

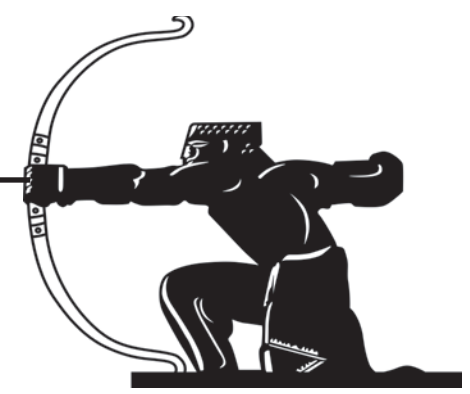


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# The Archer

Local News is our Aim



December 2022 No. 344

**A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.**

## Strawberry Vale residents fear heat cost hike

By John Lawrence

Residents on the Strawberry Vale estate in East Finchley fear a massive rise in the cost of their heating and hot water under plans to install heat meters in every home.

Currently, the estate has a communal gas-powered heating system where annual charges are controlled by the Peabody housing association and made according to property size. Electricity charges are additional.

Now, Peabody is being required by law to install heat meters in each home and they are handing over the responsibility for installation and charging to a commercial subcontractor. Residents say that the additional management fees involved will make their bills soar by as much as 180%.

The residents say they are not opposed to paying for what they use but they are concerned that the future prices they pay will be unregulated as the energy price cap does not currently apply to communal heating systems. A petition showed 98% were opposed to

the new charging scheme.

### Cost mark-up suspected

Laurence Williamson, of the Strawberry Vale Residents Association, said: "The proposed tripling of charges is not related to the general increase in energy prices in any way. It will be caused by Peabody and the subcontractor marking up the cost of the gas used. This extra charge will go to the subcontractor and a significant amount will go to Peabody as a management fee even though they are passing almost all work over to a subcontractor."

### Meters postponed

The residents have had some respite after Peabody agreed to postpone the installation of meters until spring 2023 to gather more information and to ensure the current heating network on the estate is operating efficiently. **Continued on p2.**

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Greener New Year



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## Archie's on the fizz for the festive season

Everyone on *The Archer* team sends their best wishes for the festive season and the New Year to all our readers, contributors, advertisers and deliverers, who have

**supported us throughout 2022. *The Archer* would not exist without you in the community telling us your news, without the many local businesses who advertise on our pages, thereby helping us to cover our printing costs, and without the dedication of dozens of deliverers who go out every month in all weathers to make sure the newspaper reaches almost 10,000 homes and businesses in every corner of N2. Thank you to each and every one.**

And as our 2022 card designed by Mike Coles declares, we wish the whole of East Finchley a happy and eco-friendly holiday season and a prosperous and healthy 12 months ahead.



Archer reader: Cherry Tree Café customer Lois Burgess

## P-p-pick up a paper

You can now keep up with all the news in East Finchley while enjoying the new winter menu at the Cherry Tree Wood Café. We have a new rack next to the serving hatch where you can borrow a copy of *The Archer* to take to your table, or take it home with you.

Sharon and Sharon, who run the café, now have a drinks licence allowing them to serve wines, beer and spirits, and their new menu is full of soups, baguettes and other winter warmers. Follow them on Instagram @cherrytree-woodscafe.

*The Archer* along the High Road include the tube station, the foyer of the Phoenix Cinema, East Finchley Library, Sainsbury's, Pacey's newsagents, Ella Food Centre on the corner of Creighton Avenue, and Long Lane Supermarket in Long Lane. Thanks to everyone who stocks it for us.

Other spots for picking up

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