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Local News Is Our Aim



THE ARCHER

GLH

CAR SERVICE
020 8883 5000

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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Over your head

On 9 April, residents of Viceroy Close received a hand-delivered letter from a company called Interserve Building, announcing that building work was to commence on 11 April on a mobile telephone base station and mast for Hutchison Radio to be sited on their roof.

This was the first they had heard of it: no council planning notifications, no consultation, not even the courtesy of a note from the freehold company (Greentree Estates).

Work actually commenced the following day with the erection of scaffolding right in front of the windows of several of the flats. Not surprisingly, given the obvious security problems, this was moved around to the side of the building a day later.

No permission needed

Residents made contact first with the Barnet Council planning office, who had no record of any notification of this work or any

real idea of the planning laws surrounding this type of building work. Their enforcement department did however agree to look into the matter.

Subsequently, contact was made with the Council Buildings department who also had no knowledge of the work, and agreed that they should have been notified, in order to be able to inspect it. However, they pointed out that buildings of less than 2.5 cu. metres did not require any permission, and buildings of less than 15 cu. metres, or masts of less than 4 metres high only required notification in advance, not planning permission.

On 23 April, the Planning Enforcement department notified residents that a "pre-installation notice" had finally been received; it appeared to be within the regulations and did not require any permission at all.

Nothing you can do

There are many people who are concerned about the health issues surrounding mobile telephone transmissions, and would like the opportunity to be consulted when one is to be built on their own roof. It would seem that the law does not require this, and the mobile telephone companies are not averse to exploiting this, so watch out for strange objects

sprouting from your roof, but be advised, there is nothing you can do about it!



Eye-sore - The newly erected masts on top of Viceroy Parade.
Photo by John Dearing



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Farmers Weekly

A Farmers Market has opened in Whetstone for a 12 week trial period, every Friday from 11am-5pm. To find out more see page 3.

Don't leave it out

Garage and shed burglaries have been on the increase throughout Barnet. Police advise that the risk can be minimised by taking the following steps:

Valuable items such as golf clubs and fishing equipment should not be left in garden sheds.

Mowers and expensive equipment should be properly marked - your local community officer can assist you in this.

Fit sheds and garage doors with a strong padlock.

Where possible, ladders should be attached to walls and secured with a substantial chain and padlock.

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