



CCTV footage leads to arrest

By Janet Maitland

A 17-year-old girl has been arrested and charged with attempted robbery at a party that she gatecrashed on Beresford Road in the early hours of Saturday 6 February.

She allegedly threatened party-goers with a knife, demanding cash and mobile phones, and was later seen on CCTV allegedly smashing the window of the Safer Neighbourhood Team office on the High Road. The girl, who cannot be named because of her age, was identified and arrested at 3pm on 8 February. She was also charged with criminal damage.



Mayor of London objects to medical centre

By Janet Maitland

The Mayor of London has raised further objections to a second application to increase the size of a medical centre planned for the site of the former Finchley Manor Garden centre on East End Road.

In September 2008 Barnet Council gave permission, which still stands, to Cloverdale Estates for a medical centre of less than 1,000 square metres. However, the property development company then submitted a further application for a centre of over 2,000 square metres.

Barnet Council refused permission for this last December. Their grounds were that the open character of the land, designated as Metropolitan Open Land, which has similar building restrictions to the Green Belt, would be spoilt, because of the number of enclosed cycling spaces now required as a result of the increase in size. There were also a number of sustainability requirements that had not been met.

Drop in for crime prevention

By Janet Maitland

The Church End Safer Neighbourhood Team has started a new drop-in surgery on the third Wednesday of every month at the Library on Hendon Lane, N3. The next one is on 17 March between 12 noon and 2pm. Pop in if you'd like to raise any issues about local crime, or if you'd like some advice about crime prevention.

The team will continue to run the drop-in surgery at Avenue House on East End Road on the first Wednesday of every month, also between 12 noon and 2pm. For more information, contact the team on 020 8733 5598.

Watch out, scams about

By Janet Maitland

If a man you didn't know knocked at your door asking to borrow £10, would you give it to him?

Probably not. But what if he said he was a neighbour from a few doors along who was trying to rush to hospital as his partner had just gone into labour, but his son was at home with a friend and they needed the money for the electric meter? You probably would, even if you didn't recognise him, particularly if he was well spoken and charming and offered to leave his mobile as security.

The Golders Green and Childs Hill Safer Neighbourhood Team are warning members of the public about a man doing exactly this. He is described as a white male aged 25-30 with dark blonde hair, who has managed successfully to con money off several elderly or vulnerable people. As yet, there are no reports as of this man operating in East Finchley.

Telecoms tricksters

Separately, Barnet Borough Watch is warning people about another door-to-door scam. Two men called on a house in Cecilia Close claiming to be from telecoms companies AOL or TalkTalk. Described as being in their mid-20s, they looked official, wearing plastic cards on lanyards round their necks and holding notebooks. They said they were updating computer systems.

When the victim told them he wasn't interested, the men insisted they had to come in. The victim refused and rang AOL who said that for all updates an email would always be sent in advance. Neighbours also experienced the same trick.

If any of these bogus callers come to your house, dial 999. If you have any information that could help to track them down, call 0300 123 1212.

Sign up for crime alerts

By Sergeant Andy Matthews

We've worked hard on reducing crime in the last year and are pleased that the number of recorded offences in East Finchley has fallen by 6%. But we're committed to making your neighbourhood a safer place to live, work and visit, so there's no room for complacency.

We've set up a new initiative called E-WATCH, which will alert you if an incident such as burglary or vehicle crime has happened on your street or very nearby.

All we need to start this new scheme is your email address, your home address and your name. The addresses will be filed under street name and will only be used to get in touch with you. They will not be passed to any third party.

An added bonus is that a resident or business can use E-



WATCH to feed back to us anything you think we should be aware of. To take part, email the address below. Don't forget to tell us your name and postal address.

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.

Protected tree damaged by building work

By Janet Maitland

A giant, ancient cedar tree protected by a tree preservation order has been damaged as a result of building work on the site of the former Thomas More Centre on East End Road.

Janice Wagner, who lives close by, informed THE ARCHER that she saw workmen on a hydraulic lift cutting off four or five lower branches of the tree with a chainsaw on 4 February. She reported this to Barnet Council and Councillor Colin Rogers, who visited the site later that day.

"The site manager told me he had permission to prune the tree, but he couldn't show me anything from the council to prove it," said Janice Wagner. "The architect came to see me later in the day and said that the branches were already broken so they were lopped off. But they were all right before the building work started."

Council action awaited

Cllr. Rogers said the contractors explained they had cut the branches off to make room for the machinery to be used for excavation work to build the underground car park. He added: "But they didn't ask permission

and the council may decide to prosecute."

The planning application for the building states that 'none of the trees will have to be pruned' for the work to be carried out.

A Barnet Council spokesperson said: "We're investigating the matter and will be formally interviewing the developer before deciding what further action is appropriate."

"If the council decides not to prosecute," said Janice Wagner, "I'm worried that the builders will not take enough care when they're excavating and will damage the roots."

The planning application states that the roots of the tree will not be damaged when excavation takes place, because they are already restricted by the wall that runs along the edge of the site. However, as a precaution, sheet piling will be used to support the sides of the hole.

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For more information

please contact the Church Office

Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke)

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