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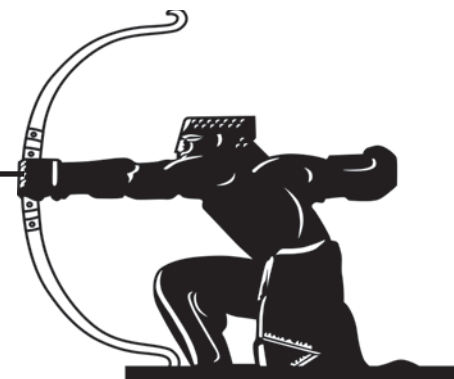
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Local News is our Aim



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Cycle lanes to be changed for new trial

By Daphne Chamberlain

Changes are being made to the controversial cycle lane scheme through East Finchley and North Finchley as Barnet Council says it expects to make a final decision in the autumn on whether it should be made permanent. The cycle lane scheme has been highly controversial since it was installed along the A1000 in the autumn of 2020. It has undoubtedly made the road safer for cyclists but some traders complained of the loss of parking spaces and many drivers found themselves stuck in long queues at peak times.

Barnet Council opened an 18-month consultation at the time and say that they have listened to the feedback they received.

Main changes

In East Finchley, the proposed change is the removal of the southbound segregated cycle lane between the bus stop outside Costa Coffee and 40 High Road. Pay and display parking bays would be installed in its place. The 20mph speed limit would be extended southwards, as far as the Haringey boundary.

At the North Finchley end of the route, the existing southbound cycle lane between Sandringham Gardens and Summers Lane would be switched from the road to the very wide pavement there. Double yellow lines would be removed, with unrestricted parking restored.

Amendments along the rest of the High Road north of the North Circular, including the flyover, are also being considered.

Barnet Council has also announced that the whole of the

cycle lane, whether earmarked for changes or not, has been put under a new Experimental Traffic Order, starting from 21 March, for a minimum of six months. The Council says: "This allows us to trial these changes so that we can see how they work prior to making a decision whether or not to continue the measures permanently, with or without further modifications and in accordance with the wider consultation."

Have your say

Cyclist, drivers, traders and all residents are invited to give their views on the changes via the new A1000 Experimental Cycle Route consultation online questionnaire, which closes on 12 August. To complete it, go to www.barnet.gov.uk and find the Consultations page. To request a paper version or for help and further information, phone 020 8359 3281 or email highwayscorrespondence@barnet.gov.uk. Alternatively, you can write to Highways, London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW.



Ablaze: Fire crews in attendance as smoke billows from the second-floor flat. Photo Mike Coles

Fire rips through High Road flat

By Janet Maitland

An alleged cannabis factory in a second-floor flat on the High Road in East Finchley caught fire on Sunday 6 March. Clouds of smoke billowed across the road as fire crews battled the flames roaring from the window of the flat, on the corner of Lincoln Road.

The London Fire Brigade was called to the blaze at 2.30pm and sent four fire engines. A team of 25 firefighters got the fire under control by 4pm and no one was injured.

Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team helped to police the incident alongside officers from West Finchley and Finchley Church End. Gas and electrical engineers also attended the scene. After the incident, East Finchley Police said they had been called to help control traffic and pedestrians in the High Road and subsequently arrested one man at the scene.

"The fire is believed to have been accidental and caused by a fault within the mains electricity supply," said a spokesperson for the London Fire Brigade, who are helping the police with their ongoing investigation. The 31-year-old man arrested on suspicion of illegally extracting electricity and the production of cannabis was taken to a north London police station and later released under investigation.



Being removed: The cycle lane heading south towards the station

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