

SUBURB NEWS

THE HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION NEWSPAPER ■ AUTUMN 03 - ISSUE 81

Cars not fast enough? Let's use the pavements - says Barnet

The current traffic and controlled parking scheme in Temple Fortune, with traffic islands to aid crossing between shops, kerb build outs and parking spaces was designed and implemented by Barnet in 1999 with full consultation with the Residents Association, the HGS Trust and English Heritage. It was designed to save pedestrian casualties, facilitate a calmed flow of through traffic and stop all day parking.

The result now, Barnet's new administration has decided without any consultation at all, is that traffic movement is too slow and that there are more accidents involving car shunts. According to Barnet's site assessment 43 slight accidents and 4 serious ones in 3 years.

The answer, it seems, is to remove the Tegula blocks, (these were never laid satisfactorily). Remove kerb build outs, improve traffic lane alignment to improve progression along Finchley Road (sounds like faster), remove the

traffic island at Willifield Way and replace it by a zebra crossing. Because of the zig zag lines associated with a zebra crossing this means losing all the parking spaces outside the HGS Trust and also outside the golf shop, dry cleaners, kosher deli and sub post office. This could result in more parking in Willifield Way and Hogarth Hill.

Barnet also proposes to remove most of the traffic islands but those being removed are not shown on the plans. The only islands to remain will be between Marks & Spencers and Waitrose and opposite the Royal Oak which will be 'upgraded'. But three used by children at the Suburb School will be removed as will one used by disabled people at Belmont Parade next to the disabled parking spaces.

The most controversial proposal is to allow parking on the pavements outside Montrose Court, Dudley Court, Clarendon Court, The Pantiles, Birnbeck and Belmont Courts (for these

two the cars will be parked at 90 degrees to the road), Marks & Spencer, Arcade House (which is a Grade II listed building) and for most of the other side of the road from The Royal Oak to Alyth Gardens. This pavement parking and 90 degree parking, includes the stretch of pavement where children go to and from Garden Suburb School down Childs Way.

Barnet proposes to start work almost immediately and it is scheduled to last six months at a cost of £480,000. It's not surprising our Council tax went up by 24%.

The RA's new chairman of its Roads & Traffic Committee, George Hatjoulis, is on the case but residents are urged to make their views known to Suburb Councillors John Marshall, Jasmin Naghar and Vanessa Gearson at Members Room, Town Hall, The Burroughs, NW4 4BG or by E mail at Cllr.J.Marshall@barnet.gov.uk or Cllr.V.Gearson@barnet.gov.uk or Cllr.J.Naghar@barnet.gov.uk

RICHARD WAKEFIELD

Phone masts protests

At the RA council on 7 October Jonathan and Nicole Gerber from Maurice Walk and David Cummin, South Square, raised concerns about a further planning application for a phone mast installation on Heathfield in Lyttelton Road and the possibility of another hidden in the tower of St Jude's.

David Lewis, Consam, pointed out that in planning terms fear of possible radiation effect was not an argument unless emission levels exceed ICNIRP guidelines. In the conservation area the visual impact was more important. The RA had objected to the previous mast on Heathfield but it had been allowed on appeal because the masts were concealed. He had written to Barnet with the

RA's objections to the new application and he also urged the Trust to refuse consent.

Since the meeting Nicole Gerber told *Suburb News* that "the original hidden masts have not yet been installed and there have been enough objections to the current application for the matter to go to full council on 19 November." It is believed that health risks which planners cannot consider may be taken into account by councillors. Sheila Abbott, head of Brookland Infants said "We are in vehement opposition, with all these children here how can they even consider it? People have a choice over whether to give their children mobile phones but with these masts there is no choice"

Objections can still be sent to Karina Sissman, Planning Dept, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, N20 0EJ re planning application C 00065 AK/03.

ST JUDE'S

Mr Cummin said he represented 500 residents who were afraid St Jude's was planning a mast in the church tower. He sympathised with the church's need to raise funds for the upkeep of the church but thought many residents would be happier to help with this than to have the possibility of damage to health from radiation. RA council member Rev Alan Walker said that while the Church of England looked favourably on masts in churches because of the income they generate, ecclesiastical



Above: The Resident Association's alternative version submitted to Barnet councillors
Below: Barnet's new, inappropriate street name signs



"...a step in the right direction"

Barnet has agreed to change the inappropriate turquoise street name signs in Hampstead Garden Suburb with a different version for use only in the conservation area.

Cllr John Marshall has sent examples of the new design to RA chairman Georgina Malcolm who said: "The new design is a step in the right direction. But

Barnet's new version still does not match the stringent criteria appropriate to the Suburb."

The RA has submitted an alternative version of Barnet's proposal for consideration by councillors, shown here.

"We hope that Barnet will accept our compromise design which is based on the traditional signs already used extensively in

the Suburb but contains the Barnet logo, and therefore matches the style of Barnet's new corporate image," she added.

Barnet has been asked to put up an example of the new design in Meadway Gate instead of the turquoise sign which sparked off the controversy in March this year.

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Trust AGM attack

The Trust AGM in September started quietly enough with chairman Stephen Licht welcoming members and introducing the Trust council. He thanked council members for their work during a busy year including David Iwi who he said had resigned before the end of his first three year term.

He reviewed the year to April and outlined Trust action on a number of current concerns such as: modernising of Queens Court and Emmott Close following the recent takeover by Circle 33 of the UWHT; the tennis courts which had been returned to the Trust by the Institute, some of which Henrietta Barnett school

would be using; the sale of St Jude's church rooms and proposals from Orange for telephone masts in the tower. Turning to satellite dishes he said that smaller mini dishes could be less intrusive than TV aerials. They were actively encouraging larger dishes to be hidden in gardens and were likely to be more liberal in allowing mini dishes. The East Finchley Neuro Centre was a good site for the Institute, he said, but the scale of the development should not interfere with neighbours. The Trust considered the new street name signs inappropriate and said they were at one with

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Tennis champion

Congratulations to Chris Kelleman, who was Herts born and is a registered county player, on winning the Hertfordshire over 55s singles final.

RICHARD WAKEFIELD

Third Institute plans for disputed site

In what is hoped will be a final bid for planning approval Octagon, who are developing the NHS site near East Finchley station, are submitting their third revised plan which is designed to satisfy objections of over-development by local residents, the RA, the Trust and Barnet.

Campaigning residents of the surrounding roads have complained of the size of two blocks of flats and the Institute building too near their houses, the potential traffic hazard posed by an entrance on Bishops Avenue as well as parking chaos they maintain will be the result of students attending classes. In a letter to all Suburb residents asking for their support Institute principal Fay Naylor wrote "This is the last chance the Institute has of remaining in the immediate

area and if the current application is not successful we will regrettably be forced to seek a building further away."

The Residents Association, having twice produced reports

criticising aspects of the previous plans, has reiterated each time its support for the principle of a new building for the Institute on the site.

RICHARD WAKEFIELD

Join in the firework fun



The Residents Association is hoping you will come and help us celebrate New Year's Eve with fireworks and wine. All residents

are invited to a 10.45pm reception in St Jude's (thanks to the vicar) followed by spectacular firework display on Central Square.