



# Academy makes its decision about admissions

After a public consultation and many weeks of often acrimonious debate, the Archer Academy has published its decision about how it will handle admissions from September 2017.

The school will guarantee 40 places for four feeder schools in N3 and NW11 that are within 1.5 miles of its gates. Martin Primary and Holy Trinity Primary schools are not named as feeder schools but the academy states it will still take a substantial number of pupils from N2 under its proximity rules.

### “Acute problem”

Sanjay Maraj, chair of the Archer Academy Trust, said the founders of the school made a commitment to serve families in N2, N3 and NW11, and the fact that not one child living in N3 or NW11 had been offered a first-round place on the basis of proximity for September 2016 admissions demonstrated the acute nature of the problem.

“However, the Trust feels an equally strong commitment to N2 and was keen to address concerns raised about the proposals disadvantaging parts of our most local community,” he said.

### Core schools but not feeders

“There was strong support from the consultation for the feeder school approach and the Trust remains clear about its founding commitment to all three postcodes. The Trust has concluded that it is not necessary to allocate places to a feeder school in N2, because there will continue to be a significant number of students transitioning to the Archer Academy from primary schools in N2 under the distance over-

subscription criterion.

“The Trust is confident that Martin Primary and Holy Trinity will remain core schools for us, as they are both close to our school and within the priority postcodes. Indeed, our modelling shows that Martin Primary will provide us with more students than any other primary school under these new arrangements, once the school reaches steady state.”

He added that modelling indicated around 50 places each year will be allocated on proximity grounds, in addition to sibling places. A requirement will also be added that children who are allocated a feeder school place must live in one of the priority postcodes.

You can read the full decision at [www.thearcheracademy.org.uk/Admissions/admissions-policy](http://www.thearcheracademy.org.uk/Admissions/admissions-policy). See also our Letters to the Editor, page 11.

## Bird call

Are you someone who can recognise British woodland birds and are you also a regular visitor to Cherry Tree Wood? If the answer to both questions is yes, the Friends of CTW would be glad of your help to update the conservation plan for the woods.

Throughout April 2016 they are inviting visitors to note the birds they see in the woods and email their lists at the end of the month to [brown.kate@btinternet.com](mailto:brown.kate@btinternet.com).



The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood ready to tackle the litter. Photo Mike Coles

## Pickers give park a spring clean

More than 40 volunteers tidied up Cherry Tree Wood as part of the Clean for the Queen campaign, which aims to get local areas looking their best in the year of the Queen’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Staff from McDonald’s UK Headquarters in East Finchley joined forces with Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, Barnet Council, and local people for the litter pick on Friday 4 March.

They collected more than 23 bags of litter, including a

car jack and a saucepan. Two dilapidated flower beds were also given a new lease of life with the planting of bulbs just in time for spring.

Iona Neilson, from the McDonald’s sustainability team, said: “We supported Clean for

the Queen because we understand the importance of having clean and welcoming areas to live and work in. It’s amazing what can be achieved when people pull together. To have 40 volunteers clearing up 23 bags of rubbish is a fantastic effort.”

## There’s a hole in my road

Winter and early spring have left East Finchley’s roads pockmarked with potholes but there are concerns that Barnet Council is not up to the job of fixing them.

Arjun Mittra has photographed holes in our roads and broken pavements since he became a ward councillor four years ago and now he has presented a report to the council that claims the repairs system isn’t working.

He believes the outsourcing of roads maintenance work to private company Capita has left residents with poor-quality pothole repairs that often don’t last long and need fixing a second time at further expense.

“All they do is rush jobs,” said Cllr Mittra. “They just throw asphalt into the hole and don’t tidy up after themselves, leaving pebbles and debris everywhere that causes further damage.”

He also revealed that information on new potholes submitted by residents to the Fix My Street service is not acted upon as



A hastily filled pothole in Beresford Road. Photo by Arjun Mittra.

Capita is not linked to the reporting service. This in turn means people lose faith in the council, he claimed.

### Public money

He is asking for Barnet Council to take Capita to task for their performance on maintenance and to claw back public money where repairs are not carried out properly. “There needs to be a reporting structure so we can keep a tab on the work they’ve done,” he said.

Cllr Mittra’s recommendations were accepted by fellow councillors who have asked officers to investigate the road repairs service in time for an environment committee meeting in July.



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[www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk)

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