



## Letters



Pile 'em high: The boxes, scattered and then neatly stacked, spotted by reader Bob Janes in Brompton Grove



### Foxed by boxes

Dear Editor,

I walked down Brompton Grove one spring morning and there, across the end of the alley way leading up to Baronsmere Road, was a large heap of boxes, packaging and out-of-date fruit and vegetables.

For those who don't know it, Brompton Grove is the unadopted road that runs from the Monkey Puzzle Nursery opposite the tube station along the side of Cherry Tree Wood to Summerlee Avenue

I wondered where the pile might have come from and where it.

### Pedestrians and cyclists first

Dear Editor

You reported last month that the proposed pedestrianisation of Creighton Avenue had "alarmed road users". Do you mean motorists? I can't imagine pedestrians and cyclists were too concerned.

Your article encouraged me to review the January 2022 updates to the Highway Code while I was sitting in the bath last night. I noticed the new 'hierarchy of road users', with pedestrians and cyclists at the top and motorists down at the bottom.

The proposals for Creighton Avenue seem only to reflect that hierarchy, and the council's duty to encourage those who can to cycle and walk. East Finchley would be a calmer, safer and more peaceful place if car use was reduced. Anything that facilitates that outcome should be welcomed. We might even hear the birdsong over the traffic.

Moses Seittler,  
Market Place, N2

### Over-zealous idea

Dear Editor

The proposed 'School Street' plan for Creighton Avenue is yet another over-zealous scheme on a false pretext which is not supported with evidence. This is nothing more than an insidious attempt to further penalise tax-paying drivers/road users and cause chaos on the roads. A sick proposal from an equally sick council.

Gill Davis,  
Address supplied

might go. Two days later I passed by again and the alley way was clear but along the fence to Cherry Tree Wood was a much tidier pile of the same boxes.

Two days later still it had all disappeared. That bit is not mysterious, Barnet Council had been contacted and cleared it. The mystery here is where it came from in the first place.

Bob Janes,  
Address supplied

### Why shut the road?

Dear Editor

I would like to share my view on the proposed closure of Creighton Avenue during peak times. I do the school run and walk my daughter to school from Leslie Road and down Creighton Avenue to Coldfall School multiple times a week.

The road is one of the quietest and safest roads already during rush hour and I have absolutely no idea why it would need to close when the traffic is already so little. I barely see any cars on my walk to school and the pavements are lovely and wide, providing ample space to walk down with no obstruction or need to cross or move into the main road.

On a Thursday/Friday I take my other daughter to nursery on Fortis Green and the traffic on the High Road is significantly more than Creighton Avenue. Closing Creighton which we use as a cut-through to Fortis Green via Twyford Avenue when we are driving because it's so quiet compared to the High Road seems like a very strange idea. As someone that walks down Creighton Avenue Monday to Friday regularly I see no reason for it to close and would worry if it did that cars would use the county roads as cut-throughs far more, which is incredibly dangerous given how narrow they are compared to Creighton Avenue.

Holly Zisman,  
Leslie Road, N2

### Terrible idea

Dear Editor

Thanks for the article about the shocking news of closing Creighton Avenue during peak times. I live in Fortis Green which is already way too full of traffic. It's a much narrower road than Creighton Avenue

plus it has lots of buses and parking that narrow the road and cause traffic jams.

If the almost empty road of Creighton Ave is closed this will make Fortis Green much worse... It's a terrible idea. I often need to drive in that direction to see my partner as well as friends and have never seen any problems with children crossing the road.

If needed they could create another zebra crossing or narrow the road width to slow traffic instead, although to be honest in all the years I've lived here I've never noticed a lorry driving down Creighton Avenue. It's a particularly quiet and wide road already... unlike Fortis Green where there are always huge traffic jams.

Cate Smail  
Address supplied

### We need more housing

Dear Editor

I read the story in the May 2025 issue regarding the proposed housing development in Manor Park Road. I wanted to respond to the comment that no one in the area supports the proposal put forward by the council for 10 new homes on the car park site.

I and some of my neighbours do support the proposal to provide homes on the site for many reasons. The car park has attracted anti-social behaviour, drug taking and dumping of rubbish for many years. There isn't a problem with parking in the surrounding roads (as evidenced by the campaign against the CPZ) and there is a national housing crisis that needs to be addressed.

Parking will be a bit tighter for residents if there are a few more cars, but there are currently c.2,500 children in Barnet living in temporary accommodation. Surely we can put up with this minor inconvenience so that we can do our bit and help contribute to giving a better quality of life for local families.

Resident of Manor Park Road,  
Name and address supplied

### Silent majority

Dear Editor

As an avid, longtime reader of The Archer I want to thank you for your tireless efforts in keeping an important source of community news running.

In relation to recent articles about the Homes for Barnet developments in our fine borough, I've been somewhat disappointed by the negative coverage. It seems outrage all too often rises to the top of the pile, when a silent majority is too often ignored.

We can all agree there is a dire need for new housing, the younger generation either

cannot afford to move out of their parents' homes or find themselves trapped in a cycle of crippling rent payments.

Those rallying against all these new developments are often those who have been fortunate enough to purchase their houses outright when they were more affordable, or be of means to do so.

We should welcome the fact others want to live in our lovely borough and do what we can to support this effort. I am fully in support of the Manor Park and Cherry Tree developments, as a nearby resident, and believe these constitute good uses of under-utilised space, which is in such short supply.

Robin,  
Long Lane, N2

### Ugly aesthetic

Dear Editor

I'll leave others to comment on Places for Barnet and their 'exemplary' (their word, not mine) building proposals.



First sight: How the Cherry Tree Quarter development would look from East Finchley station

I would just like to raise the purely aesthetic point that the buildings they are proposing are ghastly. Ugly. Very, very ugly indeed. Especially the 'Cherry Tree Quarter'.

The image shown in the recent edition of The Archer looks like someone has crossed cheaply built Marbella time-share flats with an open prison. Is this really what we want to represent East Finchley? The first thing people see as they emerge into the sunlight on the Northern line?

East Finchley is a wonderfully quirky area described as 'charming', 'lovely sense of community', 'quiet streets mixed with indie cafes', 'a surprisingly good arts scene'. That's why we love living here.

The proposed Cherry Tree Quarter does not say 'quirky' or 'charming sense of community' and it definitely does not say 'good arts scene'. And 'Cherry Tree Quarter'? How dare they? A cherry tree is a thing of beauty; elegant and soft and a herald of spring. If I grew a cherry tree and a quarter of it was as ugly as Places for Barnet's proposal I'd chop it down.

Richard Butterworth,  
Manor Park Road, N2

### Baffled by bookcase

Dear Editor

I was born at 9 High Road, East Finchley, in 1946. The taking away and bringing back of the bookcase at East Finchley station (The Archer, May 2025) and all the kerfuffle over a simple act of kindness by a woman is representative of why I left England in the first place.

Here, where I live along the rocky cliffs of Newfoundland in Canada, some people build little structures with glass doors that contain books for the taking. Some folks add books from time to time.

The thought that someone would 'inspect' these structures or think of how they might be a danger to the public is beyond me. Also, no one would think of locking up the books at night. Anyway, in the future, I'll wait to read complaints about the metal bookcase rusting and who is going to paint it. And, of course, God forbid anyone goes and paints it without 'committee approval' of the colour.

Barrie Barrell,  
Flatrock, Newfoundland, Canada

### Tape on trees

Dear Editor

Walking round East Finchley, it is a real pleasure to see so many new street trees. As I understand it these have been funded at some cost by street residents and other charitable donations, and I also understand that residents have helped the trees to settle in and establish roots by watering during this prolonged period without rain. But I am puzzled by the different coloured plastic tapes which have been tied tightly round the trunk of many of these young trees. I looked on the internet to see what they could mean but the list given on Wikipedia was so long that I was none the wiser. I also saw that it is possible to buy such plastic tape cheaply from Amazon. There must be clearer ways of showing support for different causes.

I wonder how long these plastic tapes will remain on the trees, and who will take responsibility for removing and disposing of them properly to avoid damage to the young trees as they thicken or to our already plastic laden environment.

Mary Williams,  
Hertford Road, N2

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