



A good turn-out for the Friends meeting in Cherry Tree Wood.
Photograph by Diana Cromack

Cherry Tree Wood crisis continues

By Ian Cormack

There was a good attendance at the public meeting called by the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 9 September to debate the state of the wood.

It was held at the Lazy Sally Kiosk, with coffee and seating provided. Those present included two representatives from East Finchley's Safer Neighbourhood Team on their day off and our three local Councillors, who indicated their support by tabling a comment to the Council after a meeting at the Town Hall the following Tuesday.

One of the main stumbling blocks to Cherry Tree Wood getting Green Flag status, with the extra funding it carries, is the pavilion. The cost of removing, let alone improving the building, is prohibitive.

The present peripatetic staff who have replaced permanent park keeper Chris Ward do not carry out any constructive conservation work. They are just trying to hold the wood at its current level and generally struggling in the attempt.

Many ideas were discussed, including deluging the Council with letters and emails; widening publicity to include the Barnet press as well as *THE ARCHER*; seeking independent advice about what the wood needs to preserve it; inviting local people to state their priorities; and setting up a blog site. Chris Ward used to provide advice and attend meetings but, unfortunately, this happy state is no more.

There was also a kind offer to form a sub-committee and seek funding, but this

would only be possible for capital projects, not ongoing maintenance which councils are expected to provide. The AGM was held afterwards but only a few people remained to hear the Friends' ongoing arrangements. Anyone interested in supporting the Friends' application for funding to undertake a conservation project, or simply wanting to pass on their thoughts about the Wood, should contact info@cherrytreewood.co.uk

102 bus service improvement

Bus campaigners have won their long battle to get a night service for the 102 route that links Golders Green, Hampstead Garden Suburb, East Finchley and Muswell Hill. Since 1 September, 102 buses have run a 24 hour service at half-hourly intervals.

Haringey LibDem Councillor Gail Engert said she was delighted at Transport for London's response to local concerns and pointed out that people involved in "the vibrant night-time economy of Muswell Hill" will be able to get home safely.

Finchley Forum

By Daphne Chamberlain

The Finchley and Golders Green Forum met at the Green Man Community Centre last month.

• **NHS redevelopment:** Two spokespeople outlined NHS proposals, including the development of Finchley Memorial Hospital, extended opening hours for GP practices, more drop-in centres, and a children's centre in Oak Lane, N2. The consultation period for deciding where planned in-patient surgery takes place - at Barnet or at Chase Farm - ends on 19 October. Cllr John Marshall said that relocating this surgery to Chase Farm would not be acceptable to Barnet.

• **Dropped kerbs:** A member of the public complained about the lack of dropped kerbs throughout the borough, and several people asked for more liaison between developers and Council departments, to ensure better disabled access from roads to new buildings.

A Highways Department officer reminded people that his department always responded to individual requests for dropped kerbs.

• **Recycling of plastic containers:** From next year, recycling of both plastic and cardboard will be introduced throughout the borough.

• **Next forum:** Monday 12 November. Venue not yet disclosed.

New parking zone in Haringey streets

By John Dearing

A new controlled parking zone (CPZ) was due to come into effect in Fortis Green and further afield at the end of September.

The zone includes Twyford Avenue (from the junction with Fortis Green to the boundary of 38/40 Twyford Avenue), Shakespeare Gardens, Western Road, Springcroft Avenue, Southern Road (from the borough boundary to the road end), Bancroft Avenue (from the borough boundary to junction with Aylmer Road) and Fortis Green (from the borough boundary to the junction with Eastern Road).

For some years now residents in these roads have seen parking spaces taken by commuters displaced by Barnet Council's East Finchley CPZ, who park all day and use the Northern Line.

Various schemes encompassing the Fortis Green area

and parts of Muswell Hill had been proposed by Haringey Council, but all had been turned down, mainly due to objections from Muswell Hill residents and businesses. A more local scheme was proposed in 2006 and, having been revised following several consultations with local residents, the CPZ was finally announced in March.

The new CPZ will operate between 11am and 1pm on weekdays, when the parking bays will be for residents only.

Residents' permits will cost £25 and business permits £225 a year. Visitors' permits will be available. There will be no pay and display bays, apparently.

Further details may be found on the Haringey Council web site www.haringey.gov.uk.

Mayor to support hospice

Barnet Mayor Councillor Maureen Braun has chosen the North London Hospice as the charity she wishes to support during her year of office. Throughout the year Councillor Braun and her fundraising committee will be organising many events to raise money for the hospice's Building and Refurbishment Appeal.

Asked why she had chosen the hospice, Cllr Braun said: "I wanted a charity that was for the benefit of Barnet residents, that could be identified as needing the money, and one which impinges on the lives of very many people. Everybody is a potential user."

The building appeal aims to raise £700,000 to refit the hospice's facilities and make them more suitable for the needs of patients and their families.

Hospice fundraising director Pauline Treen said: "We need all the help we can get from the local community. This appeal is over and above our annual running costs of £5 million with only 24% of this being met by the NHS."

You can make your donation to the Barnet Mayor's Appeal,

North London Hospice, 47 Woodside Avenue, London N12 8TF.

Your Forum, your say

By Daphne Chamberlain
Residents' Forums offer everyone the opportunity to bring any matter of concern to Barnet Councillors and paid officers. It is the chance for all of us to say what we think, ask for issues to be investigated, and perhaps generate support from other members of the public.

Forum meetings used to cover roughly half of each Parliamentary constituency (e.g. Finchley) but have been enlarged to cover the whole constituency (in our case, Finchley and Golders Green). Barnet says this is in order to be in line with Area Planning and Area Environmental meetings.

Forum meetings take place about every six weeks, moving locations around each constituency. Inevitably, however, some venues are now more difficult to reach without private transport. At the September Forum several people knew nothing about some areas being discussed and one woman asked for maps to be issued.

Poor turn-out

One question touched on insufficient publicity for Forums and the fact that future venues are no longer given out at the meetings. This may be one reason for poor attendance at the September meeting, where nine officials were only just outnumbered by 13 members of the public, joined by two latecomers at the end.

In the past *THE ARCHER* has reported on many lively discussions, often about topics very relevant to East Finchley, but the emphasis at this East Finchley-based Forum was not on our district. As the public sets the agenda, that responsibility is down to us.

Wherever possible, *THE ARCHER* will publish the date and venue for each Finchley and Golders Green Forum in What's On. Details are available on the Council website, www.barnet.gov.uk/democratic-services (Council meetings), but only a short time in advance. If the forum you want is not shown, call 020 8359 2156.

We either use this piece of democracy or we lose it.

A friendly welcome awaits you

EAST FINCHLEY METHODIST CHURCH

197 High Road, London N2 (opp. Creighton Ave.)

www.eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk

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Prayer requests are gladly accepted.**

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<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>