



## CPZ legal battle reaches climax

The two-year legal fight to overturn Barnet Council's parking charges for residents in controlled parking zones (CPZs) finally comes to trial at the High Court on 2 July.

The legal fight centres on the decision by Barnet Council in 2011 to increase parking charges by up to 300%, pushing the cost of a single visitor voucher to over £4, far higher than in comparable boroughs.

At the time, Barnet Council argued that the increases were necessary in order to help pay for bus passes and for road repairs across the borough but opponents argued that it was unfair, and unlawful, to load so much of these costs on CPZ residents when 90% of the borough's residents park for free at home and don't have to pay for visitors to park.

The legal action is being brought by East Finchley resident David Attfield and is being supported by the Barnet CPZ Action Group. Over the past two years it has raised awareness of the charges and the campaign has featured on TV, radio and in the press.

Late last year, half-day visit vouchers were introduced for

CPZ residents, nearly halving the cost of visitor parking for residents in East Finchley's one-hour CPZ area. However, even with this new cheaper voucher, Barnet residents face charges that are up to seven times higher than in the neighbouring Fortis Green CPZ in Haringey.

### Donations sought

Although David Attfield's legal team are acting under 'no win, no fee' agreements, he will be liable for Barnet's legal costs should he lose the action. Barnet CPZ Action are therefore urgently seeking donations to help meet these but point out that they hope to return the bulk of donations should the legal action be successful.

More information can be found and donations can be made online at the website [www.barnetcpz.blogspot.com](http://www.barnetcpz.blogspot.com). Donations can also be made by cheque made payable to Barnet CPZ Action and sent to 88 Summerlee Avenue, East Finchley, N2 9QH.

## A talking newspaper

Barnet Borough Talking Newspaper (BBTN) is a local charity that has been working for the visually impaired in Barnet for more than 35 years.

Teams of unpaid volunteers meet every week at its studio in Muswell Hill to read a selection of articles on a wide range of local topics from the Barnet newspapers, and record them onto CDs for free distribution to sight-impaired people in the borough.

The group's aim is to help those with visual impairment to keep up to date with what's going on in locally and to let them know about coming events and services. It uses free postal services to distribute the CDs but for all other expenses, such as electricity, stationery, maintenance, CDs and equipment, BBTN relies on the generosity of its Friends and other donors.

Do you have the time to help in any aspect of its work, perhaps on the technical side, as a producer or reader, or as part of the editorial or admin teams? Full training will be given. Could you act as a contact with our blind friends in your area or would you become a Friend?

For details on how to get involved please contact BBTN at: BBTN, The Studio, 11a Wetherill Road, London N10 2LS. Telephone 020 8883 8008 or email [BBTN@talktalk.net](mailto:BBTN@talktalk.net)



Children at Coldfall Primary School scale the heights of their new climbing wall. Photo by Josie Dobrin

## Teachers send pupils up the wall

Youngsters at Coldfall Primary School have been scaling new heights on a climbing wall recently installed in their playground. The school, in Coldfall Avenue, launched the wall with a special climbing-themed assembly celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay reaching the summit of Mount Everest in May 1953.

## Cyclists break out of town

The annual Suburban Breakout is back, brought to you by Central London CTC, and this year it's a "fairly easy" 100km blast into Hertfordshire.

"One or two little lumps, but you can go hard, or you can take it steady. Your speed overall must be above 15km/h, no more than 30km/h," says organiser Nick Bloom. "It's an ideal first event, and a good 'first on fixed'."

This is an audax, so it's about getting round under your own steam. You will have to follow the route sheet

and sort out any mechanicals. There are no timing chips, no gold medals, but there is a fine cup of coffee when you get back.

The start is at Barracuda, 118 High Road, N2, at 10am on Sunday 7 July. Find out more about entering at <http://bit.ly/XJthBr> or contact Nick on [nick@centrallondonctc.org.uk](mailto:nick@centrallondonctc.org.uk) or 07768 354010.

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## Stealthy cops catch burglar red-handed

By Janet Maitland  
A burglar was caught red-handed trying to steal from a garage in Summerlee Avenue. The man was spotted trying garage door handles as he walked along the alleyway behind the avenue at about 10.30am on 21 April.

A local resident called the police immediately and they arrived on the scene within minutes, making sure that they were as quiet as possible.

"The man had entered a garage and was about to make off with a bicycle and garden power tools when he was apprehended," said Sergeant Matt Cleve, of the Safer Neighbourhood Team. After a short chase on foot, the man was detained and arrested for burglary.



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