

Loading bay cases go to appeal as TfL backs down on signage

The Resident Association's Roads & Traffic Committee will be representing three motorists later this month when their Market Place parking cases are heard by the Parking and Traffic Appeals Service. The three (two residents and a visitor to the area) were all issued with parking tickets by Transport for London's CCTV camera after parking in the loading bay on the north side of the Market Place. Approximately 2,000 motorists per year receive tickets for parking in the bay which is almost impossible to recognise due to poor signage and the lack of carriageway markings.

Since the CCTV camera was installed in 2006 the Roads & Traffic Committee estimates it has received around five hundred calls from people who have been issued with penalty charge notices after parking in the loading bay. Many of these have been incidents where Transport for London has disputed that legitimate loading or unloading was taking place. However the great majority have been cases where motorists simply have not recognised that any parking restriction existed.

Two shops near the bay, including a well-liked Persian restaurant, have closed recently and shopkeepers in the Market Place blame the loss of custom on aggressive enforcement of the loading restriction. Twelve of the remaining traders wrote to TfL earlier this year to demand that the bay be removed but TfL say they have carried out a survey which demonstrates the need to retain some loading space.

The Roads & Traffic Committee has raised the matter with Andrew Dismore, the London Assembly Member

for Barnet & Camden, who has questioned Mayor of London Boris Johnson about TfL's conduct in the Market Place. The Mayor responded by saying that the traffic authorities will in future use common sense when enforcing the Market Place's Red Route parking rules. Following further pressure from Mr Dismore TfL has now agreed to erect a second sign beside the loading bay to help motorists recognise the confusing restriction.

Chairman of the Roads & Traffic Committee Gary Shaw says "An additional sign is a welcome development. However the arrangements in the Market Place are inherently confusing and I am not sure a second sign is enough to solve the problem motorists have identifying the

bay. For that to happen I believe we need carriageway markings like those beside the Market Place's disabled bays. We will keep monitoring the section to see if there is any fall in the numbers of parking tickets being issued after the new sign is installed."

Mr Shaw added, "In the meantime we will continue to encourage residents to contact us as soon as they receive a loading bay ticket from TfL. Now that the transport authority has accepted the need for a second sign it will be very difficult for them to enforce tickets which were issued while there was still only one sign in place. Residents should not pay these tickets but contact us straight away at ratraffic@hgs.org.uk to help them set up an appeal."

Lib Dems honour Suburb resident

Meadway resident Diana Iwi, one of the longest-serving members of Barnet Borough Liberal Democrats and a Garden Suburb Ward Branch Lib Dems committee member, was presented with the prestigious, Harriet Smith Award by Party President, Tim Farron MP at the Liberal Democrat Conference last month.

This award – for outstanding lifetime contribution and achievement by any party member who has never held public office – is the highest accolade for 'ordinary' party members who have been extraordinary in the dedication, determination and sheer hard work they have put into supporting the Liberal Democrats. The award was made to Diana in a packed

Brighton conference hall on Wednesday 26 September, just before Nick Clegg's leader's speech and Diana was Tim Farron's guest for the day at the Lib Dems' conference.

Announcing news of the award to local members, Sean Hooker, Chairman of Barnet Borough Liberal Democrats, said, "I am so proud of Diana. I, for one, would like to thank her for everything she has done and continues to do for the party. Peter Lusher, Chairman of Garden Suburb Ward Branch Liberal Democrats, added his congratulations.

Diana also keeps an eye on the weather for Suburb News, wins prizes in flower shows and is a hardworking pillar of St Jude's.



When Barnet's lighting contractors planted tall modern black lamp standards on Central Square (right) they were not reckoning to come up against Richard Townley, who lives in North Square, and other residents. "They consulted widely," he said, "with the RA and the Trust but not with the people who live here. We were able to persuade them that, there was no traffic on the square and that another design would be more appropriate for the centre of the conservation area (left).

Jewish festivals

The Jewish new year, in September, is a time for reflection on how to approach the next 12 months, rather than a hogmanay. It leads up to the Day of Atonement ('Yom Kippur') ten days later. These are days when Jews who rarely attend synagogue will be found there. Norrice Lea's membership is 1,200 families and to accommodate these, there

was an overflow service in the hall, a Sephardi (south and east Mediterranean) service in a marquee and youths and infants services.

For the less solemn Tabernacles, a week later, things were back to normal, but still with crowded regular rooms. Rabbi Kaplan's messages focused on the belief that God created man to

complete his work and that every act of kindness brings that forward.

A smaller service meets at the Central Square Minyan at Central Square and on the edge of the Suburb, Alyth Gardens Reform Synagogue held equally crowded services, as did the New North London community in East End Road.

Community library expands

The volunteer-staffed Community library in the Market Place has added to its programme during the summer, increased membership and expanded its 'footfall'.

During August, an art class in the library by Westholm resident artist, Hazel Lopatkin, was crowded with local children. Hazel teaches in East Ham. The library's summer children's reading scheme had over 90 subscribers. Library membership is now almost 800 and continues to rise.

Opening days are Tuesday to Saturday, with pre-school children's 'story and rhyme time' Wednesdays at 10.15-10.45 and toddlers' sing song Thursdays

mornings in two half-hour sessions starting at 10 & 10.45.

The Police Safer Neighbourhood Team drop-in surgeries at the Library continue on particular

Thursdays from 4-5pm, the next dates being 25 October, 8 & 22 November and 6 & 20 December.

For more information visit www.gardensuburblibrary.org.uk.



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WORDSEARCH

In the box below are concealed 20 names of London Underground stations of FOUR or more letters; and an extra one highlighted to start you off (don't include it in your total!) Names may be read in all directions, straight or diagonally. Entries should be listed on paper or a postcard and sent to Diana Woodfield, 5 Erskine Hill, NW11 6HA with your name, address and phone number. The closing date is December 15. All correct entries go into a draw to win a £20 voucher from Joseph's Bookstore.

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SUMMER WORDSEARCH ANSWER

The sports were: Archery, Badminton, Baseball, Boules, Boxing, Climbing, Cricket, Croquet, Cycling, Fishing, Golf, Hockey, Hunting, Lacrosse, Rowing, Running, Skating, Squash, Swimming, Walking.

Wordsearch winner

Post Olympic enthusiasm seemed to generate a fine number of correct answers.

The winner of the Summer Wordsearch was 16 year old

Delilah Lyons. She has lived on the Suburb for twelve years and is adding to her GCSEs with home study. She enjoys karate and singing.



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