

Letters to the Editor

4@msn.com

Sir,
As Roz Archer so rightly points out in her article in the last issue of the Suburb News, the Hampstead Garden Suburb is subject to greater planning and development controls than probably anywhere else in the Country. This severely limits the residents with regard to what they can do with their properties. We accept this as we appreciate that it is an area of special architectural and historic interest. However, although the Council are partly instrumental in both designating and implementing these controls they seem to be blissfully unaware of the damage which is being done both to the environment and the lives of the residents by their poorly thought out, disjointed and piecemeal traffic policies.

The Council already knew well in advance of the recent changes to the Finchley Road that their Pay and Display had impacted severely and adversely on the Temple Fortune area in general and the Suburb, immediately adjoining the Finchley Road, in particular with an inordinate amount of non-resident parking being displaced into the surrounding turnings. In spite of this, and without consultation, they proceeded and carried out these further "improvements" which has only made matters worse. The properties in the turnings on the older part of the Suburb – having been constructed whilst the motor car was still in it's infancy – do not have garages or off-street parking and although the Pay and Display has also impacted on the turnings on the Western side of the Finchley Road at least the occupiers of these properties – being in the main inter-war semi-detached houses with garages and driveways – are not so severely affected. But where, according to the

Council's Finchley and Golders Green Area Environment Sub-Committee Report of the 29th June 2004, which proposes a CPZ for the Temple Fortune area, have the Council been supposedly monitoring the effects of the Pay and Display? Mainly on the Western side of the Finchley Road including Highcroft Gardens which is already in the Golders Green CPZ! Only Hampstead Way and Childs Way, which have suffered from a high level of non-resident parking for years, on the Suburb were included in the Council's monitoring exercise.

The Residents' Association have, according to last issue of the Suburb News, – Suburb faces parking controls and loss of traffic calming – expressed concern about not being consulted on the Council's proposals for a Temple Fortune CPZ. More to the point, and in view of their apparent disinterest up till recently about the parking problem, I hope that, even if they are consulted, their views are not given undue consideration and that it is the views of the majority of householders which are taken into account. If all the residents on the Suburb belonged to the Association it probably would not be a problem as then, hopefully, the views of the Association, expressed on behalf of all, would concur with the majority opinion. But this is not the case and, for whatever reasons, they might wish to pursue a different agenda. For instance, already concern has been expressed about 'intrusive signs' and the street furniture which, unfortunately, is part and parcel of a CPZ. It is a great pity that the Residents' Association were apparently less concerned about the destruction of the environment – in particular the grass verges – and the impact that the 'wall to wall' parking has had on the lives of their members and the other residents in such

turnings as Asmunds Place. It is vitally important that this proposed CPZ is introduced as soon as possible and that such relatively minor matters as arguments about the intrusiveness, or otherwise, of the street furniture is not allowed to delay it's overdue implementation.

Yours,
Eric Holme

26 Lyttelton Court
N2 0EB

Sir,
The front page of issue 84 of Suburb News contained the headline, 'Suburb faces parking controls'. If these controls are enforced in a similar way to those of the double red lines in Market Place, then there should not be any noticeable change, so no one need fear.

In the years that the red lines have been there, a blatant and arrogant disregard by motorists has existed. I have seen four vehicles parked at the bus stop at one time, leaving no space for a bus to stop. The police, red route patrols and traffic wardens do nothing to prevent this.

I have written to the council and the MP for the area about this matter but to no avail. I have even remonstrated with the offending drivers but, because they have got away with the offence for so long, I doubt that they are even aware of their transgression. You should not worry too much about the impending CPZ – it will not be enforced.

Yours,
Kevin Creighton

3 Maurice Walk
NW11 6JX

Sir,
I was interested to read about Camilla Raab's obituary in Suburb News. I always remembered her at RA meetings, etc. on the Suburb but it wasn't until 1991, when all former pupils of the Skimmers' Company's School for Girls at Stamford Hill were invited to the school's centenary celebrations by Sir Michael Colman (of the 'mustard' family) who was Chairman of the Governors of the Company, that I there met up with Camilla Raab. I had

originally remembered Camilla when I entered the school in 1937, aged eight years, only to always bear the name, Camilla Betbeder, as she was, read out as one of the older girls who won prizes each year!

As stated in Suburb News, I was always aware that she was a very private person, but she did allow me to give her a lift in my car back from one of the meetings at the school!

Yours,
Edna Weiss

Wildwood Rise
NW11

Sir,
Having just read the Summer 2004 issue of Suburb News, it struck me how excellent and interesting it continues to be. From acrimony at the RA AGM to the 'bectic times' of the horticultural society, illustrated throughout with quality colour photographs, it is a credit to the Suburb and the people who produce and distribute it. The relatively new Style section is really hitting its stride. Keep up the good work with this thoroughly professional and useful publication.

Yours,
David Lewis

1 Grey Close
NW11 6QG

Sir
Litter-ally

Thank you to those of you who responded to the request for more litter pickers. There are now 102 of us and it is pleasing to know that most areas are now covered. I trust that you have seen us at work!

But sometimes it feels as though we are fighting a losing battle so if you do see a plastic bottle, cigarette packet or tin can in the gutter, it would be most helpful if you could pick it up.

We are all volunteers but we cannot be expected to clear excessive amounts of litter. So if you do find more than the usual amount of leaves and/or litter in your area do call the 'Clean up and Leafing Hotline' in Barnet on 8349 6035 and it should be cleared within 24 hours. Good luck!

Yours
Rosalind Josephs

3 Ruskin Close
NW11 7AU

Sir,
Ref: Tennis courts in use again – Summer issue

You quote Chris Kellerman as stating that discussions are in progress with Ruskin Close residents as to the future of the two neglected Ruskin Close tennis courts. They are in a very sad state, partly through neglect but also by allowing various 'un-tennis-like' activities to take place in recent years, such as caterers using one of the courts for parties.

The discussions do not include the majority of Ruskin Close residents who are specifically excluded from using them. Whatever the outcome, these discussions will therefore do nothing to help encourage tennis in NW11.

Yours,
Mrs H Davis

Henrietta Barnett School
NW11

Sir,
Recycling

A group of environmentally aware year 12 girls from The Henrietta Barnett School have recently set up an exciting new Recycling Team and are hoping, as well as saving the world's rainforests, to gather information for a Suburb Recycling

Directory and decided that the best thing to do was to ask the Garden Suburb Residents.

If you have any stories or inspired ideas on recycling do's and don'ts such as what to recycle, what not to recycle or where best to recycle, please contact Marion Boulicault of the Henrietta Barnett Recycling Team, 27 Middleton Road, London, NW11 7NR.

We will be keeping you informed in the Suburb News of our progress, ideas and projects on recycling in school and in the community.

Yours,
Marion Boulicault

Southway
NW11

Sir,
The Centenary marks the realisation of Henrietta Barnett's dream – the founding of the Suburb.

Henrietta should, therefore, receive due honour in the celebrations and what better way than to give a new name to Central Square (an uninspired name!) and call it Henrietta Barnett Square. It already has Henrietta's memorial at it's centre and the Henrietta Barnett School dominating its principal side.

Yours,
Elizabeth Cockburn

Quiz Night

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