



The Archer

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Thank you to The East Finchley Constitutional Club for providing us with a meeting place.

The Archer team wishes to thank all the generous people who give up their spare time, in all weather, to deliver the paper for us.

If you have a story for us, please contact us at the above address.

Comments to The Archer may be published unless clearly marked 'Not for publication' within the text.

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SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

LOCAL POLICE, LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Jan Lovell, of the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team, updates us on the latest crime news. Jan and the team can be contacted by email at: EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk, or by phone on 020 7161 9014. Follow the team on Twitter @MPSEastFinchley.

Home security

As the nights get longer it's usual for residential burglaries to increase, so it's important to have good home security with strong doors and window locks. An alarm is also a good investment. Homes with an active alarm are rarely burgled.

We'd like to make you aware of a rising trend this year of burglars targeting sheds and lock-ups in front gardens and garages so they can steal cycles.

Cycle protection

Burglars are finding that cycle theft is both lucrative and easy pickings with the help of a crowbar or bolt cutters. The majority of cycles are not marked or registered, so there is no way of identifying the owner if a cycle is found or seen on sale, or even if it has been stolen.

ImmobiBike is a tagging system that uniquely and permanently marks your cycle, registers it, allows tracking, and, with a sticker on the cycle, advertises to a potential thief that the cycle is marked. It's a good deterrent, all for around £15.

Cycle and shed alarms start at around £20. A combined GPS tracker and alarm cost about £45. The most important thing to remember is to double lock your bike and register the frame number.

For further crime prevention advice, please go to www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet Council

56 Bancroft Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension; depth 6m, maximum height 3m, eaves height 3m.

5 Brighton Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

Flat 1, Chantry Court, Creighton Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Replacement rear outbuilding.

28 Deansway, N2

Roof extension, including one side dormer window, one rear dormer window and one front rooflight.

Hertford Court, 196 - 202 High Road, N2

Removal of windows and installation of new roof lights to water tank enclosures.

340 High Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

63 Leslie Road, N2

Rear outbuilding.



Waste land: Building work on the former Esso garage site on the High Road, above, could coincide with the construction of two new blocks of flats nearby on the Grange estate. Photos Mike Coles

Traffic concerns over building work on three sites at once

By Janet Maitland

A small pocket of East Finchley is soon to become the epicentre of three simultaneous housing developments, raising concerns about traffic congestion and pedestrian safety.

One of the three construction sites is the former Esso garage site on the High Road on the corner of Church Lane, opposite Martin School. As we've reported in previous editions, plans exist to build 20 flats in two blocks on this site, which has been a wasteland for several years. Work is expected to start at the beginning of December and continue for two years. Barnet Council has already approved the construction management plan for this development, which states that construction traffic will use two entrances to the site, one on the High Road, the other on Church Lane.

Two blocks, one entrance

The other two nearby developments are on the Grange estate, where Barnet Homes will build one block of eight flats on Central

Avenue and another on land next to the High Road (*The Archer*, October 2022). This work is scheduled to start in the spring of 2023 and last over a year.

Construction traffic for both of the Grange blocks will use the one vehicle entrance into the estate which is accessed from King Street, a turning off Church Lane, and Elmfield Road, which runs off Long Lane.

Council responses

A Barnet Council spokesperson claimed that as all the schemes were "relatively small, it is unlikely that there would be any adverse cumulative impact arising." Nevertheless, East Finchley councillor Arjun Mittra told us: "I will press for the planning department to ensure as best they can that the construction management plans

for all these developments do not create gridlock."

The construction management plan for the former Esso site also says that a 'construction liaison group' will be established with neighbours. And the Barnet Council spokesperson added that "Schools will be taken into consideration by the Highways department when they consider possible impacts of the development."

Although the applications for the Grange blocks have also been approved by the council, a recommendation was made that Barnet Homes should continue to "engage with local councillors and the public about the traffic issues". Barnet Homes have said the impact of the developments, including their construction, will be "negligible".

Library books brought to your door

By Daphne Chamberlain

As we all know, home deliveries increased by leaps and bounds as a result of the pandemic. Think of food, clothes... but would you think of the library service?

Most local authorities have made home deliveries for many years, but only for those people physically unable to travel to library buildings or to access the mobile service. Covid restrictions made it clear that some people can't manage this for other reasons. So now the option is open to everyone genuinely

unable for any reason to get to a library themselves. The one proviso is that you don't use any of the other branches.

The Home Library Service visits about 250 registered individual users and around 25 care homes throughout the borough. One of the individual users, who lives in East Finchley, is so appreciative of her home visits that she suggested *The Archer* give it a mention. She particularly enjoys being able to reserve her own books, which can be borrowed from anywhere in the borough.

Regular and helpful

Irfan, one of the four library staff who run the service, confirmed that all the Barnet stock is available to Home Library

users. A maximum of 12 items can be borrowed, and visits are every four weeks. Care homes are visited every eight weeks.

People don't always have the same staff visiting, but they will usually get to know them all. As Irfan pointed out, the social aspect is important, often bringing spin-off benefits. He told us that one borrower was very upset because he couldn't put his rubbish out to be collected. The visiting home service librarian told him about special arrangements for collection, and helped him fill in the form to obtain this.

For details of how to register for home library visits, you can call 020 8359 3901 or contact mobile.library@barnet.gov.uk.

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James Drewe is a qualified teacher and has been studying tai chi for 45 years. He is the author of 3 books on tai chi & is a member of the TUGB.

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