



Danger of traffic lights switch off

By John Lawrence

Pedestrians and drivers will be put in danger if a plan to remove traffic lights from a major junction in East Finchley goes ahead, it has been claimed.

The lights at the junction of East End Road and Ossulton Way are one of three sets in Barnet that have been earmarked for removal. The two other Barnet sites are the traffic lights at the junction of East Barnet Road and Margaret Road in New Barnet, and the pelican crossing at the junction of Great North Road and Lyonsdown Road in Totteridge.

Transport for London (TfL) put forward the proposal after carrying out a review of 1,003 signals across the capital in a bid to find those causing unnecessary delays. A total of 145 sites were identified.

Traffic controls essential

However, some people are concerned that the Ossulton Way T-junction is a busy intersection that needs controls and is the only place along this stretch of East End Road where pedestrians can cross in safety.

Mukund Shah has run R S

Dry Cleaners next to the junction for 21 years. He remembers that before the lights were installed accidents occurred there frequently.

"One car even pulled out of Ossulton Way straight into the house opposite," he said. "Since the lights were put in there have been no problems. It's a bad idea to get rid of them. East End Road is a very fast road and drivers will not slow down if there are no lights to make them do so."

TfL said it will be discussing the proposals with Barnet Council and deciding whether the signals should be removed altogether or replaced with alternative measures. There is no confirmation at this stage on whether a pedestrian crossing would be preserved. In response, a Barnet Council spokesman said: "The council is interested in all proposals to improve traffic movement from TfL or anywhere else."

How to hold a street party

Residents of Cherry Tree Road held their inaugural street party on Saturday 10 July. The road, cleared of cars, decked in bunting and bathed in glorious sunshine, played host to a variety of activities including a bouncy castle, face painting, limbo dancing and World Cup table football.



Around 70 people came to the party and the day was a resounding success. The sight of residents of all ages skipping through a sprinkler in the middle of the road is an image that will live in the memory.

As one resident commented: "An event like this has been a long time coming." Another said: "I've been a resident for 10 years and always regretted that families, many with young children, were not able to socialise more with one another."

The event was organised by a small group of residents and sponsored by Dan & Decarlo at 20 High Road.

Party planning

Ollie Mellman, one of the organisers, had some tips for anyone thinking of running their own street party:

- 1) Apply to the council early: you'll need a road closure licence and they may impose some conditions such as insurance;
- 2) Sound out residents as the council will want to know they've been consulted;
- 3) Put an informal committee together and meet in early spring, preferably over a bottle of wine;
- 4) Be aware that a street party isn't to everyone's taste;
- 5) Don't overdo the entertainment and leave time for the residents to get to know each other;
- 6) Encourage resident participation by inviting them to bring a dish or seek out much-needed raffle prizes;
- 7) Plan for all weathers!

Is the charity of your choice getting your gift?

Despite charity shops displaying notices asking for goods to be handed in during opening hours, it is not uncommon to see bags and other containers left outside overnight and at weekends.

One Sunday morning in July, a woman was seen rifling through black bags, which were on the pavement outside the North London Hospice shop at 123 High Road. She left carrying what looked like coats and other garments over her arm a few minutes before this photo was taken. The subsequent littering of the area can be clearly seen.



Good intentions going to waste.

Photo by Diana Cormack

it also means we are unable to take these bags in, so the contents do not get sold."

Shop manageress Eugenia von Piccardio told *THE ARCHER*: "People should always give their goods to someone on duty in the shop. An added problem if they are left outside is that dogs are attracted to the black bags. Due to the effect of some chemical in the plastic, the dogs then urinate over them. As well as this not being very pleasant,

Police station open for business

Muswell Hill and Fortis Green police officers are concerned that some members of the public may still not be aware that their station office, operated by volunteers, is open to assist the public.

The opening hours are as follows: Monday 10am-6pm; Tuesday to Friday 10am-2pm. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, call 020 8345 2172 or email metvolunteersHaringey@met.police.uk. The station office address is 115 Fortis Green, N2 9HW.

Reading tutor offers help

An experienced volunteer tutor is offering help to students or adults of any age who would like to improve their reading. Lorna Roberts lives in East End Road and has been a volunteer at Barnet College for improving students' reading and writing for 20 years. Lorna can be contacted on lornaharry@gmail.com or 020 8883 9263.

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