



Councils clash over right-turn ban on The Bishops Avenue

By Daphne Chamberlain

Barnet and Haringey councils are in dispute over Barnet's proposal to ban right turns from The Bishops Avenue into the High Road at East Finchley (The Archer, August 2017).

The proposal includes installing a pedestrian island in The Bishops Avenue. A Barnet councillor posted on Facebook that the road is not wide enough to have a traffic island unless turning right into the High Road is banned.

Alternative solutions

Not everyone agrees that this would be the case. A recent petition called for a controlled pedestrian crossing, traffic lights or a mini-roundabout, and *The Archer* asked Barnet if any of these had been considered. We also asked if there had been a consultation on the traffic flow.

A council spokesman said that Barnet carried out a consultation in June and July, and that careful consideration had been given to other safety solutions, but gave no details.

'Rat-run' concerns

The borough boundary with Haringey is just south of The Bishops Avenue, and residents in Bancroft Avenue, Deansway and Edmunds Walk, N2, had written to both councils, expressing their fears that diverted traffic will use their roads as a rat run.

Barnet replied that there had been confusion over maps relating to the proposals, and

the only right turn that would be banned is the one at the junction of The Bishops Avenue and the High Road. Therefore they don't anticipate any increase in traffic along the minor roads, as the majority of potential right-turners would avoid the East Finchley end of The Bishops Avenue and instead carry on along Aylmer Road (A1).

Response from Haringey

The Archer has also seen documentation from Haringey saying they were not fully consulted, and can see no need for a change. They are concerned that traffic wanting to reach Muswell Hill or Crouch End would turn left from Aylmer Road through a narrow shopping parade, and then cross the Great North Road to turn right into Woodside Avenue. Haringey have formally objected to any orders from Barnet which may have been given already to start the process.

Barnet told us: "No decision has been taken on how the scheme will be progressed at this time, and all the feedback received, including any from the neighbouring authority, will be carefully considered before a final decision is made."

Father living with cancer to swim the Serpentine

A father-of-two with advanced lung cancer is set to swim the Serpentine to raise money for the hospital that is treating him. Mike Solomon was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer in March 2016 and underwent major lung surgery, before being transferred to The Royal Marsden for chemotherapy treatment.

"I'm benefitting from past research into these genetic mutations so I want to do whatever I can to support future research," says Mike, who lives in East Finchley and plays with festival favourite band Sound of the Suburb.

Tailored treatment plan

A biopsy of Mike's tumour revealed that he had non-small cell lung cancer with a genetic mutation. By matching the genetic mutation with a combination of therapies that were most effective for him, doctors were able to create a personalised treatment plan.

Mike said: "The treatment is fantastic because it means I can lead as ordinary life as possible. I'm living with this disease but I can do most things and the side effects are manageable."

The 50-year-old has signed up to Swim Serpentine, a one-mile open water swim in Hyde Park on Saturday 16 September, to raise money for The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity, which ensures the hospital's nurses, doctors and research teams can provide the best care and develop life-saving treatments, which are used across the UK and around the world.

Braving cold open water

"When I got told I had cancer I thought 'what can I do?' because there was so much out of my control. I looked at changing my diet and doing more exercise to keep my lungs in good shape," says Mike. "I've always enjoyed swimming but open water is completely different to being in a pool. You can't see where you're going and it's freezing. I'm a bit nervous but I'm looking forward to it."

Mike's wife Hilary said: "Although I think Mike is nuts



"He's nuts": Mike with his wife Hilary



In the swim: Mike gets in some practice

for signing up to swim the Serpentine, I'm incredibly proud of him. He's a very brave man and has a steely determination, I'm very lucky to be married to him. We are very grateful to The

Royal Marsden for the leading edge treatment he is getting."

To help Mike reach his fundraising target, visit just-giving.com/fundraising/mike-solomon.

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Prints charming

Local artists Clare O'Hagan and Denise Wyllie invite you to their new exhibition **Poetry of Place**, where a multi-generational group of Japanese and UK printmakers show their amazing work.

Denise visited Japan for the first time earlier this year and formed the connections which have helped the pair curate the display. Find it at the Koppel Project Gallery, Baker Street, WIU 6RL, and get more details at <http://thekoppelproject.com/poetry-of-place>.

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