

Barnet Alliance for Public Services – Constitution

1] NAME

Barnet Alliance for Public Services, hereafter referred to as **BAPS**

2] AIMS

2a) to maintain, improve and extend the range of public services in Barnet in all fields, such as education, social care, employment, the environment, housing, health, public utilities, telecommunications, planning, sports and recreation, cultural activities.

2b) to use all the means available to us, the community of Barnet to prevent any cuts, increased charges, commercialisation or any measures directed at privatisation of these or any other of our remaining public services, and, in particular, to prevent implementation of the ONE BARNET wholesale council privatisation plan

2c) to defend the people of Barnet from the attempts of powerful banking, commercial and financial interests to make us pay for an economic crisis they caused

2d) to ensure community representation in all major borough financial and strategic decisions and to work to secure a local administration run democratically in the interests of the community as a whole.

3] ORGANISATION

3a) BAPS recognises that its aims can be realised only by the action of many people outside its direct influence.

3b) It will join forces with individuals and groups who are engaged in single issues – where relevant – or who have disparate political objectives.

3c) It is an alliance and as such welcomes the free flow of ideas and unrestricted discussion.

3d) BAPS will encourage and give practical support to independent initiatives on the part of each individual and participating body in pursuit of aims that are consistent with BAPS' over-all goals .

4] POWERS

In order to promote its aims BAPS will

4a) conduct regular organisational and self-educational meetings,
and may

4b) engage with the council, for example by attending and intervening in its public functions and seeking citizen representation on council bodies, such as. the co-option of representatives of BAPS' participating groups on to the ONE BARNET BOARD

4c) organise an alternative forum to that run by the council for the expression of residents'

complaints, ideas and suggestions.

4d) Link up with other groups who are working along similar lines or who have similar aims in other boroughs, nationwide and internationally where appropriate

4e) launch such actions and initiatives as it feels helpful in spreading its word and achieving its aims

4f) In the interests of securing the maximum possible practical involvement of all users of public services in Barnet, all BAPS material will be reproduced in a form that can be read and understood by people whose mother-tongue is not English and by people with learning difficulties.

5] MEMBERSHIP

5a) Membership is open to anyone who shares BAPS' aims.

5b) Members shall pay such **annual** subscription as is agreed at annual general meetings or as soon as possible thereafter, with allowance being made for members who are unemployed or receiving benefits, at the discretion of the Management Committee, payable within a month of the AGM, or (with the agreement of the Treasurer) in monthly instalments.

5c) Barnet Trades Council, affiliated trade unions and other bodies that accept our aims will be invited to affiliate to BAPS and send a delegate to its meetings.

5d) Where it is considered membership would be detrimental to BAPS' aims and activities, the Management Committee shall have the power to refuse membership or to terminate or suspend the membership of any member by resolution passed at a meeting. Members shall have the right to appeal via an independent adjudicator determined by mutual agreement of the management committee.

5e) Any member of the alliance may resign his/her membership by providing the Secretary with written notice.

6] MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

6a) BAPS' day-to-day activities will be run by a management committee of no less than three people. The standing officers who make up the core of the management committee will consist of

- △ a coordinator,
- △ a treasurer and
- △ a secretary.

They will be elected at an Annual General Meeting for a period of up to one year, but may be re-elected at the subsequent AGM.

6b) Each committee meeting will choose a chairperson for that meeting and such other officers as are required at the time.

6c) Barnet Trades Council will be invited to propose one of their members as a permanent

member of BAPS' Management Committee.

6d) All BAPS members have full rights to attend the Management Committee meetings, to move and vote on resolutions, as individuals or in their role as members of participating groups.

7] MEETINGS

7a) The committee shall meet at least twelve times a year.

7b) All members shall be informed of the time and place of each meeting.

7c) Resolutions – other than emergency resolutions - should be received in time to be distributed to all members in advance of the meeting.

7d) The decisions taken at meetings must be minuted and accessible to interested parties.

7e) The AGM shall take place no later than three months after the end of the financial year. At least thirty days' notice must be given before the meeting takes place.

7f) All members are entitled to vote at the AGM. Voting shall be made by a show of hands on a majority basis. In the case of a tied vote, the Chairperson or an appointed deputy shall make the final decision.

8] FINANCE

8a) Any money acquired by BAPS, including donations, contributions, affiliation fees and bequests, shall be paid into an account operated by the Management Committee in the name of BAPS.

8b) All funds must be applied to the objects of BAPS and for no other purpose.

8c) Bank accounts shall be opened in the name of BAPS. Any deeds, cheques etc relating to BAPS's bank account shall be signed by at least two (2) of the following committee members: Coordinator; Treasurer, Secretary, Trades Council member, providing that no two signatories are in any way related.

8d) Any income/expenditure shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer who will be accountable to ensure funds are used effectively and that BAPS stays within budget.

8e) Official accounts shall be maintained, and will be examined annually by an independent accountant or bookkeeper who is not a member of BAPS.

8f) An annual financial report shall be presented for approval at the AGM.

8g) BAPS's accounting year shall run from 01 April to 31 March.

9] ALTERATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

9a) Any changes to this constitution must be agreed by a majority vote at a special general meeting.

9b) Amendments to this constitution or a proposal for dissolution of BAPS must be conveyed to the Secretary formally in writing. The Secretary and other officers shall then decide on the date of a special general meeting to discuss such proposals, giving members at least four weeks (28 days) notice.

10] DISSOLUTION

10a) BAPS may be dissolved if deemed necessary by the members, by a two-thirds majority of members attending at an extra ordinary general meeting, provided that 28 days' notice of such meeting is given to all BAPS members.

10b) Once BAPS has been dissolved, any assets or funds remaining after debts have been settled shall be returned to their providers or transferred to local charities or community groups at the discretion of the Management Committee

This constitution was adopted by a founding meeting held at the Greek Cypriot Centre on 12 June 2012 by:

Signed: Coordinator

Signed: Treasurer

Signed: Secretary

Signed: Member

Signed: Member