



# Fast food outlet forced to remove huge metal vent

By David Melsome

The East Finchley branch of KFC has been operating since 1973 and is still hugely popular with fans of fast food... but not always with neighbours of its premises on the corner of Huntingdon Road.

People living nearby report that one benefit of the outlet being closed during lockdown was the absence of unwanted wrappers, cups and the other pavement detritus that accompanies its takeaways. Another benefit was not having to step over the flow of effluent, described by one resident as "the horrible stream of yuck", that can trail across the pavement from the shop's back gate to the Huntingdon Road gutter when the shop is operating at full strength.

## New noise, new vent

However, when KFC started serving customers again towards the end of June, a new loud generator-type noise impacted the peace of many homes, accompanied by the strong fatty odour of the Colonel's Bargain Bucket. Residents were up in arms following the appearance of a huge horizontal metal extraction vent at the side of the building pointing straight up Huntingdon Road. The new and unwelcome



Short lived: This horizontal vent was removed from the side of the KFC restaurant in Huntingdon Road soon after being installed

noise had woken them at 6am.

Complaints were submitted to the environmental health department of Barnet Council and East Finchley councillor Arjun Mittra submitted his own urgent query. One resident told us: "To their credit the council acted

quickly. Within 48 hours the horizontal outlet had disappeared, although the remaining perpendicular chimney would look more at home on an industrial estate than in a residential street." KFC's press team has been contacted for comment but had not responded at the time of going to press.

## Crime reported

In addition to the noise and pollution problems, shortly after KFC reopened one local homeowner reported preventing a robbery, when a young boy was being threatened by half a dozen others outside the shop. The Archer understands that police are aware of the corner as a crime hotspot. Many residents would like to see CCTV installed to help monitor the situation, but who would pay for it? Investigations are ongoing and The Archer awaits a reply from Barnet Council.

# Car crashes on the Great North Road

A man was arrested on suspicion of drink-driving after colliding with another car on the Great North Road on Saturday 18 July. One of the cars turned over and a man was taken to hospital with an injured leg. The emergency services were called to the incident just by The Bishops Avenue at 10.40pm. Several people at the scene helped the occupants out of their cars.

# Slow-down too slow?

Barnet Council has agreed to review the process for introducing 20mph speed limits in areas where residents are in favour. Some councillors claim that the process is too slow, while others argue that 20mph zones are not effective in improving road safety. A 20mph zone has been proposed for parts or all of East Finchley to calm traffic on busy roads like the High Road and East End Road, as well as residential roads and those close to schools.

# Raised road raises noise

Residents living near the junction of Church Lane with the High Road have complained that they are being plagued by the frequent noise of heavy lorries and their loads thumping over a new raised section of road.

The raised surface was installed in June to slow down traffic on the approach to the pedestrian crossing outside Martin Primary School, where a young girl and her father were injured in an accident last year. However, residents say many lorry drivers do not realise it is there and continue at normal speed if the lights are green, violently shaking their chassis and their loads. Some have called for warning signs to be installed on the approach to give drivers a chance to slow down.



Spare tyres: Donated bikes at Bedford Road. Photo Mike Coles.

# Generous donors drop off dozens of bikes

By John Lawrence

There was an amazing response when bike charity volunteer Adam Ognall put out a call for the people of East Finchley to donate any unwanted two-wheelers. Families and individuals handed over a total of 53 bicycles in the space of just two hours on the afternoon of Wednesday 1 July.

They brought children's and adult models, some old, some relatively new, to a small mews space at the High Road end of Bedford Road, N2, where The Bike Project chair of trustees Adam Ognall has his office.

His charity fixes and refurbishes any bikes it is given and passes them on to refugees, primarily in the London and Birmingham areas. In five years, it has given out 6,500 bicycles.

## Bike benefits

Adam said: "For many people having a bike can transform their lives. As a refugee

in this country, you get £36 a week to live on after housing costs have been deducted. A bus pass alone is £21 so having a bike means you can save a large part of your income. "Cycling has huge mental and physical health benefits. It makes refugees more visible and more mobile and makes them feel part of the community."

Adam described the East Finchley collection as "a really special couple of hours" and



Special couple of hours: Adam Ognall from The Bike Project. Photo Mike Coles.

thanked everyone who had donated for their incredible generosity.

Refugees are often referred to The Bike Project by a local church or the Red Cross. They are also given a set of lights, a helmet and lock, and taught the rules of the road.

# Climate change relay

Local climate change rebels, Barnet Extinction Rebellion, are organising a community relay race on Saturday 29 August, racing for time to save our planet. Everyone is invited, from grandparents to babies. Check @BarnetXR on Twitter or facebook.com/XRBarnet for details nearer the time, or email hazel1@btinternet.com.

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