



N2United launches Town Team plan for East Finchley

By Ruth Anders

Dozens of traders and representatives from local organisations attending the June meeting of community network N2United were the first to hear details of the newly formed East Finchley Town Team's plans for three major events on the High Road.

Hosted by The Engine Rooms in their state-of-the-art event space on the Great North Road, the evening saw an exceptional attendance of 70-plus people. N2United Chair Nick Allan welcomed everyone before handing over to Kate Brown, Chair of East Finchley Town Team.

Budgens needs an uplift and noted the importance of inviting all High Road businesses to participate.

A special place

Councillor Ross Houston, Deputy Leader of Barnet Council, said how impressed he was with East Finchley's level of engagement, adding that the



Ambitious: Kate Brown talks about the Town Team plans to the packed audience at the Engine Rooms. Photo Mike Coles.

Events in the pipeline

Kate explained the Town Team's story, starting with the successful application for £10,000 funding (*The Archer*, May 2022) and moving on to plans for three events to be held on the High Road between September 2022 and March 2023.

The first of these will be held on Saturday 17 September, focusing on our "Sustainable High Road", with more details to be announced nearer the time. Interesting questions were asked including how the initiative might leave a lasting legacy, especially in terms of the High Road's appearance and the proliferation of rubbish bins.

Councillor Arjun Mittra commented that Barnet Council is working on a long-term plan for bin management. All agreed that the area outside

East Finchley Festival is the most successful in the Borough.

The new Mayor of Barnet, Alison Moore, commended East Finchley's special qualities and reminded everyone of the importance of supporting their local businesses. She added her support of N2United's work in pulling local organisations, sole traders and individuals together. As if to illustrate this, representatives from the Phoenix Cinema, East Finchley Open Artists, the East Finchley Festival and Grange Big Local gave updates on their various activities.

Diary date

Everyone is welcome to N2United's next meeting taking place at East Finchley Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2, on Thursday 14 July at 8pm. See n2united.co.uk for further details.



Just 10km to go: The runners set off on the Race the Neighbours route from Cherry Tree Wood. Photo John Lawrence

Neighbours back to race again

By David Melsome

Hundreds of runners set off from Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 5 June when the Race the Neighbours 10k challenge returned for the first time in three years.

Since 2015, with a two-year break for the pandemic, East Finchley and Muswell Hill have competed in a friendly fashion to take home the Cherry Tree Cup but this year it was newly admitted N6 postcode Highgate that claimed the trophy.

The amateur athletes set off on a 10km route around Highgate Wood and Alexandra Palace before returning to the finishing line in Cherry Tree Wood, where individual times were recorded and average scores for the postcodes tallied. The fastest male runner

this year was David Andrade in 37mins 55secs and the fastest female runner was Gillian Hughes in 44mins 06secs. Congratulations to everyone who gave it their best and made it round the course, including the last runner to romp home in 1hr 22mins 12secs.

Another High Road business raided

Three men in masks forced their way into Sainsbury's supermarket on the High Road, N2, in the early hours of Monday 30 May in the latest in a string of attacks on businesses around East Finchley.

Police were called to the scene at 3.40am and found the windows shattered and the shutters severed. Hundreds of



Forced entry: The damage caused to the front entrance of Sainsbury's in the High Road. Photo Mike Coles

Several local businesses have been broken into during the last 19 months: the now closed New Local Café twice in 24 hours by different burglars, the East Finchley station shop, the Ella Food Centre, the N2 Food and Wine shop off Church Lane and CW Andrew Pharmacy, twice in less than a year.

In the last three months, burglars have also tried to break into two other shops on the High Road, but their attempts

were foiled by the shutters. Just under two thirds of all these burglaries, including Sainsbury's, were of premises without shutters.

You can find current police security advice for businesses by going to www.met.police.uk and searching for 'business crime prevention'. The council is undertaking a review of CCTV street cameras to ensure they are in the right place to deter crime.

Night blaze destroys unoccupied house

Six fire engines and around 40 firefighters were called to a house alight on The Bishops Avenue, N2, in the early hours of Monday 6 June. The roof, first floor and ground floor of the detached property were destroyed by the blaze.

The Brigade was called at 3.45am and the fire was under control by 6am. Fire crews from Finchley, West Hampstead, Hornsey and Kentish Town fire stations were at the scene.

There were no reports of any injuries and the cause of the fire is under investigation. The Bishops



Early hours: Fire crews at the blaze on The Bishops Avenue

Avenue was partially closed for several hours after the incident.

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e-cigarette refills were stolen and boxes of other goods thrown over the floor. The burglary was captured on the supermarket CCTV. "Enquiries are ongoing," said a police spokesperson.

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