



Bike to Bounds Green

By Greta Brambilla

We hope the warmth of spring is finally beginning to arrive, so it's time to get cycling again! This is a route which takes you east and north to Bounds Green and Oak Hill Park. To start, make your way down Creighton Avenue, turning left at the roundabout onto Coppetts Road.



Route map: The ride takes you through Bounds Green and up to East Barnet

tually enter Oak Hill Park. Follow the path straight through, then out onto Cedar Avenue. Take a right, leading towards Oakleigh Park station (there's a cut-through over the railway line near the corner shop). Go straight down Chandos Avenue (checking out Carpe Diem or Greek Bites further down for something tasty). Otherwise, head down St Margaret's Avenue and keep going

until Totteridge and Whetstone Station.

Three parks and a river

Turn right into Greenham Road, a quick left and right into Goodwyn's Vale, then right onto Grosvenor Road. At Albert Road turn left and when the park appears turn into it, aiming for the tennis courts behind Sunshine Garden Centre. Exit via Winton Avenue, head for Bounds Green Road and use the crossing to reach Warwick Road.

Continue until you see Wakefield Road on your right, go down there and then cross over the North Circular onto Powys Lane. Follow this until you reach Wilmer Way, then cross into Arnos Park via the path (look out for the impressive brick viaduct)! Now just keep going, admiring the greenery as you pass, with Pymme's Brook to your left.

You'll go down Waterfall Walk, then East Walk and even-

Getting home

You can now either jump on the Northern line or cycle back to East Finchley by crossing over and going left down Dollis Brook - making sure to



The imposing brick viaduct at Arnos Park

dismount when required - until Laurel View. Go down there and then right onto Holden Road, continuing straight until you finally see Lansdowne Road on your left. Follow this and then Lovers Walk (dismounting temporarily here) until you reach Ballards Lane, going down Long Lane on your left and home from there.

Letters

Lanes make the traffic worse

Dear Editor,

For many reasons, in urban areas, cars along with buses still remain the main means of transport. In many cases it's impossible to expect people to go to the nearest tube or to shop locally using bicycles instead of cars.

It is true that any vehicle on the road represents certain potential danger, which increases significantly when the driving conditions deteriorate due to poor maintenance of the streets, or new impediments appearing on our streets. That's exactly the prospect East Finchley residents face now with the new cycle lanes. It is especially true when entering East Finchley from the A406 and driving in the direction of East Finchley tube. The part of the High Road before the lights near the Martin Primary School always demanded special attention from the driver due to the bus lane, many turns to the side streets, and a pretty bad road surface. Now, with the new cycle lane, this section has every chance of turning into a real challenge to the drivers.

Another very difficult section of our High Road is going from East Finchley tube to the junction with East End Road. In the rush hours, the excessively long bus lane here has already contributed to a real mess for other vehicles. Now, with the new cycle lane, this junction can become a real bottleneck.

East Finchley has been always one of the few arteries of town where traffic jams were very unusual. However, with these new initiatives of Barnet Council the situation on the roads has changed radically for the worse.

If the council is so anxious to improve our life somehow, why can't it pay more attention to the organisation of traffic in our numerous and very often narrow side streets? There is a huge potential for improvement there, which might make the lives of the residents more convenient and safe!

Michael Jernov,
Address supplied.

Traffic forced onto side roads

Dear Editor

There is a significant increase in traffic passing down Leopold Road and Leslie Road, much at speed, in the mornings between 8 and 9 but more significantly between 3 and 6.30 in the afternoons.

This is clearly because the queues backing up from the North Circular right up to Martin School and even East Finchley's High Road shops are inviting cars to use an alternative route down residential roads and Long Lane.

This is an unsafe development since these vehicles are driven by frustrated speedy drivers. Installation of designated cycle and bus lanes has had a dangerous knock-on effect on local residential roads.

In my view, this makes little sense. The obvious means to keep traffic and people safe is to use the space of the High Road to contain the traffic and keep it moving.

Stationary traffic means more exhaust fumes. Furthermore, despite the better weather, I still rarely see bicycles in these lanes, although I do see bicycles and electric scooters being ridden on pavements.

On top of removing parking zones which kill our local businesses, these developments are helping nobody and simply creating new hazards.

Thomas Lane,
Leslie Road, N2.

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Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be printed. Contact details can be withheld on request at publication. We reserve the right to abridge letters for reasons of space.

Dog does a dash

Dear Editor,

One Saturday afternoon last month I was at the book exchange at East Finchley station when my dog ran off. Unable to grab him, I had to follow him up the stairs to the southbound Northern line platform. Being a somewhat infirm pensioner, this was not easy.

By the time I got there he was already inside a waiting carriage with the doors closing on his lead. Seeing my dilemma, two ladies on board grabbed him and one pressed the emergency button in an attempt to stop the train moving off. This failed and I am still wondering why.

I then used the platform Help button and, despite not having my Freedom Pass, was allowed to board the next train for Highgate. There I found these kind ladies and a TfL employee waiting to hand over my dog to me.

With the hope that they are Archer readers I would like to say a big thank you to them but particularly to those ladies as they were on their way to an exhibition in London.

Edna Robinson
East End Road, N2.

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column.

Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.



Sports courts need booking

By Greta Brambilla

It is lovely to see that the work on the sports area in Cherry Tree Wood has finally been completed and that the tennis and basketball courts have been totally renovated so they look brand new and attractive to play on. Unfortunately, however, since reopening I have noticed a couple of issues, not with the physical revamping at all, just with how the area is being used.

Previously there had been no need to book, hence my family and I went spontaneously to play tennis before finding our game interrupted by others who had booked the court. There is no clear signage anywhere on the courts to clarify that they must be booked online in advance. To avoid future users making the same mistake as us and ending up disappointed, here is the website for bookings: www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/CherryTreeWoods Additionally on the same day we noticed a large group of people entering the court beside us with yoga mats and a portable stereo. They then started blaring music in the otherwise tranquil park while we were trying to concentrate on our game. Although they asserted to us that they had booked a slot to be there, it seemed very unfair on others who might have wanted to use the court to actually play. They could have quite easily used the vast expanse of the park to exercise, allowing players to use the courts as intended and also considered at least lowering the volume of their music to be more considerate to park users. If possible, along with a sign for bookings, I believe there should also be visible signage stating that the courts should be used for tennis and basketball only, in order to benefit everyone using the park. Editor's note: When the tennis courts first re-opened there were two large notices on the fence about how to book, which soon disappeared.

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