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Local News Is Our Aim

THE ARCHER



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



The back of a bus scales new heights, but can't get down. Photo by Erini Rodis

Stuck Around the Truck

By Erini Rodis and Anna Kambouris

The High Road almost came to a standstill last Friday midday as a bus driver got a bit too ambitious at the zebra crossing outside Kentucky Fried Chicken.

It appears that the north-bound bus tried to manoeuvre around a rubbish truck a little too soon and got stuck; while the wheel managed to cross over, the exhaust pipe didn't.

The bus was thus stranded across half the road, suspended on its bodywork on the central reservation, and unable to move back or forth.

Adding spice to the proceedings were the Diplomatic Protection Group, complete with guns about their mid-ribs. Officer PC Allen, who was helping to redirect a subsequent line of traffic stretching back to the North Circular, admitted it wasn't one of their most exciting missions, but "we were going back to HQ in Central London, and we came across this. It's a pain...but as policemen we're obliged to deal with the situation."

More buses than we usually see in a week were lined up waiting to head south as a result, but nobody was hurt, and the jam was eventually cleared.

Pay and Dismay

By John Dearing

Many East Finchley residents who live within the CPZ will soon be receiving a renewal notice for their parking permit (if they have not already) and they will find that the cost has gone up by an inflation-busting 50% to £30. It is hard to believe that the cost of operating the CPZ has also gone up by so much.

Permit to Pay More Money

Of course, it clearly has nothing whatsoever to do with the 25% pay rises senior council officers have awarded themselves for this year!

Developers Out to Grass

Following the decision to dispose of three of its buildings for £12.5million, Barnet Council has decided not to sell Long Lane Pastures to Fairview New Homes for housing development.



Long Lane Pastures await attention. Photo by John Dearing

Long Lane Pastures is home to many species of wild flowers and rare birds.

Brian Coleman, Barnet Council's cabinet member for the environment said, "We always maintained that we were against the housing deal. The reason we won't be selling it is that the capital proceeds from all the other sales is greater than we expected. We're looking at working with the community to find a long-term future for Long Lane Pastures, whether that means a community trust or a long lease. It won't be turned into a formal park. We're grateful to the Green Party for their support in this."

Long Lane Pastures Action Group say they want to work with the council to transform the site, which has been neglected for a long time. They plan to clear the paths through the Pastures, remove some of the bramble and clear the litter.

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