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# THE ARCHER




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

## Parking zone changes are put on hold

By John Lawrence

**Barnet Council has put on hold its controversial proposals to extend the hours of parking restrictions in East Finchley after protests from residents and traders. Thousands signed a petition or wrote directly to complain at the impact they would have on local people and businesses, forcing the council to think again.**

In August, the council indicated that it would introduce Monday to Saturday all-day parking restrictions to streets on either side of the High Road. Traders immediately protested that such a move would sound the death knell for many independent businesses and 2,000 people signed a petition calling for the council to think again.

Many spoke out vociferously at the Finchley and Golders Green Residents Forum meeting attended by more than 80 people on 26 October. In response, they were told that the strength of the protest meant the council would reconsider whether to press ahead with the plan.

Neil Richardson, acting highways manager, told the forum: "It is not my call as a council officer to say we are going to scrap the proposals but given the depth of feeling expressed here tonight and from letters sent to the council I see no reason to dig my heels in and go ahead at this stage."

Without the protests, the controlled parking zone plan would have moved on automatically to 'statutory consultation', ahead of implementation. That step has been frozen while Barnet councillors formally consider the objections. A decision should be known later in November.

Many who spoke at the forum said it was wrong to propose the extra restrictions when only 17% of residents and traders (689 in total) responded to the original 2008 council CPZ questionnaire, and when only a minority of those who did respond (44.8%) said they had parking problems.

Dino Loizou, of East Finchley Electrical Contractors, said: "We don't have any council car parks in the area. If you take away the free parking that's available, it's going to affect every business in the area."

Chris Hampson, a resident of Huntingdon Road, said: "There is a consensus in the county roads that the 2pm-3pm restriction is fine and doesn't need to be extended. We support the traders because local businesses are extremely important to our community."

Two residents living closer to Cherry Tree Wood called on the council to ease the all-day parking restriction in their roads. This was introduced four years ago to head off a potential parking problem from students attending The Institute. Some residents say this problem has never materialised and a 2pm-3pm restriction is sufficient to deter commuters. *More CPZ reports on page 4.*



Dean Parrett, centre, and Tony Parks, right, with the Martin Primary School team. Photo by Shane Vincent.

## Football stars spur on campaign to save Stanley Road field

By Rob Robertson

**Two stars from Tottenham Hotspur visited Stanley Road playing field on 30 September, in support of the campaign to prevent housing development on the site and save it for sporting and recreational use.**

Spurs goalkeeping coach Tony Parks and Spurs Academy player Dean Parrett were present for a five-a-side football competition, organised by the Finchley Community Development Trust (FCDT), between Holy Trinity CE School and Martin Primary School.

Tony and Dean cheered on the young players and Tony refereed the final, which was narrowly won by Martin School. The Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Brian Coleman, was on hand to present the trophy to the winning team and all the children who took part in the tournament received a medal.

Roger Chapman, FCDT chairman, was pleased by the turnout of more than 150 people, and thanked all those who had helped to make the event a success. Noting that, in winning the bid for the 2012 Olympics, we were promised there would be a benefit for local communities, Mr Chapman said: "Rejuvenating this field could be East Finchley's Olympic legacy."

For more information on the Stanley Road Field campaign contact Rob Robertson at the FCDT on 020 8883 4916.

See the match report on page 6.



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