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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Speed signs on crowded roads 'irresponsible'

By Ruth Anders

Residents of the County roads in East Finchley are up in arms after signs were put up advising motorists that they can travel up to 30mph on their narrow streets, even though cars are parked nose to tail and children or animals could cross at any moment.

The signs were installed on 28 July because Department of Transport rules require Barnet Council to advertise the change of speed zone from the 20mph that has been in place along the High Road for many months. But residents say the signs are irresponsible.



Too much information: The new 30mph sign obscures the Bedford Road street name

"Baffling"

A Bedford Road resident told The Archer: "Since the signs went up, we've been talking of little else." Others added: "This seems completely baffling as we would expect any action to slow traffic rather than speed it up on such narrow streets.' and "It's totally irresponsible to encourage 'speeding up' on family roads."

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The 30mph signs have gone up at the entrance to each of the County roads: Hertford, Bedford, Huntingdon, Leicester and Lincoln. In Bedford Road's case, the speed sign obscures the road name sign.

A 30mph sign is also in place at the end of Kitchener Road while Leslie Road and Leopold Road, along with Church Lane, are already 20mph zones.

Petition and action

Residents hope to organise a petition asking the council to remove the signs and to make all residential roads in East Finchley 20mph. Haringey Council's side roads are already limited to 20mph and there are hopes that the same will soon be possible in Barnet.

East Finchley ward Councillor Arjun Mittra told The Archer: "The previous administration's policy only located 20mph zones outside schools. This is being repealed in favour of a new policy allowing 20mph zones where residents request them. Pending the agreement and sign off from the Cabinet for the policy change, we will consult residents about extending the 20 zones, and the County roads are a long-standing priority

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Smash and grab: The Pacey's burglar breaks into a cigarette cabinet and sweeps its entire contents into a huge bag in an image taken from the shop's CCTV footage.

Five businesses targeted in night-time raids

Five businesses on the High Road in East Finchley were targeted by burglars in just one week with raiders cutting through security shutters and in the case of Pacey's newsagents making off with more than £12,000 worth of cigarettes. Turn to page 5 for the full story and more photos.

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Advertising in The Archer helps local businesses reach a potential 20,000 readers in East Finchley and online every month. For the last 30 years, they have found it an excellent way of spreading the word to the people of N2 about their goods or services.

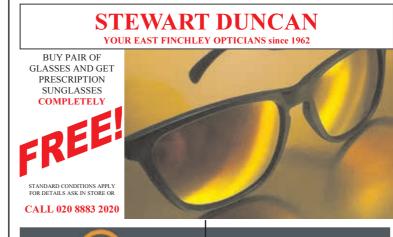
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Those costs are rising so, in our anniversary year, we are looking for someone to help us manage our advertising successfully to ensure The Archer can continue to serve the N2 community for at least another 30 years.

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