



A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Cycle lanes: keep them or kick them out?

By David Melsome

Barnet Council has launched a consultation on the High Road cycle lanes through East Finchley to help decide whether they should be made permanent, altered or removed.

The consultation will include a series of workshops and focus groups where local residents and businesses can get involved and the council says the outcome will help inform how it reaches its transport, sustainability and environmental targets.

Since late 2020 when the cycle lanes were installed from just south of North Finchley town centre, through East Finchley High Road to the borough boundary with Haringey, they have generated praise from some cyclists and residents for encouraging more people to cycle, and criticism from some drivers and traders for causing traffic congestion and robbing the High Road of parking spaces.

Experimental

The lanes were installed rapidly as part of a Government and Transport for London-funded response to Covid-19 impacts on public transport. At the time Barnet Council called them 'experimental'.

Now, the Government says such schemes must be subjected to independent and impartial consultations prior to making a final decision on their future.

Cllr Alan Schneiderman, Barnet Environment and Climate Change Committee Chair, said: "We want to encourage cycling and make it safer to help people live healthier lives and make Barnet a greener borough with cleaner air for everyone to enjoy. With workshops and resident input, I believe we will come up with the best solution and hopefully some helpful ideas for the borough going forward."

Places to take part are limited. The council says it will invite a cross-section of residents, including those who live directly on the A1000, and a range of businesses, community groups and interest groups. You can register your interest at tinyurl.com/2854jrcm. Registration will be open until Tuesday 11 October and those allocated places will be contacted in the week beginning Monday 17 October.

Vandalism returns to wildlife haven

The Long Lane Pasture nature reserve is again keeping its gates closed on weekdays after experienc-



ing another incident of vandalism, pictured.

Volunteers at the pasture opposite the fire station in Long Lane, N3, say a young acer tree was violently destroyed, possibly by someone wielding a knife or similar weapon, or by someone training a fighting dog to be aggressive.

As a result, the Friends of the Pasture have reluctantly decided to keep the wildlife haven closed, except when they are working there on Saturday mornings. This follows an earlier incident of vandalism in the spring when items were thrown into the pond, causing the pasture to be closed on weekdays for a period.



Beekeeper Lucie Chaumeton was kept busy handing out samples and selling her honey products in aid of Finchley Foodbank at the successful Sustainable High Road day on Saturday 17 September.

Eco-friendly exhibitors generate a real buzz

Lucie Chaumeton keeps four bee hives in the garden of her home in Beech Drive, N2, and four elsewhere in the area.

This year, her bees have been as busy as ever, allowing her to produce jars of clear honey and chunk honey, bottles of honey vinegar, honey lollipops, beeswax polish and beeswax candles, all of which flew off her Miel de Lucie stall at the event. Lucie donated proceeds from her sales on the day to Finchley Foodbank. Find out more at mieldelucie.wixsite.com/website.

Turn to pages 6-7 for more pictures and a full report on

East Finchley Town Team's eco-friendly event.

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