



Cllr Phil Yeoman and Ch Supt Mark Ricketts field questions  
Photo by Colin Rogers

## CSAZ meeting

Over 150 people attended the first public meeting to review the introduction of East Finchley's CSAZ, which was launched in May this year.

The Police and Council representatives explained what had been happening so far, and then fielded questions from the hall. Chief Superintendent Mark Ricketts and Cllr Phil Yeoman ended up answering most of the questions, which covered a full range of topics, from Anti Social Behaviour Orders to the Mental Health Act. Virtually everyone felt that there had been a worthwhile exchange of views, and most people (including the police) learned a good deal about what people's perception of crime is. The CSAZ team will be holding follow-up meetings to make more links with us, so that the initiative is maintained and everyone can keep up-to-date with progress. Watch this space!

**"We've got to be positive"**  
Local resident Anne Bren-

nan attended the meeting and told *THE ARCHER*, "I think this is a brilliant idea. If something is serious in the community, we have to talk about it. The police are our representatives, and we have to work in conjunction with them. The Inspector seemed to be aware of what people want, and he assured us he would look into things. It's no use just moaning among ourselves. We've got to be positive."

If you want to find out more, phone PC Paul Carter on 020 8733 5562 or Barnet Council's Anti-Social behaviour Co-ordinator, Jeremy Print, on 020 8733 4498, or talk to the police on their 'beat'.

# Will the act disable the library?

By Daphne Chamberlain

Since last year's famous questionnaire, further questions have been asked by the public about the future of East Finchley library. "With no access to the first floor for disabled people, no toilet for those with disabilities, and indeed no toilet for women on the ground floor, will the building cope with the requirements of this month's Disability Discrimination Act?" *THE ARCHER* asked Barnet Council.

A Barnet spokesperson replied, "The Disability Discrimination Act is about making services accessible to people with disabilities, rather than the buildings they are housed in." He went on to say that Barnet is investing considerable resources in the library service, with library staff being trained to offer advice, help and support to the disabled.

Will there be a lift installed to the upper floor? No, - the cost of improving access to the meeting-rooms would be prohibitive, but the library services on the ground floor are accessible.

### Toilet provision?

What about toilet provision? Barnet "will be investigating if the one public toilet on the ground floor can be adapted for use by disabled people".

Will any refurbishment make the interior arrangement more disabled user-friendly? "East Finchley library is currently undergoing refurbishment. We are looking at the

shelving, but plans will need to be approved by English Heritage."

*THE ARCHER* will be keeping an eye on developments in the library.

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## Library Group formed

By Daphne Chamberlain

The East Finchley Library Users' Group held its first meeting last month at the Neighbourhood Centre. In view of the closure of Totteridge library and the uncertain future of South Friern, the Users' Group sees its role as protecting both the library service and its building in East Finchley.

Communicating with the Council has to be on the agenda, and to do this the Group needs to know exactly what it is talking about.

Last year, East Finchley voted to refurbish the existing building\*, and everyone at the meeting felt strongly that this should be honoured, particularly in regard to the Disability Discrimination Act. What do people really need though, and what would be a reasonable current cost? The Group will try to find out.

### Involving the community

Libraries can be important to people all through their lives, and the Users' Group wants to involve as many sections of the community as possible.

So watch out for a direct approach!

Leslie Gilbert has used East Finchley library for 47 years, but he was also at the meeting as a member of Friends of Barnet Libraries. This is a borough-wide organisation, with many connections, and he urged members of the East Finchley Group to join FBL too.

Over 20 people turned up, including Councillor Colin Rogers, and Adam Gee became the Chair and Polly Napper the Secretary. Watch *THE ARCHER* for news of further meetings and activities.

[\* 66% of those who voted chose refurbishment, compared to 29% for a new library; see *THE ARCHER* Feb 2004]

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