



Izzy Engler raised 100 signatures on a petition to slow down traffic in Church Lane. Photo by John Lawrence

Izzy ignites campaign for safer Church Lane

By John Lawrence

When a car smashed into a wall opposite her house in Church Lane (*THE ARCHER*, February 2008), nine-year-old Izzy Engler decided enough was enough.

The Garden Suburb Junior School pupil was tired of cars speeding past her house and putting pedestrians at risk so she started a petition. Signatures collected from local shops and cafés totalled more than 100.

Izzy's petition, along with calls from other residents in the road, helped to secure an agreement from Barnet Council's Finchley and Golders Green area committee to bring in traffic-calming measures.

The council will introduce flashing 'slow' signs activated by vehicles, new 'one way' and 'concealed junction' signs, and new junction signs at Long Lane and King Street.

Izzy's petition called for a 20mph speed limit in the road and her neighbours still hope the council will eventually agree to lower the limit.

Izzy said: "Every day a lot of children walk to school down this road. It does need a lower speed limit but I'd be pleased if these new signs start to make it safer for them."

The crash in January demolished walls and fences after a Mini Cooper went out of control as it passed the junction with King Street at 8.30pm. Shocked

Survey seeks views on Barnet Online

How easy is it to find what you're looking for on Barnet Online, the council's website? Your views are being invited to help improve the usability of the site.

To take part in the survey, visit www.barnet.gov.uk/survey. If you would like the opportunity to attend future usability testing workshops, contact Jonathan Tunde-Wright on 020 8359 7559.

Spring clean the green way

By Lucy Heaton

Do you need to have a bit of a spring clean? As spring has sprung, now is the perfect time to freshen up your home, including getting rid of any clutter you don't need. But what to do with all those unwanted items?

Some can be recycled, some can be sold on eBay and some can be given to charity shops. Then there's other stuff hanging around; too good to throw away, not quite good enough to sell (or you can't be bothered).

Freecycling is the answer. Freecycle Barnet is an internet group where you can list a brief description of your item and people who are interested can come and take it off your hands.

You don't get money for it, but you do get the convenience of having it picked up and the satisfaction of knowing that it's going to a good home.

It's a greener way to clean, as stuff is reused and kept out of landfills. An added benefit is that those on low incomes can often find the things they need for free. Plus, you can always have a trawl through what other people have listed to see if anything takes your fancy. Don't go overboard, though, or you may find your freshly clutter-free house re-filled with new stuff, and be back to square one.

To start freecycling, go to www.yahoo.com, create an account and go to the 'Groups' section. Search for 'Freecycle Barnet' and the link will appear. A top tip: when listing an item, you must do so through the home page Message Maker link or it won't be accepted.

Forum returns to Finchley

By Daphne Chamberlain

After its previous meeting in Cricklewood, last month's Finchley and Golders Green Forum took place in Trinity Church Hall, North Finchley.

Church Lane

traffic management

A request had been made at the previous Forum to make Church Lane, Trinity Road, Long Lane, Leslie Road and Leopold Road a 20mph zone. Full action details were not yet available, but a Barnet spokesperson told *THE ARCHER* later that The Finchley and Golders Green Area Environment Sub-Committee had just agreed that the council would investigate four potential options for Church Lane

The spokesperson said that this action had come about following a combination of factors, including an incident in January and a petition raised by local residents, as well as representations from local ward councillors.

Facilities for partially sighted in libraries

There was a complaint that Barnet library provision for the partially sighted was very poor. The speaker said that stock was difficult to find because it was not arranged systematically, and also asked for the provision of a magnifying glass, as is

done in other authorities. This question is to be referred to the relevant department.

At present, Barnet libraries stock large print books, music CDs and spoken word cassettes and CDs. The spoken word cassettes and CDs have a concessionary rate of no charge.

LED streetlights

It was asked whether it was true that Barnet would be a pilot user of LED streetlights, which are said to have a 20 year life-span, no dark patches and no mercury, and transmit far less pollution. The Highways Department said this was a very new development, and he was contacting Transport for London for more details.

Future Forums

Two people asked why full details of the next Forum meeting, including the venue, were no longer given out in the meeting.

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