



Brooklands residents convinced crossing would make road less safe

After the well attended public meeting held in December to protest against proposed new traffic measures, local residents took to the streets outside Brookland School as 2015 came to an end. The school's neighbours braved a stormy afternoon to make the point that a mooted new zebra crossing at the Hill Top and Brookland Hill junction would be greatly prejudicial to the elderly or those with impaired mobility. Protestors pointed out that all day parking restrictions associated with zebra crossings would force disabled residents and visitors to park much farther from their homes and families.

Loren Loeb lives two doors from the school and is worried about access for her mother who has walking difficulties following a serious stroke. Mrs Loeb said, "When my mother visits, I can arrange for her to be dropped outside my house so

she only has to walk a short distance. If the zebra crossing is installed, it will no longer be possible to stop there at any time of the day or night. Parking displacement could mean my mother having to be dropped 50 or 60 yards away, which will make it much harder for her to visit me."

Mrs Loeb continued, "The planners appear not to understand this location very well. Apart from the loss of disabled access the crossing's stopping restrictions would force residents living nearby to park on their drives rather than on the road as we currently do at school times. Our cars would therefore have to cross the line of children going to or from school. With high hedges obscuring visibility and with many children running or scooting on the pavement this would raise rather than reduce the possibility of an accident."

Malcolm Ferguson is another worried resident. A retired traffic consultant, Mr Ferguson says the crossing will create a serious safety hazard with cars queueing

to exit or join either Brookland Hill or Brookland Rise blocking sight lines. Mr Ferguson also voiced the views of local residents concerned about disturbance from Belisha beacons flashing all night long saying, "These are an unacceptable and unnecessary addition to an otherwise well preserved conservation area."

The RA's Roads & Traffic Committee chairman Gary Shaw says, "The residents living close to the proposed crossing site know this spot and its problems better than anyone. Most are convinced that a zebra crossing would actually make the road more rather than less dangerous for children. A zebra crossing sounds like it must always be a good idea but it depends greatly upon location and in this case the location is all wrong. The RA and the local residents would far rather see a lollipop patrol here and if the authorities will only oblige there's even a chance that much of the cost of this might be raised locally."

Suburb bloggers revealed

In our last issue we announced a social media challenge to try to get residents who publish their own content on social media sites to let others know of what they are doing and perhaps pique their interest to look further at what the internet has to offer.

We were not overwhelmed by the number of responses and feel there must be some shrinking violet bloggers, other social media contributors or perhaps even a vlogger, out there; so get in touch with Terry at rapublications@hgs.org.uk.

Meanwhile the two readers who did come forward demonstrate the variety of people and subjects involved. One younger, one older, on football and food.

The first blog is called and is written by The Young Gun, who is a 15-year-old Suburb resident. The name is a clue because he generally, but not exclusively, writes about Arsenal. His writing is good and he is encouraged by the number of views he is getting. No comments as yet, but they will come, perhaps from you if you go to www.theyounggun.blogspot.com.

The second one is by Madeleine Morrow, a *nom de plume*, and came about when she was given 90 days by her GP to lower her cholesterol level. Not really blogging material you might think, but just take a look at www.fromthehealthyheart.com and learn how you can lower cholesterol through eating delicious food.

She writes a second blog titled Kitchen Journeys where you can find a scrumptious tea only a short journey away at 'Afternoon Tea at Brown's Hotel, Mayfair'. The blog's sub-title is 'travels with a foodie family', which says it all. Taste the food at www.kitchenjourneys.net.

There are sure to be more of you out there. Please do not be shy, contact Suburb News and give us the details so we can share them with our readers.



The Gunners



(Above) An Aubergine, Chickpea and Walnut Salad with Pomegranate Yoghurt
(Below) Purple Sprouting Broccoli and Blood Orange Salad



Barnet bid for Lyttelton funds

Barnet Council is proposing to resurface all four court areas in Lyttelton Playing Fields – the multi-utility games area (MUGA), the netball court and the single and double tennis courts. The fencing around the courts and both the nets and posts would also be renewed.

Although the Council is committed to delivering these improvements, the proposed refurbishment is dependent on securing external matched funding. Applications for such funding are generally heavily over-subscribed. Therefore it is imperative to the success of the project that a positive communal response is received. Such third party funding bodies also require convincing evidence of the likelihood of increased usage by all age groups, particularly by those previously inactive.

The Council has set up a consultation in the form of an online questionnaire. You can use the link: <https://goo.gl/BgXDSa> to log on and share your views.

The council has also stressed that additional individual letters of support make a big difference to the bid and therefore they are particularly encouraged. They can be sent to: Martin.Thompson@Barnet.gov.uk.

If we, the residents of the Suburb and main beneficiaries of the proposal, really want Barnet's bid for matching funding to succeed, we need to match the commitment shown by the council, who have already ring-fenced half the funds, by responding positively in great numbers to the questionnaire and in writing, to demonstrate our intention of using the facilities.



Brookland traffic proposal (continued from page 1)

The chairman of the school's governors told the meeting that traffic was one of the most talked about subjects, and that there was no desire for any particular solution, other than the best one, which would combine safety for all involved with a commitment to get along with the local community, as was fitting for a community school.

Some complaints about the lack of response to letters and photos sent to the school were raised, but there had been meetings with the RA and the police, and the school insisted it wanted to hear from, and work with, local residents to help mitigate the problems caused by school traffic.

While speed was generally acknowledged to be a significant factor in the severity of injuries in accidents and overall safety, there was little support for a 20mph limit with some in favour of other speed reducing measures. If a limit is imposed, there was doubt about its enforcement; particularly given

the reductions in police resources and manpower.

The proposed zebra crossing also received little support, in particular from those living closest to it (see above). The idea of a lollipop lady, or man, however received another round of applause from the audience.

Too much traffic is trying to get too close to the school and parking restrictions, speed limits or other forms of traffic control require enforcement to convince offenders to behave appropriately. John Marshall promised to try to ensure enforcement of whatever eventually happens.

Our councillors said at the outset that they were there to listen, and the meeting ended with a unanimous vote in favour of all the proposals being withdrawn. After that has happened, we can but hope that the school and the residents can find someone from Barnet Council to talk to about how best to approach the different concerns which were raised.

TERRY BROOKS

Letter to the editor

50 Hill Top, NW11

Sir,
Brooklands Traffic Plan. (Suburb News, Autumn 2015)

The proposed traffic schemes put forward by Capita (I trust they are simply proposals) at first glance seem like a sledgehammer to crack a nut, but is there even a nut to crack in the first place?

There has been no consultation. Why? What is the accident history of these roads? Will any scheme to restrict speed be enforced – it will have no effect unless it is. It will hardly enhance the character of the Suburb to make it look like Disneyland – with flashing lights and signs everywhere – and no good reason to destroy the ambience for residents unless there is a compelling need for such changes.

Is it the case that Capita don't really know what to do as there is not really a problem that cannot be resolved by sensible behaviour by the mums (many of whom are not Suburb residents) who have a vested interest in their child's safety, and who are creating the problem for themselves and for residents by driving right up to the school gates?

Not knowing what is best Capita seem to propose throwing everything they can think of at a non-existent problem. Brooklands is not the only school on the Suburb, do they have similar plans for the Suburb School?

Some proper fact-finding and mature discussion is surely the correct way forward.

Yours
G.M. Lilley



BRILL OWEN CHARTERED ARCHITECTS

We are able to offer a complete service from conception to completion helping you to create a unique home that fulfils your needs

Contact us for a free no obligation consultation on

0208 349 0037

Or email at architects@brillowen.co.uk

View our recent work at www.brillowen.co.uk

We are Chartered Architects based in North London specialising in refurbishments, extensions and new build houses and flats within conservation areas and to listed buildings.



JOSHUA BERGER CARPENTRY

For all your professional carpentry needs

I specialise in all domestic and commercial carpentry to the highest possible standards Professional decorating services also managed with over 10 years of excellence

Call now for a free quotation

07811 911 389

joshuabergercarpentry.com

G Cohen ANTIQUE SILVER

We wish to purchase items of silver in any condition. As a long standing resident of the Suburb, Gideon Cohen is happy to view your silverware at home and will make an offer to purchase, free of any obligation.

17 The London Silver Vaults
53-64 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1QT
020 7404 1425
enquiries@gcohen.co.uk
www.gcohen.co.uk