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# THE ARCHER



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**CARS & COURIERS**

August 2013 No. 237 **20p**  
 ISSN 1361-3952 where sold

*A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.*

## Parking zone court battle: residents win

By Diana Cormack

**After winning a momentous High Court victory in their fight against higher parking charges, campaigners in East Finchley have warned Barnet Council to back off and accept the judge's decision rather than wasting more public money by taking it to appeal.**

On 22 July, Summerlee Avenue resident David Attfield and the Barnet CPZ Action team were told they were right to say the hike in charges for residents in controlled parking zones was unlawful because they were aimed at maximising revenue and not by any parking management need.

It was a High Court decision that was being closely watched by national motoring organisations and by councils and resident groups across the country.

Unless an appeal is brought and succeeds, residents in East Finchley's CPZ zones will be able to claim back from the council the additional money they have been charged. The council will also need to re-set the charges.

The price hikes in April 2011 saw the cost of a resident's permit rise from £40 to £100 and a visitor voucher rise from £1 to £4. Further inflation increases were imposed in 2012, in the campaigners' words making dropping off for a coffee in East Finchley as expensive as parking outside Harrods.

Barnet Council leader Richard Cornelius responded to the judgement by admitting that the increases had been introduced "too abruptly and rather charm-

lessly" but went on to say the council would appeal against the decision, saying its charges were in line with other London boroughs and the way it spent the revenue was legal.

David Attfield said this response entirely missed the point of the court decision. He said: "It is like saying 'it's ok to pick your pocket because I will spend the money wisely'. An appeal would just waste further money and delay residents receiving the refunds to which they are entitled."

Mr Attfield pointed out that the trial judge refused to give the Council permission to appeal stating that an "appeal has no real prospect of success".

Reaction to the court decision from CPZ residents was jubilant. Jacky Wood, of Cherry Tree Road, said: "Wow, this is better than a royal baby! Thank you David Attfield and supporters for fighting our cause and let's hope Barnet Council will accept this eminently reasonable judgment and not try to drag it on at our expense."

Barnet CPZ Action has launched an online petition urging the council to accept the ruling and not to expose David Attfield to further legal costs. The petition can be signed at <http://petitions.barnet.gov.uk/CPZAction/>



Eva Schloss, centre, with Manorside children and staff after planting the tree.

## A tree that will always blossom in memory of Anne Frank

**For generations to come, a cherry tree will blossom in the garden of Manorside Primary School in memory of Anne Frank. The tree was planted by her stepsister and Holocaust survivor Eva Schloss, 84, with the help of children at the school in Squires Lane.**

Eva, whose mother married Anne's father Otto after the Second World War, spoke to year 6 pupils after the planting. She recalled how her father once said: "If the world was going to end tomorrow, I would still plant a tree today."

She told pupils: "Trees are so important to us because they bring us life. They bring us food and they are a home to wildlife. But remember that a human life is much more vital than a tree's. When a tree is threatened many people will object. When one and a half million children were killed across Europe [in the Holocaust], no one said anything."

Anne Frank wrote in her diary about the cherry blossom tree she could see from the attic window where she was in hiding from the Nazis and it came to symbolise her dreams of freedom that never came true.

After the tree-planting, artist Cindy Lass presented the school with a print of her painting of Anne in her attic, seen through the branches of the cherry tree.

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