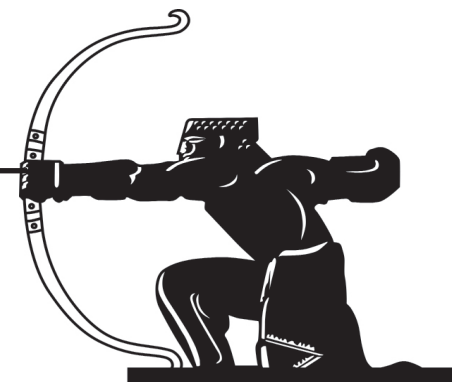




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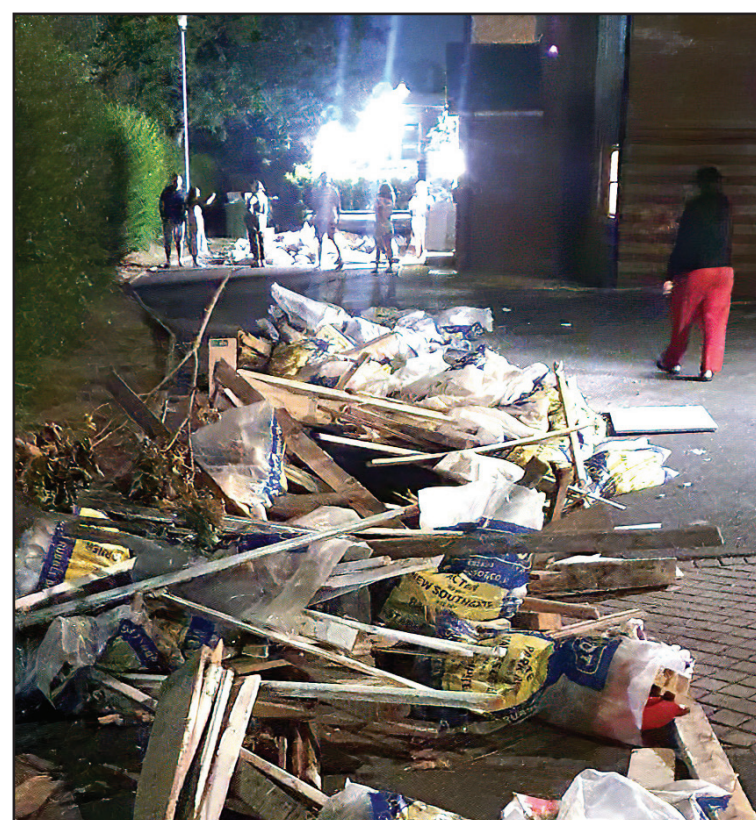
Fly-tippers dump tons of rubble

By Rita Lam

Residents of Simms Gardens, off Tarling Road, N2, were shocked after an estimated 4.6 tonnes of construction and demolition waste were illegally dumped on their estate late at night, one of the largest single fly-tipping incidents ever reported in the area.

Huge piles of heavy rubble blocked cars from leaving and potentially fire engines from gaining access, stretching along the road almost as far as neighbouring Lucas Gardens. One resident told The Archer: "All estates in London suffer from fly-tipping: fridges, freezers, beds, chairs, furniture but I've never seen anything to the extent that we saw on that night. It was quite shocking, really." He raised the alarm at 11pm and the estate's managing agent Michael Laurie Magar Ltd (MLM) arranged for a contractor to attend that same night, arriving around midnight to clear a path so that at least emergency vehicles could pass. A clean-up crew returned the following morning and took several hours to remove the several tonnes of waste.

Some items found within the rubble were later traced back to a café in Highgate that was undergoing a refit for a new opening. The resident said the café's proprietors told him they had paid between £1,000 and £1,500 to a builder or removal firm to dispose of the waste responsibly. "We think the men possibly thought this was a quiet



Tip and run: The piles of builder's rubble block Simms Gardens. Photos Rita Lam

location, and that there would be less prospect of them being tracked down if they just dumped all their waste here," he said. The incident on 9 July happened on private land and residents remain concerned

that they may ultimately bear the cost of the emergency and clean-up operations through their annual service charge. MLM has told them that an insurance claim has been submitted. Residents hope that if a criminal prosecution is brought and results in a conviction, the insurer may be able to recover costs through the justice system.

An MLM spokesperson told The Archer: "Whilst we are not willing to make comments on the specifics of the case, due to the ongoing investigation, fly tipping of this nature is a growing problem for all concerned, especially on open sites."

Barnet Council recorded 6,708 fly-tipping incidents

between January and July 2026. Being a private estate it was not responsible for the clean-up in Simms Gardens but confirmed that the incident had been

referred to the Environment Agency. The agency would normally get actively involved if the amount of waste exceeded 20 tonnes or if hazardous waste was found.

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