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# THE ARCHER




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*A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.*



## Plastic bag campaigners name the day

**Saturday 1 December has been named as the launch day for the campaign to turn East Finchley into a plastic bag free zone.**

As reported in *THE ARCHER* last month, shoppers and traders are being urged to stop using plastic bags and replace them with more environmentally-friendly alternatives.

Information will be going out to every trader and posters will be appearing along the High Road in November.

A logo and slogan have been designed for the campaign. It shows a plastic bag caught in a tree, with the words 'Plastic's not fantastic. It's time to sack the bag'.

New bags made from Fair Trade cotton and printed with water-based ink are being produced for sale. Campaign organiser Sally Swann hopes traders will sell these instead of providing plastic bags and that shoppers will carry one with them whenever they make a trip to the shops.

### Reuse and recycle

Sally said: "The response I've been getting so far has been good. There are lots of

ideas for how we can all make this happen. Reusing plastic bags is something everyone can do. And we've asked Barnet Council for a plastics recycling point on the High Road."

The campaign is being backed by REEF, the group of local businesses promoting trade and leisure in East Finchley. Traders and shoppers in East End Road are very much included too but Sally is appealing for volunteers to help her get the campaign off the ground there, as well as with all the other shops around N2.

East Finchley would be the first community in London to become a plastic bag free zone although other areas in the capital are thought to be making similar plans. The village of Modbury in Devon has already stopped using them.

## Fortismere forges new links with N2

By John Lawrence

**Fortismere School is seeking to build new links with East Finchley and encourage more applications from families in N2 as well as Muswell Hill.**

September was an important date for the school as it moved into Foundation School status and, after many years of being a specialist technology college, changed its specialist status to Maths/Computing and Music.

In addition, following an excellent Ofsted report in which the school was described as having 'many outstanding features', Fortismere has been formally identified as a High Performing Specialist School and, as such, has been offered the opportunity to take on a second specialism, which will be Modern Foreign Languages.

### Local admissions

Foundation status does not mean Fortismere will turn into a selective school. The governors say it simply gives them greater flexibility to steer and manage the development of the school.

Jane Farrell, Chair of Governors, said: "Foundation status transferred responsibility for admissions from Haringey Council to the Fortismere Governing Body. We intend to ensure that future admission criteria reflect the needs and wishes of the local community and are completely transparent."

"Being on the boundary of Haringey and Barnet means that the school will always welcome applications for places from families in both Muswell Hill and East Finchley."

The move to foundation status was opposed by some parents and staff, who formed the Keep Fortismere Comprehensive campaign group. The group says it will carry on campaigning for the school to

be run in the same way as if it had continued to be a community school.

Other plans put forward by the governors are to extend Fortismere's services to all local families by offering evening or weekend courses, such as Mandarin, Spanish, maths for parents, computing for beginners, website design, orchestra and instrumental lessons.

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