



LETTERS

Reserve Occupation
Dear Sir,

Re: the article in last month's ARCHER.

Of course we are not systematically destroying Coppett's Wood Nature Reserve, and, much as I appreciate the work done by Dr Natelson and his volunteers over many years, I am surprised and saddened by his current attitude. I, and the department concerned, have made every effort to reach an agreement with him, which we laid out clearly on paper after a meeting at which the Borough including myself, Dr Natelson and Andrew Brown were present.

Turning Japanese

Our relationship with the management committee of Coppets Wood (the management body to the Coppett's Wood Conservationist's, Dr Natelson's Group) is good. One of the problems is that Dr Natelson is annoyed that the Borough won't agree to allow Japanese Knotweed on site. I have personally consulted English Nature, The Environment Agency and the management committee of Coppets Wood Nature Reserve (via Andrew Brown). Dr Natelson is wrong on this.

If you are doing a follow up article I would be grateful if you would speak to me and to Andrew Brown first. I do not want the residents of Finchley to fear for the future of their reserve. There is no need for them to do so.

Susette Palmer
Barnet Cabinet Member for Community Development

Bank statement

Dear Sir

The Finchley Credit Union was one year old on 13 May 2001 and we are well on the way to achieving the goals we set ourselves last year. We now have over 160 members with assets in excess of £20,000. We are offering the community a safe and ethical place to save and an important service to the financially excluded.

We could not have accomplished so much without the continued support of your newspaper. The sustained publicity you have given us has kept us very much in the "community eye".

On behalf of all our members I would like to thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully
Kim George, chairman of the Finchley Credit Union

Filter tip

Dear Sir

I would like to follow up Louisa Parker's letter in the May issue of The Archer and her problems at the intersection of East Finchley High Road, Fortis Green and East End Road as we have here yet another instance of Barnet Council failing to think through their new traffic scheme properly.

Not only do pedestrians need a longer amount of time in which to cross the road (we are not all marathon runners and there are

quite a number of pensioners and families with prams etc and disabled people who need that extra time to cross a road) but thought should have been given to the increase in volume of vehicles needing to turn right into Fortis Green from the High Road.

Traffic flow, i.e. getting traffic moving and releasing bottlenecks which can stretch back beyond the Bishops Avenue turning, can be improved if a filter-right light was added to the traffic lights at this intersection. Even if it only operated at peak hours it would help. As it was, tonight it took a good 25-35 minutes for right-turning traffic to move simply because there was no provision of a "window" in traffic movement for them to turn. It's commonsense surely!

Yours sincerely
Joyce Arram
Summerlee Gardens, N2.

Sign qua non

Dear Editor

I have been watching the unfolding saga of the East Finchley CPZ with great interest over the past few months. Now that it is finally in place, it does seem to have resulted in less commuter traffic and therefore more chance for us, the residents, to park near our own front doors!

However, I was shocked to see that some of the signs have been placed at waist height. These signs are a potential hazard for young children who might easily walk into one and get a very nasty knock in the face or head. It also occurs to me that it would have been more sensible to put the parking zone signs on existing signposts rather than erecting special ones and therefore incurring even more expense.

Yours sincerely
Anne Lalaguna
Summerlee Avenue, N2.

Does Barnet understand?

Dear Editor

Barnet Council's strategy to expand Brent Cross Shopping Centre makes me wonder if they have any real understanding of retail economics. The strategy says that the council is concerned that any increase in retailing at Brent Cross should not affect the viability of the surrounding town centres. The planning inspector was satisfied at the recent inquiry that if the expansion of Brent Cross was to go ahead, many retailers in Barnet and neighbouring boroughs would not survive. A survey indicated that surrounding town centres would lose six percent of trade as a result of the expansion.

Although a six percent reduction in trade

does not sound much, most small retailers like myself have overheads that account for 80 percent of our turnover, so a six percent reduction in trade can translate into a twenty-five percent cut in profit.

It is very convenient but not correct for Barnet to propose to give Brent Cross town centre status. Many people consider that it is an out of town shopping centre. Why else would it require massive car parks and a large bus terminal if not to bring outsiders to it?

We have all seen what happens when local shopping centres go into decline. Surrounding communities disintegrate and redundant shopping centres become no-go areas. People's choice is becoming limited to multiple retailers, who are not always the most helpful, the cheapest or the most knowledgeable. Local shopping centres need the support of both shoppers and local councils, something Barnet Council seems to have forgotten.

Lawrie Chivers
Chair, East Finchley Traders' Association

Send your letters to The Archer,
PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA

Calling Mr Noronha

Dear Editor

I would like to contact an old friend who I believe lives in East Finchley.

He is R.G. Noronha. I would be most grateful if you could help me get in touch.

D. Paterson
dpaterson71@hotmail.com

Guided lily

Dear Sir

My poem 'Let Bygones be Bygones' is now in "A Celebration of Poets" (1998 The Poetry Guild). That was the first poem I ever had published which appeared in your newspaper in 1996 when I was 15 years old.

Thank you very much.

Craig Johnson
Sedgemere Avenue, N2.

IC.A Matter of Perception

By Craig Johnson

I tried to evolve yesterday
by wringing my essential self by the neck,
I nearly killed myself in the process
And caused all around me deep distress.

It was only then I sussed,
There was no need to blow apart,
The change I sought was happening
where it needed, in my heart.

It's not what I ought; it's what I can,
It's not who I should, but who I am.

Thus, in all my chaos,
When I'm scared and when I hide,
I'll remember my true nature, not out there
But right here;
Inside.

Footnote

Dear Editor

Your paper seems to give more space to the views of motorists and less to the environmental concerns of local residents, if my letter, not printed, of several months ago is anything to judge by.

The letter (THE ARCHER, May 2001) from "Disgruntled Resident" of East End Road, complains about how the introduction of CPZs prevent him parking his car outside local shops and at the tube station.

There is a simple answer to this. Why not walk?

It seems ironic that people in the West are suffering circulatory diseases and osteoporosis in old age as a result of a lack of walking and load-bearing activities such as carrying shopping. And that at the same time the trend towards car use creates more pollution and diminishes the quality of our life, as green spaces (and now even front gardens) are turned over to concrete, tarmac and paving for cars.

The impact of traffic continues to increase throughout the world (and in East Finchley!) and car use is a significant contributor to greenhouse gases which are already creating climate change.

Barnet and Haringey councils' environmental records are poor, and environmental issues are not their motivation in introducing CPZs. Their decisions tend to be taken for the benefit of motorists rather than pedestrians. This is evident even in the positioning of Barnet's CPZ ticket machines, which are sited three feet from the kerb, towards the middle of the pavement, obstructing pedestrians! And, as Louise Parker points out in her letter (THE ARCHER, May 2001), pedestrians are given only 10 seconds to cross at the lights at the junction of the High Road/East End Road/Fortis Green.

Nonetheless, restrictions such as CPZs can be approached positively in encouraging a rethink about car use. Why not walk?

Yours sincerely
E Priestley
(Address supplied)

Surface tension

Dear Sir

The neglect on repairs and resurfacing of the local roads, and the borough roads generally, seems to have reached new levels.

I wrote a letter to the Highways Department on 2 March to which they have similarly neglected to reply, despite a subsequent reminder on 9 April and John Marshall's intervention.

Meanwhile, all that seems to have happened is a few temporary repairs to Meadway (which I realise is in NW11).

There are many examples of roads in need of repair or resurfacing in the area but they seem more intent on introducing "sleeping policemen" and alterations for cyclists than dealing with necessary road works.

Maybe you would like to include a feature on the subject?

Yours sincerely
Charles Vincent
Brackenbury Road, N2.

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