



Residents target local issues

By Caroline Broome

The East Finchley Village Residents' Association, formed in June 2008, had its second meeting on 1 December at The Five Bells on East End Road. The meeting focused on two issues that specifically affect those residents who live in or around Church Lane.

First, since gas road works started on East End Road during autumn 2008, traffic had been diverting down Church Lane, perhaps redirected by GPS systems. Concern is growing that, since drivers have discovered this shortcut, they will continue to use it.

Traffic-calming

Previous submissions by local councillors to Barnet Council regarding recommendations and suggestions, such as 20mph speed limits, better junction signage and enforced parking restrictions at junctions, have so far come to nothing.

Concerns continue to grow regarding speeding, insufficient and unenforced parking restrictions, and driving the 'wrong way' over the bridge in Church Lane. The consensus was that something must be done before, and not as a result of, a road traffic fatality. There has already been a 'near miss' head-on collision on the bridge during summer 2008.

Suggestions were made for gaining community support by planning public events, possibly including local schools, as Church Lane is designated as a Safe Route to Schools.

Stag Court

The other item on the agenda was the planning appeal to establish a supermarket at Stag Court, 201-203 High Road, adjacent to Park Road and Lesley Road. Stag Court has an existing, and as yet unoccupied, ground floor area that could accommodate a small

local supermarket such as Tesco Metro. There were discussions about potential damage to existing local trade and, with Martin School just across the road, traffic congestion, parking conflicts and possible safety risks.

If you would like more infor-

mation about the East Finchley Village Residents' Association meeting, please contact Caroline and David Broome 020 8444 2329 or Patti and Bob Owens 020 8365 4621. The next meeting is 9 February at a venue to be decided.

News from the Safer Neighbourhood Team

By Sergeant Lee Benham

I would like to thank you all for your support during 2008. We will continue to address your issues and problems in the coming year to make sure that East Finchley is a safe place to live. I would like to wish you all a happy and prosperous new year and look forward to working with you in 2009.

During the cold weather, please spare a thought for elderly or disabled neighbours. Perhaps you could check to see that they are warm enough or offer to buy food so that they don't need to walk to the shops on icy, slippery pavements. If you feel that someone is in need of support greater than you can offer as a good neighbour, you can contact Help the Aged at info@helptheaged.org.uk or 020 7278 1114.

Meetings and messages

We have planned a series of public surgeries for the New Year. The first of these will be at the library between 2pm and 3pm on Saturday 17 January. Please come along to meet the team, get the latest crime prevention advice and raise



any concerns you have about crime and anti-social behaviour in your neighbourhood.

Have you noticed the new frontage to our office on the High Road? We're also going to install a new electronic message board in February which will provide up to the minute information about public meetings and crime prevention advice.

The Safer Neighbourhood office is at 113 East Finchley High Road, N2 8AG. You can phone us on 020 7161 9014 or 07887 632767, email us at EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk or talk to the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) you see on patrol.



Mrs Helen Morrison, the new Headteacher of Martin Primary School. Photo by Catrin Dillon

New headteacher makes an impact

By Helen Drake

Helen Morrison, the new headteacher at Martin Primary School and Nursery, has already made an enormous impact since she started last September. Notice boards have appeared in both playgrounds, a new homework policy has been written with parents, two learning mentors have been appointed to support families and children, and parents have been invited in to visit their children's lessons.

Someone to watch

Previously Deputy Head at Gospel Oak School in Camden, Mrs Morrison is a qualified Ofsted inspector and has an MA in Leadership and Management. Her step up to headship has been noticed in the national media. She has been interviewed by the Times Educational Supplement.

Feeling welcome

Mrs Morrison applied for the headship at Martin Primary because she says she felt she could make a difference. "This is a good school," said Mrs Morrison, "but it has the capacity to be outstanding. The governors have just approved our School Improvement Plan which incorporates a whole school priority for maths and

this will be made accessible to parents who can come and ask me about any aspect of it.

"The partnership we have with our parents is high on the agenda for me. Our Early Years provision is another area of focus for the school: we have a thriving nursery and I want to make sure the local community knows about it.

"Because we are now a Primary School we received extra funding for building works which we will be starting soon alongside a rolling programme of refurbishment. We are developing our website too."

She added: "This is a lovely, friendly school and I'm enjoying getting to know everyone connected with it. I've been made to feel very welcome".

Journalist turns lawyer

By Emma Suzuki

When I lived in East Finchley, I was a budding journalist and reported for THE ARCHER. Some years have passed and to my dismay I haven't made it as a journalist. In fact, my career led me down a decidedly different path and I am now a solicitor specialising in employment law.

During my ARCHER days, I wrote articles on the coming of artsdepot in North Finchley and the death of the Queen Mother. Now I find myself drafting employment tribunal application forms involving claims for constructive unfair dismissal, redundancy payments, wrongful dismissal and discrimination.

As a sole practitioner at UK Employment Law Matters, I sometimes feel like a journalist in that I constantly have deadlines and keep erratic hours. So perhaps my writing ambitions are being fulfilled after all.

Emma is based in Mill Hill and can be contacted on 020 8906 7741 or emmasuzuki@ukemploymentlaw.org.uk



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