



Slower traffic and a safer crossing at primary school

By John Lawrence

Road safety measures could be introduced in the area of Martin Primary School in East Finchley after an investment of £96,000 was agreed by Barnet Council.

Under the proposals, a 20mph zone would cover the High Road from Chandos Road to Park Road, and also include Leslie Road, Leopold Road and Creighton Avenue, where it will merge with the existing 20mph zone that starts at the border with Haringey.

The crossing immediately outside the primary school would be made safer too, with a raised road level and high-friction markings to slow down traffic, and extra guard rails to protect pedestrians. Additionally, there would be a new central refuge island in Creighton Road close to East Finchley Baptist Church.

Local residents will be consulted on the plans before they are finalised and they will go ahead subject to the funding being set aside in the Local Implementation Programme controlled by Transport for London.

East Finchley's councillors have been pressing for improved

road safety after a father and daughter were badly injured while crossing outside Martin Primary last year, and after traffic monitoring reported a number of near misses between cars and pedestrians close to the school.

More to be achieved

Councillor Arjun Mittra said he was pleased that some progress had been made but he and his colleagues had not achieved everything they had hoped for. "I would prefer to see a blanket 20 zone for the whole ward, and a proper signalling of the Church Lane junction, and we will just have to keep working on that."

Last year some residents of the county roads petitioned for their streets to be turned into a 20mph zone. Cllr Mittra said this was on the list to be considered by Transport for London but warned that widening the zone here or throughout East Finchley would take perseverance and possibly some years to achieve.



Court action: Organiser Sonia Bownes (third from left) and Treasurer Claire Roughton (2nd from right) with club members Marsha, Bianca, Sinead and Na'amah. Photo Louise Goodey

Fun is the goal of netball club

By Diana Cormack

Netball developed from basketball, the team game invented in the United States in 1891. It was introduced to this country by Swedish born physical education instructor and woman's suffrage supporter Martina Bergman-Osterberg. In the few years after its arrival several changes were made, including bringing in rules from women's basketball in America and the new name 'netball'.

Originally regarded as a women's activity played in many parts of the world, there are now mixed, male and transgender teams, though how this will be dealt with under the pressure to make it an Olympic sport remains to be seen. Despite the number of players

involved in Britain, netball rarely received much coverage in the media. However, after England stunned Australia by scoring a last second goal to win the Commonwealth Games Gold Medal in 2018, netball has come into its own, gaining a place in the press and an increas-

ing interest in the community.

Tigers survive and thrive

Evidence of this can be seen at Fortismere School on Thursday evenings when the Tetherdown Tigers meet. Originally instigated by a group of mothers from Tetherdown School, after 12 years numbers had fallen and there was a desperate need for more members.

New recruit Sonia Bownes, of Sedgemere Avenue, East Finchley joined the club last year and realised that, if it was to survive, something had to be done. So, putting her previous experience into action, Sonia set about using social media and launched a recruitment drive. She admits to not having been good at sport in her schooldays, emphasising that her main reason for joining was to have fun and that is what she wants for all the players, whatever their standard.

Able assisted by treasurer Claire Roughton, organiser Sonia told The Archer that they now have a waiting list, having reached a full contingency of 35. Some members are learning as they go along and all are helped by regular coaching sessions. When I visited, everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves and there was a lovely atmosphere. More information is available at www.meetup.com/Muswell-hill-netball



Into the woods: Big Fun Walkers head toward Highgate last year.

Parks and woodlands walk for North London Hospice

Spring is on its way, which means it's the right time to sign up for the Big Fun Walk 2020 in support of North London Hospice, taking place this year on Sunday 3 May.

More than 1,600 people, and some dogs, took part last year in the 8.5 mile walk from Cherry Tree Wood, N2, through London's woodlands and parks to the heart of Westminster.

You can walk in memory of a loved one or just to support the hospice, which provides end-of-life care and support to people facing life-limiting or terminal illness, and their families, in Barnet, Enfield and Haringey.

Chief executive Pam McClinton said: "Our services are free to users. We receive £4 million from the NHS but need to fundraise an additional £9 million to cover the total cost of running the hospice every year. Big Fun Walk raised over £160,000 in 2019, which all goes towards providing patient care."

To sign up or find out more visit www.bigfunwalk.co.uk

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