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Local News is our Aim

THE ARCHER




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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Destruction at Highgate School. Picture by Craig Johnson

Falling leaves

Storm force winds on Thursday 18 January brought destruction across East Finchley and surrounding areas. Two cars were seriously damaged when this tree and fence were uprooted at Highgate School in Hampstead Lane. Many homeowners reported damage to fences and roofs, and the streets were strewn with branches and other debris.

What's so great about East Finchley?

We asked you for the good, the bad and the ugly about our community. Read what you said on page 9.

New broom for cleaner streets

Barnet Council is promising to improve the street cleaning service across the borough. The number of town centres served by town keepers will rise from 13 to 20 and new residential cleansing teams will be introduced for side and back streets.

In addition, 'hot spot' teams will be set up to clear litter around transport hubs and stations. This extra spruc-

ing-up of Barnet's streets will be complemented by a new Clean Borough Strategy currently being considered by the council.

According to Barnet's Annual Residents' Survey 2006, only 55% of residents are happy about current street cleaning standards in Barnet.

Merger plan for Martin Schools

By Diana Cormack

Martin Infant and Martin Junior Schools could merge into one school by September under a proposal being put out to public consultation. The schools share a site in the High Road but are officially separate bodies with a head teacher each.

A public consultation is under way regarding the proposed amalgamation. It will consider the advantages and disadvantages of reorganising the existing schools and has invited views from all interested parties.

Parents were invited to give their views, with meetings being held in both schools to consider the proposals and to record any responses. All responses had to be received by 29 January for the schools to forward to the

local authority.

The idea of amalgamating the schools to create an all-through two-form entry primary school was put forward by the governing bodies of both schools, with the support of Barnet Council. Holy Trinity, the other primary school in East Finchley, is already an all-through school, with one form per year.

The Martins proposal follows Barnet's present policy of reducing the number of schools operating as separate infant and junior schools.

Raising standards of education is the main reason for the borough seeking to implement its school organisational plan and, because there has been a head teacher vacancy at Martin Infant School since last term, the governors are obliged to consider reorganisation proposals.

Barnet Council will decide whether to publish statutory notices after all comments and observations have been considered.

The intention is for these changes to be introduced from 1 September 2007. Both schools would close in July 2007 and open as an all-through primary school on the same site for the new academic year. There would be no change in the school's admissions policy.

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