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Letters to the editor



A sign of good taste - see right. Photo by Dan Selinger.

Pavilion let us down

Dear Editor, The major reason Cherry Tree Wood was not awarded a Green Flag this year was the derelict and dangerous state of the former pavilion. If Barnet Council intend to apply for a Green Flag again next year, they should demolish it before someone is killed or injured by a falling tile and restore its site to woodland.

Yours faithfully, Judith Filkin, Park Hall Road, N2.

Pavilion objections are petty

Dear Editor, THE ARCHER goes from strength to strength in reflecting the diversity of life in East Finchley. I do so hope in the New Year that the people who would rather see the Cherry Tree pavilion remain neglected and unused, or even demolished, will think again. How much more positive it would be to support the imagination and hard work of Sally-Anne Wigfield in trying to make something of this building, not for personal or commercial gain (as some seem to think) but, as clearly stated, as a social enterprise to benefit all who might use it.

If anyone wants to see how a comparable successful scheme can contribute to the revitalisation of a park then visit Manor Gardens in Lewisham. The objections have been trifling, disparaging and petty. If the scheme came to fruition the park might even get its coveted Green Flag at last.

Yours faithfully, Alexandra Rook, Address supplied.

Café is best where it is

Dear Editor, The pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood is under heavy tree cover, some of which would need to be cut back if the building were to be made habitable, and more still if it were not to be in shade the majority of the time.

The existing cafe benefits from a sunny and tranquil position, away from the noise of the High Road. If there were no existing derelict building, there would be no question that any cafe would be best located where the current one is.

It would be most regrettable if the council's inability to fund demolition and the claimed 'threat' to securing Green Flag status combined to result in our cafe being moved from an ideal location to a most unsuitable one.

Yours faithfully, Pete Crockford, Baronsmere Road, N2

Lazy commuters cause parking problems

Dear Editor, I note the condemnation of the proposed parking restrictions near East Finchley station. However, I wish to point out that I live very near the station and always have trouble in parking my car outside my home.

Although I have a disabled badge, if I leave to go shopping a commuter will immediately take my place and often not leave until the evening. The parking permits displayed on most car windscreens are 'M' and this means that their residences are very near to the station. Is this due to laziness or selfishness on their part that residents in my road lose the ability to park near to their own homes? I would welcome the restriction on parking in roads nearest to the station.

Yours faithfully, Name and address supplied.

Parking proposals are anti-democratic

Dear Editor At the recent residents' forum, it was quite clear that there is massive opposition to the plans to increase parking restrictions in East Finchley. This opposition starts with the Summerlee Gardens area, which for years has suffered from completely unnecessary restrictions, going on to the county roads where they propose to stop the ability to park for a short time in order to shop in East Finchley, and many more unnecessary changes, in spite of a majority of votes against.

What is needed is just a one-hour no-parking time in all the roads, during weekdays, to stop commuters using the roads all day. All the rest is just another attempt to squeeze more money into the Council's hands, so that it can be used for such worthwhile purposes as increasing the "attendance" payments to Councillors.

I am not even in the zone, but it will stop me visiting the local shops and friends who live in the restricted roads. The only way to stop this anti-democratic money-grabbing action is to let the local Conservatives know that they will be voted out of office at the next elections if they go ahead, and to vote for any party which promises to reverse these schemes.

Yours faithfully, Barry H White, Fordington Road, N6.

Nursery recommended

Dear Editor, If any readers are looking for a wonderful local nursery to drop off their child each morning, the Old Barn Pre-School, in Tarling Road, East Finchley, comes greatly recommended. This nursery is for children aged from two years to five years. The sessions run from Monday to Friday from 9.30am-12.30pm. The Old Barn is not run for profit, meaning that each session is very reasonably priced at £13 per morning.

I was looking for just this type of

activity last February for my younger son, Ben. He was two years old at the time, too young for school nursery (which starts at three years) but so ready for 'something', as was I. The chance to drop off my beloved younger boy in a happy and safe environment, hopefully get some jobs done myself in the meantime, or even have a cup of coffee, greatly appealed. The Old Barn came recommended by my Health Visitor so we gave it a try.

What a happy discovery the Old Barn was. This intimate playgroup has now been running for 25 years and boasts a fantastic team of ladies, many of whom have been with the nursery since the start. The staff are professional, hard-working, attentive, fun and most of all, warm. The children also benefit so much from the activities, toys and outdoor space on offer.

There are spaces available, so for further details about joining the playgroup please call any of the following mobile numbers: 07977 846922 / 07711 654669 / 07805 171003. We have since left the Old Barn as our little boy has moved on to school. How we will miss it. We certainly plan to keep in touch.

Yours faithfully, Dr Debbie Linton, Summerlee Avenue, N2

A sign of good taste

Dear Editor, We moved to the area earlier this year and were horrified by how many leaflets and flyers were dropped through our letterbox, anything from currys to estate agents to window cleaners to dog walking services. We never looked at any of them so it was a massive waste of paper and we decided to put a sign up to stop them from being delivered. The thing is that we love THE ARCHER, and we didn't want to miss out on that, so we mentioned that on the sign too. It has worked a treat. We rarely get any leaflets for things we don't want but can always catch up with the local gossip. I recommend that everyone makes one of these signs.

Yours faithfully, Dan Selinger, Brim Hill, N2.

Pavements are trip hazards

Dear Editor, We must be one of the only countries in the world where Local Authorities waste enormous sums of the tax payers' money putting down useless pavements. Nowhere else is sand used as a base for (inferior) paving stones. There are examples on Aylmer Road and Sheldon Avenue.

When it rains, the sand is washed up and out from the cracks and before long the stone is wobbling just in time for someone to catch their feet and trip. Inferior because they are pre-constituted and crack easily; nothing like the old York stone.

Yours faithfully, Neville Robinson, Aylmer Road, N2.

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