



Overflowing bins and rubbish bags blight High Road

By Diana Cormack

Concern is growing over the rubbish that regularly appears along the High Road in East Finchley. Pedestrians sometimes find themselves having to avoid tramping through garbage strewn across the pavements, usually at its worst early in the day. It is not a pretty sight, consisting of contents of the various bins used by local businesses and residents.



Health hazard: Rubbish strewn across the pavement by a High Road bin. Photo Mike Coles

People who live on the floors above ground level and who do not have wheelie bins are provided with plastic sacks for recyclable rubbish and black bin bags for other garbage. They are asked to leave them out on the pavement for collection, where they are frequently ripped open by animals such as foxes exploring the contents in search of food.

Food is also contained in some of the large commercial bins used by the many eateries and food merchants along the High Road. Although some are locked, others have been seen with rubbish propping open their lids, the subsequent overflowing debris decomposing below.

Fixes not foxes

In an effort to rectify the situation, East Finchley Town Team, which was originally established to promote and support the High Road, has been working with local councillor Alison Moore and Barnet Council.

It has noted that not all the commercial bins are clearly labelled to show which business they belong to and, as they are emptied by different operators, the programme for this varies. Those served by Barnet Council are emptied twice a week, with twice-weekly collections of household rubbish.

Collection details for other operators differ, as does the amount of time containers are left out. Kate Brown of EF Town Team said: 'In the short term it is vital that no bin, be it commercial or domestic, is overfilled and the amount of time a sack is on the street is minimised.'



Shared responsibility: Waste disposal is handled by at least seven different collectors

Ideally, Kate said, fixed times for putting out and collecting rubbish which everyone adheres to would be wonderful.

At present the Town Team is investigating how other areas deal with this problem and hoping to come up with a solution that Barnet could instigate... as long as someone informs the foxes.



Tidy: Jamie, Toby and Emily Lesser with friends Logan and Presley and their litter pickers

Pals pick clean path to school

By Jamie, aged ten, and Toby Lesser, seven

Most kids avoid rubbish on their way to school but on Mondays we go out looking for it. That's because it's the day that we take the long route to our school armed with litter pickers.

With our sister Emily and two of our friends, Logan and Presley, and our mums Lucy and Danii, who bring big sacks, we help to clear as much rubbish as we can off the streets.

We started litter-picking in lockdown, when we were picking up hundreds of masks and gloves. Now we are mostly bagging and binning bottles, cans and strips of Amazon packaging. We've also found phones, foreign money, and bits of an old motorbike. Disgustingly, we often find bottles filled to the brim with urine and bags of dog poo too.

Video stars

Earlier this year, the charity Keep Britain Tidy came to film us on our weekly pick, because we want to encourage other children around the country to litterpick on their way to school. Think what a huge difference it could make! The video has been watched by thousands. In it, Emily, who is five, says: 'It is good to litter pick. It makes a gooder world, and it stops all the animals from eating plastic and getting ill.' Jamie adds: 'I think that more people should litter pick because if there is already litter, then others think

that it is okay to create more.' Logan, who is ten, says:

'We think other people should join us in litter-picking, to make a clean world with no rubbish.'

Other pupils at Brookland Primary School are now joining us and picking up rubbish on their walks to school. So we recommend you too join the litter-picking campaign. Why not give it a go?

Mum Lucy Tobin adds: 'We've bought out litter pickers from B&Q and local shops. We recommend not buying the cheapest ones as they break and add to the litter problem.'

Artsdepot memories

North Finchley's arts centre Artsdepot is putting a call out to visitors and residents to contribute their personal memories to its 20th anniversary exhibition.

They want to hear about first theatre experiences, what new talents people may have

discovered at workshops and whether visits to the centre opened doors for anyone's creative career. Find out more at www.artsdepot.co.uk and contribute by emailing memories@artsdepot.co.uk

Tell us the news

Have you got a news story or an interesting photo for us? Tell us what is going on in East Finchley by emailing news@the-archer.co.uk or leave a message on our free phone line 0800 612 0748. Thank you.

Drag bingo

To celebrate Pride Month, Age UK Barnet is holding a Drag Bingo evening. Hosted by Manuka Honey, the event takes place on Monday 17 June from 6.30pm to 8.30pm at the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2. Expect prizes, snacks, a bar, and guaranteed laughs whether you're a bingo pro or just up for a good time!

Age UK Barnet warmly welcomes everyone, and especially wants to celebrate and include over-55s from the LGBTQ+ community. To book, contact Teresa on 07502 989 403 or email teresa.gallagher@ageukbarnet.org.uk



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