



A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Open space: East Finchley's newest green oasis opened for a launch party last month and there are plans to welcome visitors regularly. Full story page 6. Photo Mike Coles

Woodland wonder

Action on crossing and 20mph limit

By David Melsome

A 20mph speed limit for roads in East Finchley has come a step closer after Barnet Council agreed a range of measures to improve road safety at the busy pedestrian crossing outside Martin Primary School.

Members of Barnet's Environment Committee agreed on 11 September that better signage and road markings will be put in place at the junction of the High Road and Church Lane, N2, before the clocks go back and darker evenings arrive.

A full feasibility study reviewing safety at the junction, where a father and his young daughter were injured in February, including whether three-way traffic lights would help, will be undertaken in the next financial year 2020-21.

Committee responds to concerns

The Committee also discussed a proposal from East Finchley councillor Arjun Mittra to trial a 20mph speed limit across East Finchley. Many local residents have called for a 20mph limit across N2 following the tragic death of three-year-old Sonny Parmar on East End Road in May.

Speaking at the meeting, Cllr Alison Moore pointed out that being bordered by 20mph zones in Haringey and Camden, means drivers speed up when



they get to East Finchley. The Committee agreed roads around Martin Primary School should be made 20mph; officers would recommend which roads, based on discussion with the school, ward councillors and Transport for London.

The Committee also asked for a report on the effectiveness of 20mph limits in surrounding boroughs. Campaigners hope there will be scope for trying to expand the 20mph zone around all East Finchley schools and perhaps beyond.

Keeping up the pressure

Emily Candler, who has led the campaign for a safer crossing outside Martin Primary School, said: "I'm so glad we've been

able to get initial changes agreed to make the crossing safer for everyone who uses it. It has been a team effort and we couldn't have got this far without everyone who has helped by writing to the Council, coming to the Council committee meetings or signing and sharing the petition.

"We've made huge progress but there's more to do. We'll need to keep up the pressure to make sure these changes are made without delay and to get as much of East Finchley as possible made 20mph. It would be just awful if anyone else was injured or killed before the changes were made."

Emily urged anyone who would like to get involved in the campaign for safer roads in East Finchley to email safecrossingN2@gmail.com.

Safety improvements due soon

Further work to be carried out at the Martin School crossing before March 2020 includes physical changes to the crossing surface, possibly a high-friction coloured surface or a speed table to slow drivers down.

Pedestrian, 90, injured

A driver was arrested after a 90-year-old woman was seriously injured in a collision with a van at the junction of the High Road and Leicester Road, N2, on Friday 6 September.

The van driver, a 51-year-old man, stopped at the scene. He was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of drugs and taken to a north London police station, where he was later released under investigation.

Police continue to appeal for witnesses to the collision, which happened around 12.15pm. Anyone with information is asked to contact officers at the Serious Collision Investigation Unit, based at Alperton, on 020 8246 9820.

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