



Letters to the Editor

Parking –

where's your proof?

Dear Editor,

Debbie Hoare's parking permit ordeal (*THE ARCHER*, September 2012) brought to mind my own dealings with Barnet Council over my parking permit earlier this year.

I had renewed my permit in good time but I did not receive it in the post before the old one expired. As directed by Barnet Parking Services, I printed out a copy of the permit from an email attachment and placed it on the dashboard of my car. This copy was clearly displayed, although I was still calling the council over a week later asking when I was going to receive the real permit.

One Saturday morning, I found a penalty charge notice stuck on my car, informing me that I had infringed parking regulations by not displaying a valid permit (despite the fact that a print-out of said permit was clearly visible). I removed this, only to find that when I returned to my car an hour later another penalty had been issued.

I emailed Barnet Parking Services to protest against both charges, attaching a photograph I had taken of the print-out permit showing it clearly displayed on the dashboard. In the event, the charges were overturned.

My conclusion from this experience is that it always helps to have photographic evidence.

Yours faithfully,
Nick Young,
High Road, N2.

Barnet's parking shambles

Dear Editor,

Debbie Hoare (*THE ARCHER*, September 2012) is not the only resident of the Summerlee Estate to suffer from over-zealous operation of CPZ rules.

Knowing that I was going to be away on business when my permit expired, I renewed online, and paid by credit card. However, the system malfunctioned, and I was unable to print out the temporary parking permit.

On contacting the Parking team, I was told that a dispensation would be given, and a full permit mailed out to me immediately. Needless to say, I departed on my business trip a few days later, without receiving the permit. On my return, I found a parking ticket on my car.

I informed the Parking team that I had renewed the permit online, and, after some delay, was informed that my informal challenge was not accepted. I have now formally challenged the ticket. Residents should be aware that there is a further stage of challenge, whereby the case is referred to an independent adjudicator, who will decide the merits of the case. I have used this service successfully in the past.

The operation of the CPZ scheme has been a total shambles right from the start, including the imposition of swingeing price increases and unreasonable hours of operation. Residents should complain to their councillor about the scheme. I certainly will!

Yours faithfully,
John McMillan
Summerlee Gardens, N2.

Happy memories of Horace

Dear Editor,

I have happy memories of the man called Horace. I remember him from the time when I first moved to

East Finchley more than 25 years ago, with my rescued Alsatian dog Sylvie. He greeted us with "The best of luck!" every time he saw us, even when on the 234 bus going to Muswell Hill.

He loved my dogs, always remembering their names. Sylvie was joined by two more dogs in need of a caring owner. Horace told me "Jesus made them".

When he saw me without a dog he used to ask where they were and "How many dogs do you have now?" I shall miss him.

Yours faithfully,
Margo Mattinson,
Fortis Green, N2.

Six months as councillor

Dear Editor,

Today I celebrate six months as ward councillor for East Finchley, and I wanted to report back on some of the things that I have been doing. In East Finchley there are some important issues such as pedestrian safety and school places which have active community groups campaigning on them. In general, I have tried to support these groups, and we have had some success, such as when the Council tried to remove the railings outside Martin School.

I have been working with my ward colleagues Alison Moore and Colin Rogers on some of the other issues that people are concerned about, such as parking and crime. In my first week as a councillor I spoke in the Council chamber about the parking situation, and we are continuing to press the Council for more concessions. There are a number of important issues affecting the borough, not the least the One Barnet Programme. I have been campaigning against it, and trying to raise awareness amongst residents of what the effects will be.

However, I think my most important role is in helping people with casework. I find it very rewarding to help people, and I have found my training at the former East Finchley Advice Service has been helpful. I see some very difficult cases, and it gives a real buzz to get a successful resolution to a case. In all this though, I have had phenomenal support from my colleagues, and I want to take the opportunity to thank Alison and Colin for their support over these six months. I enjoy the role, and I still can't quite believe it when I walk down the High Street and think to myself "I represent this!"

Cllr Arjun Kumar Mittra,
East Finchley Ward.

My plans for the pavilion

Dear Editor,

I would like to let people know that Barnet Council has all the plans of what I'm planning to do with the pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood. It is just going to be a normal café serving the usual food and drink along with some healthy options and seasonal food where possible. Opening hours will match those of the park.

I want to preserve the shape of the pavilion building and realise there will be particular problems with the roof. The refurbishment will not mean the removal or damage of any trees.

Yours faithfully,
Pepe Dostizad.

The added dimension

By Daphne Chamberlain

Have you seen the advertisement in *THE ARCHER* for a Soul Therapy Diploma Course? If so, are you intrigued or sceptical? The Soul Therapy Centre's co-director, Ingrid Collins, will settle for either reaction. She says, "Sceptics I love. Not cynics. They're on a different path. But it's good to be sceptical."

Ingrid herself is registered with the Science Council and a member of the Parliamentary group looking into integrated and complementary health care. She worked as an educational psychologist with the ILEA, and then continued in private practice.

Many ways to the mountain top

When her cat, Amber, was dying from kidney failure, it was one of Ingrid's clients who cured her with spiritual healing. "Amber was there, waiting, before every visit. They both knew far more than I did." Told that she, too, could be a channel for healing, she put out her hands to a neighbour with back-ache. They both experienced the sensation of positive energy. From then on, she combined scientific training with the world of spirituality. She told us, "It is essential that people realise there are many ways to the mountain top. Professionals in each camp do harm by not understanding each other."

It was because clients asked her to train them that Ingrid set up the Centre in her home in Fortismere Avenue, Muswell Hill, in 1996. The Centre is registered with the British Alliance of Healing Associations, and the two-year diploma course, including an external oral and practical examination, leads to a nationally accredited spiritual healing qualification. Students can then set up their



Ingrid Collins in her garden. Photo by Daphne Chamberlain

own practice, as members of the Soul Therapy Association of Spiritual Healers. Drawn from all ages and backgrounds, they have learned basic counselling skills as well as allowing themselves to channel the added dimension of healing energy.

Ingrid and co-directors, Kathryn Scorza and Adriana

Penalosa-Clarke, believe that working with spiritual energy is effective and practical. Ingrid says, "We are not referring to the soul in a religious sense. Soul therapy is a way of addressing healing at every level."

For more information, see www.soul-therapy.co.uk or call 020 8883 8562.

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