



Employment
Service Division
Manpower
Services Commission

Rt Hon Mrs M Thatcher, MP
10, Downing Street
London
SW1.

Community Programme
District Manager's
Office Brent/Harrow/Barnet/Camden

292 Kilburn High Road
London NW6 2DB.

District Manager: P G Rees

Tel: 01-328 6543

29 March 1983

Dear Mrs Thatcher,

Thank you for your reply to my letter about Community Programme developments in Finchley. At present most of the information I have to hand is on a Borough basis, but as the programme develops I will let you have details of schemes being set up which will assist people living in your constituency.

Currently the number of people registered as unemployed in Finchley is 2,887 of whom 685 are eligible to participate in the Community Programme. The following analysis gives a picture of the long term unemployment problem in Finchley:-

M		F		T		Total Eligible for CP.	Total Unemployed in area.
Age 18-24	Age 25-64	Age 18-24	Age 25-64	Age 18-24	Age 25-64		
188	311	79	107	267	418	685	2,887

From these figures you will no doubt be concerned to note that 267 young people are included in the eligible group. This group qualifies after 6 months unemployment, whereas the older group qualifies after 12 months unemployment. Unfortunately, some of these young people have never enjoyed settled employment and we are therefore particularly anxious to encourage the establishment of programmes which will respond to their needs.

Since October we have been seeking the assistance of the Local Authority and other potential sponsors and so far, within the London Borough of Barnet, we have received proposals for schemes offering over 60 places from the Local Authority and for 6 from other sponsors.

Schemes proposed by the Local Authority include:-

- (i) Social Services Department,
Urban Farm Project in connection with Friern Barnet Hospital.
Avenue House, restoration of a historic house to its former state.
- (ii) The Education Department,
Cleaning up grounds in 2 spinneys to provide a social amenity to local people when completed.
Improvement of playing fields (not part of L.A. cuts) and
To build an indoor running track at Cophall Stadium.



Employment
Service Division

District Manager's
Office

Manpower
Services Commission

The Local Authority has also agreed to be a Community Programme Agent and in doing so will be able to assist smaller organisations in setting up and running schemes. Apart from the Local Authority most interest is being expressed by Barnet Borough Voluntary Service Council, but at present we are unable to give details of the extent of the Council's commitment.

As you see there is still much to do to create a satisfactory response to the needs of the long term unemployed in the London Borough of Barnet and to this end we are fully committed to market Schemes to all likely sponsors.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'P G Rees', is written over a horizontal line.

P G Rees.