



Action for a safer neighbourhood

Residents asked police in the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team to take action against anti-social behaviour in the Manor Park Road area, as reported in *THE ARCHER* last month. Since then, an action plan has been drawn up.

They have increased their patrolling of the area - Manor Park Road and the Thomas More Estate are two of their three priority patrol areas at the moment. They have not come across any anti-social behaviour directly but they have talked to local youngsters and reminded them of the police presence and the need for good behaviour.

The Manor Park Road area is now included in the daily briefing for all police teams, to raise awareness of the problem and to encourage more patrolling of the area. A 'tactical tasking team' will give priority to

vehicle crime.

Police say there were no reported crimes in Manor Park Road between 1 September and the time of going to press. There was one call to police on 26 September at 7.20pm regarding youths causing a disturbance. Unfortunately the Safer Neighbourhood team was not working that evening and no officers were available to attend until midnight, by which time the youths had gone. The team said the response time was disappointing but calls of a more urgent nature would be given a higher priority.

Finchley Forum round-up

By Daphne Chamberlain

Council silence on Stanley Field proposals

Philip King, of the Stanley Field working party, asked September's Finchley Forum why Barnet was not communicating with them. He said that, although they had been given a council liaison officer, the only information they had received was that demolishing the Herbert Wilmot Centre "would have some bearing" on the fate of the field. They had been told that their plans to use the field for sports development would be taken to a Council meeting, but later found out this had not happened.

Julia Chrysostomou, Chair of the Association that used to run Stanley Field, accused Barnet of cutting youth provision, particularly around East Finchley. Eighteen months ago, her association, along with other youth groups, had been forced to vacate the Wilmot Centre. She said that a Council officer had suggested she could have half the pitch back, if the other half was used for building. She concluded she had been lied to and needed clarification of the situation.

Over-development warning

George Shaw warned that over-development of East Finchley was a time bomb. There was insufficient infrastructure to sustain it. Councillor Sussman agreed that Barnet's growing population, plus government pressure to build, was a problem. Brian Reynolds announced a future meeting between the Chief Executive and staff to discuss this.

Barnet asks for extra buses

Barnet has asked Transport for London for one extra 263 an hour. Hazel Burnett, of the East Finchley Bus Watch, was told this after the meeting. She had asked for a response to her letter about the High Road's only North-South bus route.

Ms Burnett predicted that this service, already condemned by Transport for London's Users' Report as inadequate, would be unable to meet the needs of new housing developments along the High Road.

The next Forum will be at 6.30pm on 18 January at Avenue House, East End Road.

An open & shut case?

By Diana Cormack

By the time you read this, the new café in Cherry Tree Wood should be open. Barnet Council gave *THE ARCHER* the opening date of 21 October. This is almost exactly three years since vandals burned down the original kiosk and two years since its replacement was due to open.

During this time the complaints from park users about the lack of this facility seem to have fallen on deaf ears. Many locals contacted the council after an article by the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood earlier this year and the Friends also organised a petition at the East Finchley Community Festival in June.

Eileen Cannon, the café's original leaseholder, had a good reputation for her home cooking and her caring attitude towards her customers. They were pleased to hear that she was planning to open the new kiosk with a Halloween theme event at the end of October 2003, but then came the news that Barnet had decided to put the lease out to tender.

A series of reports on potential leaseholders about to sign the relevant documents has since followed, but none came to fruition. Now it seems that an agreement has been signed by none other than... Eileen Cannon.

Local dentists' accolade

By John Dearing

The East Finchley Dental Centre has received an award for patient satisfaction and care. The award was presented in October to Darren Freedman, principal dentist, by Dental Solutions UK, who conducted a patient survey and assessed the centre against nine different criteria for excellence in patient satisfaction.

Mr Freedman said that he was pleased to have received the award and gratified that staff at the centre on the High Road had been recognised for their hard work and attention to patients' needs.

He and his partner Adam Motamed have chosen to work within the NHS. He said that most media reports stress the lack of access to NHS dentistry and that, reportedly, about 50% of all people in the UK are not registered with a dentist. However, he was pleased that, at least in East Finchley, patients could attend a centre that offered the



Darren Freedman, the principal dentist. Photo by John Dearing

flexibility of both NHS treatments, and those not available under the NHS.

Mr Freedman emphasised the importance of communicating to patients all the options available to them for dental treatment. To support this, the dentists undergo a process of continual professional development through courses and peer review.

Mr. Freedman also announced that they have

opened a second treatment suite within the practice, developed with the help of a grant from Barnet Primary Care Trust. Patricia Ogbu has joined the practice as associate dentist, after working with them earlier this year as a locum. As part of this expansion, they intend to increase their range of services, particularly for children, and to increase the numbers of patients.

Council hedges your bets

By John Dearing

Have you got a problem with your neighbours' hedge or have they got a problem with yours? You may be interested to know that, since June, as a result of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003, Barnet Council, like other English councils, will arbitrate over disputes about 'high hedges'.

If you have tried and exhausted all other avenues for resolving a hedge dispute, including negotiation with your neighbour, you may take your complaint to the council. The fee for the service is £450.

The council will arbitrate if the hedge in question:

- is comprised wholly or predominantly of a line of two or more evergreen or semi-evergreen trees or shrubs;
- is over two metres high;
- acts, to some degree, as a barrier to light or access;
- adversely affects your reasonable enjoyment of your domestic property (that is your home or garden).

The council will examine each case individually, taking into account all relevant factors.

Note that the legislation does

not require all hedges to be cut down to a height of two metres.

If the council decides that action should be taken to resolve the complaint, they will issue a formal notice to the person responsible for the hedge, setting out what must be done and by when.

Failure to comply with the requirements of a remedial notice would be an offence. If convicted in a magistrates' court, the hedge-owner could be fined up to £1,000.

Further details may be found on the LBBC web site at: http://www.barnet.gov.uk/environment_transport/hedges.php3

Is your parking spot pukka?

By Betti Blatman

Residents in East Finchley who have paved their front gardens in order to provide themselves with an exclusive parking space are being asked to check they've obeyed all regulations.

If you drive across the pavement to park on your property, you are required to obtain permission from Barnet Council to do so.

In addition, if you have applied for a dropped kerb on the pavement outside your property or paid for white lines across the entrance to your drive, you should recognise that these are not enforceable deterrents to prevent members of the public from parking in front of your property.

For further information contact the council's street enforcement officer on 020 8359 4600 or the dropped kerb department on 020 8359 3024.

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