

newsletter

Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents' Association



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30,000 new homes

Pinkham Way problem rears its head again

The North London Waste Authority (NLWA) is a quango set up to manage the waste from 7 London boroughs. These are Barnet, Haringey, Enfield, Camden, Hackney, Islington and Waltham Forest. In 2009, the NLWA purchased 6 hectares of land from Barnet Council which is now known as the Pinkham Way site. This is situated beside the Western running side of the North Circular Road near to Colney Hatch Lane and opposite the Friern Park Retail Park.

The site is currently classified as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, Borough Grade 1. Haringey Council have also designated the site as being suitable for employment. It does not take a rocket scientist to realise that these two designations are contradictory.

In 2011, the NLWA published a plan which included placing a massive mechanical and biological digester on the site. It would be 75 feet high and cover an area equal to 2 football pitches. Local residents immediately formed a protest group named the Pinkham Way Alliance. The main arguments against the placing of such a huge facility beside the North Circular were:

- * Vast increase in traffic leading to even more pollution and traffic on very crowded, seriously polluted highway.
- * Refuse vehicles from 7 boroughs having to use the small bridge by the Retail Park to access the site.
- * Noxious fumes from the machinery.
- * Unpleasant smells.
- * Spread of all these smells,



Pinkham Way site as it is today

fumes and pollution affecting possibly 11 local schools and a huge number of households.

- * Devaluation of all properties in range of the site.

The plan had to be approved by Haringey Planning Committee. However, there was so much opposition, led by the PWA and supported by most local MP's that the plan was withdrawn. Success!

Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents' Association

AGM
Thursday 2nd May 2019
at 7:30 p.m.
(doors open 7:15 p.m.)

**at St John's Church Hall,
Friern Barnet Road, N11**

All Members Welcome

**The meeting will be followed by a presentation by Theresa Villers M.P.
"My Life in Politics, so far ..."**

Unfortunately, a new Plan has recently been developed which includes the Pinkham Way site as a possibility for use again. This must not be permitted to happen. Too much locally is at stake.

May I urge all our members to keep an eye on the Pinkham Way Alliance site on the internet and react accordingly if asked to.

KS

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' Associations of Barnet
- The Finchley Society
- Friends of Friary Park
- Open Spaces Society
- The Friern Barnet & District Local History Society
- Coppetts Wood Conservationists
- The London Green Belt Council
- Love Whetstone

'Love Whetstone' wants to reinstate horse trough next to the stone in Whetstone

The redevelopment of most of the High Road in Whetstone over the years has allowed many residents to forget what a historic area it actually is. Most new residents, and there are many with all the development in the area, have no idea.

In an attempt to rectify this, Love Whetstone has been working with local Councillors Caroline Stock and Stephen Sowerby and the Friern Barnet & District Local History Society on a project to replicate the street scene by reinstating the horse trough that stood next to the whetstone outside the Griffin Public House - see photo below.

The horse trough was one of a number installed by the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association in the London area, in districts such as Whetstone, where there was a large amount of horse drawn traffic. Some troughs, such as the one near the Spaniards Inn in Hampstead, have recently been given a Grade 2 listing.

The Whetstone horse trough was removed when the pavements were repaired a number of years ago and never replaced. In order to inform the public about this corner of Whetstone, a plaque will also be erected between the whetstone and the trough.

Love Whetstone has received a £5000 grant towards the costs of this project. Unfortunately it falls short of what is actually needed to carry it out. The replacement granite horse trough with its distinctive Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association lettering is being made to order as we are unable to source a suitable reclaimed or second hand one.

The lectern-style plaque will be graffiti-proof. Fees for the Planning Application (already submitted) and final installation costs will require a further £2500. A number of local societies have generously agreed to make a donation towards the shortfall and to fundraise in support of the



This drinking fountain and cattle trough is located opposite the Black House pub in Wood Street.



Proposed location for the horse trough is next to the stone outside The Griffin pub

project.

It is our hope that this project will appeal to local residents and businesses in our community and encourage them also to make a donation towards the cost.

Keeping local history and its traditions alive is key to remembering Whetstone's character. If you would like to make a donation and for information on how to do this, please email

info@lovewhetstone.co.uk

Forthcoming

Incognito Theatre, Holly Park Road **Sun 19th May to Sat 25th May "The History of Tom Jones - a Foundling", written by Joan Macalpine from the novel by Henry Fielding**
Performances are Sunday at 6pm, Monday - Friday at 8pm, Saturday at 3pm and 8pm.

Friern Barnet & District Local History Society -- Wednesday 24 April 7:45 p.m. North Finchley Golf Club,
The Manor House, Friern Barnet Lane **The History of Shopping in London - Diane Burstein**

Friary Park News



The Friends of Friary Park spent an afternoon last autumn planting these daffodils, 300 in six varieties (daffodils only because squirrels don't eat their bulbs) by the Friary Road main gate, and here is the result.

There are also well over twenty fragile new trees in the Park, to greatly enhance the impressive range already there. Selected in conjunction with the Friends, they have just been planted by the Council to replace those lost by disease or damage over the past few years.

They include "statement trees" like the copper beech and chestnut oak in the grass near the Friern Barnet Lane entrance, which will grow increasingly magnificent as the years pass; groups of "ornamental" Tulip and Indian Bean trees along that boundary (see photo); a colourful Judas tree to welcome you, opposite the daffodils, two Golden Weeping Willows near the brook, a colonnade of Keaki by the tennis courts, two crab apples, and many more.

They will all need our care, particularly if the next two summers are dry again. But this September's promised third Guided Tree Walk will have many intriguing new arrivals to introduce.

RT & YR



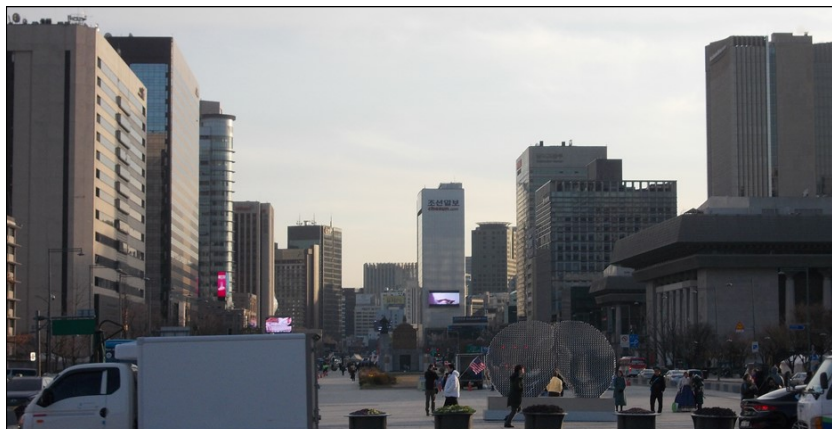
Far too many extra homes needed in Barnet

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has decreed that Barnet will provide 2489 new homes each year until 2025. This is an incredible number when one considers just how much of our borough's spare land has ready been built on. This total since the announcement was made amounts to another 24,893 extra homes in Barnet by the time a child born today will be 6 years old.

We are not alone here. All the London boroughs have been given a housing target, none of which appears to be realistic, unless we build higher and higher and higher. I certainly do not wish to live surrounded by massive tower blocks.

The FBWRA do not

dispute the figures that suggest that the population of our great capital city will increase enormously in the next few years. London has always been a magnet for young people. Neither do we wish people to be homeless as far too many are currently. But the question remains, where will these extra dwellings be built?



Seoul Today - North Finchley tomorrow?

We urge all our readers to keep beady eyes on planning proposals for sites near to where you live. There are not that many obvious sites left, particularly in our area. We would all hate to lose our school playing fields, parks, woodland and, perish the thought, our Metropolitan Open Space and Green Belt.

KS

Big turnout for the FBWRA members' meeting

Mayor of London representatives tell members about the Mayor of London's 'New London Plan'

Litter everywhere, unswept pavements, full wheelie and litter bins. Children driven to and from school (why can't they walk or bus or cycle?) in 4x4s which then idle poisonously.

Unaffordable "affordable" housing sprouting densely in Whetstone, too costly for the needy. Too many cars, nowhere to park, rat-running, congestion, pollution...

It's bad enough now. What on earth will it be like in 25 years' time? What are they going to do about it?

So FBWRA invited some of "them", managers at TfL (Transport for London), to come in early March and tell our members what the Mayor of London's 'New London Plan' was doing about it. Almost 70 attended the meeting on a cold, wet, windy night, and our two speakers arrived, admirably and very properly by public transport.

We had asked them first to outline the intentions of the overall Plan, and then speak on specific aspects of it: reduced car use, congestion control, air pollution, and the concentration of new homes on transport hubs.

Presentations on the plans for each of these aspects were to be followed by ten minutes of discussion among the members in small groups. Time for questions from the floor was scheduled to round off the meeting. Notes/response forms were issued.

This was an experimental format for us – which succeeded only in part! Fortunately Kate Salinger's tactful but firm management held it all together.

We had expected to hear of fundamental changes on the



horizon, changes that we shall all have to adjust to, and soon. That's not easy to accept, so we had also expected the group discussions to be necessary and lively.

In fact the speakers expounded current problems rather than solutions, and so did not prime the discussions. This didn't stop us, however, and the opportunities given for group discussion were made vigorous use of, and fed back on.

Members' written response sheets indicated overwhelmingly that the meeting had been both worthwhile and informative – but that TfL had been unconvincing. Several thoughtful comments pointed in helpful directions for change, which we shall follow up on.

Only one solitary respondent promised to shift from driving to favouring public transport in future, as a result of the evening just spent – but that's a start!

So, maybe we didn't fulfil our high purpose, but certainly no one left the meeting sounding bored.

YR

Spring Festival

**at Coppetts Wood Nature Reserve
Sunday 26th May (Bank
Holiday) 1:30 - 4:30 pm**

**Hot lunches, also refreshments,
Raffle prizes,
plants for kitchen and garden,
childrens activities,
meet with RSPB and other Local
community organisations**

**organised by Coppetts Wood
Conservationists**

**All Welcome
Free entry.
Fun for the whole family**