



The Governor, David Smith says farewell to Holy Trinity at a special assembly.

Litter is up and cleansing rates are down, claims resident

By John Lawrence

We reported briefly in our May edition on a petition launched by East Finchley resident David Attfield calling on Barnet Council to do more to clean litter from the borough's streets. Here's more of the background we didn't have room for last month.

Contrasts with neighbouring boroughs

David cycles widely across London, regularly crossing the borders between Barnet and Haringey, Brent and Camden. He says: "As soon as you cross into Barnet, the litter increases, the bins are often overflowing and are themselves filthy and the street scene generally is neglected. Walk down The Bishops Avenue and into Camden at the Spaniards Inn or walk into Haringey along Fortis Green and you will see what I mean."

There is a responsibility on all of us to put our rubbish in bins or take it home with us, but David believes Barnet Council is not doing enough to clean the rubbish that does accumulate over weeks and months.

His petition, now closed, stated: "The standard of street cleaning has fallen to totally unacceptable levels. Many streets have large amounts of litter. Bins are often overflowing. Everywhere you see piles of rotting leaves from the autumn and other uncollected debris."

B standard with gaps

In response to a request to disclose its cleaning schedules

for Summerlee Avenue, Barnsmere Road and Southern Road in N2 for 2017 and 2018 to date, Barnet Council listed 11 dates between January and October 2017 but then nothing from 9 October 2017 until more than three months later on 18 January 2018.

The council claimed its teams aimed to clean to a 'B

cleansing standard' which equates to clearing all litter and leaves on roads and pavements, and particularly accumulations around bus stops and other street furniture.

How clean is your road? Send details and photos by email to the-archer@lineone.net or write to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE.



What level of thoughtlessness does it take to dump three battered fridge freezers at the end of Summerlee Avenue, N2, at the pretty gated entrance to Cherry Tree Wood? Well, someone did it last month, as our picture shows. Thankfully the unsightly pile was cleared in short order, possibly by Barnet Council, but let's hope flytipping doesn't become a growing trend.

Electrical goods and large items can be taken to the Summers Lane Recycling Centre just across the North Circular in N12. You can report flytipping to Barnet Council online by going to www.barnet.gov.uk and searching 'flytipping'.

A lifetime of dedication to one school

By Matt Beaven

This summer, David Smith will stand down from his role as a governor at Holy Trinity School in East Finchley. It's a position he's relished for 42 years and his relationship with the school goes even further than that.

David was a pupil at the primary school, originally located in East End Road, between 1944 and 1951. It was much larger then, with over 500 children and up to 45 in each class. "Some of the teachers struck fear into you when you entered the school," he remembers, "but it was an exciting time."

"And then there's the day I shot my teacher," he says with relish. "The deputy head, Mr Davis, handed me a replica gun and asked me to turn up late for his lesson. When we started to argue, I was to pull the gun from my pocket and shoot him." The class then had to write a description of what they'd seen. "There was no panic – these children had lived through a war, after all."

"The years slip by"

It was this inspirational backdrop that led David into the teaching profession and, eventually, to his return to Holy Trinity as a governor in March 1976.

One of David's fondest memories as governor is helping put together a week of festivities for the school's 150th anniversary in 1997. Fifty years earlier, he had been a pupil during the school's centenary celebrations

in 1947.

"It's a smaller school these days," says David, "but it sets incredibly high standards in academic performance, sport and even the school choir. The governors do a fantastic job keeping it on track. The years have just slipped by. You start doing something and you don't stop."

Tribute

Head of Governors Paula Quiddington says: "We've been extremely lucky to benefit from David's extensive knowledge for the last 42 years. We wish him a long and happy retirement, and thank him for his part in making Holy Trinity the outstanding school it is today."

As he steps down from the role, David has plenty of plans – not least, getting some of his many stories down in writing to pass on to his grandchildren. His legacy to the school will never be forgotten, however, particularly for those classmates during a certain lesson in 1951.

From time to time, Holy Trinity has vacancies on its board of governors and applications are welcome from the wider community. If you'd like to find out more email: governors@holytrinity.barnet.sch.uk

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