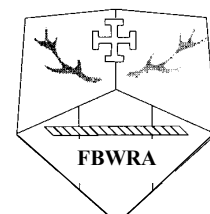


# newsletter

Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents' Association



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## PUT OUT MORE FLAGS!

This year St. George's Day, 23 April, fell on a Monday. We asked Barnet Council for details of the Mayor of Barnet's official engagements for that day and also for the immediately preceding weekend

We were told that these comprised attending a care home open day in Barnet and Sinhala & Tamil New Year Celebrations in Harrow on the Saturday and an event to Celebrate World Buddhist Day ("Wesak Day" - which actually fell on 29 May) at the House of Commons on St. George's Day itself (the Mayor had no official engagements on the Sunday).

The lack of any Mayoral engagement celebrating St. George's Day must be seen as a reflection not on the Mayor, but on the residents of Barnet - the Mayor can only attend events if others organise them! In Barnet "St. George's Day" celebrations seem to be largely confined to pubs, many of which put on a bold display of flags and host evening events to mark the occasion- good for them!

A reconnaissance to Barnet House, the Council offices in Whetstone, on the day, disclosed - not a St. George's Flag proudly flying



*Flag pole at Barnet House, Whetstone could be put to use*

in the breeze, but a bare flag pole (there are two there, the other being occupied by the British Union Flag).

Further enquiries were made of the Council as to the Council policies on flag-flying on Council premises, and these disclosed that the Union Flag flies all the time at North London Business Park, Barnet House and Hendon Town Hall, and the Borough Flag is flown at the Town Hall for Civic events and Council Meetings, whilst "Standard Protocols" apply for Commonwealth Day, Armed Forces Day,

and so on.

So, no flag of St. George on Barnet Council buildings- why not? Other Councils do fly St. George's flag - for example, Barking & Dagenham, Hammersmith & Fulham, Bradford, Oxford, Preston, Thurrock and Warwick, and also the Supreme Court, so why not our Council? The flag of St. George is, after all, the national flag of England, and Barnet is part of England. Come on Barnet, PUT OUT MORE FLAGS!

### Summer Splash

**Sunday 19th August  
3:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

A social on the Green by  
Friern Barnet Community  
Library,  
Friern Barnet Road

**Friern Barnet and Whetstone Residents' Association**

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are non-political</li> <li>• We work for all residents in the area</li> <li>• We discuss issues with Local Councillors and Council Officials</li> <li>• Associated with the following bodies</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Federation of Residents' Associations of Barnet</li> <li>• The Finchley Society</li> <li>• Friends of Friary Park</li> <li>• Open Spaces Society</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Friern Barnet &amp; District Local History Society</li> <li>• Coppetts Wood Conservationists</li> <li>• The London Green Belt Council</li> <li>• Love Whetstone</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|

## “You are acting suspiciously! Are you from the Council?”

With these words a concerned resident challenged a member of the FBWRA Committee who was making a note of the registrations of cars parked in a road “somewhere in Friern Barnet” early one morning in June. The Committee member explained that this was nothing to do with the Council- the registrations were being collected as part of a study into the likely impact of the Mayor of London’s plans to extend the “Ultra Low Emission Zone” to include the whole of the area within the North and South Circular Roads. The concerned resident was thus reassured and drove off in a cloud of exhaust fumes.

### 2019 ULEZ

To “help improve air quality”, an Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) will be in place in central London from 8 April 2019. Most vehicles including cars and vans will need to meet new, tighter exhaust emission standards (ULEZ standards) or pay a daily charge to travel within the area of the ULEZ. The ULEZ will replace the T-Charge (the “Emissions Surcharge”).

It will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year within the same area as the current Congestion Charging Zone (CCZ). The ULEZ daily charge will be in addition to the weekday Congestion Charge and the Low Emission Zone (LEZ) charge.

### 2021 Expansion

From 25 October 2021 the area will be expanded to the “inner London” area bounded by the North and South Circular roads. If you are driving any petrol or diesel vehicle within this enlarged area you will need to meet new tighter emissions standards or pay a daily charge. This enlarged area includes parts of the London Borough of Barnet – for example Golders Green and part of Friern Barnet- and also important facilities used by Barnet Residents, such as the Royal Free Hospital.

TFL states on its website that “Air pollution is one of the most significant challenges facing London, affecting the health of all Londoners..... Road transport is the biggest source of the emissions damaging health in London... Around half of emissions of oxides of nitrogen come from transport. These pollutants make chronic illnesses worse, shorten life expectancy and can damage lung development.”

### Alleged impact on health

The justification for the ULEZ is the alleged impact on health. It is suggested that air pollution in London causes 9,000 “early deaths” per year. However, some have questioned the accuracy of such figures, noting that, for example, it would be expected that those living near the busiest roads should have the highest mortality rates, yet arguing this is not shown in the data - and that the data doesn’t filter out respiratory conditions caused by smoking or industrial pollutants.

Does the ULEZ project stand up to rigorous scrutiny? Perhaps not, but it is coming, and soon. The ULEZ charge for cars and light vans will be £12.50 per day. Initially. We are not so cynical as to suggest that it is primarily a means of raising tax revenues.

### Actual impact on Barnet residents- substantial proportion of cars affected

What will this actually mean for residents of Barnet? Essentially they will either have to pay the daily charge, use public transport or, buy a different car- TFL states, on its website, that “Nearly all petrol vehicles produced since 2005 are compliant with the ULEZ standards and so will be 16 years old by the time ULEZ is expanded in 2021” and “The average cost of a 16 year old vehicle is around £1000 and the average cost of a 20 year old vehicle is around £500”. Fine, but if you have to buy one, how reliable will it be, compared with your current car?

We looked at the cars in one road in Friern Barnet- 60 cars- and checked these against the TFL ULEZ “vehicle checker”, which advises whether a particular vehicle will be subject to the ULEZ charge. We found that 35% (21 out of 60) of the vehicles would be liable to the ULEZ charge. This is a very substantial proportion.

Perhaps many of these vehicles rarely enter what will be the expanded ULEZ- for the owners of those vehicles the ULEZ expansion may be of little concern- they will perhaps just choose to pay the daily charge- but for those who regularly take their vehicles into the zone, or who will actually live in it, the £12.50 per day charge will be a real issue, and for some an unsupportable expense.

2021 could be a good time for car dealers in Barnet- but what if you cannot afford to replace your car? We asked City Hall what impact assessments had been carried out into the effect of the ULEZ expansion on the old and the poor – and answer came there none.

### Thanks, Barnet Council

As mentioned above, the ULEZ expansion in 2021 will cover the whole of the area within the North and South Circular Roads. However, Barnet residents should note carefully that, in its response to TFL/the Mayor of London’s consultation, Barnet Council was amongst those “stakeholders” ( all seemingly councils, politicians and pressure groups and the like) who called for the ULEZ to include all of London- which would in practice force all Barnet residents who are owners of older vehicles to replace them.

Barnet Council also asked that the North Circular (A406) should be inside the ULEZ ( and so driving on it would be subject to paying the charge), rather than just outside. Just imagine the traffic chaos that could have followed as drivers avoided the A406 so as not to have to pay the charge. Thanks, Barnet Council !

### Acting suspiciously?

The Barnet Conservative Manifesto for the recent Borough Council elections (which they Conservatives won), was somewhat circumspect on the matter of expanding the ULEZ. It stated - “Transport- “Air quality is also a priority for Conservatives..... As they stand, the Labour Mayor’s environmental plans do not properly protect Barnet’s air quality. We will work to ensure they do.” We will leave it to you, our readers, to “read between the lines”. We expect to return to this topic in a subsequent issue of the Newsletter.

## Town planning – conversions and cars

Keeping an eye on planning applications, and making appropriate representations to Barnet Council is one of our ongoing tasks. The types of proposals that we monitor most closely are those for the conversion of houses into flats and for the construction of new blocks of flats – in both cases in roads where houses still predominate. We also focus on the issue of car parking provision for new developments- perversely, the Council sets maximum levels of new parking that are permitted but no minimum. Our concern is that without adequate on-site parking there will be further increases in overspill parking on roads.

The Council's current policies are to resist conversions and the development of flats in roads which are characterised by "single family dwelling houses" and also that "development proposals should be based on an understanding of local characteristics, and... should preserve or enhance local character and respect the appearance, scale, mass, height and pattern of surrounding buildings, spaces and streets".

### Westbury Road

A recent Planning Appeal decision, concerning a proposal to replace a family house with a block of 3 flats in Westbury Road, N12 (outside the FBWRA area but still relevant to us) saw the independent Planning Inspector support the Council's refusal of the planning application and dismiss the applicant's appeal.

The Inspector took a practical approach to the impact the proposals would have – replacing the house with 3 flats would result in intensified occupation by a number of households who would be likely to have differing work and leisure patterns, so there would be "more frequent comings and goings", whilst the number of bins required for refuse would create a "cluttered obtrusive appearance" and occupation of the site as 3 separate households would be "out of character with the prevailing area to the extent that it would cause harm and conflict with the open and spacious nature [of the locality]".

### St John's Church Hall, N20

In relation to car parking, the Association has

objected to an application for planning permission to build a block of 22 flats on the site of the St John's Church Hall, Friern Barnet Lane N20 (next door to the old Police Station, now the Alma School). Council planning policies indicate that for 22 flats provision of on-site parking of up to 26 - 27 spaces would be permitted. However, the proposal has only limited provision - 3 spaces, of which 2 are for disabled use.

The site is not within or adjacent to a Controlled Parking Zone and there are parking restrictions applying in the immediate vicinity. It seems to us that the developer has sought to maximise potential profit by including more flats and fewer parking spaces- and "dumping" the cars of the residents of the proposed flats on the already congested surrounding roads.

In our objection we told the Council that "the applicant has not demonstrated that there is sufficient on-street parking capacity and so the application should be rejected as it does not comply with [the Council planning policy on car parking provision]" and "the proposal would provide insufficient off-street parking provision to the detriment of highway and pedestrian safety and the free-flow of traffic which is contrary to [another planning policy]". As at the end of June, the Council had not reached a decision on the application.

### Car parking - the future in North Finchley

Finally, cars again, the North Finchley Town Centre Supplementary Planning Document-at the Council Committee meeting in February which approved the SPD a statement was made that the Council would progress the preparation of a Parking Policy for North Finchley, as envisaged in the SPD. We had pointed out that this was something in the Council's control and did not need to await third parties submitting planning applications. We have been pressing the Council for an update as to progress and have recently been told work has started on "evidence gathering". There are good arguments for the view that the current car parking regime in North Finchley is a significant factor behind the decline of the town centre and yet it is an issue the Council has consistently failed to remedy.

## FBWRA Membership- and how to join

Those attending the Association's AGM in May heard how total membership at the end of 2017 was 351, compared with 325 at the end of 2016. This was an 8% increase. We want to do better still this year- the greater our membership the more influence the Association has when dealing with the Council and other organisations.

At the AGM the Association's Rules were amended so that we can now officially include as members those who live outside the area formerly comprising the "Urban District of Friern Barnet" (the Urban District Council was abolished in 1965 when the London Borough of Barnet was created). The main reasons for making the change were that the old boundary included part only of certain roads without good reason- an example being Torrington Park in North Finchley, where the houses closest to the High Road were outside the boundary- and that we are increasingly receiving membership applications for people living a short distance outside the old boundary- and it was appropriate to recognise that the area in which the Association is "active" has expanded since 1934 (when the old Urban District Council boundaries were last adjusted!). The amendment to the Association Rules now allows the Association Executive Committee to decide on other areas where residents can be members of the Association, so we have flexibility for the future.

FBWRA membership still costs just £5 for the calendar year, and a subscription covers all members of the household. If you have not yet joined/ renewed your membership for 2018 then please do so without delay- this will save us the cost of sending individual reminders later in the summer. At the end of May over 100 2017 members had still to renew for 2018 (this is normal, it does not indicate the Association is about to collapse!)

To join/ renew, please complete the slip below and send it, with a cheque for £5 payable to FBWRA to FBWRA, 14 Bethune Avenue, London N11 3LE (please use the post and do not deliver by hand- beware of the dog!)

### Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents' Association- Membership Application for 2018

I/We apply to join/for renewal of my/our membership of Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents' Association and agree to be bound by the rules and constitution of the Association.

I/We wish to receive the FBWRA Newsletter/ I/We do not wish to receive the FBWRA Newsletter (please delete as appropriate)

Signed:..... and (if applicable).....

Name(s): .....

Address: .....

Postcode: .....

Email address: .....

Please provide your current email address (if any) so that we can contact you quickly if need arises. I/We enclose a cheque  
(Subscription £ 5 + voluntary donation (if any) £      Total £

**Data Protection-** The information that you provide is provided by you on a voluntary basis and will be used by FBWRA on the basis of FBWRA's legitimate interests, which are to maintain our membership records, to assist in distributing our Newsletter, to communicate with you and in connection with FBWRA's activities as a residents' association, including where we work with other organisations (for example, where we work with them on an issue of mutual interest). We may retain the information for up to six years after you cease to be a member. If you do not provide the information this may adversely affect our ability to carry out the purposes for which we intend to use the information.

You have the following rights under data protection legislation: to access a copy of the information comprised in your personal data; to object to use of your personal data that is likely to cause or is causing damage or distress; to prevent use for direct marketing; to object to decisions being taken by automated means (this is not done by FBWRA); in certain circumstances, to have inaccurate personal data rectified, blocked, erased or destroyed, and to claim compensation for damages caused by a breach of data protection legislation. If you have any concerns or complaints in relation to how FBWRA collects and/or uses your personal data, you should contact the Treasurer in the first instance. If you are dissatisfied with how your concern/complaint is dealt with by FBWRA, you have the right to report your concern/complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office ([www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)).

## Fed up with parking and traffic flow problems in Friern Barnet & Whetstone?

"Anyone with any sense can see what needs to be done",  
"It would cost next to nothing but it would make such a difference" .....

We are looking for sensible suggestions for changes to roads in our area which the Council can make quickly and cheaply and which will make a big difference to our local community by changing such things as the time of the parking restrictions, more road markings or less.

This could be to improve parking availability, improve traffic flow or just improve the quality of life of the residents.

Please email your suggestions to [fbwra@btinternet.com](mailto:fbwra@btinternet.com) by 14 August 2019. We will then use the suggestions to compile a list and present it to the Council

## UPDATING OUR WEBSITE

We have decided to update the FBWRA website, which we find difficult to run. The Association has the money available so we have decided to do the job properly.

We have commissioned a local firm, Webdezn, of Woodside Park, to design and build a new website, based on a modern and easy to use operating system, and to train members of our Committee so we can run it. We are keeping our old internet address as this is what search

engines recognise. We want the site to be found easily by people searching for the Association on the Internet.

Webdezn have largely completed the technical work of "building" the new site, which, at the appropriate time will go live and replace the old site.

The main task now is to update and expand the content for the new site, which we are working on.

## Our AGM 2018



*At the front are FBWRA Committee from left to right are David Thompson, Maria Jordan, Yvonne Ruge (chair), Dr Ollie Natelson, and Richard Testar*

FBWRA's Annual General Meeting was held on 10th May at St John's Hall. We had some 60 attendees, the highest number in recent years and included our M.P. Theresa Villiers and three of our local councillors - Alison Cornelius, Anne Hutton and Geoff Cooke.

The Association's finances are sound and membership is increasing. Members continue to be concerned about planning and over-development; the lack of repair, as well as the state of our pavements and, of course, parking. There was a brief invitation to the Coppetts Wood Festival organised by the local Coppetts Wood Conservationists group (the Festival turned out to be whopping success).

Guest Speaker was local blogger, John Dix who spoke about the relationship between Barnet Council and its outsourcing contractor, Capita. He also expressed concern about the lack of transparency in the relationship between Barnet Council and Capita. His presentation raised many questions which the Councillors present were keen to address but time constraints prevented a meaningful discussion.

The Committee therefore extended an invitation to them to attend the Members Meeting scheduled for **Thursday 8 November** in Friern Barnet Library. Full details of the time and agenda for this meeting will be advised shortly. Please put the date in your diaries.

## An exciting new development in North Finchley



*The developers of Finchley House, in North Finchley, have wrapped the building in an exciting white and black diamond sheet - a great improvement to what came before. Hopefully, the final building will be even more thrilling than the one we can see now.*

### Forthcoming Events

Incognito Theatre, Holly Park Road **15th July - 21st July 2018 "Quartet"**  
Performances are Sunday at 6pm, Monday - Friday at 8pm, Saturday at 3pm and 8pm.  
Written by [Ronald Harwood](#) directed by Bob Bradic. Performances are Sunday at 6pm,  
Monday - Friday at 8pm, Saturday at 3pm and 8pm.

#### BARNET MUSEUM

**'STREET FIGHT 1455: 1ST BATTLE OF ST ALBANS': THU 12 JUL, 7.30PM. TALK BY HARVEY WATSON OF THE BATTLEFIELDS TRUST, AT PENNEFATHER HALL, ST ALBANS ROAD, EN5 4LA. TICKETS ON THE DOOR: £5 (18 & UNDER FREE). REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED.**

#### Friends of Friary Park

Guided Tree Walk led by Sandra Lea, 16.30-18.00 Sunday 2nd September. Meet by the café. Free, but donations appreciated.

#### FRIERN BARNET & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

start 7:45 p.m. Wed 26 September . **Hendon School Excavations** (by Don Cooper)  
North Middlesex Golf Club, Friern Barnet Lane, N20 0NL