

# Fury at fly-tipping on the Suburb

For more than twenty years people have been dumping huge amounts of rubbish on the service road behind the shops on the south side of the Market Place. However the situation is now deteriorating and not enough is being done to solve this disgusting problem, which is becoming a health hazard as rats are breeding in an area close to food shops and cafes.

Many suburb residents are aware of this area, but many people are not aware of the filth that is building up in this part of the beautiful conservation area in which we live. The service road behind the shops and flats has been allowed to become the biggest eyesore in this part of the Suburb due to dumping of rubbish and fly-tipping.

It is an utter disgrace this has been allowed to happen in the Suburb, despite concerted efforts by the Litter Committee and Residents Association, together with Barnet and the Trust to get it cleared up.

The area in question is called Bute Mews and is owned by a

private landlord. It borders the whole length of the public footpath that runs between Kingsley Way and Northway public gardens. Because the service area is private property Barnet Council is limited to what they can enforce to be cleared.

At the RA council meeting on April 5 it was decided that a new select committee would be set up to deal with this issue. Cllr

John Marshall and Cllr Rohit Grover kindly offered to help by liaising with Barnet Council on behalf of the HGS residents.

We would welcome any residents who would like to join the Select Committee and get involved in helping to tackle this problem.

If you feel you can help out in any way please contact Barbara Bliss at [ButeMews@hgs.org.uk](mailto:ButeMews@hgs.org.uk).



## CCTV at Brookland School

Residents may have noticed a pair of CCTV signs on posts either side of the Brookland School gates. These warn of a camera (not yet up and running) that will be used to enforce the yellow zig-zag lines which operate at either end of the school day.

The Roads & Traffic Committee has asked to be consulted over the precise position of the camera,

which Barnet Council provisionally plans to mount on a post in Hill Top, diagonally opposite the school gates. Residents living nearby may feel this to be a slightly intrusive location although some reassurance may come from knowing that the camera's viewing angle will be fixed and that it will not have the ability to swivel in the manner of

Transport for London's Market Place device.

Unfortunately the camera will not be able to monitor the single yellow line opposite the school where much illegal parking takes place just when children are arriving at or leaving the school. This is because it is permitted to park on a single yellow line at restricted times with a disabled badge. Being unable to spot a badge the camera would not be able to differentiate between a legally or illegally parked car so the single yellows will continue to be enforced periodically by wardens in the traditional manner.

Although the camera housing is expected to be a permanent installation the camera itself will be left in position only long enough to deter people from parking on the zig-zags. It will then be moved to other schools to return to Brooklands as and when another bout of enforcement is felt necessary. In the meantime no-one will be certain whether or not it is inside the housing. So even an empty camera box should serve as a deterrent.



## Brookland Reprieve

Although they continue to await official confirmation, residents living near Brookland School were delighted to hear that the most controversial parts of Barnet Council's traffic proposals for the area seem to have been withdrawn following the RA's public meeting at the end of 2015 and the subsequent formal consultation.

The proposals had included a 20mph speed limit to be introduced between Brookland Rise and Ossulton Way as well as plans for a zebra crossing at the junction of Hill Top and Brookland Hill. The Roads & Traffic Committee understands that both these schemes have been dropped in favour of less intrusive alternatives, which will include some additional school warning signage and the upgrading of the informal crossing point near the school gates.

The public meeting last December was attended by around 120 Brooklands area residents as well as all three Garden Suburb ward councillors, John Marshall, Gabriel Rozenburg and Rohit Grover. The great majority of those present objected to what they saw as unnecessary measures which it was felt would impact badly on residents whilst producing little benefit for schoolchildren, particularly given that traffic speeds are very slow at school times due to congestion. Those views appear to have been broadly reiterated during the consultation.

Loren Loeb who lives two doors from the school would have been badly affected by the proposed zebra crossing. She said, "It's a huge relief to know that the proposal has been dropped. The loss of parking that would have accompanied a

zebra crossing would have been a huge burden, especially for my mother who needs convenient access having suffered a stroke. The constant flashing of Belisha beacons all night long would also have been a dreadful intrusion, so I am very grateful to our councillors for conveying my views and those of my neighbours."

Roads and Traffic Chairman Gary Shaw said, "It's a relief to know that the Brooklands area will not be subject to major traffic changes. For most residents the biggest problem is that of poor parking by some school parents. We know that the school is equally concerned about this and that school staff are very keen that residents should report cases of cars being parked across driveways or otherwise illegally. The school always follows these up."



## £4,000 raised for Combat Stress

The HGS Combat Stress Winter Fair Committee raised over £4,000 on October 31 last year. Having waited until all monies were in, on April 20 a cheque was handed over to the veterans' mental health charity Combat Stress. Fundraising Director Robert Marsh came to a thank you reception for Fair helpers and volunteers at Fellowship House, and was delighted to accept a £5,121.27 cheque from organiser

Ruth Smith and her committee. Mr Marsh also spoke eloquently and showed a short film about the work of Combat Stress.

The 2016 Winter Fair on Saturday October 29 is already being planned, when of course the committee hopes the £5,000 barrier will be broken once again. And just so as the children can plan for Hallowe'en, another happy pumpkin competition for small witches will be held.

If you would like to help raise more funds for this worthy charity before next October, come along to Fellowship House between 10am and 12 noon on Saturday May 14 to choose from the fantastic selection of good-as-new clothes on sale in the small hall. Tea and coffee will be available, and the Horticultural Society's Plant Sale will be going on at the same time in the large hall and the courtyard.

MARJORIE HARRIS



## Suburb cycle route postponed

An RA delegation went to see Barnet traffic officers and Cllr John Marshall about a proposed cycle route through the Suburb. Concerns over safety in Meadway and the visual impact of the 192 signs needed for the scheme, have led to it being postponed.

There will doubtless be further proposals forthcoming from Barnet when they have had a chance to think about the problem. There is no doubt the Suburb is a good place to cycle, and cyclists will benefit from safe routes to cycle on.

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