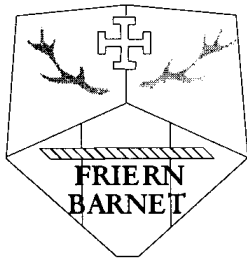


Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents' Association



March 2007

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 Post Office Advisory Panel
 - The Finchley Society
 - Friends of Friary Park
 - The Friern Barnet & District Local History Society
 - Coppetts Wood Conservationists
 - The London Green Belt Council
 - North Finchley Local Agenda 21

Beaconsfield Road in flood again

Whenever there is a cloud-burst or a heavy rainfall, Beaconsfield Road floods at the dip in the road by Bethune Park. The road connects Oakleigh Road North to Friern Barnet Road. It enables car drivers to avoid the busy Betstyle roundabout.

What happens during heavy rain is that dead leaves and throwaways things like cigarette packets' and flattened drinks cans, are swept downhill. This detritus quickly blocks the drain grills and the water heads downhill to the dip by Bethune Park. And when the drain covers in the dip are blocked, a mini-lake is created, up to 18 inches deep.

Then access for pedestrians heading to the blocks of flats at the top of Beaconsfield near to Oakleigh Road North is made near impossible. The temporary mini-lake obviously also provides a hazard for motorists. Using the pavement as a road, in times of flooding, may seem a necessary expedient but it cannot be Council policy.

What is needed is a review of the Council policy on road cleaning in which certain "hot spots" receive priority. Those that are cleaned more frequently should include Beaconsfield Road. As we live in an age of global warming and we can expect more frequent cloudbursts and heavy rains, we need pro-active planning by the Council, to deal with extremes of weather.

HG



Cars mount the kerbs alongside Bethune Park



Blundering through the middle of the Beaconsfield "lake"

Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents Association AGM

**Wednesday 18th April
2007 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Jubilee Room, adjacent to St James' Church, Friern Barnet Lane, N20
All Members Welcome**

The meeting will be followed by an illustrated talk by distinguished local historian John Heathfield

Editorial - We support the Council

In two quite separate planning issues the local authority has recently been overruled by an inspector hearing appeals from the applicants. We strongly supported the Council's original refusals in both instances, with encouragement from our members. Thus we sympathize with the Councillors who, with local knowledge that government Inspectors can not be expected to possess, made what we consider the right decisions.

The first application was for a house to be erected in the back gardens of dwellings in Friern Barnet Lane, at the junction with Manor Drive (where work is now in progress). The minute size of the new plot, the reduction of garden-space and the acute local traffic hazard all justified the Council's planning decision — but developers appealed and the government Inspector overruled the Council.

The other, more recent, application which the Inspector allowed on appeal, was for a 9 metres high mast to be erected, together with cabi-

nets for the operation of mobile telephones, along the fence of Friary Park in Friern Barnet Lane, opposite the junction with The Ridgeway. This will not only add to the existing clutter on the borough's footpaths but many of us feel that this development will represent a potential health hazard, with many nearby houses, flats and the childrens' playground in the park.

The Inspector allocated to this planning application was satisfied that the operation would be well within the government's guidelines on radiation protection and therefore present no risk. Well, the risk may not be evident at present, but our experience with this form of radiation is still young and limited, and quite a few of us remember the authorities considered thalidomide to present no hazard and that it took time to disclose that we had saddled hundreds of children with deformities as a result of this premature ruling.

In our view we should err on the side of caution until potential risk is clearly eliminated.

Friern Barnet flower beds saved

In January of this year developers again applied to place advertising signs in the flower beds opposite the old Friern Barnet Town Hall. Having successfully resisted previously developers plans to turn our public flower displays into places for advertising signs (see our newsletter article from the December 2005 newsletter, "Flower bed flog off proposal given the chop"), it came as a surprise that developers were trying again.

Two of your committee members gave their objections when the proposal was put the Council's planning committee meeting. They pointed out to the Councillors present that the purpose of the flowerbeds was to provide visual relief to passers-by and that the purpose of the advertising signs was to attract the passing motorists' attention.

At the meeting, Councillor John Marshall stated that he could see nothing wrong with advertising signs being discreetly placed in the flowerbeds. He misses the point, the advertising signs are not meant to be discreet they are meant to grab your attention. This can easily be verified when driving to Hampden Square. No matter which direction you approach the square, your eye is attracted to one of the four signs placed in the grass on the roundabout.

The residents of Friern Barnet were fortunate that our local councillor, Kate Salinger, is on the planning committee and that she agreed with the objections, and voted



Flower bed opposite the old Friern Barnet Town Hall

against the proposal to place advertising signs in the flower beds. The proposal was defeated

Our councillors should treat public space as carefully as they treat their own private space. It is unlikely that many of them would place advertising signs, discreet or not, in their own front gardens.

HG

'Inspector' overrules Barnet Council over location of T-Mobile 9 metre phone mast

In the beginning of March this year T-Mobile erected their large 9 metre phone mast, one very large cabinet and two smaller cabinets outside Friary Park close to the Friern Barnet Lane entrance to the park.

In our June 2006 newsletter we reported the Council's rejection of T-Mobile's application for a T-Mobile phone mast outside of Friary Park. We also reported concerns of local residents, especially as the proposed location was close to the children's playground. T-Mobile successfully appealed to the Government's Planning Inspectorate, and obtained permission to install their equipment.

It would appear that the Inspector made a mistake about the colours, he ruled that the equipment should be grey. Although the phone mast is indeed grey in colour, the cabinets are standard street furniture dark green.

The cabinets have been positioned so that obtrude into the pavement. The largest of the cabinets projects 4 foot from the railings, hardly discreet or unobtrusive.

The Government's Inspector dismissed the Council's objections to the appearance saying that the 9-metre phone mast would not appear prominent because it was designed to look like a telegraph pole. The Inspector also states that the cabinets would not cause significant harm to the amenities of local residents because they are close to existing railings. What the Inspector failed to point out in his brief "appeal decision" is that the cabinets would occupy half the pavement.

In their objection to the proposed siting of T-Mobile's mast the Council proposed six other sites on Council owned land. The Inspector says there are significant reasons for rejecting the alternative sites, but the Inspector does not give a hint or a clue as to what those reasons might be.

The objections by local residents as to the possible harmful effects of putting a powerful microwave transmitter near to a children's playground were also dismissed, saying radiation was within an International Commission's guidelines. We know that microwave radiation is good for cooking food, and though it might be difficult to prove in the short term, it might be good for cooking human brains in the long term. Not siting the microwave mast near to the children's playground would have sensibly erred on the side of caution.



T-Mobile phone mast recently erected outside Friary Park

We wonder who the beneficiaries of the T-Mobile's phone mast will be. It has been erected in an area surrounded by parks, a large golf course, allotments and school playing fields. Of course, the passing motorist will be a beneficiary (they will all use their hands-free sets).

HG

Old chair, new chair

The bad news is that our energetic and imaginative chairman for a good many years, Richard Smith, had to resign, because he and his wife, Maureen, are moving away from Friern Barnet. We owe him a big debt of gratitude, as he at times had to deal with acute business and personal problems, in addition to his contribution to Friern Barnet.

The good news is that Harry Gluck, who was the unanimous choice of the committee and officers, was prepared to replace him. Harry was already deeply involved on our work as Editor of the newsletter and is settling admirably into this new, additional function.

We welcome him as warmly as we wish happiness to Richard and Maureen in their new home.

KR

Subscriptions

We are pleased to announce that nearly all members have subscribed for the year 2007. We thank those members for their prompt response to the renewal request. For those few members who, for one reason or another, have yet to subscribe, they can send their cheque of £3 for membership, made out to "Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents Association" to:

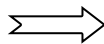
Pauline Murphy
FB&WRA
147 Torrington Park
N11 9AN

Improvements in Colney Hatch Lane



last year: large white vans parked opposite the bus stop

They say that every picture tells a story and that every picture is worth a thousand words ...

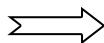


this year: double yellow lines mean no parking



last year: pavement parking blocking dropped kerb

... these pictures show the improvements in Colney Hatch Lane as a result of the efforts ..

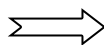


this year: no pavement parking



last year: 12 foot display signs on public grass verge

... made by representatives of your Association during the last year.



this year: flowers can be seen on the grass verge

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS OF FRIERN BARNET AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Wed 28 March
Grandma's London
by John Neal

Wed 25 April
Exhibitions in Great Britain
By Don Knight

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.

incognito theatre

Mon 19th — Sat 24th March 2007

Moliere's

The Imaginary Invalid

Adapted by Miles Malleson

Incognito Theatre is located in
Holly Park Road (behind the
Health Centre) Friern Barnet
London N11 3EB

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