



## Letters

### Grasping policy

Dear Editor,

Regarding your main article, we responded to the council's initial proposals for extending the CPZ by saying that we have lived in Lankaster Gardens for over 32 years, and have never had any difficulty or problems in parking near our front door, so the 'need' to control parking is not true.

The only reason is to extract still more money for the council, especially unwarranted at a time of real difficulty for most of us with rising household bills. And as for a trial period of 18 months, I will guarantee that this will be quietly extended with no further consultation.

We, and others, are furious at the council's grasping policy, and intend to let them know we are withdrawing future votes from it.

**William and Mary Tayleur,  
Lankaster Gardens, N2.**

### Parking not an issue

Dear Editor,

My initial reaction to your story about the new CPZ extension is twofold. First, 'Sedgemere Road', as named by the council, does not exist. Secondly, residents of Sedgemere Avenue did not express concern over commuter parking, it is simply not an issue here or in Brackenbury Road.

The initial survey, laughably presented as a 'consultation', consisted entirely of weighted questions that allowed no scope at all for objecting to the CPZ extension so it is no surprise to have this new parking tax imposed where it serves no purpose beyond providing a little extra income for the council.

**Louis Victor,  
Sedgemere Avenue, N2.**

### Where's the evidence?

Dear Editor,

I support the principle of a CPZ, where there is a clear need to manage supply and demand and to ensure highway safety. This should be an evidence-based approach using statistical data, not based on anecdotal feedback or the council's need to raise cash. The CPZ extension trail is a complete sham, as is the consultation which supports it. There is a lack of data to support this, little to no information made available to the public. Why would the council spend thousands of our money to implement something, only to then remove it? This is a grossly disingenuous remark for the council to make. Furthermore, they have issued notices to some, not all residents across East Finchley about this proposed change. Therefore, some residents will not be aware of this. They have concluded that it is needed based on pre-ULEZ data and will include the cemetery and roads which have no issues with parking demand. It seems odd that they have not included streets on the west side of East End Road which are geographically closer to the centre than those which are close to the northern boundary of the new zone.

**Edward B,  
Address supplied.**

### No effect

Dear Editor,

I believe there were some concerns regarding parking in Chandos Road during school pick-up and drop-off times. The proposed restricted hours of 11am to 3pm will have no effect on this.

Barnet claim 93 signatures on a petition regarding parking in Chandos Road, which is a lot for a short road. It seems more of a revenue-raising scheme to us.

**Liz and Mike Holt,  
Chandos Road, N2.**

### Bogus consultation

Dear Editor,

In your December 2023 issue, you report that Barnet Council says the CPZ scheme is a response to concerns about commuter parking congestion in several roads, including the one in which I live.

My road is a long way from East Finchley station. I do not believe that anyone parks in it for the purpose of commuting. The road has numerous spaces available for parking during the hours of 11 am to 3pm, the time of operation of the new scheme. The time when there is a problem is from about 6pm until the following morning, when the road is filled with residents' cars.

Therefore the scheme would do nothing to alleviate parking congestion, as there isn't any during its hours of operation.

You also report that the concerns about commuter parking congestion were raised in a consultation run by the council. My recollection is that it was the consultation itself that raised such (bogus) concerns, and the CPZ was presented as the only possible solution.

The consultation website was so badly designed (or, if one is cynical, cleverly designed) that it was not possible to object to the premise of the scheme: the existence of commuter parking congestion had already been decided on.

There could have been, for example, a single question which asked whether the resident completing the survey had noted any actual commuter parking congestion. There was no such question, nor anything like it. Thankfully, we expect to be moving house quite soon.

**Richard Cox,  
Address supplied.**

### School will suffer

Dear Editor,

I am very concerned about the impact of the CPZ on Martin Primary School and have made my views clear to the Borough.

Many of our staff cannot afford to live near the school and need to travel by car because they often have heavy books to transport. We do not have enough parking spaces on site to accommodate them all.

If staff can no longer park in the surrounding streets, or have to pay to do so, it will be even more of a challenge to recruit and retain good people. This will undoubtedly have an impact on the quality of education that we are able to provide for our children.

**Ziz Chater,  
Headteacher,  
Martin Primary School**

### Good in the long run

Dear Editor,

I am no fan of parking charges but once you introduce one CPZ it only pushes the problem round to surrounding roads. This has happened with the CPZs that already exist close to the station and in Leslie and Leopold Roads. Long Lane and King Street have become the next roads where parking is still free and these have steadily grown more congested. So in some ways I do understand why the council has decided to introduce a new zone that blankets the whole area. Maybe in the long run, residents will think it a good thing, particularly as electric car charging points become installed more widely and people want to be sure they can find one close to their home.

**Mike Haworth,  
Long Lane, N2.**

### Path not racetrack

Dear Editor,

Footpaths mean 'a path for feet'. It doesn't mean it's a racetrack for every two-wheeled vehicle to hurtle down, using maximum power afforded by lithium ion battery or petrol/diesel motor.

The footpath leading to East Finchley station from East End Road via Deanery Close is becoming increasingly dangerous for the old, young and everyone in between!

I appreciate how tempting it is to race down there, but there are few public areas now where one feels safe to walk and not fear an encounter with a vehicle being illegally ridden on the pavements or footpaths.

By the way, why do so many cyclists have an antipathy to having and using a bell, to alert people as they overtake from behind on a pavement or footpath? Selfishness, thoughtlessness or a perverse pleasure in startling people?

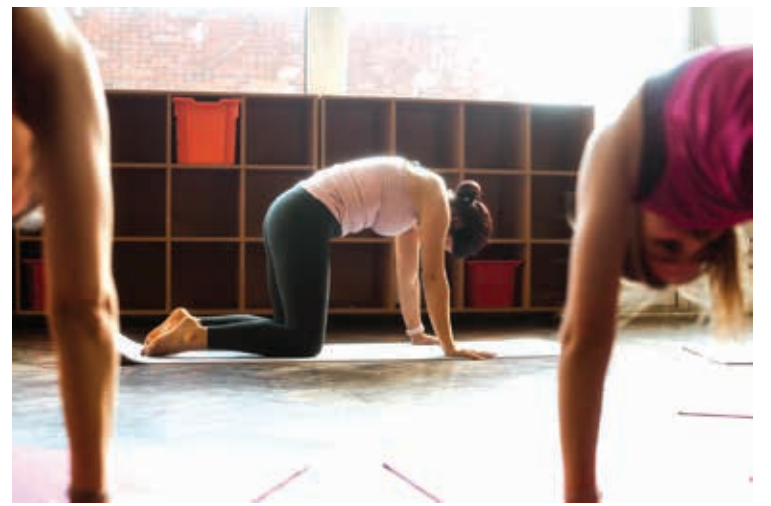
**Harriet Copperman,  
Diploma Avenue, N2.**

**Send your correspondence to: [news@the-archer.co.uk](mailto:news@the-archer.co.uk)**

Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be printed. Contact details can be withheld on request at publication. We reserve the right to abridge letters for reasons of space.

## January boot sale

**The first Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale of 2024 will take place on Saturday 27 January from 10am to 1pm at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH. Admission is 50p and refreshments are available. Buses W7, W3 and 144 stop nearby. For more information, phone 020 8368 8180.**



Shape up: January is a great time to improve your health

## New Year, still you

By Sunnah Rose

**New year does seem to encourage a 'start-something-new mindset'. Whilst I am not a fan of the 'new year, new you' concept I do think starting January with some good intentions and some small tweaks to your daily or weekly routine can help you create some great changes for the 12 months ahead.**

Setting realistic and practical goals will help you not give up when you don't achieve what you have set out to do. Here are some short and sweet simple tips to get you started:

1. Find time for five to ten minutes of movement throughout the day. Aim for at least one session but you can definitely do more. This could include walking, running, a short yoga sequence, a mini-HITT session or some strength training.
2. Take a few moments to be mindful or meditate. It is well researched that you will experience all the benefits of meditation even if you only take a few minutes to reflect in the day.
3. Eat well and try a new food on a regular basis;

maybe a new grain, pulse, veg or protein.

4. Drink MORE water!
5. Try a new exercise and don't be afraid to try out something new. You may not find the right thing for yourself straight away, but you never know until you try.

East Finchley has so many amazing classes, studios and gyms which offer a variety of different sessions. There is a right exercise, a right class and a right teacher for everyone, so go out and find them, and keep still being you!

*Sunnah is a local yoga teacher and offers a variety of general yoga, pregnancy yoga and postnatal yoga with babies sessions in East Finchley. Visit [www.stretchingpeople.co.uk](http://www.stretchingpeople.co.uk) for more information.*

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Living the Catholic Faith in the Church of England



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East Finchley  
Church of England**

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Weekday masses as advertised on the website.

Or join our live-streamed services on our Facebook page:  
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Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

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