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THE ARCHER



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



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An example of the Domino Effect

This row of pizza delivery bikes lying forlornly on their side in the High Road after a spell of windy weather could not be more apt – right outside Domino's. The photograph was taken last month by passer-by Nick Leigh and printed in The Sun newspaper.

Security cameras to tackle street crime

By John Dearing

The busiest shopping and pedestrian areas of East Finchley are to be monitored by 24-hour security cameras for the first time. Large grey poles have been installed to mount the cameras and the system is expected to go live within weeks.

Police and council officials believe CCTV cameras are one of their major tools to tackle street crime and anti-social behaviour.

Cameras have been installed at a number of points along the High Road and East End Road.

On the High Road, there is a camera on the corner of Fortis Green and on the corner of Beresford Road, close to the NatWest cash machine and to the Abbey bank, the scene of a security guard robbery in October.

In East End Road, a camera has been installed on the corner of Ossulton Way in the heart of the main shopping area. The shopkeeper at the Post Office

in East End Road was punched and kicked during a robbery in November.

Barnet Council confirmed that the CCTV security system had already been installed in a number of other town centres in the borough and East Finchley's network was due to become operational early in the New Year.

Cabinet Member for community safety and community engagement, Councillor Brian Coleman said: "Eight new CCTV cameras are being installed in East Finchley as part of Barnet Council's commitment to making the streets of our borough safe.

"Barnet already has more than 100 CCTV cameras covering town centres, streets and parks. CCTV is one of the major tools available to the council to tackle street crime and anti-social behaviour. The cameras are monitored 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, by a team of fully trained council staff."

Police station trial

Barnet Police station will be open until midnight every Friday and Saturday until the end of February as a trial to identify if there is a need for the station to be open beyond its normal 10pm closing time.

Ask takeaway plan rejected

By John Dearing

Pizza chain company Ask has had its planning application rejected to convert the former Barclays Bank premises on the High Road into a takeaway pizza parlour.

The application went to the Finchley & Golders Green Area Planning sub-committee on 7 December. After the second consultation by Barnet planning department, 11 letters of objection were received. Only one of the three objectors who

had asked to speak was able to attend.

After what appears to have been an ill-natured debate, and despite a recommendation from the planning officers to accept the application and similar exhortations by the chair of the sub-committee, it was rejected by a majority of the members.

The applicants gave notice of appeal to the Planning Inspectorate.

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Changes to bus routes

Bus passengers waiting for a better service through East Finchley may have some cause for hope with the news that the 263 and the 143 are among the routes being considered by Transport for London for extension, revision or improvement in 2008.