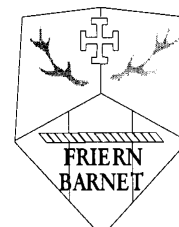


Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents' Association

Friern Barnet and Whetstone Residents' Association

- We are non-political
 - We work for all residents in the area
 - We discuss issues with Local Councillors and Council Officials
 - Associated with the following bodies
- | | |
|--|--|
| • The Federation of Residents' Association of Barnet | • The Friern Barnet & District Local History Society |
| • The Finchley Society | • Coppetts Wood Conservationists |
| • Friends of Friary Park | • The London Green Belt Council |
| • North Finchley Environmental Forum | |



June 2011

Internet (trial): <http://friernbarnetresidents.website.orange.co.uk>

Email: fbandwra@gmail.com

Barnet is future rubbish centre for North London

Barnet is set to become the rubbish centre for North London. There are serious proposals for two large rubbish sites, one in Pinkham Way (North Circular Road) in Friern Barnet, the other near to Staples Corner.

These proposals for handling rubbish are what the Mayor of London wants, they are what the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) wants, they are what Enfield Council wants and they are what Barnet Council wants. The only people who don't want the one in Pinkham Way are the people who live nearby in Friern Barnet and Haringey.

The publication of the NLWA's "North London Waste Plan" in May of this year confirms our worst fears for the future of Barnet, and Friern Barnet in particular. The NLWA Plan is about what will happen to the waste generated by 7 boroughs in North London—Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest.

At the consultation meeting, about the proposed Pinkham Way waste handling centre, hosted by Barnet Council and the NLWA, which was held earlier this year, your officers asked why the Edmonton site was not being developed to handle more waste.

Edmonton is a very large site with plenty of room for expansion. We know that in the past the operators of the site had had a request from them to expand the facility but this was turned down by the GLA, when led by Ken Livingstone. But Livingstone is no longer mayor, so your Association's officers asked why hadn't Boris Johnson seriously reconsidered the future of



The Edmonton stack is due for demolition in 2020 but will the replacement stack be located in Friern Barnet?

the Edmonton site.

Unfortunately, nobody at the consultation meeting could be found who was sufficiently informed to answer the question. The staff spoken to at the consultation meeting could only say that the processed rubbish from the proposed Pinkham Way site would be sent for burning at *Edmonton or elsewhere*.

To your Association's officers, it didn't seem to make much sense, to process the rubbish at Pinkham Way and then to ship it to Edmonton for burning, when it could all be processed and burnt at Edmonton.

Now the NLWA tells us that the stack in Edmonton is due to be demolished in 2020. There is no intention to replace the stack on this site. So, where will a new stack for burning be built? There are only two other sites mentioned in the NLWA report, both in Barnet, one is the site near Staples Corner in Geron Way (3.28 hectares) and the other is the Pinkham Way site (5.93 hectares).

(continued on page 4)

Subscriptions Renewal

For those who have not already done so, it is time to renew your subscriptions for the Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents' Association for the year 2009. Please complete the form and send a cheque for £5, using the envelope provided, made out to "Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents Association" to:

Treasurer FB&WRA
112 Oakleigh Road North
N20 9EZ

Community Police

The community police for the Woodhouse and West Finchley wards were considering moving their offices to the recently refurbished Friary House in Friary Park. Your Association welcomed such a move, which would have brought Friary House into active daily use and subsequently would have enhanced security of the building and the park. However, financial pressures made such a move impossible.

On May 3rd 2011 the Mayor of Barnet opened new premises for the Brunswick Park & Coppetts ward community police, situated in Friern Barnet Road (opposite *The Bank* public house). The new premises are more conveniently located for these two wards—previously the community police worked out of Whetstone police station, which is a good 20 minutes walk from both Coppetts and Brunswick Park.

Another advantage of having the community police operate out of offices in Friern Barnet Road is that the officers will be able to keep an eye on the many bail hostels that have been established in the area.



New community police offices for Coppetts and Brunswick Park wards in Friern Barnet Road

Placing community police (formally known as Safer Neighbourhood Teams) offices in former shops is a move that is happening all over London (there is another nearby, for Enfield, which is close to Armos Grove station). These premises are “back offices” - which means that they are not for public access. If you want to make contact with the ward community police then it will still be by telephone or email.

HG

Letters to the Editor

I would like to see the library moved to Furniture land and be expanded, With the changing face of libraries, they have to move into a more modern world. It could be developed to make it more user friendly for teenagers etc, If there was a café for people to meet upstairs it would draw more users. Also there is a shortage of good meeting rooms so the library could be hiring out rooms to bring in an income. Lastly lots of school homework is now computer based, there are still many families who can't afford a computer so to have a room with loads of computers to hire would also bring in money. It needs to be developed in a way to bring more people to the library who wouldn't normally use it

Jean Waitt

Book Review

Have you ever staggered around North Finchley clutching your throat, wondering, as you look at the clouds of diesel smoke rising into the air, if you will ever breathe again normally, and what happened to the North Finchley bus garage, and was it always like this?

You may wonder if there could be a better, cleaner, healthier way of providing public transport. In the old days we had clean, albeit bone rattling trams, as well as the smooth, quiet trolleybus.

The answer maybe is to settle down to good read and a good starting point would be David Berguer's book *“Under the Wires at Tally Ho: Trams and Trolleybuses of North London 1905—1962”*.

David Berguer traces the local and social history of the trams and trolleybuses in Barnet from the first tram in 1905, to the last trolleybus in 1962.

It is full of evocative photographs and schedules of prices and timetables, as well as a number of personal recollections (ancient and modern) of the tram and trolleybus services. This from the Finchley Press in 1948, *“Why, oh! why, must these buses travel in bunches of three to six at a time? ...”*. Or, in a letter to the same paper in 1927, *“I maintain that the time has come to take up the tram lines and scrap the [tram] cars ... every cyclist will tell you that it is usual for him yearly to have two or three skids on the lines ...”*.

David Bergeur has done a great job gathering the materials on an important part of North Finchley's history and development.

HG

“Under the Wires at Tally Ho: Trams and Trolleybuses of North London 1905—1962” by David Berguer. Available from Friern Barnet & Local History Society, 46 Raleigh Drive, Whetstone N20 0UU, price £12.99 post free.

Car Parking in North Finchley

From 18th April the cost to park your car in North Finchley increased by up to three times. The old and new prices are shown in the table below:

	Old	New
up to 15 mins	£0.30	£1.00
up to 30 mins	£0.50	£1.00
up to 45 mins	£0.80	£2.00
up to 1 hour	£1.50	£2.00
up to 90 mins	£2.50	£3.00
over 90 mins	£3.00	£5.00

As well as the tripling of parking fees, the Council are trying to impose payment by credit card using modern persuasion techniques. When a car park cash ticket machine goes out of order, the Council are slow to get it repaired, hoping the frustration with using cash will encourage residents to use the credit card (via mobile phone) payment method.

Should the Council force through its ambition to have all car parking paid by credit card, then we can expect another price rise. Except this time it will not be called a "price rise" but, emulating the budget airlines, they will use a term like a "convenience charge" (which are the words used by the local railway company when requiring payment by credit card at one of its car parks).

Of course our local councillors do not have to deal with car parking charges, either in cash or by credit card, all they have to do is display their exemption card on the dashboard of their cars—or let us pay for their taxi fares.

The Council says that it has to make such measures to raise revenue. If one asked a member of the Council responsible for such a large rise, if this price hike would increase or decrease the number of people using the North Finchley shopping centre, you may not get an answer.

We ask, what is going on here? High car parking charges obviously will have a negative effect on North Finchley. It is not what the local shopkeepers want, it is not what a lot of shoppers want. As Saturdays are the busiest shopping day, the North Finchley car parks should be free on that day. As it would be the weekend, there would be no significant pressure from commuters to use the Council's car parks. Such a measure would be a simple way of promoting the North Finchley shopping centre.

We had some sympathy for the woman who used the Fitzjohn Avenue (High Barnet) car park. She had an event to attend at QE girls school. It was 4:30 in the afternoon and as she could not definitely expect to be out of the school by 6:30, she was faced with an eye watering £5:00 car park charge.

HG

FRIERN BARNET SUMMER SHOW 2011

Thursday 18th to Sunday 21st August
Pre Show Event on Saturday and Sunday 25th and 26th June

More information at:
www.fbsummershow.co.uk
or telephone 020 8445 8388

Little Green Man

Earlier this year, February 2011, the Council decided that traffic to and from Totteridge needed to be speeded up and so they decided to remove the pedestrian phase of these traffic lights at the High Road, Totteridge Lane intersection, on what they called a minimum 6 month "experiment".

The little green man light at the crossing was hooded and so, placed out of sight. Mr Neil Richardson, Highways Manager states, "A review of traffic accident statistics before and after the introduction of the crossing shows the measure to be inconclusive in terms of safety benefit for pedestrians." One morning when the experiment was underway, two of your officers, making an impromptu site visit, observed grown up, middle aged people running across Totteridge Lane from Boots side to the Ask restaurant side.

Fortunately, 6 months wasn't required to see if the experiment was a success. Such was the outcry by local residents and concerned organisations, such as your Association and the Whetstone Society, that the Totteridge Lane part of the experiment was abandoned by mid April.

There is a separate issue with the opposite junction, that of the High Road and Oakleigh Road North. Others may have done but the Association didn't ask for a Little Green Man on this intersection. We know the traffic lights installed in 2006 at this intersection have caused traffic to backup and block the High Road and so a stronger case can be made for the loss of the pedestrian phase on these lights.

However, visibility for pedestrians at the Oakleigh Road North crossing is reduced by cars and vans parking in the little slip road outside of The Griffin. Should double yellow lines be installed on both sides of the slip road, then the "safety benefit for pedestrians" would be greatly enhanced.

HG

GREENACRE BICYCLE RALLY 2011

takes place on Sunday 12th June, starting at 12 noon from outside artsdepot in North Finchley with registration and "Dr. Bike" from 10 a.m.

Now in its Fourth Year and firmly established as the largest cycling event in the Borough, the family friendly Rally follows a leisurely circular route along Woodhouse Road, Friern Barnet Lane and the High Road and back to Friern Barnet Lane/Friary Park to stop for a refreshment break. There is then an optional further ride along the Dollis Valley Green Walk route to the Barnet Countryside Centre in Byng Road, High Barnet, where an Environment Fair is being held that afternoon.

Contact Details: 020 8346 5503 or
e-mail: GreenacreBicycleRally@gmail.com

... Barnet is future rubbish centre for North London

In the meantime, over at Edmonton there is another plan, one favoured by the Mayor of London and Enfield Council, the *Central Leaside and Meridian Water Master Plan*. They want to develop the area for intense housing and obviously don't want a giant polluting stack inhibiting the developers investment.

So, towards the end of this decade, the NLWA will have to plan a new site for burning waste. We fear that, when they come to look at this issue of burning processed waste, the NLWA will see that Pinkham Way is the most (economically) logical place for a burning centre and stack. In the years leading up to the demolition of the Edmonton stack, say 2017 or 2018, the NLWA (or some replacement privatised body) may ask themselves the question, why process waste and send it elsewhere for burning, when the waste could be burnt at Pinkham Way and, so, avoid the expense of additional transportation.

North London (the 7 boroughs previously mentioned) produces 4.7 million tonnes of waste per year. Of this, 21% is municipal waste collected by the Councils, basically household waste, but the councils do collect from some businesses; and 4% is hazardous waste, which has to be processed at special centres. The other 75 % is commercial and industrial waste.

The NLWA rather glosses over what will happen to this 3.5 million tonnes of commercial and industrial waste. According to them, this kind of waste will be handled according to another plan, or rather another two plans—the London Plan (2008) and the Draft Replacement London Plan (2009).

NLWA say that, *“the rise in the landfill tax is a*

key driver in ensuring less of this waste goes to landfill”. They go on to say, by using the Olympic Park as an example, that *“ ... [this] supports the London Plan’s target of recycling and re-using 95% of construction, demolition and excavation waste”*. (Our comment: one atypical example, politically driven as a taxpayers project.)

They add that, *“assuming that the 95% on-site target is achieved, ... this residual waste (around 120,000 tonnes per annum in 2027) is likely to require landfill for which North London has no suitable land.”*. (Our comment: if only 90% on site target is achieved then 240,000 tonnes per annum will need landfill.)

They finish this particular section on commercial and industrial waste by saying, *“however, the flexibility in the North London Waste Plan will allow for development of other waste management facilities, as the market need arises, to off-set this export”*. (Our comment: we couldn't find anything about where these other waste management facilities, for handling commercial and industrial waste, may be located in North London, or what these market needs might consist of. In other words, it's a long time in the future and by then it will be somebody else's problem.)

Barnet doesn't seem to have a coherent waste policy and plans. It seems happy to go along with what the current Mayor of London wants. Unlike the boroughs of Westminster and Camden, it has no policy forcing commercial businesses (including restaurants) to sort and recycle their waste. This borough's commercial waste is collected by private companies, and what happens to it after collection, is not included in the North London waste plan. HG

Forthcoming Events

Friern Barnet Library:

Going ?

Incognito Theatre:

10 - 16 July 2011

“The Victorian Job” by T Bilbow & M Fentiman
Dir. Bilbow & Fentiman

Barnet Museum, Wood Street

Going ?

Friern Barnet and District Local History Society: **“Family History”** by Susan Fifer Wed 22 June

All meetings take place at St John's Church Hall, next to Whetstone Police Station, Friern Barnet Lane. Starts 7:45 p.m.; cost £2 to non-members.

Church Farm Museum

Gone !

Barnet Walks

‘Marvellous Mill Hill’ - Sun June 12th 2.30pm, meet Mill Hill underground station.

‘Battle of Barnet’ - Sun June 26th 2:30 pm, meet at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road

Contacts

Correspondence

Chairman FBWRA
33 Holly Park Road
N11 3EY
axin77@dsl.pipex.com

Membership FBWRA

112 Oakleigh Road North
N20 9EZ
brucestanding@msn.com

Press Officer FBWRA

153 Friern Barnet Lane
N20 0NP
l.e.bull@hotmail.co.uk