



Traffic calming and 20mph in county roads

By Ruth Anders

Eighty per cent of people who responded to a consultation on traffic calming measures in the county roads in East Finchley have supported the introduction of a 20mph speed limit.



Slow down: A 20mph limit may be introduced

In January, we reported on the inconsistent speed restrictions on the High Road and county roads, namely Durham, Lincoln, Leicester, Huntingdon, Bedford and Hertford. The 20mph limit on the main thoroughfare rises to 30mph for vehicles turning into these narrower residential roads.

Barnet Council subsequently sent out a consultation to 1,078 homes and businesses to outline the options for traffic calming on the county roads. They received 132 responses, a return rate of 12.2%.

The options included a new 20mph limit in the county roads, speed bumps to reduce vehicle speed, and double yellow lines to replace single yellow lines at junctions.

In a letter to residents

summarising the responses and outlining recommendations, Barnet Council reported that 80.3% supported the 20mph limit, 45.5% supported the speed bumps (with 42.2% objecting) and 42.4% supported double yellow lines to prohibit waiting and parking at junctions.

No one-way

After considering the responses, the Council said it had concluded that a one-way traffic system in the county roads would not be helpful.

The issue of 'cut-through traffic' should be addressed, it said, apparently recognising the concern of many residents that the county roads are used as rat runs between Fortis Green and the High Road.

Tactile facilities, including textured surfaces and dropped kerbs for those with sight impairment and mobility challenges, will be included in recommendations.

And if speed bumps are introduced they are expected to be 'sinusoidal humps', which have a shallower initial rise and are therefore more cycle-friendly.

Barnet Council said detailed designs of proposed improvements and changes in the county roads would follow.

Your letters, page 11

Continued from page 1

Haringey Council, which operates similar schemes elsewhere in the borough, said the restrictions will improve air quality, reduce road danger and congestion and encourage active travel. It could be introduced at the same time as another School Street outside Our Lady of Muswell Primary School in nearby Pages Lane, N10.

But the reaction from many road users has been one of horror. "Terrible, terrible idea," said one. "This is going to cause gridlock," said another. "Why would you move traffic from a main road onto side streets?" asked one resident.

There are serious concerns that peak period traffic trying to get between East Finchley and Muswell Hill will all be forced onto Fortis Green and Twyford Avenue and that more drivers will try to cut a corner through Durham, Lincoln, Leicester, Huntingdon, Bedford

and Hertford Roads, which are already used as rat runs to and from the High Road (see 'Traffic calming and 20mph in county roads' on page 3).

No right turn

The additional concern is that there is no right-turn from Fortis Green to turn north up the High Road in East Finchley, again forcing traffic to use the county roads or to take a circuitous route up East End Road.

East Finchley's Councillor Arjun Mittra has written to colleagues at Haringey asking for an urgent meeting to discuss the proposal.

Haringey Council has run a public consultation on the School Street proposal and expects to make a decision this month or in June. If the scheme is given the go-ahead, it would be implemented in November.

Good idea or bad idea? Let us know what you think about the School Street proposal by emailing news@the-archer.co.uk.



Kitchen champ: School chef Amber Francis is congratulated by host Andi Oliver and runners-up Jean Delpont and Sally Abe as she is named winner of BBC TV's Great British Menu

Amber's menu wins the taste trophy in TV final

Amber Francis, head chef at Christ's College Finchley in N2, won the prestigious Great British Menu 2025 title on TV in a series that reached its final stages last month.

As we reported last month,

Amber was winning her way through the heats and her final menu impressed the judging panel Tom Kerridge, Ed Gamble and Lorna McNee so much that they handed her the trophy. The school said it was bursting with pride at her success.

Since then, Amber has been in high demand. She appeared on the BBC show *Saturday Kitchen*, where she shared her experiences and showcased her culinary skills, and also featured in *The Times* newspaper, advocating for healthy school food.

Station bookcase is coming back

By John Lawrence

The popular book exchange will be returning to the foyer of East Finchley tube station... but in a new metal format with lockable doors.

We reported last month that the previous wooden bookcase was removed in March after London Fire Brigade issued advice to Transport for London about the fire risk associated with book exchanges at tube stations across the network.

The protests that followed were swift and loud. Finchley and Golders Green MP Sarah Sackman and London Mayor Sir Sadiq Khan both called for the decision to be reversed.

Paul Baxter, Transport for London's customer service manager for the High Barnet area, said a trial of the new metal bookcases had been successful and one would be purchased by TfL for installation at East Finchley. It will have doors that can be locked at night.

No firm timeline has been given for the installation but Mr Baxter has said he expects it to be weeks rather than months.

Lynn Winton, who first installed the book exchange eight years ago, said: "I'm very relieved to be told there will be a metal bookcase coming in place of the lovely old one, even though it's rather ugly, but I'll only be truly content when I see it for myself, installed in the station."



To be continued: The former wooden bookcase will be replaced by a metal version

