



Tim Graves, Transport for London Policing Dept, DCS Stephen Kavanagh, Borough Commander and Andrew Dismore MP talk to members of the Barnet Safer Transport Team. Picture by Tim Clarke, courtesy Met. Police.

After safer neighbourhoods, it's safer transport

By John Dearing

The new dedicated police team for Barnet aimed at improving safety on and around public transport was formally launched on 5 July at the Peel Centre in Hendon.

Known as the Safer Transport Team, up to 18 new Police Community Support Officers will work with at least two sergeants and one police constable to provide visibility and reassurance, and to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour on and around public transport. The team is funded by Transport for London and Metropolitan Police Home Office funding.

Joining the policing family

Chief Supt Stephen Kavanagh, Barnet Borough Commander, said: "The Safer Transport Team is a welcome addition to the policing family in this Borough. The team will work closely alongside our colleagues from the British Transport Police and Barnet's 21 Safer Neighbourhood teams, providing an increased police presence on our extensive transport network and stations that will continue to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour."

Steve Burton, Transport for London's Deputy Director of Transport Policing and

Enforcement, said: "This is great news for the people of Barnet. We are all working hard to ensure that travelling around the borough is a safe and comfortable experience. The new Safer Transport Team will provide visible reassurance and policing throughout Barnet Borough."

The team has already had a positive impact on the transport links in the Borough. Since they started at the beginning of June, they have become a regular sight in and around tube and bus stations and travelling on the buses. They have made numerous arrests for a range of offences, including threatening behaviour, disorderly conduct, assault, possessing an offensive weapon, breach of ASBO, robbery and theft, and possession of drugs. They have established strong links with Barnet MSC, British Transport Police, and are in talks with the Royal National Institute for the Deaf to establish a partnership strategy to educate and deal with noise nuisance on the public transport system.

Don't be fooled by bogus clothes collections

Over the past two years THE ARCHER has carried articles warning about clothing collections which appear to be for charity but which are in fact money-making ventures. A recent programme on BBC radio emphasised this. Listeners who phoned in told of genuine causes losing out because non-charitable collections are deliberately fixed for the same day as genuine charity collections whose bags are taken then and at other times.

Many "Clothing Collection" leaflets have been posted through East Finchley doors recently. Read them carefully if you particularly want your goods to support a charity. There should be a charity number printed if it is a genuine charity cause.

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REEF loves N2

By Daphne Chamberlain

Who loves N2? We do. Of course we do. We live or work here. What about those unlucky souls who don't, though? Do enough people outside our area know about the services, facilities and quality of life we enjoy?

A group working for the Regeneration and Enhancement of East Finchley (REEF) say "no" to that last question at the moment, but are working to make the answer "yes".

Mike Hughes, responsible for the "I ♥ N2" slogan on merchandise in local shops and at the East Finchley Festival, has designed the website www.eastfinchley.net to tell the rest of the world more about us. It will feature advertisements, event listings, and trade and suppliers' information, as well as being a community resource. The site's logo is London Underground's archer, and it will link to THE ARCHER's own website.



Jessica Manning with her cake (inset) and N2 T-shirts. Photo by Toni Morgan.

Ideas for action

Paul Homer, manager of the Phoenix Cinema, is talking to London Farmers Markets about potential sites here. Other ideas for action include a "Keep East Finchley Tidy" campaign, improved signage and a Loyalty Card designed by Mike for local discounts.

REEF includes the Phoenix, the Noble Sage Art Gallery, East Finchley Open Artists, and a nucleus of local traders and residents. The Community Development Trust and local councillors support its aims. Founder members actively welcome involvement and ideas

from the whole East Finchley community.

Look twice, it's all right

Public interest was certainly sparked by the "I ♥ N2" shirts, bags and badges appearing around Festival time. Gaynor Spry, of Lazooli, says: "The shirts have been flying out of the shop, bought by people of all ages, and the bags have been spotted up and down the Northern Line!" Designer Mike Hughes told us: "The group thought that hi-jacking the 'I Love' concept worked particularly well with our postcode. My experience at the Festival was that people had a double-take moment. It has a real 'smile

factor' about it."

Mike, "a kind of a local boy", went to Bishop Douglass School. Returning to East Finchley three years ago, he has settled in Sylvester Road with his wife Julia, and two children. He and Julia run a small design and marketing practice, mjhd.

Gaynor, another REEF member, hopes REEF "can encourage local people to embrace the delights of their own High Road and make East Finchley a village which provides a stress-free and enjoyable shopping experience."

For more information about REEF, contact paul@phoenixcinema.co.uk.

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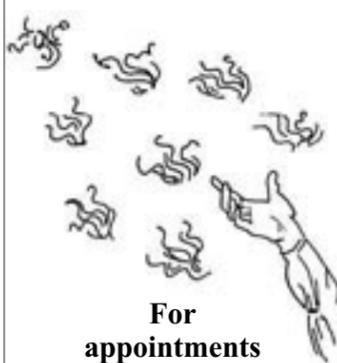
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