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ISSN 1361-3952 **20p** where sold

# The Archer

Local News is our Aim



July 2019 No. 303

**A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.**

## EAST FINCHLEY FESTIVAL REPORT & PHOTOS - PAGE 6 & 7



Retirement gift: John Omar, centre, is handed a cheque by his friend Nalin Shah watched by well-wishers who had helped to raise hundreds of pounds. Photo Mike Coles.

## Neighbours turn out for John

More than six months after sudden ill-health forced John Omar to hang up a 'Closed' sign on his tiny shoe repair shop in Manor Park Road, N2, he returned to say a proper goodbye to the community where he had worked for more than 30 years.

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# Grieving parents call for 20mph speed limit

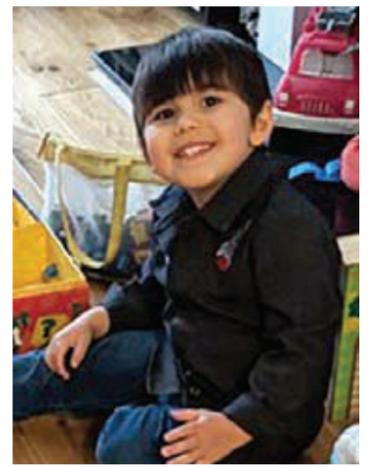
By Janet Maitland

More than 2,700 people have signed a petition calling for a 20mph speed limit on East End Road, N2, following the death of three-year-old Sonny Parmar, who was killed at the crossing near the Five Bells pub while walking home from nursery with his mother.

### "Every parent's nightmare"

Sonny's devastated parents, who asked not to be named, said that making safety improvements on this road would help their son to "rest in peace knowing that his sacrifice will prevent anything awful like this happening again".

"A barrier needs to be put in place on the side of the crossing where Sonny was hit, the same as the other three sides," his mother told The Archer. "And the speed limit should be 20mph as it is in neighbouring suburbs."



Killed at crossing: Sonny Parmar

### Pressure for borough-wide speed limits

A spokesperson from Barnet Council, which has a target of zero road deaths by 2041, said that they must await the result of the police investigation "after which we will ensure we take the appropriate action".

Several London boroughs have borough-wide 20mph speed limits, but in Barnet these limits are only imposed close to schools. Andrew Dismore, London Assembly member for Barnet and Camden, and Councillor Barry Rawlings have asked the Mayor of London to press Cllr Dan Thomas, the leader of Barnet Council, to reconsider this policy.

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"It only takes a second for the unimaginable to happen. It's every parent's nightmare," said Natalie Collins, who started the petition within hours of the accident at about 7pm on Wednesday 22 May. The driver stopped at the scene and was interviewed by the police who are continuing to investigate the causes of the collision. No arrests have been made.

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