



A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Fiona Jones with her funny face hedge Photo Mike Coles

That's one happy hedge

There's no mistaking the mood of the hedge in the front garden of Fiona Jones in Leicester Road, N2. A huge happy face emoji stares out of the greenery after Fiona spent the last few months growing and trimming it into shape.

Fiona says: "It was meant as a bit of fun when lockdown first started but having taken much longer to do than I'd thought it's actually been a great way to get to know people passing by and it's made a few people laugh along the way."



Clampdown on parking outside primary schools

By Diana Cormack

Barnet Council is to restrict traffic for short periods outside some schools from the start of this term, with Holy Trinity Primary School in East Finchley identified as one of the first in the borough to come under the scheme.

The council is proposing to create five School Streets, which place temporary restrictions on motorised traffic on designated roads or sections of roads near schools during drop-off and pick-up times.

Traffic reduction

It feels that, with pupils returning to school, the reduced capacity on public transport as a result of Covid-19 restrictions could lead to an increase in car journeys and consequently more traffic congestion.

So certain roads or sections of roads will be designated as pedestrian or cycle zones for up to one and a half hours daily during those times. The restrictions will be enforced with the use of signage and physical barriers, marshalled by school staff and volunteers.

Only blue badge holders, emergency service vehicles and teachers will be able to enter. Previously parked cars will be allowed to leave. Access for residents will be maintained and the restrictions will only apply when schools are open.

Limited consultation

The five schools taking part in this initial phase have been consulted, including Holy Trinity Primary School, whose

restricted zone will be all of Eagans Close, N2. In its last newsletter of the summer term, the school urged parents to "walk, scoot, cycle or park and stride". Another participant is Garden Suburb Primary School in Childs Road, NW11, while Akiva School in East End Road, N3, will have some more minor restrictions immediately outside its entrance.

Barnet Council says: "We have had to work quickly to identify the schools and establish the appropriate traffic measures. This means that we have had little time for resident consultation. We will be sending a notification letter to affected residents."

The School Streets scheme, funded by a £93,000 grant from Transport for London and the Department for Transport, will initially operate for six months with the council keeping it under review and potentially expanding it to other schools.

Man fleeing police hides in garden shed

By Janet Maitland

A resident of Red Lion Hill in East Finchley was shocked when a man burst out of his garden shed at about 5.30pm on Friday 31 July. "Sorry mate, I'm hiding from the police," he said, escaping through the house and onto the street. The resident called the police who quickly came to his house to take a statement.

Unbeknownst to the resident, police had already been called about an hour earlier, to reports of a theft in nearby Chaloners Close. As soon as they arrived police saw a number of men running away, prompting an intensive search of surrounding streets using police dogs while a police helicopter circled overhead.

"One man, aged in his 20s, was arrested nearby on suspicion of theft and assault of an emergency services worker," said a police spokesperson. "He's been bailed pending further enquiries to a date in late August." It's not known if the man who was arrested was the intruder hiding in the shed.

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