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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Barnet trips up on pavement charging

By Daphne Chamberlain

Barnet has dropped its plan to tax shops and cafes in the borough for use of the pavement, "pending a comprehensive review with no time frame".

East Finchley shopkeepers, backed by local councillors, had campaigned against the proposal, which would have meant paying 92p per square metre of pavement used for every working day. At present they are allowed free use of 10% of the footway, providing at least two metres are left clear. In some cases, the tax would

have amounted to thousands of pounds.

The proprietor of Casa Pepe told *The Archer* "this would have killed us".

Barnet was considering following the lead of other local authorities, but for the foreseeable future East Finchley's café society and local shops will remain unchanged.



Enjoying a coffee outside one of East Finchley's cafes. Photo by Erini Rodis

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Tally Ho pollution

By Garth Morton

The threat to our health from air pollution may be greater than we think, as newly published research figures reveal. Tally Ho Corner in North Finchley has for the first time recorded levels of nitrogen dioxide which exceed those that the European Union recommends as safe, according to the London Air Quality Network run by King's College London researchers. On 94 separate days last summer the safety levels were breached, a situation exacerbated by the weather.

Tally Ho is surprisingly in the same pollution category as central London sites such as Knightsbridge and the King's Road, despite the air quality action plan adopted by Barnet Council in January 2003.

According to information provided by the researchers, young children and the elderly as well as those with respiratory problems such as asthma are the most at risk from increased pollution.

What is particularly alarming is that while motorists may only be exposed to such dangerous levels of pollution while driving through, those

residents and nearby primary school children are exposed to hazardous levels for as long as the problem persists. An example of this happening occurred

during the 21 days when Chalgrove Primary School suffered levels of dust particulate, called PM10, which exceeded the set guidelines.

Six terms? - after you!

By Daphne Chamberlain

After consultation, Barnet has decided in principle to change to a six-term school year. So have our six neighbouring local authorities. Now the question is when. In July, the Cabinet announced that "the date of change should not be considered until at least five of the six LEAs which border Barnet confirm the date(s) when they will change".

When Barnet sent out questionnaires to parents, carers and teachers and others earlier this year, 43% of the returns voted *No* to change, against 35% who said *Yes*. 15% agreed on condition that neighbouring boroughs also change. The remaining 7% were unsure.

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