



Police apologise over response to 'intimidating' rave on estate

By Janet Maitland

Police have apologised to residents of Foskett House on The Grange in East Finchley following a complaint about their response to an unauthorised rave in the car park.

A local resident, who asked not to be named, rang police several times on Saturday 15 June to report that 80 young adults had arrived at about 4.30pm and were playing loud music, drinking alcohol and taking drugs.

"It was incredibly intimidating," said the resident. But when he made his final call at 9.30pm, he was informed by the police that they had already attended and decided it was a community event.

"Worrying event"

The Archer asked the Met if the officers attending had any concerns about illegal activity or anyone's safety. A spokesperson said they asked the organiser to turn the music down, and this was complied with. "All was good natured, no offences," we were told. We asked what happened to the knives allegedly found in the bushes and were told that officers have spoken with a local resident who reported discovering and discarding a number of knives.

"I apologise that residents feel let down by the police response," said Chris Thompson, from East Finchley's Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), who has written to Foskett House residents. "I understand that this was a worrying event and there are concerns regarding the police response and any repetition of this incident. My team will be conducting enhanced patrols and weapon sweeps to deter further criminality. The organiser for this event has been spoken to and told that any future events need council authorisation and a notification to the police."

Barnet Homes' response

A spokesperson for Barnet Homes said no one had informed them in advance that any event was going to take place. "We work very closely with the police and the council's Community Safety Team to tackle anti-social behaviour. As a result of feedback given to us by local residents, Community Notice Warnings have been issued. Our anti-social behaviour officer and the East Finchley SNT have spoken to residents and given them phone numbers to use if they see criminal activities taking place."



"Worrying event": A Grange estate resident took this photo of the unauthorised gathering.

Dozens of nitrous oxide gas canisters were found by residents clearing up rubbish the following day. A handwritten notice warning people that six knives had been discovered in the bushes was allegedly pinned up in the car park.



Round of applause: BBC presenter Reeta Chakrabarti and customer services manager Nino Santos, both far left, welcome the station artwork with children from Martin Primary School. Photo Louise Goodey.

A reminder of how we all got here

By Daphne Chamberlain

There was excitement at East Finchley station on Friday 19 July for the unveiling of a special artwork display as a permanent reminder of an exhibition in the foyer two years ago. Destination East Finchley, a lottery-funded Martin School project, celebrates the different starting points of residents on their journey to N2. Look for the artwork to the left of the ticket barriers on the way in.

Transport for London area manager Toks Oderinde introduced stars of the show, with a great cheer for customer services duty manager Nino Santos, whose enthusiasm helped to bring about this collaboration. "He always does something extra," said Marcia Williams, head of Northern line customer service.

"The community is at the heart of what we say and do", said Martin School headteacher Rebecca Bakar, who was there with a large group of pupils. She thanked teacher and project leader Julie Taylor, who put together the artwork with "amazing hard work and dedication".

Three pupils spoke briefly about the project, valiantly fighting station announcements, and a choir of the children sang *Rainbow World* very

beautifully. Also present were Cllrs Alison Moore and Arjun Mittra, and the BBC's Reeta Chakrabarti, who lives locally.



Stories to tell: The display can be seen close to the ticket barriers at the High Road entrance.

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