



Thousands sign up for better safety on station footpath

By David Melsome

Thousands of people are backing a campaign to improve safety for commuters, residents and schoolchildren using the narrow pedestrian path section of The Causeway, which runs from Cedar Drive to East Finchley Station and through to Great North Road.

As we went to press, more than 3,500 people had signed the petition set up by Causeway residents in the wake of two recent incidents. Last October, a girl walking home from school was subjected to a serious sexual assault and then in March a man allegedly exposed himself to another girl in exactly the same spot, before attacking two police officers.

also avoid using this footpath at dusk and at night which is a quick way from my home to the stations and shops."

Reactions to campaign

East Finchley's Labour councillors, Alison Moore, Arjun Mittra and Claire Farrier, who have been pushing for better safety measures in this area for some time, and the LibDem councillor responsible for this part of East Finchley, Cllr Gabriel Rozenberg, have had meetings with local residents as well as with Barnet Council officials.

Barnet Council has said that its Community Safety Team is working with the East Finchley Neighbourhood Police Team to assess crime prevention options for The Causeway, including the deployment of CCTV.

Head of Community Safety for Barnet, Declan Khan, stated "I have redeployed council officers to carry

out high visibility patrols in The Causeway between 4pm and 6pm, with a further team patrolling between 6pm and 8pm daily 7 days per week. This will continue until such time that a viable CCTV solution can be identified, installed and operated."

To view and sign the petition, go to: <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/p/thecauseway>



Safety calls: Residents are asking for CCTV on The Causeway

The campaign calls on Barnet Council to improve the lighting on the footpath and to install CCTV cameras as a further safety measure and deterrent.

Some of those signing the petition posted reasons for giving their support. One wrote: "When I'm coming back from school I'm too scared to come this way and have to go the long way." Another commented: "I



Vocal group Voces8. Photo Kaupo Kikkas

Music and literature back on the live stage

The Proms at St Jude's Music and Literary Festival had to cancel its live performances last year but it is back for 2021 with a starry line-up of world-class musicians and authors.

To meet demand while still staying socially distanced, there will be two performances each day, one at 5.30pm and one at 8pm, each lasting about an hour. Musical highlights include the Jess Gillam Ensemble, Voces8 and baritone Roderick Williams. The Last Night of the Proms will feature violinist Thomas Gould playing Mozart's *Violin Concerto No 5 in A major K 219*.



Best-selling author Hilary Mantel. Photo Els Zweerink

The Literary festival kicks off with double Booker Prize winning author Hilary Mantel in conversation with presenter Mark Lawson, and also features evenings with Marina Wheeler, Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason and John Preston. All literary events will be streamed live simultaneously.

The Proms take place at St Jude's Church and Henrietta Barnett School in Hampstead Garden Suburb from Thursday 24 June to Sunday 4 July. Funds will be raised for Toynbee Hall and the North London Hospice. There is also a programme of heritage walks. Proms chairman Richard Clegg said: "We are delighted to be among the first festivals to help musicians get back to live work. Meeting the challenge of social distancing means we have had to suspend our lunchtime concerts, but as in previous years, our education programme and outreach to local schools continues apace." For the full Proms line-up and details of how to book, visit promsatstjudes.org.uk



Saxophonist Jess Gillam. Photo Robin Clewley Photography



Baritone Roderick Williams. Photo Benjamin Ealovega



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