



Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page", The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA or e-mail the-archer@lineone.net.

Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be reviewed or printed. Contact details can be withheld, however, on request at publication.

Sign up against allotment sell-off

Dear Editor,

I would like to appeal to all residents in East Finchley. The allotments under threat (*THE ARCHER*, September 2009) are those owned by Thames Water located on the covered reservoir between the Archery Club, Southern Road and Tetherdown School. Thames Water plans to auction off the allotments with a view to redevelopment. The suggested plan is for up to 48 houses and flats, with the alleyway running to Woodside Avenue being turned into a road.

If you want to save an important piece of green space for people and wildlife (in an area that does not need more housing), please sign the electronic petition online here:

www.ipetitions.com/petition/savefortisgreenallotments/index.html.

If enough local opposition is voiced before the auction in October, the hope is it will make any prospective developer think again.

Yours faithfully,
Julie Murphy,
Southern Road, N2.

Parking changes create a problem

Dear Editor,

I have just opened my lovely copy of *THE ARCHER* to read with dismay about the proposed extension of the CPZ and find myself wondering what Barnet Council has got against East Finchley.

My son is at Holy Trinity Nursery, which is in the existing zone, but only has parking restrictions from 2pm to 3pm. As I live next to the North Circular, it is quite a walk to school. I am happy to walk the 20 minutes (at a pace) in the morning but often use my car to pick up at 12pm so we can make it home in time for lunch. Four-year-olds don't walk very fast and can tire out quickly.

It is particularly hard for mums with more than one child and who therefore have four pick ups and drop offs when they have children in both main school and nursery, which will be my situation in two years' time.

Walking would take a total of 1 hour, 20 minutes of back and forth. As I work for myself, that is valuable time away from my work, which I fit into the windows of opportunity while my children are at school.

Apart from the impact on my own life, I see all the businesses that will be affected by these parking changes as it will become impossible to park and shop in East Finchley. As the Phoenix Cinema moves forward with its amazing restoration plans, who will be able to go to the afternoon showings and the baby cinema if they have to keep leaving to move their car from one hard-to-find parking space to another hard-to-find space? Who can take their heavy parcels to the Post Office or collect from the Market Place sorting office anything larger than a Jiffy bag? Who will come to learn at the Institute before 6.30pm, or be able to join their friends at Lazy Sally's café in Cherry Tree Wood?

So I ask again: what does Barnet Council have against East Finchley, and what is to be gained by anybody having these parking rules, apart from restrict-

ing the lives of those who live here? How can we stop this from happening?

Yours faithfully,
Phoebe Oldrey,
Address supplied.

Parking changes solve a problem

Dear Editor,

We are delighted with the outcome of the new CPZ (*THE ARCHER*, September 2009) as we live in what is to become Area C around East Finchley Station. Every morning from about 7.30am, cars start cruising round looking for an empty bay so the driver can catch the tube. Bear in mind that all are from within the existing zone and some of them I recognise as being from a mere couple of hundred yards away. In any event, everybody who has a current permit to park here is no more than a 10-15 minute walk away. This causes huge problems for the residents trying to park if they go out during the day as the Institute, of course, attracts even more people looking for parking spaces.

I realise that no scheme can please all the people all the time but on this occasion I think I speak for many others in the new Area C when I say: "Well done, Barnet Council."

Yours faithfully,
Tony Joseph,
New Area C, N2.

Listen to the majority on parking

Dear Editor,

I have puzzled long and hard about the figures Barnet Council gives in its letter proposing extensions to the CPZ controls in East Finchley. Their 'proposed actions' as a result of the consultation don't seem to match their own figures.

In the one-hour zone, a minority (30.5%) said they had problems parking, which means that 69.5% do not, and 48.1% actually said they were very happy with it as it is. That means the majority of those who answered want the status quo to continue. In the one-hour zone, it seems crystal clear: keep things as they are.

Conversely, in the all-day zone, a minority (27.3%) were happy with the current system. That means the majority (72.7%) were unhappy with the current arrangements to varying degrees. The all-day zone issues are more complex, but the key component - the ridiculously long hours of operation - is apparently to stay in place.

Governments are elected on majority verdicts. Council members are elected on majority verdicts. Why are the wishes of the majority apparently being ignored here? The prob-

lems created by high levels of car ownership cannot be solved by ever more restrictive CPZ schemes. If we want East Finchley to thrive, we need to allow people from outside the area to come in and use the local businesses and amenities we are proud of. A balance needs to be found.

Yours faithfully,
Name and address supplied.

Any more guerilla gardeners out there?

Dear Editor,

I am delighted to hear there is a term for what I did last year and would do again, despite the embarrassed horror of my family ("Guerilla gardeners make things look greener", *THE ARCHER*, September 2009). I couldn't bear the sight of the corner bed outside Budgens, full of lovely shrubs but completely matted over the top with bindweed. So I spent a morning ripping it all out and leaving it in a huge pile, so the plants could breathe again, and then I contacted the council maintenance team to follow up, which it seems they did. I wouldn't mind joining a small rota to do something about the beds outside the station if anyone else would be interested.

Yours faithfully,
Name and address supplied.

You can contact the writer of this letter via THE ARCHER. Our contact details are above.

Proceed with caution on the pavilion

Dear Editor,

May I comment on your article in the August issue on the plans for transforming the Pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood? Before the current Tory Council came to power, there was an application by McDonald's to turn its staff canteen into a public restaurant and takeaway. We local residents successfully objected to this on the grounds of health, safety and the environment, largely the extent of discarded food and containers that would ensue in the wood.

While the wish to see the pavilion put back into constructive use is practically unanimous, many of us would still feel that turning it into a café and making it available for evening activities would be counterproductive.

Sally-Anne Wigfield already has a successful café in the wood. It serves its purpose. The use of the pavilion as a larger food outlet will raise the health and safety and environmental issues again.

While we do not have a resident park keeper, use of the pavilion in the evenings is not practical as it means having the wood open late, an invitation to drug users and the ensuing

increase in petty crime in the area.

In the late 1960s and 70s the pavilion was used as a successful mother and toddlers base, run by local mothers. Sadly when that generation of children grew and families left, the group closed and the place fell into disrepair. We now have a new generation of young families, and the area is a popular one for such families to move into. In restoring the pavilion this kind of use should be borne in mind: daytime activities, yes, but for evening ones I would counsel we proceed with caution.

Yours faithfully,
Joyce Arram,
Summerlee Gardens, N2

Chill out over holiday stress

Dear Editor,

So Jane Hankin found her week's holiday in a rambling cottage in the Dordogne with her family stressful, did she? (*THE ARCHER*, September 2009) Sorry, but is that stress? This summer many mothers and fathers in the UK woke in a "rictus of tension", to use her phrase, over whether or not they'd have a job, let alone one that could fund a foreign holiday.

Jane, there really are bigger worries than packing enough croissants for a car journey across to France, believe me. With this in mind, I hope you enjoy your holiday next year much more. And leave the Valium behind.

Yours faithfully,
Julia Cooper,
Long Lane, N2.

Why destroy the pavilion roof?

Dear Editor,

It is great to see that something may be done to save the pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood. It is a lovely building and has enormous potential as a local resource for the community with their proposals of a café and a place to gather. But unfortunately the scheme proposed will completely remove the lovely sweeping roof, changing the character of this local landmark beyond recognition. Had they cut the

terrace into the roof the overall shape of the building could have been kept. Apart from the arches, which they are retaining, the building may as well be demolished and rebuilt. The proposal will be a modernist box. I have nothing against modern buildings but when you have an attractive existing building it is a shame to destroy it.

Yours faithfully,
Philippa Worke,
Summerlee Avenue, N2.

Anyone for water aerobics?

Dear Editor,

Is any one of your readers a car driver and wants to attend water aerobics on a regular basis? There are excellent daytime classes at Copthall Leisure Centre, NW7, and as I live in East Finchley I would welcome a lift up there. This form of exercise is enjoyable and a great way to keep fit.

Yours faithfully,
Claire Hughes,
Market Place, N2.

If anyone can offer Claire a lift, contact us on 08717 334465 or the-archer@lineone.net and we'll pass on your details.

Care for carers

A course is running at Avenue House in East End Road, N3, to give support and counselling to people caring for family members with mental health problems.

The Caring4Carers course balances support with education and empowerment, and is taught by a mental health professional and a trained family carer.

Another course starts early next year. For further details, contact Jeffrey Breslaw on 020 8906 1666 or jeffrey.breslaw@millfields.org. The charity's website is at www.caring4carers.org.uk



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