



Anger of residents as they see their pavements vanish beneath their feet

By Neil McNaughton
Barnet Council's programme of resurfacing pavements in East Finchley with black asphalt instead of traditional paving stones, in many cases without fully consulting residents, has met with widespread condemnation.

East Finchley ward councillor Arjun Mitra told *The Archer* that he had received many representations from residents over the issue and that 80-90 per cent of them had been negative. Beresford Road pavements had already been re-surfaced before work moved to Huntingdon Road last month and then on to the other county roads.

Safety issues

The council's point of view is that cracked and broken pavements represent a danger to pedestrians. Simply re-positioning existing slabs will only be a short-term solution, which will need to be repeated in the near future. The council budget provides for new paving slabs in areas designated as 'city centres' but in East Finchley this only applies to the High Road and the first few yards of the side roads.

This view has been challenged by many residents who argue that the whole area should be re-paved, as has occurred in other parts of the borough. When Kitchener Road was resurfaced earlier this year, all its paving stones were replaced.

Tree roots are destructive and where soft, flexible asphalt is used that problem can be alleviated, but residents complain

that the more widespread use of hard asphalt elsewhere is aesthetically offensive and that such a surface will also crack and distort in time.

Longer consultation urged

Councillor Mitra added that there had been virtually no consultation period and residents in Huntingdon Road were given only a few days' notice of the commencement of the work, having been promised longer. He and his fellow East Finchley councillors are continuing to press for further consultation with residents.

The story is not all one sided, however, as two residents told *The Archer* that they approved of the new surface and that it would be safer, particularly for the visually impaired. One Huntingdon Road resident added that he thought it would be easy on the eye, commenting that he would rather see money spent on street cleansing than on expensive paving.



Friendly rivalry: The Peabody Trust and residents' football teams faced each other at the fun day.

Football, food and plenty of fun with the neighbours

By Laurence Williamson

It's not as well-known as the FA Cup or the Jules Rimet Trophy but The Strawberry Vale Cup was played for with dedicated teams and masses of energy at a community fun day that also saw residents turn out to enjoy an afternoon of live music and great food from jerk chicken to cream teas.

One man band Jake Rodrigues started the day on the East Finchley estate on Saturday 7 October and joined local singers Lynda Styan and Deb & Allie in The Green Man Community Centre for several hours of music from Victorian times through to present day rock.

The hotly contested Football Tournament had a Peabody Trust staff team put together by David Azouelos, the Neighbourhood Manager. They managed to beat the local team 7 - 2 but were then so exhausted they had to withdraw from the competition!

Local businesses provided support and gifts for the raffle. The event was funded by Peabody and organised by the Strawberry Vale Residents Association with help from The Green Man Management Committee. All who enjoyed it are looking forward to the next one, but the Football Tournament may relocate to Wembley!

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Second report on local surgery finds failure to improve

A second Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection of the Cherry Tree Surgery in July resulted in a rating of inadequate in all but one category. The practice in Southern Road, N2, was given six months to improve after a two-day inspection in January (*The Archer*, June 2017) and received some additional support.

Despite this, the CQC regulator did not find the necessary improvements had been made. 'Inadequate' was applied to categories of safety, effectiveness, responsiveness and leadership and 'requires improvement' to the caring aspect.

All this has left many of the practice's patients in disbelief. Now they learn that there are to be urgent discussions about

its future, with the surgery's service being kept under close review, possibly leading to some form of enforcement action.

Within six months another inspection will be held. Should there be insufficient improvement, the CQC will move to close the service. To read the report in full visit www.cqc.org.uk and search for Dr Sergio de Cesare.

Invitation to over 65s Christmas party

The Bishop Douglass Christmas party this year will be held on Thursday 7 December from 5pm to 7pm (arrive by 4.45pm for a prompt start). All East Finchley residents who are over 65 are welcome and you should book your place without delay.

As usual, you will be welcomed with a glass of sherry by Year 10 students and enjoy a Christmas meal, followed by carol singing and entertainment by pupils and staff. Games of bingo and a gift from Santa Claus will round off the evening.

Transport can be provided for those who need it. To book your free place, phone 020 8883 0433, leave your name and a contact number and someone will get back to you.

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