

FBWRA Chairman's Report for November 2022 Committee Meeting for website

Planning – the appeal decisions for the phone masts near St John's in Friern Barnet Road are due imminently.

Highways- traffic count devices have reappeared in Ashurst Road and Buxted Road, Friern Barnet, prompting concerned residents to contact me, fearing that the Council may be looking at reviving the controversial Cycle Route scheme, or elements of it. They made an FOI request- the responses were "opaque" and I have used that to ask some further questions. I contacted local Councillors (Cllr Houston – vice Chair of the Environment and Climate Emergency Committee, but have had no response. Enquiry of Ward Councillors (Woodhouse) was more fruitful- Cllr Hutton responded very quickly –

"The issue is still 'live' - in that its in the papers for the East Area Committee, for which there was a meeting last night as it so happens - Page 36 of the papers under CiL Schemes. I brought the matter up at the last meeting as the issue has been sitting on the agenda since 2017/18! with no action since, as you say, the cycle scheme was supposedly abandoned. I said we should either abandon the scheme altogether or do something about it, at least from a road safety aspect. The survey is most probably as a result of that, though I didn't know it was in place.

I think the issue of the mini-roundabout (Buxted/Ashurst) still hasn't been resolved and that something should be done about that even if the cycle route itself isn't up for debate. I don't know if you or the Residents Assn have a particular view on that?

I will ask the officers for an update and see where we are with that - and can bring it to the next Area Committee in January to decide what to do - you are welcome to attend and speak depending on what is proposed.

Thank you for raising it as I hadn't noticed the survey was in place."

We will await the response to my FOI (due before the end of November) before deciding of a course of action.

FOI requests. None other than as above

Councillors meeting – Cllr Houston .Reply still awaited. His issues on planning matters may explain. I will raise again with him and also with Cllr Longstaff as discussed at the September meeting - not

pursued for the time being. As previously advised by the Secretary, we have also had an offer from the new Whetstone Councillors.

FBWRA boundaries. Following our discussion at the October meeting I intend to knock on some doors to ask residents in roads to the north of Northumberland Road "Do you consider that you live in Whetstone?" .

Members Survey – offers of help. We have 3 "open" offers of help/being a little more involved(open of whom might be a possible member for the Committee), 2 offers of assistance with delivery and 1 offer of helping online- e.g. letter writing.

Maintenance of shrubbery – as previously advised, the FP Bowling Club has kindly agreed to let us store gardening tools in the former park keeper's hut