



Mayor Climbs Aboard Local Bus Row

Transport for London's recently announced decision not to proceed with a bus route from Muswell Hill to Swiss Cottage has sparked outrage from some and support from others but has also led to an eleventh-hour intervention by London's Mayor, Ken Livingstone.

The last-minute involvement of the Mayor has been welcomed by Lynne Featherstone, Lib Dem London Assembly member and Haringey councillor. Early in August, an outraged Ms Featherstone, Chair of the London Assembly Transport Committee, wrote to Mayor Livingstone, who responded by stating that the decision should be disregarded until he has reviewed the matter himself later in August.

"This is a welcome intervention by the Mayor. I hope that he will now reverse Transport for London's ludicrous decision to red light the Muswell Hill to Swiss Cottage bus route," said Ms Featherstone.

"If he really does want to get people out of cars and onto buses, this route meets all his criteria - it would reduce car usage and increase accessibility for people reliant on public transport. It is time Mayor Livingstone put his money where

his mouth is!"

However, the proposed route included plans for road widening. A recent mini-survey was conducted of those most directly affected by the plans - 135 households in Southwood Lane/Castle Yard and part of the Highgate conservation area. Of the households surveyed, 20% responded.

Of those responding, over 80% were opposed to the necessary road-widening suggested by TfL's transport consultants and only 12% were in favour of a bus route in their road.

Commenting on the results, former Highgate Councillor Peter Forrest said, "These results show that the residents most directly affected by the proposed bus service are overwhelmingly opposed to the suggested route. They are particularly worried about the plan to widen their historic road - part of the Highgate Conservation Area - and also fear the inevitable loss of yet more roadside parking spaces further along the route near Castle Yard.

Southwood Lane residents feel very strongly that their road is too narrow for any bus route and that the proposed service should be re-routed, perhaps via Woodside Avenue".

Hail the 382

By Daphne Chamberlain
The 382 - a new cross-country route from Southgate to Mill Hill East - has been welcomed by northern East-Finchleians, who can pick it up at Squires Lane. One satisfied customer reports that it has cut his journey time from Southgate to Strawberry Vale from one hour to 15 minutes. So far, it seems reliable too.

Help Plan Next Year's Festival

The East Finchley Festival is having its annual review on Thursday 2 October, from 7pm at the Green Man Community Centre. With Barnet Council withdrawing arts funding and support to the community festivals, next year promises to be more challenging than usual. Anyone interested in helping to plan the festival is very welcome to come along.

Law Service Launch

By Nozizwe Mlotshwa

Barnet Law Service (BLS) has celebrated its official launch three years after it first opened its doors to the public.

The BLS situated in Bell Lane, Hendon, is a second-tier referral service funded by the Government providing free legal advice and representation to people who live and/or work in the London Borough of Barnet. It offers telephone advice, representation and advocacy in areas of social welfare law. These include housing, employment, immigration, welfare benefits, mental health and community care - areas which disproportionately affect the vulnerable in the community.

It has two part-time solicitors - Abiola Adekanmi deals with asylum and immigration while Teresa Harrison deals with housing, employment and welfare benefits. Between them they have handled 100 cases in the past three years, most of them in employment and immigration. They are currently juggling 40 cases referred to them by advice agencies.

Lou Hains, BLS's administrator said, "We are here to fill a gap and support the community

of Barnet, we also direct those we cannot help in the right direction to get the help they need." She said that they are expecting more funding in the near future. BLS does not take debt and consumer cases at present.

The Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet, Councillor Melvin Cohen, was among the local councillors, MPs, representatives of BLS client group and local legal practitioners who attended the official launch on 22 July 2003 at the BLS offices in Hendon, London.



A rare sight - the 143 in East End Road. Photo by Tony Roberts

Public Meeting with London Buses

By Daphne Chamberlain

There will be a public meeting at East Finchley Library at 7.30pm on Tuesday 23 September, when representatives of London Buses will be asked to take steps to improve the 263 and 143 services.

East Finchley's Agenda 21 Traffic Group, who are arranging the meeting, have also invited Barnet Council officers and local councillors.

Hazel Burnett, of Agenda 21, told *THE ARCHER* that the Group had expressed concern over these services to London Buses in March, but the situation still remained the same. The public meeting has been called in the hope that local concern will be taken seriously and concrete action implemented.

Most complaints are about

poor frequency, running in twos, and impractical and potentially dangerous interior design.

Proposed new and/or amended routes serving East Finchley are also likely to be discussed.

This will be an opportunity for everyone in the community to meet the people in charge of our local bus services. Obviously, the bigger the turnout the more weight the meeting will carry. However, anyone who is unable to attend in person, or who has further enquiries, is welcome to contact Hazel Burnett on 020 8444 6824 or at hazel.burnett@freeuk.com.

We Need Your Help

THE ARCHER relies on volunteer distributors to bring your paper to you every month. If you live in East Finchley and would be willing to deliver to either your own road or one of those listed below (no amount of help is too small!), please let us know.

Distribution takes place once a month and a typical round should take 30-45 minutes to deliver.

We are currently seeking distributors for the following:

Church Lane area:

Church Lane (part of), The Walks

Long Lane area:

Font Hills, The Mead & Lucas Gardens

Strawberry Vale:

Old Farm Road, Brook Walk, Stable Walk & Nursery Walk

The Grange:

Eastview, Berwick, Hilton, Craven, Myddleton, Oak, Vane & Willow Houses

Deansway area:

Edmunds Walk & The Bishops Avenue (part of)

Falldon Way area:

Ossulton Way (part of), Greenhalgh Walk, Maurice Walk, The Market Place (part of)

We also require car owners to drop off to our distributors each month. A typical run involves delivering bundles of papers to 6 - 8 distributors within a small area of N2, N6, N10 or NW11 borders.

Can you help? Please call us on 020 8883 0433 or e-mail distribution@the-archer.co.uk if you think you can, or if you would like more information.

Holy Trinity Church

Church Lane N2

Sundays: The Parish Communion 10 a.m.

Children including toddlers & babies are very welcome at all services in this multi-ethnic church.

Contact: The Revd. Laurence Hill Telephone: 020 8883 8720

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Services

Sunday 6.30 p.m.

Thursday 7.30 p.m.

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month 6.30 p.m.

Healing every Tuesday between 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.

Weddings ~ Christenings ~ Funerals (at the church or cemetery) by arrangement with the Minister

All are welcome