



EFCDT –

Two years on

The East Finchley Community Development Trust was launched by a group of local organisations in February 2002 to support the substantial amount of voluntary activity undertaken in East Finchley.

Early in 2003 the Trust assumed responsibility for the East Finchley Community Festival and this formed the key focus of activity. This successful annual two-day community festival, has been running for nearly 30 years. On the Saturday of the last Festival (21 June) activity focussed on Strawberry Vale where the football competition took place and the Green Man Community Centre hosted a number of events. On the Sunday the main Festival took place in Cherry Tree Wood when over 8,000 people attended.

Through the employment of the Trust's development worker, the Barnet College 'LearnDirect' centre at the Green Man Community centre has been able to extend its hours of opening, benefiting many local residents.

The Trust is developing an

innovative project to tackle financial and social exclusion in East Finchley. Money has been raised for this scheme through Peabody Housing Trust, the Hadley Trust and Barnet College. This has enabled the Community Trust to extend the opening hours of the Finchley Credit Union and work on the idea of extending access to Internet shopping to the local residents who do not currently have this facility.

The Trust is party to a £110,000 bid to the Housing Corporation to bring together the credit union, advice agencies and others to advise and support local residents who do not have access to good quality financial advice. This project has the go ahead and should start in April 2004.

For more about the work of the Trust contact their Development Worker on 020 8883 4916.



East Finchley Library photo by Tony Roberts

Library Future Remains An Issue

By Daphne Chamberlain

There is growing speculation about the extent to which East Finchley Library will be refurbished, and concern that it could eventually be replaced by a mobile service. This is the threat which our South Friern neighbours are facing at the time of writing.

Appeal for Collision Witnesses

Police are appealing for witnesses following two rent traffic collisions.

Missing Driver

At approximately 02.45 on 27 February a Ford box van was in collision with a Honda Accord, which was stationary at the traffic lights on the A1 Great North Way, Hendon, at the junction with Parsons Street. The Honda then collided with a silver Mercedes in front of it.

The Honda was carrying four passengers, all of whom were taken to hospital, where one, a female in her twenties, is described as 'critical.'

The male driver of this vehicle left the scene for an

unknown reason. Police are urging him to contact them as he is a witness and also because they are concerned that he may have suffered substantial injuries in the collision.

The driver and passenger of the Mercedes and the driver of the van all suffered minor injuries but did not require hospital treatment.

Anyone who can assist police with their enquiries should contact the Collision Investigation Unit at Alperton Traffic Garage, tel 020 8246 9820.

Tree smash

At 02.30 on 3 February, a grey Fiat Marea collided with a tree on the A41 Watford Way

between Apex Corner and Mill Hill Circus. No other vehicle was believed to be involved.

The driver, a male in his mid 20s, sustained serious head injuries and was taken by ambulance to Barnet General Hospital where he remains in a critical condition.

Police are appealing for witnesses who may have seen the incident or the car shortly before the incident to call CIU at Alperton on 020 8246 9855.

At January's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Cllr Kathy McGuirk asked for an assurance that East Finchley would continue to have a building-based library. Cllr Peter Davis (lead person for libraries) replied that there will be library provision in East Finchley. When Cllr McGuirk asked whether this meant that there were no plans for a mobile service, she was ruled out of order.

No confidence

Cllr Alison Moore said she had no confidence that the existing building would be

refurbished, to which Cllr Davis stated that Barnet Council would abide by the consultation. He said it was not possible to give a timescale for refurbishment because of the involvement of English Heritage.

The South Friern experience

In the last year, South Friern library has undergone both refurbishment and the threat of closure. A regular user told *THE ARCHER*, "This is very much a community library, with story-times, school visits and a Saturday craft club. Not to mention, of course, a first-rate selection of books to suit all needs and ages."

"Last year, South Friern closed briefly for renovation. It opened with new shelving, new books and more computers. My 12-year-old daughter and her school friends often call into the library on their way home from school to research homework. The library is well-used, and there is no other Barnet library within easy reach."

"We are being offered a mobile service which will in no way compensate for what this library offers."

No plans for closure

A Council spokesman told *THE ARCHER*, "There are no proposals to close any libraries other than Totteridge and South Friern, and a decision on their future will be made on 2 March. Following consultation with residents, the Council will begin talks with English Heritage as soon as possible to get their views on refurbishing East Finchley Library."

FORUM REPORT

By Daphne Chamberlain

Deansway Traffic Calmers Will Not Go Quietly

Deansway residents told the Finchley Forum they were appalled that traffic-calming humps were to be removed from their road while re-surfacing is carried out. They fear that the humps will never be replaced, even though Transport for London statistics show that accidents in the road have gone down since they were installed. The humps were put in by Transport for London because Deansway is parallel to a Red Route.

Squires Lane Traffic Management

Residents asked for traffic management, citing the high number of accidents there. The Council will look into the matter in June or July.

Causeway Camera

A man whose daughter had been accosted in The Causeway asked whether a CCTV camera could be installed there.

South Friern Library

A request had been made before the meeting for this subject to be included on the agenda, but it had not been registered. The petitioner spoke privately to the relevant Officer.

North Finchley CPZ

This continued to provoke angry debate. The Council was accused of killing the area.

Next Forum

The next Finchley Forum will be held at Northside School, North Finchley, at 6.30pm on Wednesday 21 April.

ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

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