



Dilemma over traffic in the county roads

By Ruth Anders

In the photo below, from around 1905, Huntingdon Road looked much the same and yet completely different from now. Most notable is the absence of trees and cars.

That peaceful scene is very changed now. Those living on the county roads know that the chances of finding a parking spot anywhere near their homes after 6pm are slim. They also know that vehicles frequently block the roads, engage in aggressive head-to-head stand-offs or tear up and down at a dangerous speed.

Is there a solution? Huntingdon Road residents Pablo and Annabelle Sueiras are the latest to take the initiative to launch a survey to gauge county road residents' views before deciding whether or not there is a case to take to Barnet Council.

The case for change

The survey identifies those completing it by their road and house number, with no further details required. The second question on the survey asks: "Regarding the flow of motorised traffic through the county roads, are you in favour of a change in how this is managed or would you prefer it remains as it is today?" giving plenty of scope to maintain the status quo. A series of possible solutions to change traffic management follows, including the installation of speed cameras, speed signs, road humps (not popular so far) and one-way systems.



Car-free: Huntingdon Road in a photo from around 1905.

Find a new interest

The Hampstead Garden Suburb U3A group is inviting people to sample its interest groups for free during June and July. Potential new members can try up to three groups on a diverse range of subjects from jazz to languages, and from art to literature.

U3A is aimed at people of retirement age. All sessions are run by members who have a special interest to share, and the Suburb group is welcoming guests from all adjoining areas. Find a list of sessions and a guest enrolment form at <https://hgsu3a.uk/>

Pablo stresses that he wants to ascertain the majority view, rather than ask the council to impose something that's unwanted. He added: "We've lived in Huntingdon Road since 2012 and we're concerned that there are currently no penalties or deterrents for speeding. Drivers race down the road at well over 30mph with no space to swerve to avoid children or animals."

Adding your views

To date the survey has been completed by 92 of a possible 600 households. Pablo aims to achieve a response rate of at least a 50% by the end of June. To make your views known, go to bit.ly/N2roads or do so via the East Finchley Community Facebook group.



Building site: Above and below, Prospect Ring residents have faced disruption and lack of parking outside their homes for months. Photos Mike Coles.

Compensate us for building chaos, say residents

By Janet Maitland

Residents in Prospect Ring, N2, think they should be given compensation by Barnet Homes for the stress caused by two years of continuous major building works.

Work on demolishing houses and building a new 13-storey high rise between two existing tower blocks began in 2019. Gas risers have been replaced in the older blocks and repairs done to roofs and lifts. The installation of fire safety alarms and sprinklers in every flat started early last year and still hasn't finished. The central green is currently being landscaped and playgrounds constructed.

Residents' concerns

"So much work going on at the same time has affected us all mentally and emotionally," said Sasha Cheevers, chair of the Residents Association. "We want the council to acknowledge the disruption and compensate us."

"The trucks, the diggers, the drilling through concrete, the grinding of metal and the dirt pouring into our homes have been torture," said resident Naomi Watts.

"We should be due something for having our lives turned upside down and our environment ruined," said another resident. "But Barnet Homes does not care about us in the slightest."

Resident Maureen Antoinette said they had met with a representative of Barnet Homes and voiced their concerns but appropriate measures were not taken.

Response from Barnet Homes

The Archer asked Barnet Homes if they considered they had taken all reasonable steps to minimise the disturbance to residents. A spokesperson said they had done "everything possible", including "regular tenant newsletters, dedicated phone

pite area in a separate flat".

The spokesperson added that they felt the "benefit of providing 50 homes for people in acute housing need goes some way in justifying the disruption" and thanked residents for their patience, understanding and support.

We were also informed by Barnet Homes that Hill Partnerships Ltd, the contractors for the new block, have donated money for laptops and also labour and materials to a local school and community garden project. One resident was against



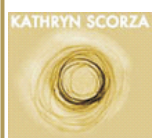
numbers, a Resident Liaison Officer, minimising weekend working, and providing a res-

asking for compensation, partly because the Hill's site manager is "doing a good job and is very popular with residents" and partly because "Barnet Homes would just ignore such a move. They always ignore us."

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