



Steep increase in tube station parking charges

By David Melsome

A reader recently brought our attention to the rise in parking fees at East Finchley Tube station. The current rate of £10 is sharply up from the £6.50 that was in place less than three years ago and is a 100% increase from 2013, when it rose to £5.

Elisa Foppa told us: "As a regular commuter, I find this change both excessive and unjustified, especially considering the limited improvements to the parking facility itself.

"It is unclear what operational costs could warrant such a steep rise, particularly when the service provided remains basic: no security personnel, minimal maintenance, and no added amenities.

"This increase places an unnecessary financial burden on those who rely on public transport and are trying to make sustainable travel choices. It also risks discouraging use of the station altogether, pushing commuters toward less environmentally friendly alternatives."

Frustration

The car park is owned by Transport for London and operated by management company Saba. In response, TfL said they could understand Elisa's frustration, particularly when

improvements to the facility may not be immediately visible. But parking charges are reviewed periodically "to reflect operational costs and broader transport policy objectives". TfL said: "We are committed to keeping our car parking tariffs affordable, but having last adjusted the tariffs in 2019, we need to make sure that they reflect local rates and demand, while continuing to provide revenue for reinvesting in improving transport.

"Since Saba took over our car parks, they have completed a detailed analysis on each of the station car parks, including factors such as competitors' car parks within 0.5 miles, local authority parking restrictions (controlled parking zones) and current occupancy.

"These price rises will help us make improvements to the car parks in areas such as resurfacing and drainage. We have continued to use the revenue generated from our car parks to reinvest in the transport network and maintain them."

Local issues aired

By Diana Cormack

The East Finchley Town Team social held at the Constitutional Club last month attracted a large number of locals interested in what is going on in and around N2. They responded throughout with comments, questions and suggestions about a variety of topics.

The meeting started with a report on the development of the space outside Budgens and Iceland in the High Road. Earmarked to be our future town square, present plans are hampered by lack of finance.

There was no particular news about the proposed housing developments at Cherry Tree Quarter and Manor Park Road, but meetings are being arranged with the group fighting the Great North Leisure Park and North Finchley developments.

High road issues

Barnet Council's plans to re-introduce domestic food waste collections were welcomed, but there were queries about how this would be managed, particularly for flat dwellers. They might have to use metal,

itemised bins along the High Road for refuse disposal, which would sadly add to the street furniture.

Feelings ran high about the recent spate of vandalism/burglaries along the High Road and about the possibility of a second Tesco store opposite the station, with its application for an extensive liquor licence and potentially traffic-blocking delivery lorries.

Parking problems at Martin Primary School were mentioned as were the rent rises being suffered by local traders and businesses.

The meeting ended with the good news that East Finchley has gone international by being only the second British town to join the Town Team Movement, based mainly in Australia, but with growing numbers of members around the world.



Hard at play: Tudor pupils try out their sculpting skills in the classroom

Turnaround for Tudor Primary

By Gail Norcliffe

Staff and pupils at Tudor Primary School are celebrating after a significant improvement in its Ofsted ratings. Formerly rated as 'requires improvement' and a school that was causing concern in Barnet, Tudor has now achieved 'outstanding' or 'good' in all key areas.

On top of this, their 2025 Key Stage 2 results have improved by almost double on the previous year, with maths being a notable strength.

On the border between N2 and N3 with an intake from both postcodes, Tudor works closely with nearby Manorside Primary as part of the Squires Lane Learning Federation. The new leadership team at the schools, executive headteacher Andy Griffiths and heads of school Iain Dalziel and Jenny Mitchell, attribute the turnaround to a drive to change behaviour and culture so children can focus on their learning.

They say embedding consistency and continuity has been crucial to help ensure pupils meet the high expectations promoted by all staff. Children are

encouraged to think there is no ceiling on their development.

School trips

At a practical level, work in the classroom is enhanced by helping children identify with and see themselves in projects. As an example, to reflect the school's multiculturalism, one topic studied in history is early Islamic civilisations.

A wide array of school trips has also helped to bring classroom work to life, ranging from role play in a Stone Age camp to visiting the Take One Picture project at the National Gallery.

Tudor and Manorside work in tandem on music, dance and sport. They participated in a dance and music festival at Artsdepot in North Finchley, and Barnet primary schools'



Autumn art: Pupils with their pine cone pictures

concert 'All Under One Sky' at the Royal Albert Hall.

Iain Dalziel said: "We are so proud of our children and the positive learning environment created by our whole school community. We hope the recognition of what a fantastic place of learning our school is will help change perceptions and encourage more people to make Tudor their school of choice."

Fallen tree

Thanks to reader Tim Clarke for this photo of a huge branch lying across Woodside Avenue, which runs between East Finchley and Muswell Hill, after breaking loose during the high winds of Storm Amy on Friday 3 and Saturday 4 October.

The obstruction was quickly cleared but it came just weeks after another huge tree further down Woodside Avenue split apart possibly due to disease or drought, as we reported last month.



Storm damage: Woodside Ave

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