



Letters to The Editor

Small is beautiful

Dear Sirs
There is no doubt that a retailer such as Waitrose would improve the shopping facilities in East Finchley. However, there is no need for the large supermarket proposed and, indeed, the original intentions of Waitrose were to purchase the land and buildings belonging to the Council and develop a smaller supermarket on that site.

A smaller supermarket would be the ideal compromise; improving the shopping facilities in East Finchley but not attracting increased traffic into the area. People wishing to make a large supermarket shop would go to the larger Waitrose in Mill Hill East or North Finchley.

May I therefore suggest that the Council dispose of their buildings to the Waitrose developers and, with the sale proceeds, refurbish the library in its existing position. In this way, everybody is happy; Waitrose have the supermarket they originally wanted, a Victorian shopping parade is retained, the library is retained and refurbished and there is no huge increase of traffic volume into the area.

Yours faithfully
I A Rennie
High Road, N2

If noise annoys

Dear Sir,
If any of your readers like myself are tired of being plagued by the greatly increased noise of aircraft flying over the area, sometimes one every 2 or 3 minutes they may be interested in a phone number at Heathrow which registers complaints: 0800 344844

I have contacted air traffic control and the relevant part of their reply is quoted below:

"Please be assured that the flights you are experiencing have nothing to do with the part-privatisation of NATS

in 2001. Aircraft flying into and out of Heathrow follow routes laid down by the Department for Transport. The only significant change in recent years has been that early in 2001 the DfT scrapped the previous policy that aircraft normally departed westwards into the prevailing wind. This was in order to even out the noise distribution between departure and arrival flights – but it is still subject to the prevailing weather conditions, when winds are strong. You may be able to find more information on this from the DfT website: www.dft.gov.uk."

Frank Gordon

PS The DfT said there had been no changes

What a joke

Dear Editor
I write in response to last month's hilarious letter from Victoria Doran outlining how a Waitrose will help turn East Finchley into Muswell Hill.

I share her dismay at having to share the pavement with working class people, some of whom as well as being unsmiling, are very scruffy indeed. Perhaps we can chase them away waving our affordable ciabatta?

I also feel her shame at living, not in Muswell Hill, but in diverse East Finchley. Diverse in that not everyone is a barrister or lecturer.

As for Ms Doran's dusty vegetables which disintegrate, I would like to re-assure her that this is a natural process. I would warn her to be wary of any fresh produce which displays an unnatural shine or fails to deteriorate over time.

Yours sincerely
Martin O'Donnell
Strawberry Vale, N2

Don't cut standards

Dear Editor
I write in wholehearted support of Headteacher Paul O'Shea in urging parents of all East Finchley's Schools to lobby our MP, Councillors and the Chief Education Officer about the level of education

funding this year.

At Holy Trinity School we have struggled to set a budget, paring to the bare bones what we can spend on the curriculum, in order to avoid cuts in staffing. It is probably even more difficult in a very small school to find cost savings than it is in our secondary schools. Wherever cut-backs occur, we are jeopardising the quality of education we can offer our children.

We are proud of what we have achieved in our recent Ofsted report, we do not want to see high standards eroded. Please protest.

Yours sincerely
Mrs S Duthie
Holy Trinity School Chair of Governors

Double the chaos

Dear Sirs
Everyone speaks only of the Waitrose development. The HGS Trust and the HGS Residents Association have voiced major objections and have declared the Institute's new plans on the Neurological Hospital site to be an 'over-development'.

A new 47,000 sqft five storey high Institute building with two six storey blocks of imposing flats, a stone's throw from the Waitrose scheme, seems forgotten. Please do not forget that if the overdeveloped new Institute is built on the Neurological Hospital site as well as the two blocks of flats you can expect delays and chaos at all times on all approaches to the High Road particularly near the station. Edmunds Walk is already a major car park, drop-off point and collection point, and the Institute is not yet here. The Institute offers only 20 car park places for the average 600 users whereas Barnet's Whetstone Head Office has 700 average staff and 230 car places!

Think about the traffic and parking problems that these TWO developments will cause! Write your letters of objection NOW.

Charles Adams
Edmunds Walk, N2

Send your correspondence to:

"Letters Page", The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA.
(Due to space restrictions, letters over 200 words will be edited)

Cheers!

Dear Sir,
Good to see that an East Finchley pub is the only pub in Finchley to be included in the latest edition of CAMRA's Good Beer Guide!

Madden's 130 High Road, and its "long dimly-lit interior" is once again voted a thumbs up by the

drinking fraternity. Mention of not only good beer, but the food that's brought in from next door!

Madden's (with whom I have no connection) are on 020 8444 7444 (an easy number to remember, even if you've had too much to drink!).

John Grove.
Virtually Finchley
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Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column.

Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.



Special Offer

By L.C. Ward

Isn't a loss leader something which is put on special offer in order to induce people to buy other products once they have been tempted into the store? If so shoppers of East Finchley, which is the better deal, a huge supermarket (with free, though empty, library space on top) or a free library space (with a huge supermarket underneath)?

Despite the majority of locals showing themselves to be against the idea in a questionnaire earlier this year, Barnet Council proposes to hold a major consultation exercise on the future provision of library services in East Finchley. This will cover a much wider area and involve people who would not be affected if the library were moved from its present site (or be particularly bothered whether traders in the High Road were put out of business). Surely this is underselling those people who have given their opinion and who want the present library to be up-dated and the plans for a totally inappropriate superstore to be shelved?

Permission has not yet been sought for these plans, so I am at a loss to understand how the exhibition of the new library can be mounted, seeing as it is to be supported both physically and literally by the building of the supermarket. From the start, these two projects have been linked, yet now the smoke-screen of the new library is being used as a cover. Which comes first, the supermarket or the library?

Barnet Council, who claim to be putting the community first, talk about the proposed development being at the heart of the shopping centre when it is actually on the way out to Highgate. They reckon new supermarket shoppers will regenerate the High Road by visiting local shops, whilst admitting that East Finchley is not actually on the list for regeneration. Have any councillors bothered to visit the site to see how wrong they are, to visualise how much worse our traffic problems would be, to realise that we are not the same as Ballards Lane or Coppetts Wood and to understand why we do not want their Trojan Horse in our High Road?

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