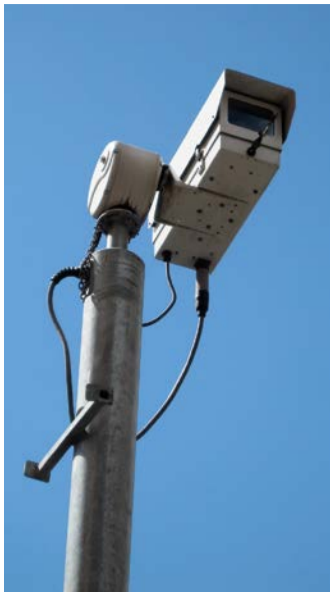


# No margin for error with CCTV enforcement in Temple Fortune



When Barnet Council consulted residents in 2014 on the use of CCTV enforcement for moving traffic offences the RA responded by saying that we opposed the idea. Our reasons were that we expected CCTV powers would be used indiscriminately and without regard to circumstances.

We added that we sensed the public was becoming increasingly unhappy about an apparent disparity between the rigid enforcement of minor motoring offences and the authorities' lack of ability or willingness to solve or prevent much more serious criminality.

Many residents have told us they believe it far more likely that the owner of a stolen car will receive a parking or speeding ticket incurred by the thief than that the thief himself will be caught or punished for stealing the car!

Unfortunately our comments were ignored and CCTV cameras have proliferated across the borough over the past few years with several being sited in and around the Suburb to enforce

school zig-zags, banned turns and box junctions.

One of the sites under camera observation is the Finchley Road/Bridge Lane box junction in Temple Fortune about which the RA's Roads & Traffic Committee has heard many complaints. Whilst it is important that motorists should not block the junction, most local people would expect the regulation to be enforced with common sense. However the case of Oakwood Road resident Gill Gould suggests this is not happening.

Mrs Gould received a penalty charge notice of £130 after following a car across the junction whilst heading north on Finchley Road. The first car unexpectedly stopped just ahead so that part of her car was briefly stationary whilst still within the box. Barnet's video recording showed that she had come to a halt for no more than five seconds.

A very annoyed Gill Gould said "I was almost at the extremity of the box and so was not preventing the movement of any traffic either behind me or exiting from Bridge Lane. I feel this is bureaucracy gone mad and it's very unfair to penalise a pensioner for such a small misdemeanour; at £130 this will

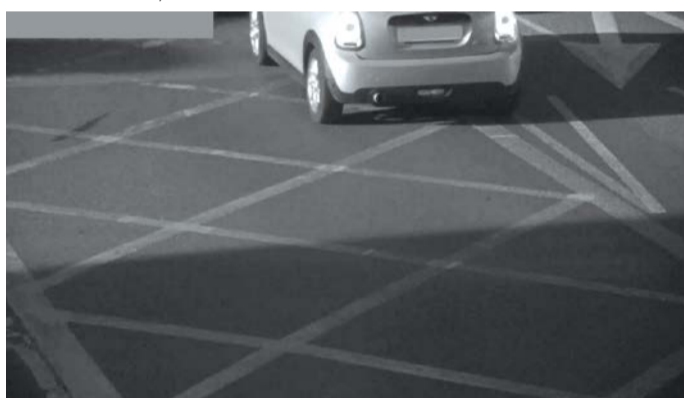
cost me approximately £30 per second."

It's hard to think of any crime that might be committed where the perpetrator would suffer such a disproportionate penalty as that facing Gill Gould. She has been given no quarter over this minor matter, the camera has caught her and with the press of a button Barnet Council and the DVLA have co-operated in penalising her. Yet despite a CCTV presence in the Market Place the post office raiders have not been troubled by the authorities.

The Market Place camera, which for ten years has been so effective at issuing parking tickets for Red Route contraventions, was useless when it was most needed because the robbers covered their faces. This sort of thing is hugely corrosive to the trust that should exist between citizen and state and in the long run it may be the state's agencies that will suffer most from the undermining of the confidence of those who should be its natural supporters.

Anyone uncertain of box junction regulations can find them under Rule 174 of the Highway Code or can contact the R&T Committee at [ratraffic@hgs.org.uk](mailto:ratraffic@hgs.org.uk) for an explanation.

GARY SHAW



## TfL: "No reason for any changes..."

The lead article in our last issue on the safety of pedestrians in The Market Place concluded by noting that, "Suburb News feels Transport for London (TfL) are very slow at responding, even when the safety of road users is at stake, and seem to make change very difficult to accomplish. We should all wish the RA's Roads & Traffic Committee and our Councillors the best of luck."

The RA's Roads & Traffic Committee have added a link (see below) to their webpage so that residents can now see the result of TfL's investigations on The Market Place and Falldon Way. They looked at speeds, right turns and pedestrians. Readers will probably not be surprised to hear that TfL can see no reason for any changes to the present arrangements.

There will be no speed cameras, or speed activated road signs, installed on Falldon Way as the speeds recorded were not above the set enforcement schedules.

The statistics clearly trump the observations of those who live on the road. Likewise with the pedestrian crossing arrangements; there will be no change. TfL remarked that, "Pedestrians were not waiting an excessive amount of time at any of the crossings, all waiting times were under 30 seconds. This shows that the facilities are good for pedestrians particularly considering they are crossing a major road."

Your Editor uses the crossings at Ossulton Way and Kingsley Way every day and feels this misses the point by not addressing the danger to pedestrians of using the Lyttelton Road side of the junction, where there was a fatality last year.

Crossing where the lights are pedestrian controlled will take two phases of the lights if you are elderly, have respiratory problems, children in tow, or are using a pushchair; users are obliged to wait in the middle of the road for the lights to change again.

So saving time is one of the reasons those crossing the road will risk crossing the uncontrolled Lyttelton Road rather than The Market Place with its pedestrian lights. Another reason could be the unavoidable spray from vehicle wheels in wet weather when waiting in the pen for the 'Green Man' to appear.

In any event TfL are not willing to change anything despite a lot of pressure from the RA's Roads & Traffic Committee and our GS Ward Councillors.

Residents can consider how difficult it is to get TfL to change their existing arrangements in response to the concerns from outside their own agency; they only seem to be interested in self-generated initiatives such as – if you remember this lengthy and costly fiasco – removing the bus stops in Falldon Way!

TERRY BROOKS

[www.hgs.org.uk/ra/roadsandtraffic/other/201804tflfalldonwaysummarynote.pdf](http://www.hgs.org.uk/ra/roadsandtraffic/other/201804tflfalldonwaysummarynote.pdf)

## Anyone for tennis? Come to Central Square

With the improving weather, The Trust's two tennis courts on Central Square are a great place to improve your ball skills, or just have a friendly match.

Both courts, which have recently been refurbished, are free to use for all Suburb residents and their guests. Advance booking is advised as the courts are both very popular.

Just visit [tinyurl.com/hgstc](http://tinyurl.com/hgstc) to make your free booking.

Please note that these courts are only to be used by those people who have booked for a specific time period. They are strictly not to be used for coaching/lessons, by non-residents, nor for any other purpose than tennis.

If you have any queries, please contact the Trust office at [mail@hgstrust.org](mailto:mail@hgstrust.org) or ring 020 8455 1066.



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