



Felling of ten Coldfall trees may be 'futile'

By Ann Bronkhorst

Nearly a year has passed since Haringey Council suspended the proposed felling of some healthy young trees in Coldfall Wood after strong objections were raised by the Friends of Coldfall Wood, local residents and 66,000 nationwide petitioners.

First there was relief, then months of silence and uncertainty; then on 28 January this year ten trees were felled with four more to follow. The petition is active again with 2,000 more signatures.

As reported in *The Archer* in April 2021, AXA is the

were contributing to subsidence problems in the property, or might do in the future. In that case, Haringey would have to bear considerable costs if the trees remained.

Experts agree

Professor Jeff Duckett, whose report on the proposed

fellings last year supported the Friends' position, has called this year's actual fellings "futile". He points out that felling two mature trees close to the property a few years ago did not cure the subsidence problem and that this year's removal of ten smaller trees "will have no tangible effect."

He and another expert advising the Friends believe that the problem at the site is not vegetation but soil. Legal advice to Haringey Council has also warned of "the issue of heave as referenced by

Mr Duckett ... if the council do decide to go down this route."

Questions awaiting answers

Haringey have commissioned a report from an independent engineer but have not yet shared its findings with the Friends. Recently AXA has told the Friends they would prefer to stabilise the property without the removal of vegetation and are waiting for Haringey to reply to a proposal, details of which are as yet unknown but probably entail a large payment from the council.

A meeting is scheduled for early March between the Friends group and key council officers to establish why, if AXA has not in fact required the trees' removal, ten healthy trees have been felled with four more under threat.



Photo for the chop: The trees are felled. Photo: Instagram.com/nomlass

insurance company acting for a private property with a flank wall adjoining the wood. It seemed then that AXA was claiming that the group of trees



Table service: Art activities under way at the Wave Café in Muswell Hill. Photo Kate Kuzminova and Annalie Eddy

Café with all abilities on the menu

By David Melsome

A new café has opened in Muswell Hill to bring together people with and without learning disabilities through art, yoga, food and community activities.

Wave Café is based in the new community area at the United Reformed Church in Queens Avenue, N10, and is open every Thursday from 9am to 5pm and every Friday from 9am to 3pm.

Young people with disabilities come from local schools and colleges to be part of the café's internship programme,

which gives them the chance to learn important work and life skills. They are part of a mixed ability team and they help with everything from setting up and clearing up to support in the art room and preparing and serving lunch.

All inclusive

Each week, people from the community, with and without

disabilities, come to take part in the inclusive art sessions, do some yoga, and enjoy a freshly prepared meal. Teenagers from local schools come to take part in the after-school arts programme.

You can find out more on Instagram and Facebook @WavecafeN10 or visit www.wavecafe.org.

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Volunteers: Mayor of Barnet Councillor Alison Cornelius presents awards to food bank volunteers Helena Pugh and Anna Maughan

Honoured for work at food bank

Two volunteers from Finchley Foodbank have been recognised as Town Centre Heroes for the work they've done helping people in need through the pandemic.

Helena Pugh and Anna Maughan received their awards from the Mayor of Barnet Councillor Alison Cornelius in a ceremony at Hendon Town Hall in January. Helena began volunteering at the food bank two years ago before the virus came along. She works with a team sorting, packing and handing out food donations. She said: "No one

should need a food bank's help but while they do I'll do what I can, and there's much to do." Finchley Foodbank, which operates from St Mary's church hall in the High Road, N2, and takes donations on Wednesdays from 10am to 1pm and on Fridays from 12pm to 3pm, is celebrating its ninth anniversary this year.

Anna, who has volun-

teered at the food bank for eight years, said: "Back then, I only volunteered a few hours a week with around 20 others, supporting a few households. Over time as situations became more difficult, pre-pandemic, our numbers grew to around 70 individuals a week; today we are regularly helping 350-390 people weekly."

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