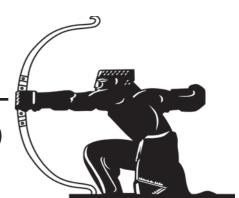


The Local News is our Aim Archer



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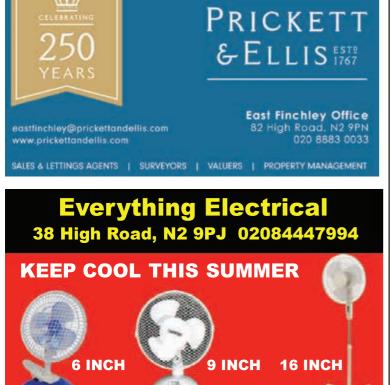
A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Runners take on gruelling 10k challenge

Hundreds of experienced runners and novices from East Finchley and Muswell Hill set out from Cherry Tree Wood for the annual Race the Neighbours event, taking

them over tough terrain in blazing hot conditions. Full report and more pictures on page 6.



Woman 'raped' on Hampstead Heath

By Janet Maitland
Police were called to Hampstead Heath shortly before
8 am on Sunday 2 July
after a 41-year-old woman
reported that she had been
raped. She has since been
discharged from hospital
and is being supported by
specialist officers.

The area on the Heath near North End Way and Jack Straw's Castle was cordoned off for several days while officers searched for forensic evidence. Two men aged 40 and 43 were arrested on suspicion of rape and taken to a north London police station. Both men were later released under investigation. Enquiries continue.

Right-turn ban at hazardous junction 'to improve safety' for pedestrians

Barnet Council is proposing to introduce new traffic rules that will prevent vehicles from turning right out of The Bishops Avenue on to the A1000 Great North Road heading towards Highgate.

An island would be built halfway across The Bishops Avenue to give pedestrians safe refuge, the Keep Clear markings would be extended across the entire width of the junction and additional bike markings would be laid down to make motorists aware of cyclists.

Views of local objectors

But the plans have been met with consternation by a group of residents in nearby Bancroft Avenue who say their road, Deansway and the left turn at the top end of Aylmer Road risk becoming congested rat-runs as drivers try to navigate around the right-turn ban.

Jon Benjamin, who has lived in Bancroft Avenue for 15 years, said: "The suggestion that a narrower residential road is more suited to increased traffic volumes than a wider arterial road with residences set much further back from the passing traffic is remarkably misconceived.

"If one of the objectives for the change is to make the junction safer for pedestrians crossing the road to get to and from East Finchley station, as well as for children accessing the Archer Academy, this purpose would be better served by installing a pedestrian crossing where traffic would be obliged to stop, either a Zebra crossing or traffic lights."

Longer route

Residents have formed a neighbourhood group to coordinate their objections to the proposals. They point out that access to Woodside Avenue, a main thoroughfare to Muswell Hill and Crouch End, will be severely restricted, with motorists forced to take a longer route up Bancroft Avenue or the A1 to then turn left through the narrow shopping parade by the Esso garage, double back on the A1000 and then turn across traffic coming up the hill from East Finchley.

Barnet Council said: "We are proposing to introduce new measures at the junction of The Bishops Avenue with the A1000 to create a safer environment for all road users. The new measures will improve safety for pedestrians and all vulnerable road users."



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