



Green spaces marked down as "low value"

By John Lawrence

Three green spaces in East Finchley, including a children's playground, have been listed as "low value" by Barnet Council and are being considered as possible sites for installing renewable energy facilities.

The three locations are the Market Place Play Area and adjoining green space, close to Holy Trinity Primary School, the undulating area of green land off Oak Lane, close to the Grange Estate, and the small square park in Manor Park Road, close to the junction with Hamilton Road.

They all appear on a map drawn up by Barnet Council designating a total of 45 parks and green spaces across the borough as "low quality or low value".

An environmental business plan from the council proposes that some of the sites could be suitable for siting "renewable energy solutions such as batteries at substations and solar farms."

Barnet Council says initial investment is required to undertake a review of all the spaces and a full planning assessment. Details of the type of solar power installations or how much space they would take up are not given.

The business plan says it is anticipated that any proposal will support the council in the development of a sustainability strategy, producing a range of environmental benefits, before adding: "The opportunity may impact on access to parks and open space sites which are deemed low quality / low value."

Lifelines in lockdown

Any loss of playgrounds or precious green space in East Finchley is almost certain to be met with strong opposition from residents, particularly after these sites have proved to be lifelines for leisure and relaxation during lockdown.

Councillor Arjun Mittra said he and his fellow East Finchley councillors were deeply concerned about the council's plan for open spaces.

"They deny they are planning anything, but there is still a line in their medium-term financial strategy to make £75,000 from this," he told The Archer.

Milkman Mick keeps Kate happy

TV presenter Kate Garraway was left red-faced in front of millions of viewers after trying to explain how her East Finchley milkman kept her happy by offering her extras.

Kate was talking to fellow Good Morning Britain host Ben Shephard about kindnesses during the pandemic and mentioned how milkman Mick Fuller had been amazing.

Kate, who lives in Creighton Avenue, N10, said: "He has absolutely just kept me going. He'll leave me a little note saying 'Do you need anything extra other than the milk?'" Ben burst out laughing and so did Kate when she realised what she'd said.



Spilt milk: Kate Garraway.
Photo Wikipedia

When Ben asked: "Are you still answering the door in your dressing gown and fluffy slippers?" Kate answered: "And a shower cap... Mick, thank you. Shall we move on as I've got myself in trouble."

For a while after the show on Friday 12 February, milkman Mick was trending on Twitter. He posted to his followers: "Going that extra mile to serve my customers."



Extras: Milkman Mick Fuller



Fork handles: Brothers Rob, left, and Oliver Seger with the cutlery they've invented.

Floating cutlery idea could take off

By John Lawrence

The humble knives, forks and spoons we use every day have looked essentially the same for hundreds of years but now two East Finchley brothers are seeking to change their design forever.

Rob and Oliver Seger have invented the world's first levitating cutlery set, designed with hygiene in mind to prevent the transfer of germs from work surfaces and tables.

Rob came up with the idea for their Floatware range as the pandemic unfolded, inspired by his travels in Asia, where chopsticks are often held off the table by a small rest.

He said: "It occurred to me that local custom was more hygienic than the cutlery we use back home, because you would rest utensils on supports to prevent the tips touching the table surface; so when the global pandemic struck and everyone became more conscious of cleanliness I developed the idea."

Each stainless steel knife, fork and spoon is manufactured with its own built-in rest so that



Floating: A redesigned handle allows the cutlery to stand above the table surface

the head floats 6mm above the surface.

The brothers hope their cutlery will come into common usage in cafés and restaurants, as well as being useful at home for anyone with food allergies or generally hygiene-conscious people.

Rob, who has an engineering degree, and Oliver, who studied

business and economics, both went to Mill Hill School and have moved back to their family home in Abbots Gardens, N2, from where they hope to get their business off the ground.

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