



Wheels turn slowly on crossing safety at busy junction

By Daphne Chamberlain

Pedestrian safety when crossing The Bishops Avenue at the junction with the Great North Road has been a worry for at least 20 years. A glance into *The Archer* archives reveals public worries and news of proposals from Barnet Council, which came to nothing.

In February last year, people were told that a traffic survey was being carried out, to be followed by consultation with the borough of Haringey, whose boundary is just to the south of The Bishops Avenue, and with the local community.

The Archer has asked Barnet for more facts. Now we have been told that the traffic survey was started "early this year" and completed at the end of April, along with modelling data.

As we reported last month, Transport for London (TFL) have been engaged to investigate the feasibility of introducing a controlled crossing with traffic signals. At the time of going to press, TFL told us that

they were waiting for Barnet Council's service agency Capita to send them the results of the traffic survey.

A TFL spokesperson said they should be able to complete their considerations in about a couple of months, once they had received the survey results. After that, it would be Barnet's responsibility to draw up a proposal and to consult with local people and with Haringey.

We asked whether a previous proposal to divert east-bound traffic was still open. Barnet Council told us: "We are considering several options, and a final decision has not been made on how the scheme will be progressed."

Ideas to make a difference

The Grange Big Local project is offering grants to residents and local organisations with ideas that can bring a positive impact to the area at the northern end of East Finchley.

Residents can apply for grants up to £500 and organisations up to £10,000 to run community projects in the Grange Big Local area, bordered by the High Road, Church Lane, East End Road and the North Circular.

It could be a gardening project, a community lunch, a community jumble trail, a junior disco, or equipment for a youth group. Whatever it is, it has to be open to everyone.

The deadline for applica-

tions is Monday 24 June. Apply online at www.grangebiglocal.org/grants. Find out more from community engagement manager Claire Meade by email on Claiрем.gbl@community-barnet.org.uk

Lights go out at Fortis Green

The traffic lights outside Domino's Pizza at the corner of Fortis Green were flattened again in late April after a large vehicle failed to manoeuvre round the tight bend off the southbound High Road. East Finchley councillors have suggested various solutions to this recurring danger, including mounting the traffic lights directly on a building, but have been unable to get approval.

The problem still remains that some vehicles are mounting the pavement to make the bend so pedestrians are warned to stay vigilant when they are standing on that corner waiting to cross.



Helping cats and dogs: Fleur, left, from the RSPCA receives the donation from left to right, Helena, Anamika, Darcey and Ruby. Photo Mike Coles

Pet adoption posters catch the eye... and the cash

By David Melsome

Earlier in the spring, handmade posters began appearing on trees and lampposts around certain areas of East Finchley urging people to look after their pets and to help the RSPCA find new homes for pets that had been abandoned.

The charming drawings and heartfelt words on the posters were drawn and written in their own time by Brookland Junior School pupils Darcey, Helena, Mika and Ruby. The four friends feel strongly about the mistreatment of animals and so created the Pet Adoption project.

What surprised them was that passers-by were willing to put their hands in their pockets to help. Some of the posters con-

tained 'money pockets' inviting donations to the RSPCA, and in this way the girls were able to collect £70. They handed over the cash at East Finchley's RSPCA charity shop last month.

Helena said: "We created Pets Adoption because we were very upset that some animals didn't have a shelter. We wanted to help them."

Darcey said: "I know a cat in Spain that was abandoned because no one could afford to keep her. I felt sad and thought that the RSPCA could help unwanted pets in England if they had more money."

Mika added: "It was especially exciting when we found out that we had managed to raise £70 in our collection buckets."

Ruby added: "I was a bit surprised about how much



Poster power: One of the girls' messages, with donations box attached.

money people donated. It was very kind of them."

Their posters were mostly placed around one side of East Finchley, around Ossulton Way, East End Road and Long Lane.

McDonalds on High Road?

There was some speculation last month that McDonalds had applied to open one of its restaurants in the vacant unit on the High Road formerly occupied by Pizza Hut.

Anyone in favour of a new McDonalds might have said it would bring much-needed new footfall and trade into the area. Those against might have thrown their hands up in horror at the lack of parking outside and the prospect of more takeaway cartons and cups adding to the litter on our streets.

As the premises are already a former takeaway restaurant, McDonalds would not need to

apply for a change of use to take it over, although it is a very small site by the company's standards.

In any event, it all turns out to be a rumour and nothing more. When *The Archer* checked directly with the McDonalds press office, based in the company's UK headquarters just across the road from the empty restaurant, we were told that no application had been lodged and nothing was currently planned.



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