



Light and bright: Designs for the underpass show new pathways, extra planting and smarter surfaces to make it a route residents want to use. Images MillsPower

## Decision time for underpass project

By David Melsome

The team behind a project to revamp the underpass between Trinity Road and Manor Park Road in East Finchley to make it safer and more pleasant for pedestrians to use will hear this month whether their plans have the go-ahead.

The aim is to improve the underpass lighting, widen it at certain points, add reflectors to help people see round its four corners, safeguard against flooding and add artwork to the walls that celebrates local artists and poets. A design proposal has been put forward to Barnet Council by East Finchley architects MillsPower with the support of the Grange Big Local regeneration project team. They have already been working with a project manager at the council and have been in regular contact

with Transport for London. MillsPower said its proposal sought "to improve the quality of space and materials as well as the safety and accessibility of the path", adding that it wanted to introduce "delight and fun through characterful elements that incorporate community generated artwork in the reflectors, lighting, play path and murals".

Crossing point The underpass is the only safe point for pedestrians to cross the Northern line between Church Lane and the North Circular but many residents say they don't currently use it because it is often dark and flooded, and its blind corners make it feel very unsafe. Grange Big Local identified



it as a priority project several years ago; one that would make a positive difference and improve links between the east and west of N2. Barnet Council is also in the process of designating the route as a scheduled footpath. This could lead to the removal of bollards at the entry point in Trinity Road and the chicane barriers at

the Manor Park Road end. The community would be consulted further on that to avoid the risk of opening up the path as a short cut for bikes and mopeds. Local people have already shown their support for the project by carrying out volunteer litter pick and rubbish clearing sessions to keep the underpass tidy.

## Twenty years of artistic excellence

The East Finchley Open Artists (EFOA) are celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their group with a special exhibition of their work, including painting, sculpture, photography, ceramics, glasswork, jewellery, and textiles.

Founded in 2004, EFOA began with a group of artists opening their houses and studios to the public, growing into a vibrant collective capped at 60 members. The group continues to enrich the cultural life of East Finchley through exhibitions, workshops, and public events.

Their exhibition runs from Monday 16 to Saturday 28 September at the Hornsey Original Gallery in Hornsey Library, Haringey Park, N8, open daily from 1pm to 5pm (1pm to 4pm on Sundays). Admission is free.

## Festival favourites join Sunday market



Some of the vendors at September's Courtyard Market

Starting on Sunday 29 September, local artisans will be showcasing their wares at the The Courtyard Market which will run monthly alongside the regular Farmers Market at The Engine Rooms, near East Finchley station.

Local makers and producers, who many will recognise from East Finchley Festival, include The Hivesman N2 Honey, Dan's Deli, Art & Dough, Fala Portugues, Woodsmith Works, NB Prints, By Kala X, Kiln Jewels, Gardenz in a Jar plus many more. For more details visit [dirthouse.co.uk/courtyard-market](http://dirthouse.co.uk/courtyard-market).

The indoor market runs from 10am to 2pm on the last Sunday of the month, starting from 29 September, at The Engine Rooms, 82-92 Great North Road, N2 0NL. Admission is free.

## Bless you, Rover

A pet blessing service is to be held at Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane, N2, on Friday 4 October. This is most appropriate as it is the feast day of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals.

Everyone is invited to bring their pet to the church for the hour-long service starting at 5.30pm to be conducted by Father Marius Mirt. This is the first pet blessing there since Covid, giving thanks for the animals that share our lives and is being held in partnership with the Finchley, Golders Green and Hendon RSPCA.

All are welcome, whatever your age or whatever kind of pet you have, as long as it is under control with dogs on leashes, cats and other small creatures in pet carriers and birds in cages.

You are also invited to bring along your own stories to share, such as how you got your pet, how it has helped you in your

life, what changes it has brought to your family, in fact anything of mutual interest.

For more information contact Fr Mirt on 020 3565 4430 or [marius.mirt@htef.org.uk](mailto:marius.mirt@htef.org.uk) or visit [www.holytrinityeastfinchley.org.uk](http://www.holytrinityeastfinchley.org.uk)



## DID YOU KNOW?



YOU ARE GOING TO BE HAPPY WITH YOUR NEW VARIFOCALS OR YOUR MONEY BACK. AS SIMPLE AS THAT

IF YOU TRIED THE REST NOW TRY CERTIFIED VARILUX SPECIALISTS

**STEWART-DUNCAN OPTICIANS**  
126 High Road, East Finchley, N2 9ED  
020 8883-2020