



Letters

Send your letters to:
news@the-archer.co.uk

Palaver and expense

Dear Editor,

Thanks heavens for *The Archer*. Without it, I would know nothing about this exceptionally bad idea for a new controlled parking zone. Commuter parking is a non-issue in the road where I live. There are far fewer cars parked here in the daytime than in the evening.

I don't have a car. However, people who come to see me do... the odd relative/friend or people providing services that I need. I can't believe that the council wants me to go to all the palaver and expense of making sure they can still do that.

I understand that there is no money, and have direct experience of the consequences of this for social care provision, but I would appreciate not being lied to by people I have voted for. And why ask people what they think again when you have already been told?

Janet Maitland,
Address supplied.

Try again

Dear Editor,

I oppose the decision by the council to impose parking restrictions in the East Finchley residential areas despite residents being overall opposed in the consultation conducted. I agree, therefore, to a second public consultation to be carried out by the council.

Dilshad Martin,
Address supplied.

Positive effects

Dear Editor,

I would like to emphasise my emphatic support for the CPZ scheme and other measures to tackle the increasingly dangerous high level of car traffic, and in turn air pollution/reduction in safety for pedestrians in our lovely borough.

There are numerous case studies across London (Waltham Forest being one which shares characteristics with us here in EF) of CPZs and traffic reduction measures where such proposals similarly initially faced vocal opposition from some but have very effectively brought down unnecessary car usage, improved pedestrian safety, and increased overall air quality in the borough resulting in better health outcomes (notably for children who often suffer the most from such traffic).

They have also increased the level of much-needed footfall to local shops and businesses by reducing congestion caused by unnecessary car journeys which could otherwise have been completed on foot or by public transport.

These schemes allowed those who need to use cars (and don't have an alternative, including those who are less mobile) to do so in a less impeded/restricted fashion. This in turn resulted in an overall positive view of the scheme once established.

I do hope the CPZ will be implemented, in a way that reflects residents' views and concerns, and similar speed reduction and air quality measures will be implemented in our lovely borough.

Rob,
Long Lane, N2

Parking questions

Dear Editor,

If we are to have another public consultation over a new parking zone in East Finchley, it should be fairly written and conducted independently of the company that Barnet Council pays to look after all its parking services (*The Archer*, May 2024). The last time they sent out a survey, the questions were written in such a way that it was impossible to avoid giving opinions on how the zone should be run, even if you'd said you didn't want it in the first place. And on that subject, how can the council possibly fly in the face of 71% of people opposing the whole idea? They should have paid attention to people's wishes, not ploughed ahead regardless.

Petra Connolly,
Address supplied

Enforcement needed

Dear Editor,

I've been a resident in N2 for a little over 18 months and when it came to renew my parking permit I did not. The reason is that I found that I couldn't park anywhere near where I live in N2 and would be parking two or three streets away and that's after driving around looking for somewhere to park.

More often than not, those parking illegally were never given a ticket. I'd see a car parked on the zigzag lines by the zebra crossing outside the Learning Experience nursery on East End Road on a daily basis.

I feel that if you're going to have a CPZ, it should be policed. At the moment it does not feel that this is happening and therefore what is the point of paying for a permit when I can't even park and especially as with the cost of living as high as it currently is, I do not think it is working. I now just move my car during the hour when the CPZ should be enforced.

N2 resident.

Parking hours are wrong

Dear Editor

Nothing was mentioned in the articles about the controlled parking zone in your May edition in relation to the logic of the 11am to 3pm extension to the top half of East Finchley when our road, Bedford Road, near the shops only has a 2pm to 3pm restriction.

This seems sufficient to reduce parking during the day but as with other areas the main parking problem is in the evening especially when coming back late. I cannot see why the top half of Finchley would need such a long CPZ.

So at least the proposals should be revised or possibly scrapped altogether especially in areas with no parking problems at all.

Susan Saunders Vosper
Bedford Road, N2.

Scrap it

Dear Editor,

The CPZ should be scrapped. It's a money making racket for the council and hassle for people who live in the area trying to arrange permits for residents and visitors. I say no thank you.

Katie Walsh,
Address supplied.

Not wanted

Dear Editor,

As a longtime resident of Long Lane, I can safely say that we do not need or want a CPZ here. The council should not waste money, time, and effort on another consultation; simply scrap the ridiculous scheme altogether immediately.

Andy Minnis,
Long Lane, N2.

No problem

Dear Editor,

I write in response to your request for views regarding the proposed CPZ in your May 2024 issue. I live in Church Lane where there are no parking problems. Although I have off-street parking, visitors and tradespeople are always able to park in the road close to the house. We don't need costly and annoying CPZ limitations in our lives. A further consultation should be scrapped altogether.

Ray Clarke,
Church Lane, N2.

Eyesore site

Dear Editor,

I've walked past the highly visible but neglected site at the end of Church Lane, N2, most days for years (Land worth millions is still a vacant desolate eyesore, *The Archer*, May 2024) and I find it increasingly upsetting. Not just because of the ugliness, but also the indifference to the neighbourhood it seems to represent.

Even worse is the prospect of two overbearing blocks of luxury flats, that many people did not want, and said so repeatedly, eventually being built on the site when there's a desperate need for decent cheap housing.

Whatever the reason for the delays, the landowners have invested in land in a prime spot, the value of which will be increasing every day whether anything gets built or not. They win either way.

Rani Dickson,
Address supplied.

Don't bank on it

Dear Editor,

I just discovered that the NatWest bank in Muswell Hill will be closing down in August of this year. I think there is a Santander left in Muswell Hill but you have to go online to even open an account there.

There are no banks in East Finchley or Highgate. This is dire and it all makes banking very hard for many older people. They want to talk to a real person.

Can we do anything to stop this disregard for public service by very rich banks which we the public have often bailed out? This has got to be a serious campaign issue in the local press and for the upcoming elections.

This is absolutely no good for people who live in this country. I've been with NatWest for 40 years. Ratbags to let me down like this, first in East Finchley and now in Muswell Hill.

Dr Mary Poulter
Park Hall Road, N2.



Vibrant community: Worshippers celebrate 200 years of East Finchley Methodist Church

Two hundred years of people stories

By Ella Malik

A fascinating new book has been written recounting the 200-year history of East Finchley Methodist Church in the High Road. *All Are Welcome* is a compilation of 'old and new material' gathered through various sources, including previously-written historical documents, newsletters and other church records.

In addition, many local members of the East Finchley Methodist community contributed their personal stories. I spoke with Andrea McTeare who has been responsible for compiling all this material.

She told me the idea for the book came early in 2021 when church members began planning for the 200-year anniversary of the church, celebrated in 2022. *The Archer* had a hand in this when a large group photo of a 1960s Boys Brigade was published inviting people's memories.

Replies came from as far afield as New Zealand and Devon as well as locally, and these are included in the book, in the chap-

ter 'Youth in Uniform'.

Andrea told me that she wanted to write "a book about people" which undoubtedly, she has achieved. The final product of her two years of hard work is a book rich with voices, past and present, with dedications to valued members of the Methodist Church, pictures of the church community and accounts of notable events.

Copies (100pp. £10 plus p&p.) can be bought from the church at services, at Thursday coffee mornings in the attached Wesley's Coffee Bar, at its monthly live music concerts and through the website www.eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk.



Nature on show: One of Mike Wasser's works

Images from nature

Local artist Mike Wasser is holding an exhibition of his paintings inspired by the natural world at Lauderdale House, Highgate, N6, from Wednesday 26 June to Monday 22 July. *Shadows and Light* will be open every day from 12pm to 4pm, except Wednesdays when it will be open from 11am to 3pm. Part of the proceeds go to North London Hospice.