

# Belsize Residents Association

## HOW WE MAINTAIN OUR NON-POLITICAL STATUS

The Belsize Residents Association values its non-political status and sees this as crucial to its credibility. This means that we need to ensure that our committee is politically neutral and that we take a balanced approach in our contact with local councillors and political parties.

### **Committee members involvement in any political or lobbying activities.**

No serving local councillors can be members of the Association's committee. If a committee member intends to stand for election to the local council, they will resign from the committee. Prospective committee members will be asked to declare whether they are actively involved with a local political party or lobby group and agree that if they are elected to the Belsize Residents Association committee they will not seek to use their position to promote the policies of the party or lobby group to which they are affiliated.

### **Contact with local councillors and political parties.**

When the BRA Committee meets with local councillors it will ensure that:

- the interests of all the wards covering the Belsize area are represented but recognise that some wards cover less of the area than others.
- all parties that have councillors in the Belsize area have the opportunity to meet with us.
- we are sensitive to the range of demands on councillors' time.

The Committee will not invite local councillors to contribute to BRA events and publications in a way that would provide a platform for a particular party to promote their policies. Local councillors may be asked to contribute on local issues in a non-party political way.

5 February 2009