



Ideas to tackle our High Road rubbish problem

By Kate Brown, East Finchley Town Team

East Finchley Town Team have come up with ideas to tackle the problem of business and residential waste spilling onto the High Road in East Finchley, as was reported in the May edition of The Archer. Not surprisingly the summer hot weather makes the question ever more urgent.



Scattered: Rubbish torn out of refuse bags left in the High Road.
Photo Mike Coles

The group's public meeting in July heard that there are three elements to the problem. First, there are the big 240-litre commercial bins which if kept shut (and preferably locked) will deter foxes. However, if overfilled and the lid propped open then the bins are easy picking for these skilled scavengers. If a business bin is overfilled, then the solution should be for the trader to pay for more frequent emptying.

Pavement bins

Next are the residential black waste bins and blue recycling bins which again should not be overfilled and ideally should not be put out on the pavement until collection day but due to overdevelopment there is no place other than the pavement for many of these to be stored.

Previous rear access which allowed for storage of rubbish bins has been systematically removed. Town Team members pointed out that giving approval for a dwelling without a system for dealing with rubbish should be as unacceptable as giving approval for a dwelling without a lavatory.

Sack collection

However, it is the third element, namely the 'sack collection scheme' for properties where there is no space for refuse or recycling bins, which causes the majority of the rubbish spillage over the High Road.

In correspondence shared with Town Team and reported to

its public meeting in July, Alissa Fawcett, Principal Planning Officer for Barnet said: "Each property receives 26 general waste and 26 recycle waste sacks every 13 weeks on an agreed delivery schedule. The filled sacks are to be left next to the nearest litter bin for collections by crews from Monday to Friday."

The meeting felt that a sack collection scheme was not fit for purpose where there are urban foxes. Neither did it help Barnet Council meet its household recycling targets of 28.7%, which was lower than the London average and a decline from a high of 37.4 % in 2016/17. The council recently reset its recycling target at 50%.

Suggestions

Participants at the meeting suggested the following solutions: 1) No more planning permissions without a refuse strategy; 2) Replace the sack collection scheme with communal 240-litre bins which flats would have exclusive access to (and ideally a key); 3) Limit the number of days when sacks can be put out and put them out in the morning only; 4) Likewise, any rubbish sacks from charity shops should only be put out in the morning, as overnight bags outside these stores tend to be undone by foxes or humans.

The Town Team has taken its ideas back to Barnet Council, which has undertaken to consider if they could work for East Finchley.



Can do: Sasha Cheevers and young friends water the community garden in Prospect Ring. Photo Lauren Fleishman

How does your garden grow?

By Laura Fleishman

A new community garden has sprung up in Prospect Ring, N2. Fruit, vegetables and plants are all taking root in the raised plot at outside the Gracie House block.

Sasha Cheevers, who has lived in Prospect Ring for 20 years, is one of the residents who started the garden with funding and support from Barnet Homes

and Lux Contractors.

Sasha said: "I lost my dog in January, so the garden has given me an excuse to come out again. For me, it is about

teaching the kids to grow their own fruit and vegetables. We have been planting seeds and they have been taking them home. It gives them something to nurture and look after."

Silver birches are protected

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood have succeeded in their bid to place tree preservation orders on the five silver birch trees that stand close to the entrance to the park.

The trees were under threat of the axe because they stand on the Cherry Tree Quarter site, opposite East Finchley tube station, where Places for Barnet is proposing to build 75 homes (The Archer, July 2025).

More than 500 people signed a petition organised by the Friends, which claimed that the 60-year-old birches were part of the local landscape and a gateway into Cherry Tree Wood. Barnet Council's planning and building control team said late last month that preservation orders were now in place, to match the order

already on the mature yew tree that stands next to the birches. The council confirmed that the landowners and existing tenants on the site had been informed.

Roger Chapman, chair of the Friends group, welcomed the news and said it should mean Places for Barnet has to work around the trees. "They could attempt to justify their removal but that has just become much harder," he said. Places for Barnet had said the five trees would be partly replaced with two others elsewhere on the site.

Work starts on underpass

Work started last month on the project to improve lighting, drainage and safety in the pedestrian underpass between Trinity Road and Manor Park Road, N2.

Dates for the work were originally set for April but these were postponed, with contractors bringing in all the materials and fully closing the route for the first time in July.

A spokesman for coordinators Grange Big Local said they were aiming to keep local residents informed on progress in order to keep disruption to a minimum.

Fun palace

A reminder that Grange Big Local is hosting a Fun Palace at Tarling Road Community Centre, Tarling Road, N2, on Saturday 6 September with plenty of fun activities for all ages. If you want to run an activity, perform or help out on the day, email info@grange-biglocal.org.

10-Week Grief Psychotherapy Support Group

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