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THE ARCHER



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Praise for Barnet

By John Dearing

Barnet Council's planning service has been allocated an extra £736,000 by the Government in the Planning Delivery Grant (PDG) for 2004/05 following a substantial improvement in performance.

Barnet Council is one of only 24 local authorities in the country to receive over £700,000 from the PDG and this recognises in particular improvements to the speed and quality of Barnet's planning control service, as well as progress on the Unitary Development Plan and the delivery of new homes in the borough. Barnet Council's planning service deals with the second largest number of applications in the capital.

Impressive

In August 2003, the Government praised the authority's progress towards achieving national planning targets after several months of monitoring and has since

described improvements in key planning performance areas as 'impressive'.

Graham Beattie, Director of Environment, said: "This is an outstanding achievement and is testament to the hard work and effort of all staff in the planning service. They have turned around the service, which is now in good shape to continue improving."

No doubt all this will come as welcome relief to the many householders and businesses in East Finchley and elsewhere in the Borough whose homes and premises have been blighted in recent years by planning applications that have taken months and sometimes years to resolve.



Pollarding a tree in the High Road on Good Friday. Picture by John Dearing

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Bus lane demise

For a trial period the bus lane northbound up the High Road from The Bishops Avenue to the intersection with East End Road will be withdrawn and replaced by no waiting and no loading restrictions.

Waiting and loading will be banned between 7am and 7pm Monday to Saturday. For much of the way from a point 66 metres north of the junction with The Bishops Avenue there will be no waiting at any time.

It is hoped that this will ease traffic congestion caused by the interaction of the bus lane and the need for vehicles to turn right into Fortis Green.

Strangely, the plans are not on show at our library,

and can only be viewed at The Burroughs or at Barnet House in Whetstone from 3 May, the day after the scheme is introduced. The scheme was outlined in Forum Report, *THE ARCHER* Jan 2004.

After six months the council will decide whether to make the scheme permanent. During the six-month trial period written objections to the scheme can be sent to the Chief Highways Officer, Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone.

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