



# Residents trash new rubbish and recycling system

By Nick Young

**'Bingate' is how many are describing the implementation of Barnet Council's new rubbish and recycling collection scheme, the first few weeks of which saw uncollected waste on the streets and many complaints from residents.**

Barnet Council paid German contractor SSI Schaeffer £3.2million to produce and distribute 125,000 bins as part of the new recycling scheme, which will see householders not having to sort recyclable waste. However, many residents were not given the new bins in time for collections, leaving rubbish and recycling left on the streets for up to three weeks in places.

One local resident, Katharine Lea-Robbins of Park Hall Road, described "wet cardboard, split bin bags, rubbish everywhere."

"Absolute rubbish!" was how another resident, Roland Rowe of High Road, appropriately described the situation.

## Who gets the sack?

Under the new system, residents have been provided with a small brown bin for kitchen waste and a large blue wheelie-bin which will take all recyclable waste, although some households have been given plastic sacks for the latter purpose instead. There has been much confusion over which households are entitled to blue bins.

The Council had, according to a press spokesman, "carried out a survey of roads in the borough to identify properties that may not be able to accommodate the new recycling bins." In some streets, however, some households received blue bins while others in the same street were given plastic sacks.

One resident commented: "It seems they did not order enough bins and they have sent various contradictory letters about who is entitled to them, but when the excuse is challenged they sometimes give in to pressure."

## Council's response

A spokesman for Barnet Council said: "The council will review any outstanding issues with containers ... if residents request a blue bin we will be happy to supply one providing it is practical. For example, that it will not cause an obstruction to the pavement."

There has even been confusion over the new collection days, although the relevant information was communicated to residents via an information pack distributed with the blue bins. Although almost all residents have both the blue bins and the black rubbish bins collected on the same day, the council has advised that they are not collected at the same time in order to avoid congestion. For further clarification, see the council's website. ([www.barnet.gov.uk/homepage/286/bin\\_collection\\_dates](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/homepage/286/bin_collection_dates))

What's been your experience of the new recycling and rubbish system, good or bad? Write and tell us by email at [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net), by post at The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE or Facebook/Twitter TheArcherN2

## Is the recycling system even legal?

*There have been rumours that the new recycling scheme will fall foul of forthcoming EU regulations that states recyclable materials should be collected separately. THE ARCHER asked Barnet Council for clarification on this point, and received the following reply:*

*"The EU's revised Waste Framework Directive states 'waste shall be collected separately if technically, environmentally and economically practicable'. We are confident that we will pass the tests in relation to the technical, environmental and economic reasons why a separated collection is not viable in Barnet.*

*"The Council's decision made in April 2012 was evaluated on all the criteria which form part of the test to ensure that the approach is acceptable for its new comingled recycling collection.*

*"With the Council's previous recycling collection method, performance had plateaued at around 33% of household waste being recycled, composted or reused. A change in method was necessary to improve on this performance, reduce costs and reduce the environmental impact of disposing of waste."*



Children from Holy Trinity help to unveil the plaque with the Bobath Centre's Jayne Pearce, Mike Freer MP and the Finchley Society's David Smith.

# Outside the old school gates

**If you've passed the Bobath Centre recently, you may have noticed that a new plaque has appeared on the fence alongside the pavement on East End Road. It marks the building as the original site for Holy Trinity School, which moved to nearby Eagans Close in 1975.**

Pupils from today's Holy Trinity came along to witness the unveiling at a small ceremony one morning in late September, as did Finchley and Golders Green MP Mike Freer and the Bobath Centre's Jayne Pearce.

The plaque has been put there by the Finchley Society using part of a £5,000 bequest from supporter Peggy Wells, who wanted the society to find ways to mark local history.

The original Holy Trinity School was founded in 1847 after the Bishop of London

handed over a parcel of land at the request of Holy Trinity Church. It was designed by local resident Anthony Salvin, a leading Victorian architect better known for restoring Windsor and Alnwick castles.

Finchley Society chairman David Smith said: "When the school was built, the High Road didn't exist and the centre of East Finchley life was in Market Place. All around was open land and East End Road was then a narrow country lane with a few cottages."

The plaque tells us that the school opened with room for 80 girls, 80 boys (their separate entrances are still visible) and 80 infants, with a headmaster and headmistress living in

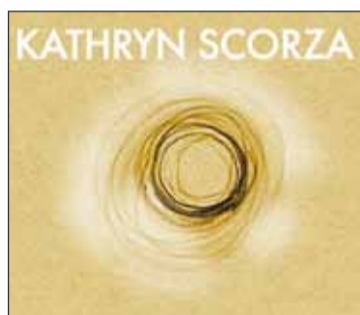
tiny houses at either end of the building.

In those days, schooling didn't come for free. Parents were required to pay six pence a week for their first child and three pence for any siblings, while fees for infants were two pence a week.

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