

freeholders on the way in which the charge would be applied.

At the moment the charge is a flat rate for all. It is therefore a smaller fraction of the value of more expensive properties than it is of, say, a one-bedroomed flat. When the charge was

relatively small this was a matter of little concern. If the charge is substantially increased it may start to appear unfair. The Trust is considering other ways of applying the charge so that it is related to the value of property. It will also consider whether, in some cases, there are arguments for relief.

Issues for Discussion

We are at a particularly critical period in the history of the Suburb and it is important that the Trust maintains contact with and listens to the views of as many residents as possible. In particular we would be pleased to know what you think about the following:

1) Area Character Appraisal - An Invitation

In dealing with applications for change, the Trust must strike a balance between enabling residents to make improvements to their homes and ensuring that such change is not at odds with the prevailing character of the area. To be confident that we are making good decisions about changes we must have an up-to-date, clear and detailed picture of what it is about the appearance of our homes and gardens that we value. The Trust needs an understanding that captures the nuances and subtleties of design and atmosphere which vary from area to area within the Suburb. We must be sure that this understanding is shared by those who live here.

We are therefore proposing to carry out with the help of residents a study of the essential character of the Suburb in order to identify the elements that give the Suburb its distinctiveness.

The Trust is looking for groups of residents who wish to help research and write the report for their area. These volunteers will be given a checklist to help identify elements that characterise their area, to decide what is

valuable and what is unsightly, and to decide where there are opportunities for change and improvement. The study will enable the Trust and Barnet to draw up revised guidance for home owners and make for better informed decisions on planning matters in the future.

We would be grateful to hear from those who would like to participate in this project

2) Management charge

As mentioned above, the Trust is considering how the management charge should be applied. Do you believe that the charge should be related to the value of the property on which it is levied?

3) *The Gazette*

We would be pleased to know what you think of *The Gazette* itself. It is not designed as a source of information about and comments on life and events in the Suburb; this is something that is done extremely well by the Residents Association's *Suburb News*. *The Gazette* intends to confine itself strictly to Trust matters. Given that, we would be grateful for your views on *The Gazette* as a channel of communication.

Apart from these issues we would also be very interested in your views on any aspect of the issues raised in this, the first number of *The Gazette*. Please address your comments to the Trust Manager.