

# Barnet Alliance for Public Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 7 May 2014

How crass, how insensitive, how money-grubbing does an organisation have to be before the press will expose it? Capita's heartless removal of memorial benches from Hendon Crematorium is another outrage of privatisation that deserves more than a bland notice in the online local press. Barnet Alliance for Public Services has fought against Barnet Council's 'One Barnet' programme because it recognised that private companies put their profits before the people's interests. Bad enough when our Conservative council resorts to outsourcing services for the most vulnerable people in the community to enable private companies to make bigger profits out of care, but can the current councillors sink any lower than allowing Capita to squeeze extra profits out of grieving families? The **facts** have been presented in the [Broken Barnet blog](#) by Mrs Angry and the [Barnet Eye blog](#) by Roger Tichborne, both well known in Barnet. But Capita is a national, indeed a multinational, company, and people throughout the country should be made aware of its principles, its lack of ethics, its callous attitude. This is what you get when you privatise council services. We are two weeks away from local elections on 22 May and people should be shown what will happen if they return Tories to power in local government.

This issue, a striking example of how services to residents will be run when privatised, is also highlighted in this [video](#). The song, performed by resident John Sullivan and the Barnet People's Choir, is about the £16 million that Barnet Council told residents Capita was investing in the borough's IT systems ... when in fact the council was actually giving Capita £16 million of taxpayers' money for this purpose.

Mr Cameron sees Barnet as a flagship borough, spending taxpayers' money to line shareholders' pockets. The facts are easily available. The question is will Barnet residents allow this to continue, or will they use their vote to change their fate?

## Notes to the editor

1. Barnet Alliance for Public Services (BAPS) is a coalition of residents, trade unionists and community campaigners in the London Borough of Barnet, formed to defend and improve public services.
2. The lyrics of the famous '16 Tons' song were adapted by Mr John Sullivan and Mr Tony Solomons, who are parents of adult disabled people adversely affected by the One Barnet Programme of privatisation. They can be found [here](http://barnetalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/16-Mill-lyrics.pdf): <http://barnetalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/16-Mill-lyrics.pdf>
3. The video can be viewed on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MZYbXk2Ssg>

**Contact:** Barnet Alliance Tel: 07807 556161/07534 407703 – <http://barnetalliance.org>;  
[Barnetalliance4publicservices@gmail.com](mailto:Barnetalliance4publicservices@gmail.com); [@barnetalliance](#) #OurBarnet