



Letters

Viceroy Close decision

Dear Editor,

Readers of THE ARCHER will be aware that a property developer has applied for permission to build a block of flats over the Viceroy Close car park. Their assertion that this will not adversely affect the neighbourhood is beyond belief.

If deliveries to Budgens and Iceland are no longer to be possible the impact on the High Road will be dire, and it will be a body blow to the long-suffering residents of Viceroy Close.

Barnet Council's planning department indicated that they were going to refuse the application, but failed to issue the formal notice in time. The developer has appealed to the Secretary of State and the application will now be considered at an appeal hearing in Hendon Town Hall on Tuesday 8 November.

The planners will be defending their decision, but it is not easy to be confident that the result will be in favour of the East Finchley community. If the decision goes against us, I wonder which estate agent will be the first to rename us 'West Muswell Hill'? Yours faithfully, Lawrence Robinson, Name and address supplied.

Eyes down for bad pavements

Dear Editor,

I know council funds have been cut back, but the state of some of our pavements is really dreadful. Someone told me that paving slabs have to stand up by about the depth of a 50p piece before they are considered a risk.

Well, I'm sure we all know stretches of pavement that are worse than that. I know people who don't dare to take their eyes off the ground in front of them in case they trip.

Apart from anything else, it must be a false economy to leave our pavements like this. People who fall and injure themselves must take up a lot of NHS resources. I just hope we don't have a bad winter to make things even worse.

Sally Robinson, High Road, N2.

Knock it down!

Dear Editor,

The easiest solution to the ongoing issue of the pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood (THE ARCHER, October 2016) is quite clearly to demolish it. This would eliminate at a stroke any risk that such a poorly-fenced-off and run-down structure may pose to the general public.

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page" The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE or e-mail the-archer@lineone.net.

Furthermore, in its current state, the pavilion would surely cost a lot of money to restore, and once restored there is no guarantee that it would be cost-effective; the fact that it has been allowed to deteriorate into its current state is proof of that. Let us therefore cut our losses and knock it down, and let Mother Nature reclaim this part of the wood!

Yours faithfully, Alex Taylor, Kitchener Road, N2.

Give it up

Dear Editor,

I feel I really must hand out a bouquet to the young people using our buses. Recently I had a visitor who was very complimentary about the prompt and courteous way they gave up their seats to people who needed them.

He also complimented bus passengers in general, saying it was very different in his part of London. "They're a stroppy lot over there", he said. So well done, East Finchley bus travellers!

Yours faithfully, Eveline Nicholas, East End Road, N2.

Happy with crossing

Dear Editor,

I must say that I am very pleased to see a zebra crossing finally in place on East End Road near the junction with Market Place (THE ARCHER, October 2016). As a regular driver along that stretch I can testify that pedestrians trying to run across the road at or near that point, especially those on their way to the Tube station via Deanery Close during the rush hour, have been a nuisance for many years.

Even before the crossing was ready for use, pedestrians were trying to use it, regardless of the barriers, and the mere presence of Belisha beacons, be they flashing or not, was enough to prompt motorists to slow down and let them cross.

Yours faithfully, Tim Yaxley, Fortis Green, N2.



Clearance event: left to right, David Darsey, managing director of Erith, Flan McNamara, Sellar Group project director, and Ru Watkins, chief executive of Noah's Ark Children's Hospice

Hospice digs in... but there's still a way to go

Sellar, the group behind The Shard skyscraper on the South Bank and the upcoming Paddington Cube, is calling on the construction industry to support the building of London's new Noah's Ark Children's Hospice.

Already Erith Demolition has responded, delivering pro bono support worth £170,000, clearing the construction site off Byng Road, Barnet, over the August summer holidays.

Sellar's founder and chairman Irvine Sellar has put out the call saying, "This hospice build is crucial to London families. We're appealing to the entire sector to come forward and put its professional skills to work on behalf of this worthy charity."

Given the scarcity of land available for this type of project, it is expected to be the last children's hospice built in London. The build couldn't proceed before old buildings were demolished, the site levelled, and rubble removed.

Noah's Ark's chief executive Ru Watkins thanked Sellar and Erith saying: "This important preparatory work on the site was essential."

Erith MD David Darsey added: "This building project was a unique opportunity to do what we do best for the benefit of children and families in need of palliative care and support in London. I urge all in the construction industry to lend a hand."

Noah's Ark's children's hospice will be built also thanks to the support of the community, from volunteers shaking collection tins. There is no NHS provision for children's hospice services.

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column. Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.



Keep an eye on your cobbles

By Susan Richardson

When contractors were employed by Haringey Council to replace the paving stones in Western Road, I noticed that the driveways were also being replaced. The contractors removed the cobblestones and replaced these with concrete blocks, completely out of character in what is a conservation area.

Haringey is not protecting the conservation areas within the borough. The purpose of conservation areas is to preserve and protect the character of areas deemed to be of particular interest or original in character.

The original lampposts were taken out of the Fortis Green area a few years back. We did not fight this, but we should have. The very same lampposts can be seen preserved in the Hampstead and Parliament Hill areas, where no doubt residents put up a fight to stop the work.

Those areas still have their York paving. There was some York paving in our street at one point, but each time a utility company comes to dig the paved areas we need to watch them extremely carefully or valuable materials are stripped out.

If you drive around Fortis Green you will see that many driveways are original cobblestones and this is part of the character of the area. To replace cobblestones with concrete is to downgrade the area. The contractor has chosen to use concrete blocks and sell on the cobblestones. They are robbing the street of its character for their own gain.

When Haringey gives out a contract in a conservation area they need to specify the work, ensuring that original materials are reused, and then inspect the work. We have contacted the council and it has said that it will stop further extraction of the cobblestones. However, it is not hopeful about getting the company to reinstate those driveways which have had their cobbles taken.

I think residents in the area must be aware of the threat from these companies working only for their own gain and fight it. The value of the conservation area is something that we cannot afford to lose and it should incur NO additional cost for the council. Archer readers need to be aware of this threat.

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