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THE ARCHER

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

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Traffic Island Hopping

The scheme to ban traffic from turning right both into and out of Baronsmere Road at its junction with the High Road is being implemented.

A traffic island in the middle of High Road and another one at the entrance to Baronsmere Road will achieve the desired result. Cyclists will still be allowed to turn right into Baronsmere and also to turn left into and out of that road.

Some locals are puzzled as to the efficacy of the plan. They believe that the bus lane in the High Road, coupled with the phasing of the traffic lights at the cross roads, will cause long tail backs as vehicles queue to turn right into Fortis Green.

One shop owner feels that the

council should have first implemented the new CPZ to see what effect that would have had on local roads.

That scheme still has to go before a committee for approval. If all goes to plan, the new parking restrictions should be in place by the end of the year.

Danger

People are also concerned about the dangers arising at the junction of Summerlee Avenue and Fortis Green. Vehicles parked right up to the junction, mean that drivers turning right out of Summerlee Avenue have great difficulty seeing approaching traffic.

The new pedestrian crossing does provide some leeway when it is being used. Unfortunately, some drivers using Fortis Green still keep their foot down and

speed over the crossing, despite the fact that pedestrians are standing on the kerb obviously waiting to cross. They also overtake the buses at the bus stop on the approach to the crossing.

Queues already occur along Fortis Green when traffic is trying to turn down into Summerlee Avenue. At least it will not now meet up with the rat runners who block the exit, but that junction could be made much safer with the rapid installation of a parking ban along both sides at the top end of Summerlee Avenue.

Worries about that particular section of road were ignored for years. Sadly, last summer, a fatality forced the authorities to take action. *The Archer* hopes that it will not have to report on a similar event this summer.

Appeal baffles protestors

By Daphne Chamberlain

"I simply don't understand why Barnet is pursuing this." That was the reaction of the Finchley Society's Bill Tyler to Barnet's decision to appeal against the Brent Cross enquiry verdict. "If they are not successful," he told THE ARCHER, "they will face financial charges, which will be paid by the public."

Mr Tyler, of Fortis Green, is certain that the enquiry's decision against extending Brent Cross can only be challenged on the grounds of a legal misjudgement.

The local objections to extending the precinct were spearheaded by East Finchley shopkeeper Lawrie Chivers, estate agent Martyn Gerrard, and Bill Tyler and Carol Halls from the Finchley Society. Arguing their own case throughout the six-week enquiry, they won a ruling that Brent Cross should be classed as a regional centre, and not a town centre. Government guidelines state that regional centres should not be developed to the detriment of local shopping areas.

Now Barnet Council and precinct owners Hammerson are appealing against this decision. They maintain that John Prescott either misinterpreted his own planning guidelines or, if he was correct, did not give "any reasonable justification for reaching his decision."

"Barnet is obviously very committed to backing this proposed extension," said Mr Tyler. "Presumably they have taken the best legal advice."

Bus Fare

Meanwhile, we would like

your views on whether the bus station at Brent Cross should be developed and the service improved. There is the potential for an intersection and changing point there, which could be used outside shopping hours.

Barnet and Hammerson are tying in the bus station development with the extension of the precinct. As we reported in May, Bill Tyler is sure that enough money could be raised for the bus project by charging £1 for car parking. Would this idea get your support? Please let us know.



Festival heat wave

Photo: Erini Rodis. See page 5 for further pictures of this year's East Finchley Festival.

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