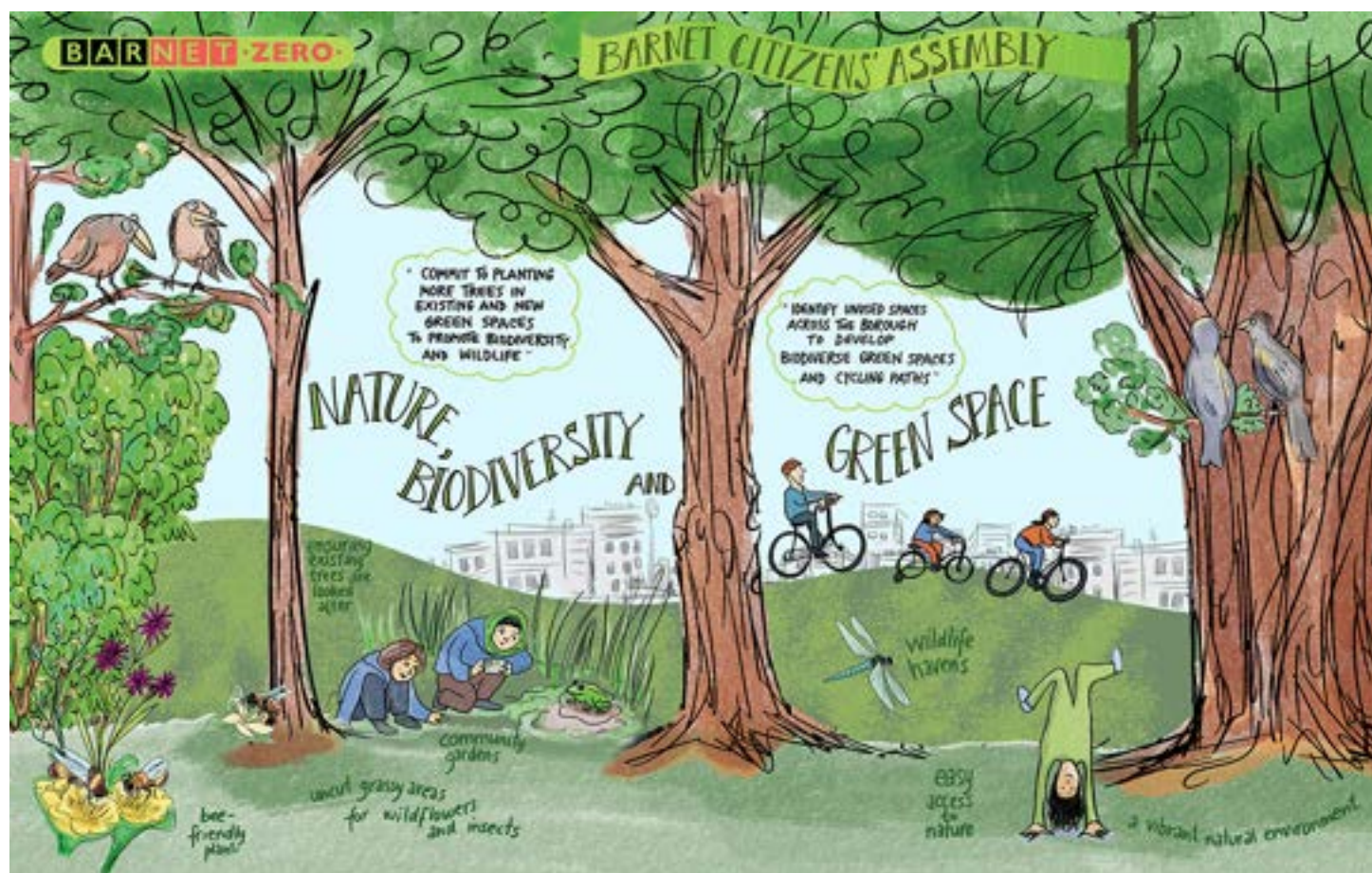
- Educate future generations
- Agree to disagree on fair and equitable challenges

Challenges this will address:

- Financial barriers
- Meeting individual needs

20 Make housing more sustainable by installing solar panels and providing subsidies to improve appliances. (Young People's Recommendation)

NEXT STEPS



The Assembly report went to Barnet Council's Cabinet in June 2023.

The council and its partners will act as a connector, enabler and influencer to plan and take action on the recommendations to support the reduction of carbon emissions and protect biodiversity. They will continue to work together with assembly members, residents, community groups and businesses.

The council will provide a formal response to these recommendations in Autumn – Winter 2023.

The full recommendations report is also available to read on this website.