



Road Quiz

By Adam Fidler

Are you a considerate driver? Try this quiz.

Do you drive a car regularly?
Do you think there are too many cars on the road?

Do you think there are too many drivers who should not be on the roads?

Do you consider yourself to be a consistently competent and considerate road user?

Do you break the speed limit often?

Do you allow yourself sufficient time when embarking on a journey?

Are you ever impatient in traffic?

Do you ever flash your lights or sound your horn other than to let other road users know you are there?

Have you ever driven past a queue of traffic and attempted to cut in at the front of the queue?

Do you drive well in controlled areas such as supermarket or shopping centre car parks? Have you ever ignored the signs and arrows in these places?

Have you ever parked in a space that you were aware someone else was waiting for before you?

Is it important for you to park right outside your home?

Do you own that piece of road right outside your home?

Have you ever placed your bin or a traffic cone (or other like item) outside your home to prevent someone else from parking there?

Do you ever wish car drivers would park closer together so as not to waste valuable car parking space?

Would you approve of permit parking coming to your road?

To how many of the above questions have you answered yes?

Do you still regard yourself as a considerate road user and neighbour?

Just one entrant!

The recent Archer/GLH quiz about London was far from the great success we had hoped for; just one entrant and he got only four of his five answers right!

The entrant and winner was 87-year-old Cyril Wilds, former owner of Wilds' Hire, the chauffeur-driven hire firm which once operated in East Finchley.

Mr Wilds has foregone the prize of £25 donated by GLH because he feels he had an "unfair advantage". He has asked for it to be carried forward to the next competition in true lottery style.

Rollover

As we write, Greater London Hire, East Finchley's car service, mini-cab and courier company are devising its next quiz. The prize will be £50. So watch out for it in the next edition.

We are assured it will be far easier than the former quiz, the answers to which are published below.

Turn again

Dear Sir

Re: One Way Working & Banned Turns, Baronsmere Road, N2.

We refer to your leader article in last month's issue concerning traffic control measures proposed for Baronsmere Road. The information you printed was misleading and in some cases incorrect. We write to enlighten you of the facts:

1. The measures being proposed are to remedy a HIGHLY DANGEROUS situation caused by 'rat running' traffic cutting down very narrow streets, to avoid the traffic lights at the junction between Fortis Green and the High Road.

2. The proposals will not turn Baronsmere Road into a one-way street. There is to be no access into the High Road from Baronsmere Road and, from the High Road, only traffic travelling south will be able to turn into Baronsmere Road.

3. A glance at an A to Z clearly shows that Baronsmere Road represents the only inlet/outlet to 'rat running' traffic travelling through roads south of Fortis Green. Any restriction will therefore cut traffic in all these roads.

4. Fairlawn Avenue is the only road not linking with Baronsmere Road. Residents of this road have already petitioned the council, agreeing with the proposals provided the existing one-way working in their street is reversed. This request has now been adopted as part of the council's proposals.

We were surprised at the title and tone of your article. Because the proposals are necessary for the health and safety of residents and road users in all roads south of Fortis Green we would suggest they should be supported by everyone and particularly yourselves as the voice of the community.

Yours faithfully
Simon & Tracy Cottingham
Baronsmere Road, N2.

Questions

1. When British Railways operated a line from Finsbury Park to Alexandra Palace, what was the name of the station between Muswell Hill and Highgate?
2. What was the phone number of the original television studios at Alexandra Palace?
3. How many roads are there in London W1?
4. Name the only two-way street in London on which you drive on the right hand side.
5. Which football team plays at Craven Cottage?

Answers

1. Cranley Gardens.
2. TUDOR 5000
3. One, Tottenham Court Road.
4. Entry to the Savoy Hotel.
5. Fulham.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Something must be done

Dear Sir

I read with interest the article in the January issue of The Archer on Road Rage also the letter from Mr. Campos.

I agree entirely that something must be done immediately to alleviate the traffic chaos in East Finchley.

The surrounding roads to East Finchley station are becoming almost impassable chiefly caused by all-day parking by commuters to the station. In the narrow roads with vehicles parked on both sides there is only a small gap in the middle. Consequently, two cars approaching in opposite directions cannot pass each other. A typical example is the lower end of Deansway. It is proved that the trouble is caused by all-day station parkers, as on Saturdays and Sundays the road is almost free of parked cars.

I also notice that very often the few disabled parking spaces are occupied by cars not displaying an orange badge which is very unfair to disabled people. The offenders know that there is little or no chance of being caught owing to the lack of police or warden supervision.

In my opinion much of the parking problem would be solved by enforcing the parking restrictions already in force. This can only be achieved by having traffic wardens and patrolling police.

Yours sincerely
G.H.Byfield
Abbots Gardens, N2

Foot note

Dear Sir

Further to your lead letter "Road Rage", and letter from T Campos in the January edition of The Archer, I am writing to express my views on the Baronsmere Road proposal.

As a Park Hall Road resident (between Baronsmere and Fortis Green), I welcome the proposal as this will definitely reduce traffic flow in my road. A quick extrapolation indicates that at its peak, between 3.30pm and 7.00pm on a weekday (school day?), over 1000 cars use Park Hall Road to get to Fortis Green. It is my view this specific traffic simply uses Park Hall and Baronsmere as a short-cut to head towards Muswell Hill having already made the opposite journey earlier in the day. This occurs all day, every day. Consequently, I refute the view put forward that traffic will increase in Park Hall and Summerlee with the implementation of the proposed scheme.

From a wider viewpoint, the problem of traffic volume

is a very serious one for both our local area and for London in general. We all now understand the environmental arguments for reducing car usage but still do little about it. As a result restrictions will need to be imposed from a strong government committed to public transport or we will see no improvement on the roads. It is a fact that buses in London operate over 98% of their scheduled mileage, but nothing like this figure run to their service timetable. Why? Because of the volume of traffic and the unpredictable problems it causes. Bus companies in London are now switching to ultra low-sulphur fuel too, thus reducing harmful emissions into the environment.

We should all leave the car at home whenever possible and use our feet or public transport instead. We shouldn't have to wait to have restrictions imposed on us.

Yours faithfully
M.A.Franklin
Park Hall Road, N2.

Parking mad

Dear Sir

"Road Rage" & "Not in Our Backyard", January 1997.

Neither of these letters help to solve the traffic problems around East Finchley, which are due to too many cars parked all day by commuters, who do not bring any business to the area.

Limiting the parking to, say, two hours would allow local shoppers and clients to complete their business in comfort during working hours.

For local residents the council should encourage them to use their front and back gardens for their cars by opening up the lanes between the houses, where feasible, for longer term parking and security.

The council should maximise the use of existing parking bays they have already introduced.

Parking near road junctions is not recommended in the "Highway Code". In Australia, the kerb on the corner is painted red where parking is prohibited - it can be easily seen and wears better than our double yellow lines!

These measures would relieve the congestion on the roads and improve the viability of East Finchley, at low maintenance costs.

C. Kennedy
Diploma Avenue, N2.

N2: Car-free zone

Dear Sir

Responding to the issue of traffic on Baronsmere (Southern) Road and the proposal for a one-way system, may I place my support squarely behind any and all traffic calming measures. Currently, that road takes far more volume than it should properly accommodate or than local residents should have to tolerate. The result has been a marked and alarming rise in

aggressive driving and in the ensuing risk to local pedestrians and cyclists (even motorists!) - children in particular, with the concomitant increase in noise and air pollution.

Somehow, though, the proposed measures seem too little too late. I would be more in favour of residents-only passage, something which could very easily and cheaply be accomplished by blocking off strategic sections with an extended curb. This would create a series of loops or "L-shaped" (possibly "U-shaped") roadways, allowing residents access to their homes, but would deny other traffic the through-passage parallel to Fortis Green.

For example, traffic entering from East Finchley station would be shunted back up and out Park Hall Road. Traffic entering from Summerlee would access Baronsmere (Southern) from the block at Park Hall to the next road down, or Springcroft, but would have no further option but to exit again by either Summerlee or Springcroft.

The same arrangement could extend as far as the long-established barrier to Grand Avenue, N10. (Obviously, the problem had led to some solutions that end. Perhaps the East Finchley end is more than overdue?)

To be quite honest, I would be happier yet to declare the entire area a car-free zone, but I suspect that is too radical for my car-dependent neighbours.

Imagine what a nice community effort it could be to add a bit of green or floral garnish to each road end, possibly a bench too? Or create a design in brick and paving stone according to residents' whims. Then we would not only have calming; we might even have communication again! Certainly, the streets could be safer and quieter, allowing conversation once more, and children would be protected.

Sincerely
Mrs. Karen C. L. Reich
Lynmouth Road, N2

Ear Bashing

Dear Sir

I read with interest the comments made by Jack Shapiro (January issue) on ear bashing and I'm sure that as the Vice President of the Royal National Institute for the Deaf he knows what he is talking about.

However, I wonder if he is a parent himself?

I totally agree that physical assault on anybody, especially the young, is an infringement of their rights as human beings.

So instead of pontificating why does he not give an alternative to the exasperated parents instead of condemning them?

I would suggest that in dire exasperation a parent should give a "flick" either on the arms or legs, using the first finger and thumb - this usually stops the child in their tantrums without pain or infringement.

Yours sincerely
Renee Mallardo
Psychotherapist
Leicester Road, N2.

