



# 20mph limit could come to county roads

By Ruth Anders

In September 2023, following the installation of new 30mph speed signs on the junctions of each of East Finchley's county roads with the High Road, we reported on the concerns of residents that the 20mph speed restriction on the High Road ceased the moment drivers turned into the residential side roads.

At the time, our local councillor Arjun Mitra and Councillor Alan Schneiderman, Barnet Council's cabinet member for the environment, expressed their strong support for 20mph restrictions to be applied to the side roads too.

Now, 15 months later, we have the beginning of a process that could lead to that result. Residents of Durham Road and all adjoining roads to the High Road, N2, have received a consultation letter and colour coded maps illustrating new proposals by Barnet's Highways team.

These include the introduction of a 20mph speed limit on the county roads (Bedford,

Durham, Hertford, Huntingdon, Leicester and Lincoln), the installation of speed 'cushions', and the conversion of single yellow lines to double yellow lines on strategic junctions. The council states that the proposals aim to improve safety for all road users, and in particular pedestrians.

### Opposing opinions

The consultation has prompted a flood of opposing opinions with some residents suggesting that these roads should be made one-way. Others disagree, making the point that one-way streets become rat runs and encourage

speeding.

Some residents feel that the prohibition of parking resulting from the proposed new double yellow lines near street corners could be dangerous in that the liberated space invites less caution at junctions.

So, moves are afoot, and whatever the outcome you can bet that the new arrangements will not please everyone. "We want to hear from you" states the letter. Those interested should make their views known by 9 January 2025 to ensure that their comments can be considered in time by writing to [HighwaysCorrespondence@Barnet.gov.uk](mailto:HighwaysCorrespondence@Barnet.gov.uk), quoting reference RSE045.



Slow down: A 20mph limit could be on the cards

# Many call to oppose 'poor positioning' of EV chargers

By Diana Cormack

Barnet Council is committed to improving air quality throughout the borough with the aim of it being net zero by 2042. To this end, in order to reduce the impact of transport emissions, it is encouraging the use of electric vehicles (EVs) by installing various electric charging points across the borough.



Pinch point: The proposed site of an EV charging unit

The latest of these to arrive in East Finchley have been the JOLT charge points. Through a deal with an Australian company, Barnet was the first to launch this combined charging unit and digital advertising display in its town centres.

Each can 'provide drivers with 7kWh of free, fast, roadside EV charging a day with as little as 15 minutes charge time', according to JOLT. All well and good, except for each unit's large advertising panels, which some see as an unwelcome addition to the

obstruction and clutter of 'street furniture'.

### Interrupt flow

Just looking at the size of the one outside the William Hill betting shop at 81 High Road, N2, will show that they need to be carefully positioned in order not to interrupt flow along the pavement.

Also, with the illuminated advertising so close to the highway, there are concerns that they could distract road users, cause visual obstruction and light pollution. In addition they could have an adverse impact on local traders loading and unloading frequent deliveries to and from their premises.

At the time of writing, the plan is to place a JOLT charge point outside Finchley Youth Theatre, very close to Tony's Continental greengrocery, on a stretch of pavement which is

often heavily used.

### Badly sited

Having objected successfully to previous installations last year, East Finchley Town Team has encouraged people to object to this one. They do not oppose EV chargers but think they should be provided without the obstructive advertising panels.

Finchley Youth Theatre is regularly frequented by disabled youngsters, groups of children from toddlers to teenagers, and people pushing buggies, many of whom arrive by car and many of whom may be in need of a clear pavement.

The Town Team suggests there are other more suitable sites on the High Road for the JOLT installation. Now objectors await the date of Barnet's next Planning Meeting and its subsequent decision.

# Bowlers bond with biodiversity volunteers

Members of a bowling club in Hampstead Garden Suburb joined biodiversity volunteers to plant 3,000 bulbs and fruit trees in Lyttelton Fields late last year.

The daffodils, tulips and honeyberry trees will begin blooming in the park outside the Bishopswood Bowling Club, off Norrice Lea, N2, next spring and summer.

"Lyttelton Fields is another project to establish Hampstead Garden Suburb as the most biodiverse urban area in the UK," explained Dominic Rose, founder of the Britain's Biggest Living Garden project. He approached Bishopswood for help and the use of its facilities and gardening tools.

"Seventy bowlers and gardeners beavered away," said club president Keith Cole. "Children raked, dug and planted alongside parents and grandparents. The community spirit was overwhelming."

"Bishopswood has its own lovely garden surrounding the green. Come the spring we want more women and children to join the club. And bowling is not just for the elderly. The bowling champs are in their 30s and a 15-year-old, who started aged seven, is in the national championship."



Game on: Bowlers plant bulbs

  
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