



Letters to The Editor

Inappropriate

Dear Editor

RE: National Hospital Site

We object very strongly to the current proposals for the development of this site. We urge the Council to reject it because:

1. It will mean even more parking and traffic in this area, and the present parking restrictions will not help. They are designed to prevent all day commuter parking, but students and visitors to the Institute will come for short periods only, thereby adding massively to the parking problems.

2. It means increased traffic, pollution, noise and danger in an already overcrowded area. Deansway is already extremely congested and problematic during the evening rush hour.

3. The proposed entrance on The Bishops Avenue near the High Road would make this difficult junction even more dangerous. The proposed entrance on Deansway frankly beggars belief.

4. The plans mean cutting down many fine trees, including many with tree preservation orders.

5. It means the destruction of a fine Victorian building, which should be renovated and put to good use.

6. The proposed buildings are much too big, much too high, and much too near the boundaries of the site. They would severely damage the site itself, and also the surrounding area, through overlooking, shadowing and noise. Both areas are conservation areas, which Barnet is bound by law to "preserve or enhance".

7. The proposals conflict with many of the policies in the Barnet Unitary Development Plan, which is of course a statutory document.

We are not opposed in principle to the development of the site, provided that the plans are sensible and appropriate. The current proposals are not. We therefore hope that you will reject the current proposals.

Mark and Gay Berelowitz
Edmunds Walk, N2.

Pensions backlash

Dear Sir,

Has Mal Jacobs (*Scraping the Barrel, The Archer June 2003*) ever wondered how the pensions paid in other EU countries are actually funded?

The so-called 'pensions time-bomb' is becoming a major pre-occupation of EU politicians who only now are waking up to its implications. Pensions there are paid for by the working population out of current earnings not, as in the UK, from funded pensions schemes. At present three members of the working population support one pensioner. Within a generation this proportion of support is expected to halve. In other words to maintain the level of pensions paid at present, each member of the working population will have to double his tax contribution. That is assuming that pensioners do not continue to live longer and longer. Well before that stage is reached there is likely to be a backlash.

Already the lines of confrontation are being drawn with pensioners and unions on one side and governments and those joining the workforce on the other. It has been pointed out on many occasions that one of the risks Britain faces is being made to contribute to the un-funded pension liabilities of other EU members.

Yours sincerely
Fabian Olins
Foscote Road,
Hendon NW4.

Gridlock

Dear Sir,

We wish to add our strongest objections to the many you will already have received. The proposed plans for the National Hospital site will totally change the neighbourhood and add materially to the traffic congestion which in the Deansway has already reached gridlock at peak times.

That such a development can even be considered for what is designated as a conservation area is difficult to comprehend. It will be out

of scale with the other buildings in the area and result in the destruction of many fine trees, many of which are covered by preservation orders. The Bishops Avenue entrance will add further danger to the already hazardous junction.

The proposals conflict with many of the policies in the Barnet Unitary Development Plan which I understand to be a statutory document.

Yours sincerely
Charles Wolff
Deansway, N2.

Double Trouble

To the Editor,

Most East Finchley residents know about the proposed Waitrose development, and many are horrified at the increased traffic and parking problems that it would bring. But Barnet Council is also actively considering another proposal (the "Octagon" plan) whose effects would be just as bad, if not worse; to build a new road leading from The Bishop's Avenue, more or less where it joins the High Road, to a vast new building for the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute (without parking provision for the 6,000 further education students who would attend courses there), and to two very large blocks of flats.

The Council is considering these two developments as if they were completely separate. Because they are in different wards Waitrose goes to one Planning Sub-Committee, and Octagon to a different one. How convenient. For the Waitrose plan, they consult residents in East Finchley ward - and for Octagon, only Garden Suburb residents. Divide and Rule indeed!

Barnet must consult residents on BOTH sides of the High Road about BOTH schemes, and consider the combined effects on traffic and parking of BOTH schemes together. We urge all residents to write or email their Councillors demanding this.

Richard and Alison Stein
Deansway, N2.

Send your correspondence to:

"Letters Page", The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA.
(Due to space restrictions, letters over 200 words will be edited)

A Waitrose compromise

Dear Sir/Madam

There is an obvious solution to the current row over Waitrose's planned development. Waitrose should buy the Budgens/Iceland site. It could relocate the Post Office and shops to the empty units opposite and would provide a decent high quality medium-sized supermarket. There is already some parking space behind the site, and this compromise need not affect the library.

People who worry about the effect this might have on other food shops on the High Street should look at Muswell Hill where a Sainsbury's and Marks & Spencers sit comfortably between a range of good small shops including a fishmongers and grocers. East Finchley is great but is looking increasingly shabby and needs an injection of new shopping blood

Regards
Mr Pearl
Huntingdon Rd, N2

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column.

Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.

A Bad Lot

By Susan Toms of Bedford Road
Residents of the County Roads, if you have a vehicle - even if you have a parking permit - BEWARE!
When you come home late at night and can't find a space and you park at the end of the road on the yellow line, just until you go out in the morning... They will get you!!!!

Last week, as I was on an early morning walk, before most people would be leaving for work, I was horrified to see a parking attendant on a motor cycle going from road-end to road-end and ticketing residents' cars, despite the valid resident's permits displayed. I followed the attendant at some distance, to check that I wasn't mistaken about what he was doing. He was so busy that he didn't notice me at all. There was absolutely no traffic about and, in any case, the cars concerned were not in a place where they would have caused an obstruction.

This activity, obviously undertaken with the prime intent of catching people out in order to rake in yet more money from motorists, sickens me.

The resident's parking tariff has been increased by 50% without prior consultation or notice. Even so, this gives no guarantee that a parking place will be available near one's home, or indeed even in one's own road, especially at peak times! The tariff in council car parks has increased and there is soon to be a 2hr maximum parking time imposed as well. Now (and I wonder how long this has been going on?) the traffic vultures are deliberately aiming to catch residents out, with this early morning patrol.

How much more are residents prepared to take?

So next time you arrive home late at night and can't find a space for your car, DON'T make the mistake of putting it on a yellow line at the end of your road, or you'll be the next victim of Barnet's creative money-making policy.

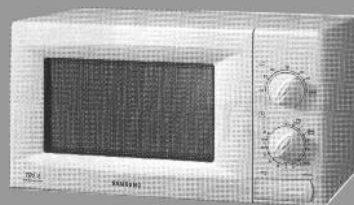


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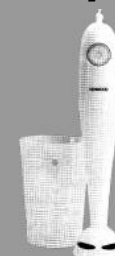
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