

# THE ARCHER



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

## NO BRENT CROSS EXTENSION

# Local people win the fight

By Daphne Chamberlain  
**Finchley Society President Bill Tyler has spoken to THE ARCHER about the battle of the Brent Cross extension. Hammerson, the precinct owner, backed by Barnet Council, was proposing to extend by 30%. This proposal has been rejected by the Secretary of State, following a six-week enquiry.**

Bill Tyler and Lawrie Chivers, from A1 Motors, attended the whole of the enquiry. Together with estate agent Martyn Gerrard and Carol Halls, a local shopper, they spearheaded the Finchley objections.

### Blighting up time

The result was a significant victory for the objectors, who put in a great deal of time and hard work. Bill Tyler said he spent "hours in the Reference Library, going through six or seven boxes of amazingly complex plans." They also had to present their own case, fighting against professional lawyers.

Mr Tyler contended such a massive proposal was against Government planning guidelines. These guidelines encourage development of town centres, but are against the exten-

sion of regional centres, which would kill off local trade. He suggested that Mill Hill would be hit particularly hard if the plan to run a new bus from Kingsbury to Brent Cross via the Broadway were to go ahead. This was one of the proposals tied in with the new extension.

### Mall administration

He also argued that an increase in cars visiting Brent Cross would clog up roads and delay buses.

Lawrie Chivers spoke about what it means to be a local shopkeeper. They can't reduce their overheads, and any loss is directly from their own pockets.

An overall view was presented by Martyn Gerrard, who pointed out that a run-down shopping centre dragged down the whole area.

The Inspector agreed that

the plans would be against Government guidelines. (He was especially concerned about the effect it would have on Wembley and Kilburn, which are already in a sorry state.)

New plans for Brent Cross can be submitted at any time, but Bill Tyler says that would-be developers will have to do "a lot of homework".

### Parking price hike

Meanwhile he is annoyed that Barnet Council appear to be linking improvements to public transport with extending Brent Cross. Why can't they go ahead with the proposals for a new, covered bus station, open 24 hours, together with a better bus service?

Bill Tyler estimates that £6 million could be raised for this just by charging a flat rate of £1 for parking.



Cllr John Marshall and Cllr Brian Coleman waiting in vain. Photo by Toni Morgan.

**Crossed lines:** One morning last month, Cllr John Marshall had an appointment with Esther Knight, London Underground Group Station Manager, to discuss the ticket barrier problem.

He turned up and so did she. Unfortunately, they never met. While he was downstairs, talking to the punters, she remained upstairs in the office.

LUL told THE ARCHER that Ms Knight's deputy, Martin Brown, did manage to meet Councillor Marshall shortly afterwards.

## No barrier to station cut-through

by Daphne Chamberlain

**The passage through East Finchley station has been preserved.**

Ticket barriers at the Causeway entrance will not now block access between The Causeway and the booking hall.

Although the revised plan still needs ratification from English Heritage, London Underground Ltd expects that this will be just a

formality. The new scheme should be operating in four to six weeks.

A LUL spokesperson told THE ARCHER that they had changed their plans after consulting local groups and councillors. They now realised how strongly East Finchley people opposed blocking off the walkway. What a pity they didn't consult us before!

## A sign of the times?

By Diana Cormack

**Capital Estates of 104 High Road, East Finchley are hoping to be involved in a pilot advertising scheme with Holy Trinity School in Eagan's Close.**

The idea is for boards bearing the estate agent's details to be erected in the front gardens of volunteer parents. A selection of no more than fifteen properties, preferably on the more central or busiest routes, would be involved. The initial phase would run for six months, from July, with the boards being placed and removed after two months or more as agreed, by Capital Estates.

### Capital gain

If the scheme goes ahead,

the boards will be of standard advertising size. They will not have "For Sale" printed on them but will proclaim "Support for the Local Community and for Holy Trinity School". This method of fund raising has been used in other areas. We shall have to wait and see if it is taken up in East Finchley.

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