



FINCHLEY FORUM REPORT

By Daphne Chamberlain

Several issues concerning East Finchley were raised at the Forum held on 19 March.

Traffic between the station and the Bald Faced Stag

A report suggesting adjustments to the northbound traffic flow, particularly the bus lane, will be discussed in committee in April. If approved, adjustments will go ahead.

Questions were asked about the effect on traffic of the proposed Waitrose development and altered use of the Neurological Hospital site. Further speakers from the floor doubted that a 135-space car park at Waitrose would be adequate. The platform agreed that the junction at Fortis Green is very narrow, so "why add to it?" (*i.e. the chaos*)

Traffic Speed in County Roads

Petitioners from the County Roads were concerned about the speed of through traffic, quoted as reaching 50-60 mph, which they said had killed some animals and endangered children. They asked for mechanical speed reducers.

Barnet Traffic Department agreed to consider the problem in April, when discussing the traffic flow at Fortis Green. Meanwhile, a member of the department will speak to Peter Hayle from Agenda 21.

Library Protest

Several speakers asked for it to be put on record that East Finchley "does not want a new library foisted upon it to replace a perfectly good one". They asked the Chair, Councillor Leslie Sussman, to find out whether it had been the Council or the developers who had suggested installing a library in the Waitrose plans.

Replying to the related issues of traffic and the library, Councillor Sussman said that local people would be entitled to ask for a public inquiry.

Rubbish Collection

A request was made for wheelie-bins to be issued to all households sited above shops, in order to prevent rubbish being dumped on the pavements.

Credit Union Funding

Credit Union representatives complained about the imminent withdrawal of their £2,000 p.a. funding, pointing out that half that sum went back to Barnet in rent. Their business plan was for complete independence in five years. The funding had been withdrawn following failure to meet Best Value, but the Best Value criterion had not been applied to the CU itself. In addition, they had been informed very late and by e-mail.

Adamson Court

Questions were asked about the future use of Adamson Court, Hertford Road. It was still uncertain. Councillor Sussman said he would seek clarification.

Muswell Hill Bowling Club



FREE

- First ten weeks
- Tuition
- Loan of equipment.

- 2003 season starts 26 April
- Open daily from 2.00 pm
- Club night each Friday from 6.00pm

The Green, Kings Avenue, Muswell Hill, N10 1PB
Tel 020 8883 1178

East Finchley Baptist Church

just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2
Sundays at 11.00 am and 6.30 pm
for more information contact 8446 3571

Visitors always welcome

All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.
Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.
Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

The Parish has a flourishing social life and a riotous
Youth Club for church members. Contact the Vicar,
Fr Christopher Hardy, on 020 8883 9315.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an
enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.

Experienced singers are always welcome.
Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>



In memoriam, photo by Erini Rodis

Forever Friends

By Diana Cormack

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood have had an English oak planted in memory of Robin Chapman, who died suddenly last year at the age of 64. Robin loved the Wood and it was on his initiative that the Friends came into being in 1995.

With the responses he received from notices that he pinned up in the park he organised a meeting and a committee was formed. From then onwards he never allowed Barnet Council to forget the existence of the Wood and was always there to inspire and encourage the Friends in their many beneficial activities.

Robin visited Cherry Tree Wood almost daily with his wife Kirsten and their dog Trina. Fittingly, the oak tree has been planted in line with the spot where Robin loved to sit and gaze upon the place he loved so dearly.

Festival Falters

There will be no Muswell Hill festival this summer, although it is hoped it will be back in 2004, providing enough volunteers can be found to make it a success.

The organisers are taking a year off, partly because of the bus company's objection to the road closure and also due to the burden of work involved in organising this event.

There are suggestions that the festival next year could be held off the road, possibly on the school playing fields or a similar open space.

John Hajdu, chairman of the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association reports that there will be a meeting next September to discuss the festival's future. If anybody would like to take part John would like to hear from you.

Fairtrade Village

The East Finchley Local Agenda 21 Partnership held a public meeting, including their Annual General Meeting, at the Green Man Community Centre on 11 March.

As the meeting fell during Fairtrade Fortnight, the Partnership invited Nick Tancock from the Fairtrade Foundation to speak at the meeting. The Fairtrade Mark guarantees a better deal for Third World Producers by paying fair prices for their products including coffee, tea, cocoa, bananas, sugar, rice, honey and chocolate bars. There was some Fairtrade tea, coffee and chocolate to sample and all agreed that the quality was excellent.

Nick also described the Fairtrade Town initiative. This involves local communities making a commitment to Fairtrade and trying to raise awareness and understanding of the Fairtrade Mark. By doing this, it is hoped that more people will buy Fairtrade products. There are currently 17 Fairtrade Towns in the UK. A motion

from the floor asked the East Finchley LA21 Partnership to try and help make East Finchley a Fairtrade Village! The Partnership is keen to pursue this with everyone's help. Perhaps you could start helping by purchasing a Fairtrade product on your next shopping trip.

Repair, recycle, replant

The evening then moved on to the AGM of the LA21 Partnership, which included brief reports from the outgoing chair, treasurer, traffic and transport group and the greening group. The Partnership has also recently been awarded funding from the council Local Agenda 21 Grants Fund to undertake three projects: developing a waste directory that will be distributed to all households in East Finchley encouraging people to reduce, re-use, repair and recycle their waste; creating a publicity leaflet to promote the work of the Partnership; and funding for the greening group to plant young trees on the LA21 allotment. The steering group of the Partnership was also elected but there are still some vacancies

for interested people.

The meeting was then opened up for a discussion of local issues. There was an interesting debate surrounding the proposed Waitrose development. The LA21 Partnership steering group said that they would comment on a formal planning application if, and when, it is submitted to Barnet Council. Other issues that were discussed included the locking of Cherry Tree Woods and anti-social behaviour in the Woods and also plans for the site of the old Neurological Hospital. These discussions could have carried on long into the night.

Many thanks to the more than 40 people who attended the meeting and participated in the discussions. The LA21 Partnership hope everyone found it interesting and worthwhile. They are hoping to make their AGM an annual event. We hope to see a good turnout in March 2004! For further information on the Partnership and to find out forthcoming steering group meeting dates, please contact Stuart Gadsden on 8359 4664.