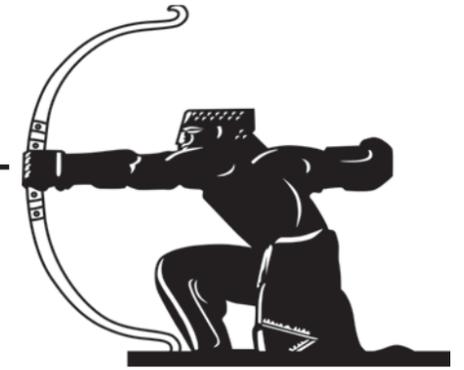




Local News is our Aim

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Two hit-and-run crashes in one week in 20mph zone

By John Lawrence

Worried residents are calling for tougher traffic controls after two serious hit-and-run crashes in a single week on a one-way road in East Finchley.

The first incident happened at 4am on the first Sunday of September when a car driver lost control negotiating the bend in Church Lane at the junction with King Street and smashed into a parked car before driving off.

Road layout a factor

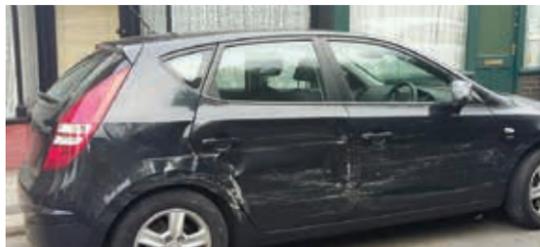
Church Lane is a busy cut-through from East End Road to the High Road used by hundreds of cars each day. It is a one-way road for the majority of its length and also a 20mph zone but residents say too many drivers ignore the speed limit.

Speeding drivers and those unfamiliar with the layout can be caught out by the sharp twist in the road at the

junction with King Street, which comes at the bottom of a long straight downhill section leading down from the bridge over the Northern line.

Danger night and day

It was Sarah Higgison's



Crunched: The damage to Sarah Higgison's parked car after another vehicle collided with it on the way down Church Lane.

Six days later another car driver lost control at the same spot at 3pm, smashing into another parked vehicle. This time the car could not be driven off since it was badly damaged but the driver did run from the scene.



Aftermath: A car lies across Church Lane after failing to negotiate the bend in early September. Photo Gabor Hobora, Facebook.

Hyundai car that was written off in the first crash, the third time one of her cars has been badly damaged while parked outside her Church Lane home. Nine years ago, her whole garden wall was demolished by a speeding driver.

Barnet Council responded then by imposing the 20mph limit, including two warning lights on the rail bridge and at

the King Street junction.

"No one adheres to the 20mph speed limit and boy racers late at night just don't care," said Sarah. "But it's not just boy racers because the latest crash was at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Aside from the risk to our cars, it's dangerous for parents and children on their way to and from Martin Primary School along very narrow pave-

ments. It's heartstopping!"

Council action urged

Residents have taken up the issue with our ward councilors and will be pressing Barnet Council to take further action. One suggestion is to put a Stop sign on Church Lane, giving priority to drivers emerging from King Street and forcing drivers to slow and stop before the twist in the road.

Root and branch change for waste

By Ann Bronkhorst

Haringey residents will no longer have their garden waste collected free of charge, the council has decided. There are worrying implications for parks, open spaces, woods and nature reserves such as Coldfall Wood.

Many residents will be unable or reluctant to pay the proposed annual fee of £75 for a weekly wheelie bin collection, currently free and in hessian sacks. Recycling centres will still accept garden waste but for many householders getting there is inconvenient or physi-

cally impossible.

Through Haringey Friends of Parks Forum, representatives from many Friends groups have expressed concern. Every January Christmas trees are discarded in woods and parks, perhaps on the assumption that they will rot

down eventually, but the green waste dumping likely to result from Haringey's decision will be year-round and on a different scale.

Of course there will be a cost for clearing dumped green waste. As yet, Haringey Parks Operations have not been allocated extra funding to pay for the extra work involved. Will volunteers, such as Friends groups, be expected to shoulder the responsibility?

Haringey Council has said: "We do not consider fly-tipping to be an inevitable consequence of charging services." In a perfect world it would not be inevitable but this is here, and now.

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