



# Drivers going through red lights at school crossing

By John Lawrence

Parents and residents are asking why motorists are driving through red lights at the pedestrian crossing on the High Road outside Martin Primary leading to several near-misses and children narrowly avoiding injuries.

“For so many drivers to be going through red lights suggests there is a problem with visibility of the crossing on the approach. A through traffic study is needed to investigate this,” said Martin School parent Emily Candler, as she presented a petition signed by 2,227 people to Barnet Council’s Finchley & Golders Green Area Committee. Are vehicles approaching the crossing too fast and does the angle of the hill on the south-bound approach make it difficult to see the lights? In addition, does the difficulty of turning out of Church Lane next to the crossing encourage drivers to pull out fast and take risks? Campaigners are asking these questions following an incident

in February where a young girl and her father using the crossing were injured when they were hit by a car coming from the direction of the North Circular (The Archer, March 2019).

The girl’s ten-year-old brother Kipp Foster bravely addressed the council committee saying: “It makes me scared when I cross this road because I can see how easily it could happen again. But I have no choice because this is road outside school and hundreds of kids must cross it every day.”

Parent Collette Symonds said: “Are we supposed to teach our children that the green man at their own school crossing no longer guarantees their safety?”

East Finchley councillor Arjun Mittra asked the com-

mittee to commission a report on potential solutions, such as a three-way filter light. The last safety study on this crossing was in 2012, since when Martin School has grown by 50% and the school buildings and field have been used more at evenings and weekends for commercial and community hire. Members of the Finchley & Golders Green Area Committee agreed to allocate funding for a study to identify options to improve safety and to report back in July. Council officers will also work with Transport for London, who are responsible for traffic lights, to identify any immediate improvements, such as the phasing of the lights, as well as longer term solutions.



Martin School kids at the Town Hall to present their petition. Photo Mike Coles

# Summer festival bends over backwards to ban the B-word

By Hilary Townley, festival organising team

Leave... extend... remain... have you had enough? Never fear, the East Finchley Community Festival will definitely be *remaining* as an antidote to those Brexit blues!



Soto CIC performing at last year’s East Finchley Festival. Photo by Mike Coles

Its famous cornucopia of delights to celebrate our community will lift your spirits with a mixture of fun, food, interesting stalls, curiosities and entertainment, all taking place in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 23 June from 12pm.

Come along and enjoy the

day. Better still, come along, enjoy the day and volunteer a very small amount of time to help the festival run smoothly. We are looking for helpers who can spare an hour or so to act as stewards, sell raffle tickets and keep everything running.

Why not ring the changes this year and be part of the team that makes the festival so much fun? We also welcome offers of sponsorship. Please register your interest by emailing eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com.

This annual celebration of the community of East Finchley only happens because of the generosity of time put in by volunteers and the generosity of sponsorship raised by local businesses. We aim to keep the festival a joyous celebration, free and inclusive.

# Shorter route for 134 bus

From 15 June, the south-bound 134 bus will terminate at Warren Street, close to University College

Hospital. Passengers wishing to travel onward to Tottenham Court Road can change onto the 24 or 29 bus anywhere between Camden Town and Warren Street.

Transport for London have announced that if the Bus Hopper time limit of one hour is breached by making this change, the Oyster or contactless card used will be refunded £1.50 at the end of the week.

Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association argued against this shortened route, and have said TfL’s postcode analysis showed that the N10 region contributed the second highest number of consultation responses anywhere in London.

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