

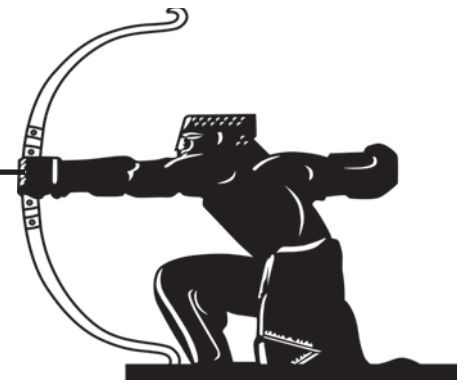


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The Archer

Local News is our Aim



August 2019 No. 304

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Runner stunner as records tumble

Go, go, go: Hundreds of athletes set off on the annual Race the Neighbours 10K challenge in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 14 July. Turn to page 6 for our full report.

Speed limit of 20mph on all our roads

By John Lawrence

A blanket speed limit of 20mph on all roads in East Finchley will be considered by Barnet Council following a string of accidents in the space of four months. Two were fatal; another left a father and daughter with serious injuries.

A small package of measures to improve safety at the pedestrian crossing outside Martin Primary School at the junction of the High Road and Church Lane, N2, has been approved. The larger scheme to change the speed limit across the area will be decided by the council's Environment Committee.

Recent accidents

More than 2,000 people signed a petition backing a lower speed limit after the death in May of three-year-old Sonny Parmar, who was waiting at a pedestrian crossing on East End Road, N2. Two months earlier, Carole Jackson was killed as she crossed the High Road, near Beresford Road, and in February a Year 2 pupil and her father were injured on the crossing outside Martin Primary School after leaving an after-school club.

Local speeding problems and solutions

At a meeting in July, the council heard that East Finchley had particular problems with speeding, as vehicles leave the 20mph zone in Haringey and immediately speed up for the 30mph zone in Barnet. At the same time, vehicles coming off the North Circular and from North Finchley have travelled at higher speeds, and drivers take time to get used to driving more slowly.

East Finchley Councillor Arjun Mitra argued that existing isolated 20mph zones such as at Church Lane were not working as well as expected, and that a wider area of lower speed would encourage safer driving at key points.

He told *The Archer*: "We support calls for a blanket 20mph zone across East Finchley, as a piecemeal approach will not do. East Finchley is in a unique location and has unique challenges, and the Council should consider a bespoke approach here."

"Delays will cost lives. We have passed one stage in getting this done, but there is much more to do. In particular we need to consider how to fund this, given the severe cuts to Council budgets."

Money has been approved to investigate the feasibility of installing lights to filter traffic at the High Road and Church Lane junction. At the same time, road markings and the timing of the existing pedestrian crossing lights will be improved.



County roads petition

Separately, a petition has been launched to introduce a 20mph to the county roads, which some residents say are prone to speeding drivers. The petition can be found online here: bit.ly/petition20mph. Hertford Road resident Kellie Cory, who launched it, said: "I'd be very happy if it was the starting point for a campaign to bring in 20mph across East Finchley, not just the county roads. The whole area is heavily residential and pedestrians must be protected." *Letters, page 11.*

Parking zone could be extended

Residents in Leslie Road and Leopold Road, N2, are facing the prospect of the East Finchley controlled parking zone being extended to their streets.

Barnet Council informed them that the extension was being considered, with annual charges for residents ranging from £15 to £182 depending on the type of vehicle. Some are welcoming the idea, saying it will give residents a better chance of parking near their homes on roads that are often used for all-day parking by tube commuters. Others claim it is too costly and wouldn't improve the availability of spaces.

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