

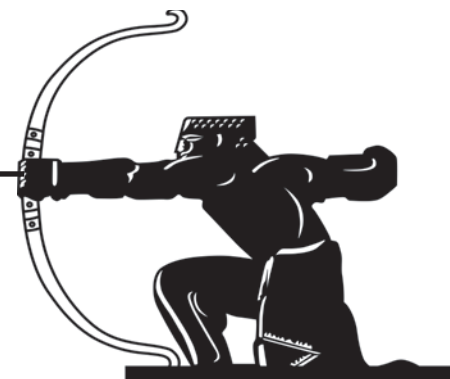


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The Archer

Local News is our Aim



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Flooding now serious threat to whole wood

By John Lawrence

Flooding in Cherry Tree Wood is getting worse and urgent action needs to be taken to avoid recreation facilities being seriously affected, say the Friends of the park.

Roger Chapman, chair of the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, has written to John Hooton, the chief executive of Barnet Council, and Sara Bentley, the chief executive of Thames Water, asking for their help in drying out the land.

The situation is much worse than at this time last year and has developed from a large single pool of water in the middle of the recreation area to widespread mini water pools across the full extent of the grassed field area.

Buildings and tennis courts threatened

In addition, there is a worrying increase in the amount of ground water accumulating at the edge of the tennis courts and underneath the adjacent 'park keeper' pavilion, right up to the foundations of the toilet block. Roger warned that one council building at least and the money recently spent by the council on resurfacing the tennis courts are under threat.

"The longest circular walk around the wood is now curtailed and completely impassable

because of this latest flooding," said Roger. "The area available to dog walkers and for other activities such as football, yoga, etc. is now extremely restricted and diminishing in area each year."

Expert assessment needed

The Friends have sent the council and Thames Water the results of ground surveys they carried out to try to understand why the problem is worsening. Initially they are asking Barnet Council to send in an expert assessor and to agree a flood management strategy for the whole wood.

Roger's letter warns: "There is potential for a partnership approach but until a proper expert assessment and evaluation of the problems is undertaken the situation will just continue to worsen and significant parts of the Wood will become off limits for substantial parts of the year."

At the time of going to press, the Friends were awaiting a response from both Barnet Council and Thames Water. *Cherry Tree Wood update: p9.*



Overtuned: The car lying on its roof in the middle of Hamilton Road. Photo Louisa Green

Three flee after car flips onto roof

By Janet Maitland

A car flipped over and landed on its roof while being driven down Hamilton Road, N2, from East End Road on Wednesday 12 January.

Louisa Green, who lives on Hamilton Road, came out of her house at about 7am to see

the overturned car in the middle of the road. She said that a passerby who had witnessed the accident and called the police told her that three people had managed to get out of the car and then ran away.

Another local resident reported that she had taken a look at all the cars parked nearby

to see if the driver had collided with another vehicle, but could see no signs of any damage.

Police confirmed the crash but have not yet provided details of any lines of enquiry. The London Ambulance Service confirmed they had not received any calls to Hamilton Road.

Grange residents to be consulted at last

By Janet Maitland

Barnet Homes will be soon be holding a consultation event about the revised plans for the redevelopment of the Grange estate and surrounding streets, reported over recent months in *The Archer*.

We understand that residents will be invited to an in-person event, likely to be in the week commencing 21 February. Local people had complained that they'd been given no information about the plans, which could affect their homes and green spaces.

We also understand that Newman Francis are no longer working with Barnet Homes as engagement consultants and that Instinctif have been appointed to continue the consultation process.

Last month we reported that although the original plan to build 100 new homes was now

reduced to 47, it was still the intention to build on the green spaces on Brownswell Road and

Tarling Road and to demolish three homes housing 21 people.

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