



The foodbank team. Photo Erini Rodis

Fill a foodbank goody bag

Grassroots charity Hope North London in partnership with the Finchley Foodbank is asking for donations to help it give away over 100 goody bags to foodbank clients this

Christmas.

Each bag will cost around £10 and you can donate online. Go to www.justgiving.com and search for Finchley Foodbank.

The special foods and treats will be given to the people and families whose low level of

income forces them to turn to the foodbank to survive from week to week.

Hope North London works with children, young people and their families, providing role models and activities that build self-esteem and resilience.

Pavilion decision time is delayed

In July the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood presented a petition to Barnet Council calling on them to make the derelict pavilion building in Cherry Tree Wood safe. As we reported, more than 600 people had signed the petition in just over a week.

The Friends were expecting to hear back from the council at the Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee meeting in October. They were anticipating a detailed report on the feasibility of the current building project undertaken by the leaseholder and about possible alternatives.

Short update

The report was not ready, however, and was postponed

until the next meeting in January 2017. After some pressure from the Friends, an officer from the Estates Department did provide a short verbal update to the Area Committee on progress thus far.

The committee was informed that the Estates Department is now liaising with the leaseholder and that it is aware of the structural problems encountered with the renovation work.

The officer also stated that a wide variety of factors and options are being considered,

which will include the costs of both renovation and demolition of the building.

To hear more

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood are very much hoping that the full report will be ready for the Area Committee meeting on 24 January.

If you would like to come to that meeting and have details of the venue or to be kept updated, the Friends can be emailed at info@cherrytreewood.co.uk.

Delivery scooters “hog High Road parking spaces”

By Diana Cormack

It is customary for Barnet Council to allow free parking in town centres during the three weekends before Christmas, a move which supports traders by encouraging shoppers to make their festive purchases locally.



Domino's scooters lined up outside Budgens Photo Mike Coles

However, there is an area on the High Road where drivers will be lucky to find an empty parking space whatever the time of year. Between Budgens and Iceland it is not uncommon to see three bays occupied by a large number of delivery scooters from Domino's, the pizza outlet opposite.

A notice indicates that between the hours of 8am and 6.30pm payment must be made, which allows a stay of one and a half hours. However, the chained-up scooters, which prevent other vehicles parking, do not have to pay and so have no time limit.

Business vehicles or not?

Peter Barnett, of A Scott and Son Fishmongers, has been asking questions of Barnet's Cllr Richard Cornelius and Domino's Pizza about the situation, which he observes from his shop across the road.

He told THE ARCHER that whilst he has no problem with private scooters being able to park for free, he feels that

business vehicles should not get away with it at the expense of others. In fact, Peter has worked out how much a year Barnet Council is losing by not charging Domino's for parking their scooters and it runs into thousands of pounds.

Some boroughs do class these scooters as business vehicles, making them subject to the same rules and regulations as other business users, which is only fair and makes the abuse of free parking a non-issue, says Peter.

Response from Domino's

A Domino's spokesperson told us: "Domino's takes its responsibility to be a good neighbour very seriously. We have tried without success to source additional alternative parking in the area and Domino's will continue to look for other parking solutions.

"However, in the meantime we will ensure that all bikes are parked as neatly as possible in order to maximise space available for other users."

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