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Traffic trouble fears for new road scheme

By Daphne Chamberlain

There are fears that plans to introduce traffic-calming measures on a major road between the border of East Finchley and Muswell Hill could create rat-runs and cause congestion on surrounding routes.

Haringey Council is proposing a new layout for Woodside Avenue, which runs between the Great North Road, close to the junction with the A1, and Muswell Hill Road.

Woodside Avenue is used as a major cut-through because it is the only direct route from East Finchley to the Muswell Hill area on the long stretch of

road between Fortis Green and the Woodman at Highgate.

Local residents are being asked for their views on proposals which include installing three "pinch-points" that will reduce traffic on the avenue to a single lane.

More congestion

It's being claimed that a knock-on effect could mean more traffic using the already-busy High Road and Fortis Green routes.

Some residents also fear that Fordington Road, on the edge of Cherry Tree Wood, and Lansdowne Road, which contains an entrance to Highgate

Wood on the south side of Woodside Avenue, would become rat-runs for motorists trying to avoid queues.

Divided opinions

Asked for his comments, Alan Fox of the Woodside Avenue Residents Association told *THE ARCHER* that local opinion was divided.

He said: "People have said for years that something should be done about speeding, but many of us think pinch-points could cause pile-ups and impede emergency vehicles."

Mr Fox added that most residents supported Haringey's proposal to install a zebra crossing outside St James Primary School.

Haringey Council spokesperson Tony Kennedy told us that all views would be considered before a decision was made. The proposals originated from the St James School Travel Plan, and would be funded by Transport for London.

Safer travelling

Mr Kennedy said: "There are three schools along this road and it's part of London transport strategy to encourage a perception of safe travelling for schoolchildren."

Asked about congestion on surrounding roads, he said the strategy was also to concentrate traffic on classified routes, such as the Great North Road.

Funding is for this financial year, so a decision on the Woodside Avenue proposals will be made shortly.

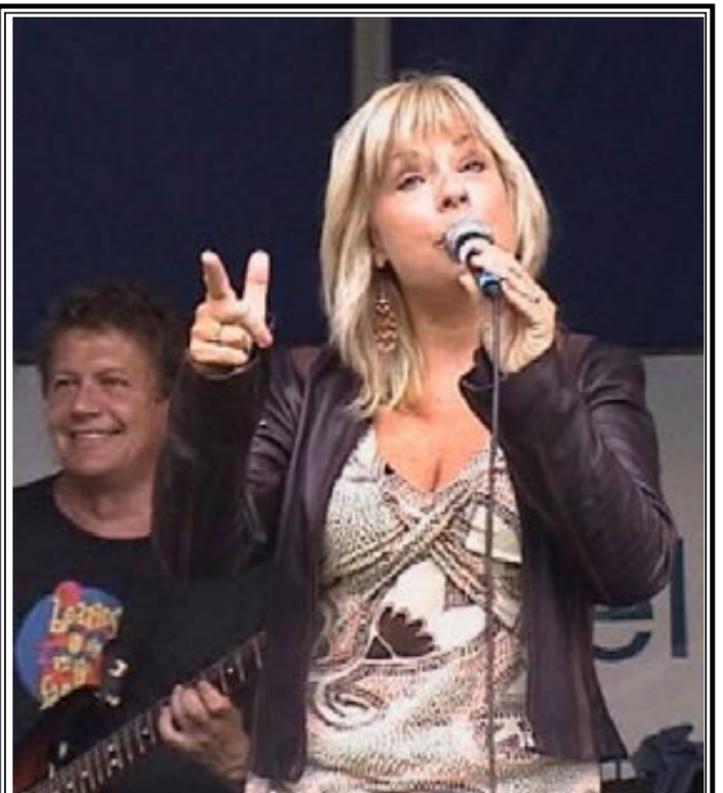


Photo by Erini Rodis

Just what she always wanted...

Mari Wilson woos the crowd at the Muswell Hill Festival in Cherry Tree Wood. See page 6 for the festival report.

Towards a safer neighbourhood

On Friday 16 September the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team held a street meeting in The Precinct, Manor Park Road. The team invited local residents to discuss their concerns so that the police can direct their resources to tackling those problems.

The Metropolitan Police and Barnet Council are working together in a new style of community policing in East Finchley. Safer Neighbourhoods is a partnership between the police, statutory and voluntary agencies and, most importantly, local residents.

Graffiti, noise and litter affect residents just as dramatically as robbery and assault.

The purpose of the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood team is to make sure that local complaints and concerns are identified and prioritised so that solutions are developed within the community.

Approximately 30 local residents attended the meeting to express their serious concerns, particularly at the recent escalation of mopeds being ridden dangerously down Hamilton Road and through Thomas More Estate and Manor Park Road's pedestrianised area until the early hours of the morning.

The police were requested to give urgent priority to address this unacceptable anti-social behaviour and they agreed to do so.

If you have concerns or want further information contact Golders Green Police Station on 020 8721 2845 or email eastfinchley.snt@met.police.uk.

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