



Street works website

really works

By Daphne Chamberlain
Are you worried about fly-tipping, broken pavements, missing signs, poor lighting, dog mess, or any similar problem that makes life unpleasant or unsafe? Would you like to know that your complaints are recorded, and to see at a tap of a computer key if other people have complained as well?

If so, visit www.fixmystreet.com. This national website relays complaints to local authorities within minutes. It also displays statistics of problems reported and problems fixed in each authority.

One resident who reported a potential danger was Gill Steiner. She wrote to tell us the story: I thought I might mention that I consider I had a lucky escape when I was cycling along Fortis Green in the direction of East Finchley. I cycle close to the pavement. In the section between Eastern Road and Western Road, there is a drain which is much lower than the rest of the road and you only notice this when you are nearly on top of it so the natural thing to do is to cycle round it, swerving out just as you notice it. But at that point the road is only six metres wide and it is of course the busy A504, with buses. A car virtually brushed me. Of course, I do not blame the driver. That day I reported the danger to Haringey via the council website, and I was told the contractor should deal with it soon. The drain has been fixed in the last day or two and I have just been to see it. Now it is flush with the rest of the road. Reported 19 March, fixed 8 May. I am so proud! It is definitely worth reporting these sorts of issues to councils.



Bin bother

Last month, we reported on the changes to Barnet Council's waste collections to be introduced from 2013, including the provision of an extra wheelie bin to collect recyclable waste. But what if wheelie bins don't fit outside your house? Here, Betti Blatman explains why she already has bin bother.

I live on the Thomas More estate, which was built more than 30 years ago with bin cupboards located outside our front door. As this was prior to the introduction of wheelie bins and the height of the bin cupboard was unable to accommodate them, Barnet Council has for many years provided us with a large quantity of black bin liners twice yearly, where we place our rubbish. That was until we received the following letter from Jason Armitage and Jane Theobald, acting Refuse Services managers:

"With effect from 1 April 2012, London Borough of Barnet will cease the free delivery of black refuse sacks to those residents who do not have adequate storage facilities to store a wheeled container.

"Under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 local authorities can specify the type of container/refuse sacks used for refuse storage and collection and make

a charge for providing the container/refuse sacks. Residents will be responsible for purchasing their own refuse sacks to place their domestic household waste in.

"If you feel that you have adequate space and would like your property to be accessed for a wheeled container collection please contact our Street Based Services Team. Alternatively, refuse sacks are available for purchase and delivery through London Borough of Barnet for a small charge."

When I phoned them, I was advised that the cost of refuse sacks from the council was £5 for 50, to which I replied that it's not "a small charge" if you can get 44 bin liners for £1 at the pound shop.

I also learned that the cost of a wheelie bin is £32.50, to which I enquired why is the green wheelie bin for garden waste provided free of charge? I was informed that "it's the Council's policy and it's up to me if I want to pay for a black wheelie bin".

Suffice to say that I will continue purchasing my refuse sacks at the pound shop, and use the existing bin in my bin cupboard.

Outnumbered star backs hospice

By Diana Cormack

Daniel Roche, who plays Ben, one of the three children in BBC TV's long-running comedy *Outnumbered* has accepted the role of an ambassador for the Noah's Ark Children's Hospice.

Local boy Daniel, 12, proved popular when he attended the opening of the charity's first shop in Barnet with *Britain's Got Talent* finalist Stavros Flatley last November. He joins such stars as Shane Richie, Elaine Paige and Andy Page as ambassadors of the charity, which recently received a community grant for £480 from the North Finchley branch of Sainsbury's. Visit www.noahsarkhospice.org.uk for more information.

Youth charged again

By Janet Maitland

A 17-year-old local youth has been charged with two further offences while serving a community sentence for another crime. One offence was committed just 15 days after he was given the community sentence.

The youth, who cannot be named because of his age, has been charged with robbing a boy of his mobile and an iPad on 26 June last year. He was also charged with possession of a knife which he used to threaten a boy on 31 January this year. Both offences took place on The Causeway, the footpath behind the station. The youth was arrested and charged with these offences in early May.

The same youth bit a boy on the face on East End Road and then stole his mobile last October. For this crime he was sentenced to a 12-month Youth Offender Panel Referral Order on 16 January by

Hendon Magistrates Court (*The Archer*, March 2012).

The aim of a Youth Offender Panel referral is to bind the offender to a contract which includes reparation to the victim or the wider community and a programme of activity to change their behaviour. As the youth has broken the contract, he will be sent back to court where the sentence for the original offence will be reviewed. He will also be tried for the new offences.

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