



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Closing the High Road end of Baronsmere Road

Dear Editor

With your replies to previous letters from Baronsmere residents you have made this correspondence more difficult. Baronsmere residents have apparently 'overlooked the impact of closing the road' on other locals. So disagreeing with you makes us look selfish now.

Hardly. It is *THE ARCHER* that is missing the point. It is not a one off idea. The clear message from Barnet Council with its continuing scheme of traffic inhibitors is that commuters must find other means or accept long queuing. They are merely continuing a process that extends all the way to the centre of town. Look at the new bus lane as you go south to the Archway Road, the bus lane as you go north past McDonalds. The traffic lights and single lane at the top of Bishops Avenue. It is harder to drive around North London these days.

Contrary to your somewhat fanciful view that cars will be racing down Eastern just to race back up Park Hall Road, most drivers will calculate that they would lose a few precious yards by doing that, not gain - and anyway that was not, and is not, the experience with the end of road closure in Grand Avenue, I know I lived there. Traffic soon got used to it.

So therefore, it is not just the Baronsmere residents who will benefit but ALL the roads south of Fortis Green. Not many will go right up Durham Road to get south in the rush hour either. If you've tried that once you will know all about the unwillingness of slow moving drivers to let you in.

Think again *THE ARCHER*. Maybe the council does know what it's doing after all. Don't be shy, changing your mind only proves you've got one.

Yours sincerely
Tom Bowman
Baronsmere Road

Right to reply

Dear Editor
Re: Baronsmere Road Environmental Proposals

We read with concern the ill-informed comments you made in your "right to reply" article in the last edition of *THE ARCHER* and therefore write to present some facts:

1. Traffic engineers at Barnet Highways department have carefully considered the implications of the scheme on the whole of East Finchley. Baronsmere Road is the only direct inlet/outlet to through traffic which "rat-runs" at high speed through the area south of Fortis Green Road (with the exception of Fairlawn Avenue where parallel measures are being considered). It will therefore transform ALL the roads south of Fortis Green from "rat-run hell" to "residents' haven". Park Hall Road, Southern Road and Eastern Road, which *THE ARCHER* perversely suggested would suffer, will benefit enormously.

2. The effect on other sectors of East Finchley has been thoroughly investigated by the local



The aftermath of an accident close to Baronsmere Road. (See letters, left.) Photo submitted by Simon Cottingham

East Finchley Agenda 21 environmental group, a forum of local people and open to all. As a result the scheme has been adopted as a first phase of proposals which are being developed for the whole of East Finchley.

3. A large majority of residents in the affected roads supported the scheme when the local consultation process was carried out.

4. Analysis of traffic accident surveys carried out by Barnet Council show that the high-speed rat-runners have made the roads highly dangerous. Two crashes have occurred in recent weeks. The situation is therefore dangerous for both road users and pedestrians including children heading for Cherry Tree Woods.

5. The area is currently exposed to high levels of noise and pollution from the high volume of traffic which passes through the area on a daily basis. This includes particularly dangerous diesel fumes from rat-running taxis and vans. These have been linked to asthma in young children and other health problems. Even roads adjacent to Cherry Tree Wood are exposed because exhaust pollution tends to drift downhill.

The residential roads of East Finchley are currently a "soft touch" for rat-running traffic. With traffic volumes set to increase further in the future, zero action is not an option for East Finchley.

We therefore suggest your "community" newspaper starts to support the local residents who are working hard with the council to resolve the problems.

Yours faithfully
Simon & Tracy Cottingham
Baronsmere Road, N2.

Bus Route 143

Dear Editor
I read your recent article on Transport. I live in between East Finchley and Finchley Central Tube Stations. I, therefore need this bus to get to either tube. If I could use my own transport I could get to where I go in 35-45 minutes.

By using this bus connection, it adds anywhere from 30 to 60 minutes to the journey each way. Many times it becomes obvious that many trips are cancelled.

A main point is that no one seems to care. People maintain at the bus stops that they have complained and have been given very short shrift. I realise that this is not the busiest and certainly not the most profitable route. Bus

companies will certainly have to subsidise routes like this one. Many pensioners live in this area, and the bus route is an extra misery they have to suffer.

Mr Prescott and the government are telling everyone to use public transport. I would like a few ministers to experience this route.
Yours sincerely
A.C.

Strawberry Vale remembered

Dear Editor
My friend has sent me the September/October and November issues of your newspaper.
About 100 years ago, my grandfather owned a farm on Strawberry Vale. The land ran from Chambers Gardens to where the North Circular Road was built, with a bit at the

bottom owned by the Bell family. The farm had pigs, chickens, horses and also a wood yard - from where trees were felled, and logs and firewood sold.

My father, William Glass, ran the sawmill and wood yard, which was at the end of Lankaster Gardens, until his death in 1957.

Ken Glass, my stepbrother, ran the coal merchants next door. (I still have a brother living in Long Lane.)

Yours sincerely,
Mrs. E. Stirling (nee Glass),
The Drive,
Potters Bar
Strip tease

Dear Editor
Re: your recent article entitled "The Full Monty comes to East Finchley"

You may be interested to know that the show mentioned was not, in any way, put on for the associate members of the Club. In fact, very few of these ladies were enamoured with the idea of male strippers performing at any time. A view shown by the fact that hardly any associate members or usual female guests supported this

evening. There were, I'm led to believe, quite a lot of outsiders present which no doubt made your reporter think that the ladies who frequent the Constitutional Club most of the time were part of the "loud encouragement" audience she witnessed. NOT TRUE!!! I assure you. In fact, there was a feeling of sadness that the Club had come to this.

One other thing - I, along with many others, were very distressed by your ability to only insert a footnote regarding the death of a much-loved member. Tom Baker was a charming man who had given many years of service to the Club; surely he deserved more than just a footnote. Had any of you been at the crematorium you would have seen how he was appreciated and well liked by all who knew him by the fact there was standing room only at the service.

Perhaps you should have reversed the length of the reports on these two items?
Yours faithfully
Betty Dungate
Associate Member, East Finchley Constitutional Club.

Please send your letters to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA or e-mail The-Archer@England.com

Millennium

By G A Ingram

Well, we're here.
It might have taken us
2000 years.
But we made it.

2000 years of what?
of Hate?
of Barbarism?
of Slaughter?
of Oppression?
of **WARS WARS WARS.**
LOCAL NATIONAL GLOBAL

And yet —
2000 years
of Duty
of Compassion.
of Sacrifice
of Trust
of Selflessness
of Tolerance
of Fortitude
of **CARE HELP LOVE**
STRANGER FAMILY SELF.

Love thy neighbour.
Kill thy neighbour.

Six billion people.
Exist/Co-exist
On this planet.
How many more
After three thousand years?

That is of course -
IF we get there.

For that special occasion ...
or a simple meal

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