

Letters to the Editor

Temple Fortune Hill
NW11

Sir,
The CPZ argument a Problem for the Suburb and its Residents

As a resident living in a problem area (lower part of Temple Fortune Hill) I would like to contribute some ideas on this subject.

Firstly, I am disappointed to discover from the article in the Suburb News, issue 88 (RA to fight Barnet Council elections with residents candidates) that the RA seems to be more interested in protecting the financial 'welfare' of the shop keepers rather than representing the interests of the Suburb residents.

It is precisely because of the many additional shops and restaurants that we, the residents of Hampstead Way, Asmunds Place, Asmunds Hill and Temple Fortune Hill find ourselves confronted with this parking problem. Yes, I am fully aware that if Barnet introduces the CPZ as laid out in their plan (see letter dated 14 July 2005 ref: GWA/TFCPZ result-res-excl) which does not include Temple Fortune Hill at the moment, the problem will be moved further into the Suburb - i.e. Temple Fortune Hill will be one of the first roads to feel the impact.

But before I get further agitated about the situation let us look at the reason why we are experiencing a parking problem in our area. In part it is due to the staff of the nearby shops and offices and some commuters, who park in our area. Then came the introduction of the congestion charge with many more commuters parking all day in the area. The recent increase of the charge will exacerbate the situation. And, of course, we have the shoppers and visitors to the restaurants that prefer to park in our area rather than be restricted by the timing of the parking meters on Finchley Road.

Whilst I would prefer to live without a CPZ system I do not see a better solution - unless of course, we look ahead and open our minds to a more

modern solution. How about considering a Multi Storey Car Park facility - or an under-ground parking facility. Some months ago my husband proposed such an idea to Barnet Council (the responsible department) and suggested that perhaps the vacant site of Henley's Corner (it used to be a garage) could be used for such a purpose. He has yet to receive an acknowledgement of the letter and the email!

Many suburbs in Europe and smaller townships in England do have such a facility. Brent Cross has one! A Park & Ride scheme could be considered. The shop owners and office staff of the area must be involved in such discussions and proposals (their contribution to the solution is necessary). It is unfair to transfer the problem, the costs and inconvenience of the introduction of a CPZ scheme onto the Suburb residents. The residents and their cars are not the problem. It is an imported problem.

Of course anything new is always rejected at first - but then after a time people accept it and use it and so it would be with a Car Park facility in this area. The citizens must want it and persuade the Council to provide better parking facilities. Let us face the facts - the car is a by-product of every day life and most families own one or more cars. The RA must address this problem and find ways to solve it. When the Suburb was built cars were not part of the equation. Perhaps the Trust should be involved in this parking problem discussion.

In order to truly find a solution we and the RA must look ahead and open our minds to a more modern solution. I also agree with Marjorie Harris who mentioned in one of her emails that a) the RA should not get involved in politics and b) that we are stuck with a system and that we (the RA) should work within the system. Electing independent candidates does not address the problem!

Yours
Gerlinde Crossley

Southway
NW11 6RU

Sir,
Mr Kellerman's considerable professional experience and knowledge of the Suburb's history and cultural background give authority to his views on planning issues as expressed in Suburb News, issue 88.

However, I wonder what statistical and demographic knowledge or experience he draws upon when he links the falling attendance in the Suburb's churches to the fact that 'the population of the Suburb has become more Jewish'. What is the evidence for his conclusion?

Falling attendances at churches - and at synagogues for that matter - seem to be a perplexing fact of life country-wide. It would be a shame, if in making what might be taken as a perjorative assertion Mr Kellerman had failed to check whether there is any factual support for his statement.

Yours
Neil Benson

Brookland Rise
NW11 6DT

Sir,
I was shocked to hear that Barnet may force closure of the Pavilion Children's Centre in Lyttelton Playing Fields for financial reasons. I have been taking my three year old twins to the Pavilion regularly for over two years. It is an excellent mother and baby/toddler playgroup and extremely popular among local families.

Marien Lowe and Jacqueline Johnson run the Centre beautifully. The children have sufficient toys and play space to be stimulated and happy. The separate room for arts and crafts and balcony for use in good weather, including sand and water play, are extra bonuses. The Centre is very safe and mums/carers and children have use of the kitchen for refreshments.

In all, I can't find fault with the Centre. Its location in the Playing Fields provides a delightful walk for buggy-pushers. Its proximity to the popular playground means that families can combine visits to both marvelous facilities.

How Barnet Council could consider closing the Pavilion, the only Centre of its type in the area and which has been operating since 1983, defies belief. It shows complete disregard and ignorance of the value of the Pavilion to a huge section of the community. Its value is immeasurable in

financial terms. Furthermore, I cannot imagine what other use or purpose the building might have. If the Children's Centre is forced to close, I can foresee the building remaining empty, idle and wasted.

I understand that Councillor John Marshall is taking up this issue. I urge him to fight hard to preserve this unique and irreplaceable Pavilion Children's Centre.

Yours,
Elizabeth F Alsford

Charlton Drive
N2 0QW

Sir,
Barnet may force Pavilion closure (SN 88)
It would be very sad indeed if the Pavilion Children's Centre is forced to close due to Barnet's raised rent. This well used amenity was started, equipped and run by a few visionary young mothers who raised funds, furnished and established this charitable organisation with toddlers in tow, at no cost to anyone other than like-minded locals. Barnet's recompense for some support and advice from Social Service's personnel was the Pavilion's availability for otherwise isolated toddlers and their carers.

This Lyttelton Playing Fields based facility has provided mums, carers, babies and children in some summer holidays with a relaxed and stimulating environment to share the fun of exploratory and creative play together. The organisation, established as a charity, has remained self-funding, benefiting its wider community with annual events, children's charities with annual donations and Barnet with rent for the last 22 years for a building formerly unused on weekdays.

The closure of the Pavilion Children's Centre would mean a great loss to the charities it benefits, the community and, particularly its current generation of young users and their guardians. A loss too, to its previous generations of users, the local children who could be taking their children soon and its founders who might enjoy the delights of revisiting, accompanying grandchildren. As one of the founders, I put my faith in all those who have enjoyed and benefited from the Pavilion's existence, that it will remain a Suburb asset for many years through our united efforts. Where are you all?

Yours,
Nicolette Landau

Christmas Craft Fair

All your Christmas shopping can be done under one roof at the Family Holiday Association Christmas Craft Fair in Henrietta Barnett School Hall, Central Square on 12 November, 10.30 - 4pm. Admission £2.

Amongst a wide variety of exhibitors are those from Africa, the Middle East and the Indian Sub-continent. In addition, there will be the ever popular 'Dinner for Two' where for £22 you will

be guaranteed a voucher for at least £25 and if you are lucky, a meal at the Royal Opera House valued at £75. If you've wondered if that old painting your aunt left you is worth a penny or two, bring it along between 2 - 4pm and get it valued by the North London Auctioneers. Further information, 8455 1777.

This past year the FHA has funded 1150 family holidays - for most, their first ever.

Yorkshire BS appoints new manager

Daniel Thomas has been appointed the new Manager of Yorkshire Building Society on the Market Place, Hampstead Garden Suburb.

Welsh born Daniel joined the Society in Exeter after completing an Honours Degree in Politics. As a Graduate Trainee he quickly learned the many roles within a branch and continued studying to achieve qualifications that allow him to give full mortgage advice. Daniel's appointment to Hampstead is his first management appointment. His new role will involve the day to day management of the branch and promoting the benefits of mutuality in the area. Commenting on his appointment, Daniel said: "I'm delighted with

my new role, which demonstrates the Society's commitment to give staff with ambition and ability the opportunity for career progression. I'm really looking forward to helping both existing members and new members find competitive mortgage and savings products and making sure they are backed up with excellent customer service."

Daniel's partner, Rebecca, has managed to secure a transfer to London with her existing employer and will be joining him in Hampstead after Christmas. In his spare time, Daniel enjoys rambling and takes a keen interest in current affairs and local politics.

The trials and tribulations of an urban fox

At 4.30am on an early August morning, I was woken by a blood-curdling scream, followed by a series of high-pitched yelps and bumping noises that seemed to be coming from the garden. I rushed to the window to see who or what was being murdered and witnessed an extraordinary sight.

By the light of the street lamp, a handsome young fox was leaping round the large metal cage that protects the ground feeder we put out for the birds, attempting to get at the remains of the raisin-laden stale cake I had left there the day before. With nose, paws and

teeth he tried to lift the cage off, but each time he failed, puffing, snorting and screeching angrily. Eventually, he got his teeth round the bars and dragged the cage half-way across the lawn, pulling the heavy wooden and metal feeder with it. Still he couldn't gain access.

This went on for about 20 minutes, until there was a peremptory barking from the road where, presumably, a parent was waiting for him. He leapt through the hedge into Erskine Hill, leaving behind a scene of horticultural devastation.

MARJORIE HARRIS



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