



ECO-FRIENDLY EAST FINCHLEY

How switched on to electric vehicles are we in N2?

By Andrew Niewiarowski

Like most residents of East Finchley, I worry about the impact of vehicles on our environment and the air we breathe, and was delighted by Barnet's net zero pledge (*The Archer*, Jan 2022). To do my bit, I recently switched to a fully electric vehicle (EV).



All charged up: Electric car owner Andrew Niewiarowski

I love driving my EV and want to share my experience with readers and offer an N2 perspective on the benefits and potential pitfalls.

- **You will save money (eventually).** The purchase cost of a new electric car is still higher than the equivalent fossil fuel vehicle, but money can be saved over the long term with cheaper fuel costs and discounts on tax, parking and congestion charge.
- **Local charging is getting better (slowly).** Like most residents, I don't have off-street parking, but am fortunate enough to have a chargepoint at work, covering my daily needs. That said, Barnet Council has been working with Ubitricity to install lamppost chargers around N2 and these are excellent. Look out for their blue LEDs above plug sockets. To request a lamppost charger near you, email EVCharging@Barnet.gov.uk (see barnet.gov.uk/roads-and-pavements/electric-vehicles-barnet for details). On some busy roads, non-EVs are often parked alongside rendering the charger unusable so it would be great if Barnet could designate these spaces as EV only to improve the return on their investment.
- **Shop around when recharging!** Unfortunately, not all chargers are equal, with some being expensive and some slow-charging (and some both!). Local petrol stations like the BP garage on the North Circular and the Esso in Archway Road have fast chargers that are good in a bind but pricey. Some supermarkets, for example Tesco and Waitrose, offer a free time-limited top-up. Closer to home, the aforementioned lamppost chargers are excellent value for money but do take several hours. Conversely, the Source London chargers on the High Road cost more than double, are slow and frequently broken. Do research and vote with your wallets.
- **Plan ahead for a long journey.** Unlike petrol, the range of EVs is limited to around 200 miles so planning for longer journeys is essential. Apps like Zap-Map are great to see what charging options are available *en route*... and importantly, what's working on the day. Fortunately, motorway EV infrastructure is improving every year.

Above all, as many of us start making the switch to EVs, local and national government must boost EV infrastructure to match demand. With that in mind, I hope to see more EVs on the streets of East Finchley soon.



Corner plot: Volunteers plan to spruce up the garden on the corner of The Walks

Gardeners get funding and get busy

A number of residents from Leopold Road, N2, have set up a small community group and started creating their own neighbourhood garden.

They plan to repair the untidy brick-built raised beds on the corner of The Walks, provide a new bench and do some planting. The scheme is part of a general improvement plan for The Walks, which secured £33,000 from Barnet Council following a bid backed by East Finchley's councillors. Kathy Batten, a resident and trustee of East Finchley Community Trust, said: "Everyone is delighted to be part of this project on our doorsteps and to improve and green our bit of East Finchley. We are very lucky to have among us Edwina Roberts, an experienced gardener who is happy to lead on the planting."



Get stuck in: Digging and planting work begins

Eco-friendly N2United

The February meeting of community and business network N2United will focus on everything to do with sustainability.

Lynn Winton, one of the organisers, said: "We'll be looking at greenifying our immediate part of the world, and lowering N2's carbon footprint, with experts to guide us to all local resources."

Speakers will include:

- Lisa Jones of mobile zero waste shop, The People's Pantry
 - Peter Barnett of A Scott and Son fishmongers, who has made a raft of improvements to make his business as environmentally friendly as possible
 - Emma Frampton of recycling initiative Bin There Donate That (see p6)
 - Maxine Klein of local campaigning group No2PlasticsN2
- Everyone is welcome to the meeting, which takes place at the Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2 8DE, from 7.30pm for an 8pm start. The club has a full bar until 11pm.

N2United is an informal business and community network, which is open to anyone in N2. Meetings are free and take place monthly. For more information visit N2United.co.uk

Shop without waste

Two electric floats turn up regularly in East Finchley to let you stock up on food, cleaning and beauty products by refilling your own containers.

The Fair-Well float makes fortnightly visits to Durham Road in front of All Saints' Church on Saturdays from 11am to 1pm. It next arrives on Saturday 5 February and Saturday 19 February, then 5 and 19 March.

Meanwhile The People's Pantry float can be found on the first Saturday of each month next to the café in Cherry Tree Wood and on the forecourt of the Muswell Hill Club on Fortis Green on the last Saturday of every month.



Street food: The Fair-Well float in Durham Road. Photo Mike Coles



Sundays at 5pm
Green Man Community Centre
Strawberry Vale N2 9BA

EVERYONE WELCOME
to our informal service followed by afternoon tea

Contact helenshannon@stbarnabas.co.uk or 07866507609

We are a Church of England church, working alongside the local parish churches in the Diocese of London. We don't have our own building, but meet in the community centre, homes and other spaces. We can take weddings, funerals, baptisms and confirmations and regularly celebrate communion at our Sunday services.

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