



Hard impact: The badly damaged car at rest on the pavement in the High Road after ploughing through a young tree and into a guard rail. Photo John Dearing.

Narrow escape on the school run

By Janet Maitland

Pedestrians walking along the High Road were horrified when a car mounted the pavement close to East Finchley library then raced along for several yards, flattening a newly planted tree and finally crashing into a steel barrier by the corner with Creighton Avenue.

"I was with my two children when he lost control," said one witness on social media. "The car almost hit us. I'm still shaking and my kids are quite scared. The tree he ran over was right in front of us."

The crash happened at about

3.55pm on Wednesday 8 May, a time when the road would have been busy with parents and schoolchildren heading home. Police confirmed that the collision was 'damage only' and said that the driver did not require medical attention.

Protest over libraries

The Save Barnet Libraries campaign group is calling on library supporters to join a protest ahead of Barnet Council announcing its long-awaited review of the service.

The protest is taking place before the meeting of the Communities Leadership and Libraries committee on Tuesday 11 June at Hendon Town Hall.

Save Barnet Libraries say supporters can help to demand that the review seriously investigates the impact of reduced staff hours at libraries on young people and others, such as those with disabilities.

The review is being carried out under the Equalities Act which campaigners say presents a perfect opportunity for the Council to explore these issues.

"It's crucial we get our voices heard. If the council can get away with ignoring the impact of library cuts, which affect such a broad cross section of people, then what is it getting away with in other service areas where the impact can be more hidden?" says the group

N2United reaches out

N2United, the three-year-old East Finchley business network, is now looking at ways it can extend its reach for the benefit of the wider community.

Plans are underway to look at how the many and varied East Finchley groups and organisations, of which there are over 50, could work more closely together and develop a more cohesive approach to fixing local matters of concern, for the benefit of residents and business owners in the N2 area.

The N2United meeting on Thursday 13 June at the Clissold Arms in Fortis Green will explore these ideas in greater detail and representatives from local groups are encouraged to attend the meeting, share their experiences and get involved in helping shape plans for the broader community. For more details see www.n2united.co.uk/community Brian Hooper, an East Finchley resident for over 40 years and Barnet Civic Award winner, is looking forward to assisting with N2United's plans. Through his popular quiz, Brian has raised over £25,000 for various charities over a period of five years.

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What can be done to tackle the scourge of knife crime?

By Janet Maitland

Muswell Hill residents are planning a public meeting to discuss what can be done about reducing knife crime, following a series of stabbings in the area.

An 18-year-old man was stabbed on Muswell Hill Broadway at about 9pm on Monday 29 April. He was taken to hospital where his injuries were assessed as not life-threatening.

A few weeks earlier, on Saturday 9 March, a 19-year-old man was stabbed on a 134 bus travelling down Colney Hatch Lane and a 17-year-old boy has now been charged with his attempted murder.

In response, the public meeting organised by members of the Facebook group 'Stop Knife Crime in Muswell Hill' will be held at Muswell Hill Methodist Church at 7.30pm on Monday 10 June, and everyone is welcome to attend.

What can be done about knife crime?

A recent study by the College of Police says the peak age for carrying a knife is 15 and that a 'public health' approach tackling the root causes is the only long term hope. They report that after-school activities, better support for parents, and teaching young children 'social and emotional skills, problem solving and anger management' have shown encouraging results. For 10 to 18 year olds 'prison alone has been found to significantly increase reoffending compared to non-custodial sanctions such as community supervision with victim repa-

ration and community surveillance and after care'.

What is the bigger picture?

Knife crime increased by 6 per cent in 2018 compared with 2017, reports the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in their latest bulletin on crime in England and Wales. Every kind of violent crime increased last year with an overall increase of 19 per cent. Robbery was up by 11 per cent.

London accounted for a third of all the 40,829 knife crimes and 40 per cent of all the 80,000 robberies.

East Finchley has not bucked these trends. In 2018 there were 12 more robberies than in 2017, bringing the total to 50, and 30 more violent crimes including sexual offences, making the total 224. There was one knife crime in 2018 but none at all the previous year.

Has knife crime peaked?

There is some evidence that knife crime may be falling in London. Although a third of all such offences were in London in 2018, the increase in that year compared to 2017 was just one per cent. Recent police data also shows that knife offences in London fell by almost 10 per cent from 4,752 to 4,277 in the year ending March 2019, when compared to the previous financial year.

Knife attack on young man

By Janet Maitland

A man believed to be in his early 20s was stabbed on The Grange estate in East Finchley in the middle of the afternoon on Thursday 16 May. Police were called by the London Ambulance Service at 4.20pm to reports of a man suffering from stab injuries. Officers attended and provided first aid.

The man was taken to a central London hospital. His injuries were not thought to be life threatening. Anyone who has any information is asked to contact police on 101 quoting reference number 5406/16May. To remain anonymous, call 0800 555 111 or go to crimestoppers-uk.org

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