



Bridge netting becomes death trap for birds

By Craig Johnson

In mid-September I was shocked and saddened along with other passers-by to see a family of pigeons caged inside chicken wire covering piping above the 143 bus stop under the East Finchley tube station bridge.



Trapped: Firemen rescue pigeons, dead and alive, from netting under the tube station bridge

Many of the birds' corpses were hanging through the wire, one live bird had its feet caught and was dangling. Closer inspection revealed baby birds trapped behind the netting.

The irony is that the wire must have been put in place originally to stop birds nesting or roosting under the bridge. But it is clear they have still found

a way in and it has turned into a death trap. I originally contacted the RSPCA who told me to contact Network Rail, who told me to contact Transport for London (TfL) and they told me to contact the RSPCA and the station manager. A bit of swings and roundabouts about who was claiming responsibility. A few days later, my mother contacted

the Wildlife Rescue Team, who called the Fire Brigade to the scene. They came straight away and released the trapped birds, some of which had died over the week.

I also contacted Sarah Sackman, MP for Finchley and Golders Green, who has written to TfL to raise the matter with them and, at the time of writing,

was awaiting a response. It seems that the netting is on TfL property and therefore their responsibility.

Look and report

Until a permanent solution is found for this awful situation, could people waiting at the 143 or 263 bus stops under the station side of the bridge

remember to look up and see if any birds are trapped behind the netting? If you see any, please contact an agency like London Wildlife Protection for, as soon as these birds are trapped, they fall under the 2006 Wildlife Protection Act. The Archer has also contacted TfL but at the time of going to press had not received a response.



Tesco plans second store on the High Road

Tesco is getting ready to move into a second store in East Finchley. The supermarket chain is taking over the vacant ground floor of the new housing block at 12-18 High Road, opposite the Tube station.



New store: The future Tesco Express site

The arrival of the Express store will add to the existing Tesco outlet further up the High Road, near the junction with Creighton Avenue.

So far, Tesco has submitted a licensing application to sell alcohol at the new site from 6am to midnight, Monday to Sunday, along with planning applications for the installation of electrical equipment in a basement level and for storefront signage. Some neighbours, including nearby traders, have urged people to oppose the second store, citing concerns

about the parking of daily delivery lorries at a very congested point in the High Road and the threat of independent

stores being driven out of business. The Archer has contacted Tesco for comment.

Homelessness call

Homelessness project Housing Justice has issued a call for volunteers in north London to support people forced into rough sleeping across the capital.

The Community Connectors appeal in Barnet and Haringey expands the reach of the existing South East London Citadel project set up in 2020 to help homeless people find somewhere to live and integrate into a community. Rough sleeping

figures in the capital have increased by 58% since 2014, with more than 183,000 Londoners currently estimated to be homeless and living in

temporary accommodation, equivalent to one in 50 Londoners. Find out more and volunteer at housingjustice.org.uk/citadel

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