



Letters



**Parking madness**

Dear Editor,

How's this for a Barnet Council special? The first sign is the normal one, meaning that parking is restricted subject to payment during the hours of 8am to 6.30pm. The next sign, with the extra notice on top with a red circle (but without a Blue Parking Sign) means:

- There is no parking allowed between 6 and 8 am (except in a bay where the yellow line does not extend and here parking is allowed)
- Parking is permitted when paid for from 8am to 6.30 pm - the usual rule
- Parking is allowed between 6.30 pm and 8pm both where there is a yellow line and where there is no yellow line
- There is no parking allowed between 8 pm and 10 pm (except in the bay where there is no yellow line) The yellow line runs for three car spaces, but not for the fourth. So easy to understand, and recently appearing in a place in Finchley Central where I have been parking in the evening for years. Guess who got caught by wardens who just happened to be there at 8.10pm! Eric Pickles, the government Minister, says that parking should relate to control of traffic and parking matters, and not just be for raising general revenue. Barnet Council recently lost a court battle for violating this rule. I have asked Barnet Council why this rule applies, but only to this small section of road and not elsewhere, and why at such odd hours, and await the reply with interest.

**Yours faithfully,**  
**Barry White,**  
By email

**Our Post Office**

Archer reader David Tupman copied us in on this letter sent to Post Office franchise project manager Sally Buchanan during the recent public consultation over changes to the service in East Finchley.

You asked for comments on the

proposals to move the Post Office in East Finchley to a new location. I was not able to use your questionnaire via [postofficereviews.co.uk](http://postofficereviews.co.uk).

Here are the points I wish to make.

1. You are changing the status of a Crown post Office and essentially creating some new counters in a local business known as UOE. This seems a retrograde step.
2. The new location is much smaller than the current post office in Viceroy Parade. This will have implications for access and queues.
3. There will be loss of amenity if you do not have an external cash machine.
4. You have not mentioned the location of the post collection boxes (currently there are two outside boxes in Viceroy Parade with 24 hour access). You are surely not expecting customers to cross the A1000 to post their mail?
5. You have not mentioned the lack of disabled parking outside UOE. The disabled bay outside the current office is clearly convenient.
6. There is no mention of innovation in your services as you go into 'modernisation' mode. For example, a 'fast queue' could help those wanting to weigh an airmail letter and buy a stamp. I don't think the Post Office does itself any favours when customers have to wait 25 minutes, as I did on 2 December 2013, simply to spent £1.20.

Finally, I believe you would have had much more support for your plans if you were considering UOE running the Post Office within Viceroy Parade. That way you would have:

- (a) fully accessible premises with an automatic door
- (b) a cash machine currently in place
- (c) 2 Royal Mail post boxes available 24 hours a day
- (d) sufficient space in the shop for customers to queue and amenities to adapt.

**Yours sincerely,**  
**David Tupman,**  
Leicester Road, N2

**Electric frustration**

Dear Editor,

I read with interest the small announcement in The Archer, directed at owners of electric cars. It imparted the welcome news that Barnet Council was contemplating installing parking/charging points in the near future.

The announcement asked for owners of electric cars to suggest places where they would like to see these points installed. An email address was provided.

Unfortunately the emails I tried to send did not go through and, to add insult to injury, the same email address was to be found on the Barnet Council website. I wonder how many other owners of electric cars were similarly frustrated?

**Yours faithfully,**  
**Maria Barry,**  
Address supplied

We contacted Barnet Council and they told us the officer for whom the email address was given no longer works at the council. They have stopped collecting suggestions from electric car drivers but don't let that stop you contacting the Roads department if you have a specific point to make. Telephone the council on 020 8359 2000 or email [first.contact@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:first.contact@barnet.gov.uk)

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page", The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE or e-mail [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net).

Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be printed. Contact details can be withheld on request at publication. We reserve the right to abridge letters for reasons of space.

**My nights on fire watch**  
Dear Editor,

I am writing to thank you very much for sending *The Archer* to me each month. It is much appreciated. I was born in Long Lane, East Finchley, in 1919, so I am now 94 years old. I lived in Long Lane until 1971, when I moved to Norfolk for my late husband's health.

I remember the North Circular Road being built in 1927. Before that it was all a big field with the Old Barn at the end, before the High Road.

I read with interest in a past issue about the foxes in St Pancras Cemetery. When the air raids were on, the petrol tankers from Squires Lane barracks were put in that cemetery in case an incendiary bomb fell near them, and of course I did a good stint on fire watch. We did two hours on, four hours off, most of them a lot of fun, walking the streets to make sure nobody had left lights on.

I also did fire fighting, three of us ladies in a team. Our training place was at the bomb site in the High Road, opposite the Black Bess Café. A Mr Westbrook lived in Long Lane and did all the coordination of the fire watching. Not all bad, we had some laughs and I often wonder if any of the others are still alive.

Whilst I am writing I must say what a good job you volunteers are doing with this local paper. I'll say good luck and thank you all.

**Yours faithfully,**  
**Dolly Underhay,**  
Watton, Norfolk.

**Pet of the month: Rufus**

By Sheila Armstrong  
Not only were the Kinks brought up in Denmark Terrace, Fortis Green, but a very handsome dog called Rufus can also lay claim to the same home.



Jemima and her pet dog Rufus  
Photo Mike Coles

Jemima Peterson had always had a secret wish for a dog and in September 2012 her wish came true after she'd dropped a few small hints. The winningly attractive Rufus started life in Ireland, was rescued by the Welsh charity Many Tears Animal Rescue, then fostered in Wiltshire which is where the Peterson family first met him.

He was a young and rather thin boxer collie cross (does that make him a bollie or a coxer?) and ready at that point to embrace his new family and a new future. The family passed the charity's home test so to everyone's delight he was able to come back with them to East Finchley.

Rufus has already graduated from the Good Citizen Dog Scheme in Finsbury run by dog trainer Sue Evans, who has run Alpha Dog Training since 1994. She also does Puppy Parties at various local vets. Contact Sue on 020 8809 6762.

Don't forget our local dog rehoming charity All Dogs Matter on [www.alldogsmatter.co.uk](http://www.alldogsmatter.co.uk) if you are looking for a dog. Homing a dog which might be homeless for a variety of reasons can be very rewarding.

**RUFUS:**

**Character:** Intelligent, gentle and tolerant.  
**Likes:** Walks in Cherry Tree, Coldfall or Highgate Woods and as far afield as Trent Park, usually with his owners and sometimes with Tom, his dog walker.  
**Best friends:** A ferret that lives nearby, and Frodo the cat next door.  
**Talents:** Picking plums from the tree in the garden.  
**Favourite food:** Carrots and rice.  
*Have you got a pet of the month? Send us a photo and tell us about them, including their likes, dislikes, talents and favourite food. Email us at [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net) or post to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE.*

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