



East Barnet Residents Association

Incorporating Friends of Oak Hill Park

June 2012

What a busy three months since the last newsletter! But we are very pleased with the results of our opposition to the proposed parking charges in East Barnet village, Osidge Lane and Brunswick Park Road car parks, all of which it has been confirmed will remain free to use. This is a great victory for common sense and "people power".

Another great result is that work has eventually started on refurbishing the Brunswick Park Health Centre. We've been continually lobbying the NHS, councillors and our MP for 2½ years. Dr Stella Okonkwo says she's delighted with the outcome and would like to thank EBRA members and patients for all their help. She said it is a great victory for "people power".

Our next challenge is the proposal for three new pedestrian crossings in Russell Lane which threaten doom for local shops. More about this on page 2

Rob White

Contacting the Association

Rob is our point of contact:

Website: eastbar.net

Committee Officers

Chairman: James Bradshaw

Vice-Chairman: George Irons

Treasurer: Sheila Solbé

Newsletter Distribution: Yvonne Ward

Membership & Communications: Rob White

Committee Members

Pat Gladwin; Pauline Coakley Webb; Rosina Down; Sussanne Hassel; Alan Kelley; Peter Robinson

Dates For Your Diary:

EBRA All-Members Meetings: These are at **8:30pm on Tuesday 10th July**, and 2nd October 2012 in the Small Hall, Brookside Methodist Church, 2 Cat Hill, EN4 8JB

Chipping Barnet Forum: Tuesday **26th June** 2012 at 6pm at Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, N20 0EJ

East Barnet Festival Friday to Sunday **6th to 8th July**. EBRA stall on the Sunday.

Theatre in the Park on Sundays until 29th July drought permitting - more details on page 5

Olympic Torch Relay on Wednesday **25th July** (day 68) along Friern Barnet Road, down Waterfall Road, crossing Hampden Way approx 2pm, and then up Waterfall Road to Southgate.

Russell Lane Pedestrian Crossings

Councillor Andreas Tambourides sends us lists of planned roadworks, which we put on the website for information. We noticed that work was planned to start in Russell Lane on three uncontrolled pedestrian crossings on 20th July and last 18 days.

We asked Andreas for more details, and discovered that these are not zebra crossings, just footpaths across the grass island in the middle of Russell Lane. So three strips of grass would be tarmacked over, and 12 kerbs dropped. But even more alarming was the plan to paint double yellow lines on the approaches to the crossings. These new restrictions would prevent cars parking in about nineteen existing spaces. This would have a bad effect on the shops, and be inconvenient for residents.

So I asked members, shopkeepers and other residents what they thought, and very few people had even heard about the plans, let alone been consulted. Nobody is aware of any accidents in this area, or thinks there is a problem that needs to be fixed.

Andreas listened to my comments, and other

residents who contacted him, and says the idea originated from a ward panel meeting. There will however now be a Council consultation, and if enough residents and traders object, Andreas promises the plans will be scrapped. So please keep an eye out for the notices. I will of course let those on email know when I hear anything.

Our new Brunswick Park ward Councillor Andreas Ioannidis is also against this proposal and is consulting residents separately.

It's a shame that the EBRA has not been involved in recent ward panel meetings, or we could perhaps have nipped this in the bud much earlier before the Council spent taxpayers' money on plans and caused anxiety for residents and shopkeepers. But our committee has few members, and we are unable to attend every meeting that affects this area. So here's a plea - if anyone has a bit of spare time and energy to join the committee and represent the EBRA on ward panels, please do get in touch. Thank you.

Rob White

The East Barnet Residents' Association Area

We are called the East Barnet Residents' Association, because the parish boundary of St Mary's Church originally defined our area. The parish boundary is an approximate rectangle, stretching from the railway line on the west to Chase Side on the east, and from Cat Hill in the north to the North London Business Park in the south.

I've created a Google map showing the EBRA boundary and the electoral wards which you can see at <http://go.eastbar.net/map>

We are centred on Oak Hill Park and cover parts of Barnet EN4, Southgate N14, New Southgate N11 and Whetstone N20. The northern part is in East Barnet electoral ward, and the southern half is in Brunswick Park ward, with a total of six councillors to represent us.

We welcome anyone to become a member, if they live work or are interested in this area, so please do encourage friends and neighbours to join us. The more members we have, the louder our voice - as was evident in our recent opposition to the parking changes. If you know someone who may be interested in joining, please give them our details. Thank you!

Rob White

Matters Arising...

Here's an update on various items that have featured in previous newsletters:

- **SuDS** - Sustainable Drainage Systems project by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust engaging schools in learning about and creating new, wildlife-friendly wetlands in the heart of London, improving local streams and adopting a more sustainable approach to water-use in the school and local area. They selected ten out of the 64 schools in Barnet Enfield and Haringey on their lists, but unfortunately none is in the EBRA area.
- **St Mary's Church Hall** - David Howard reports: "Things have been going very slowly since the church architect died last summer. We now have a new firm of architects and we also officially have a new Rector. We are near to resolution with the former architect's liquidator over copyright release on the drawings and a copy of the CAD file and access to various specialist reports. The architects have started reviewing all of the previous work and will be meeting the Church Building Group in June with recommendations on the way forward. We have asked them to consider submitting the two schemes for the houses if they think we have chance of winning the first scheme which is preferred by us and the neighbours at appeal. We will be in touch with you and the various neighbours before any application is submitted."
- **Plant Sale** - Jo Gething raised £234 in May in what she says was probably her best ever plant sale. MacMillan nurses will receive another good donation.
- **Big Fun Walk** - Larry Ross raised £1,752 on 1st April for the North London Hospice, his personal record, and would like to thank all EBRA members for their support.
- **Surveyors In The Park** - we asked in the last newsletter if anyone knew why surveyors were measuring things in the park last autumn. It seems they were working for the Environment Agency and Thames Water, looking at retaining a higher level of water in the stretch of Pymmes Brook in the park to reduce the risk of flooding down-stream. Recent floods in the park may suggest they can't retain much more!
- **Zealous Parking Wardens** - we asked if the sightings of traffic wardens swooping at the crack of dawn and putting tickets on cars if they were parked slightly awkwardly were commonplace. It seems this may have been an isolated case in response to someone's complaint.
- **Cat Hill Campus** - Developers L&Q have just submitted revised plans for approval, scrapping 18 flats from the top two storeys of a building facing the roundabout. More info as we get it.

Security Matters

- **CCTV** - if you have CCTV installed at your home or business and would be prepared to help the police, please let your local Safer Neighbourhoods Team know. When investigating crimes, CCTV evidence can help the police trace someone's movements or provide an alibi.
- **Anti-Terrorist Hotline** - please visit <http://met.police.uk/terrorism> for advice on what you can do to help keep us all safe.
- **101** - please remember that 101 is the new number for contacting the police about non-urgent matters. For example if you find your car has been stolen, it's not an emergency requiring an immediate response. Of course you should continue to call 999 when it is an emergency, such as when a crime is in progress, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, when there is danger to life or when violence is being used or threatened. To contact the police for any other reason, call 101.
- **Police Secondments** - Our Chairman attends CSEG (Community Safety Engagement Group) meetings, where it was revealed that Barnet has the highest number of hours seconded to other police areas. So particularly during the Olympics and Paralympics period, please make sure you always lock your doors and windows when leaving your house, to deter opportunistic burglars.

Barnet Museum News

Things have moved on a little at Barnet Museum. We still don't have a lease but from the 1 April the Museum took over responsibility for the payment of our utility bills. In order to persuade the Borough to grant us a long term peppercorn lease we need to convince the Borough of the Museum's ability to provide both an improved building and an improved service. We are preparing a supplementary paper and will be sending them a copy of our April Museum schedule so that the Borough can get a better picture of what we are achieving.

Talking about achievements we are putting on two new displays. One is on local achievement - as a part of the Olympic celebrations. The other is on Queen Elizabeth II, her connections with Barnet and items relating to her reign. Members of the society have loaned items to be included in these displays and the two cases we are using were given to us by the Borough from cases no longer needed at Church Farmhouse. We have had the cases conserved and they now make an excellent addition to our display facilities.

Information is being gathered to enable us to put on a special display for Armistice Day to remember a local war hero.

The Armada Chest from Hadley Church has now been opened by a local firm of locksmiths and we are hoping that they will be able to produce a key so that we can demonstrate the mechanism in use. We are trying to find a safe way of displaying the chest so that this can be achieved.

We have a new volunteer with experience of working with costume, who is taking on the registering and care of the costume collection. Our database expert has finished setting up the database to enable the records of our collections to be searchable. The new series of morning workshops has been extremely successful and we plan to hold another series in the autumn. We were limiting numbers to twelve due to the lack of space at the Museum but have exceeded that number on several occasions. These sessions have raised a goodly sum to fund the Museum.

Our search for a local cine film of the 1971 Battle of Barnet celebrations has been successful. The person who made the original film has come forward and offered us a copy to keep at the Museum. We are always interested in any local cine or video films of local places and events if anyone else out there has something tucked away we would be glad to hear from them.

So the Museum continues to operate, with extended hours and additional volunteers, we continue to move forward. We continue to ask for a long, peppercorn lease. We are having more detailed drawings and costings done on our long term proposal to provide disabled access, an increased work and display area and an education centre. For this ambitious scheme we will, of course, need to raise substantial funding. We are planning a very positive future.

Gillian Gear

Barnet Furniture Centre

The Barnet Furniture Centre is a furniture reuse charity which brings multiple benefits for the community and the environment. Visit the warehouse store at Queens Parade Close, Friern Barnet, London, N11 3FY or telephone 020 8361 6802 to buy or donate.

Website: <http://barnetfurniturecentre.org>

They will collect (at their driver's discretion) donations of large and small pieces of furniture, paint, rugs, small homeware items, crockery, electrical goods including PCs, lamps, stereos, kettles, toasters and fridges to be refurbished and prepared for sale by a team of staff and volunteers.

For the latest news from the Centre, visit their Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/barnetfurniturecentre>



East Barnet Community Festival

The **East Barnet Free Music & Dance Festival** runs from Friday 6th to Sunday 8th July. Details are still being finalised but can be found on <http://eastbarnetfestival.org.uk>

Theatre In the Park

Award-winning touring theatre companies present Summer Sundays at 3pm in the Green Arena or near the café (depending on flooding and ground conditions)

24th June - Peter Rabbit & Benjamin Bunny

1st July - Twelfth Night

29th July - Julius Caesar

Doors open at 2.30pm, productions continue regardless of weather.

Tickets £12 (£10 concessions, £6 for 6-16s and under 6s free)

Bring a chair or rug - Light refreshments available

Allow 10 minutes to walk in from the boundaries of the park

Blue badge holders should arrive by 2.00pm at the Parkside Gardens car park

Membership Subscriptions

Our new membership year starts now, and if we have your email address I will have confirmed whether you are due to renew or not. But if you receive a paper newsletter and can't remember if you've paid in advance, please contact me or your road steward. We will have a stall at the East Barnet Festival on Sunday 8th July so you can enquire and renew there too.

We do encourage you to pay online by credit or debit card at eastbar.net/subscribe because this saves us the administrative effort of cash and cheques. And of course if you would like to receive the newsletter by

email, that saves the cost of printing, the big distribution effort, and is environmentally friendly. And of course if you let us have an email address then we can contact you much more efficiently as and when urgent matters arise. We do not send spam and will not reveal your email address to anyone.

Our Road Stewards are also happy to accept your subscription, or you can fill in the slip below and send or bring it to me.

Thank you.

Rob White

I enclose £____ for ____ years' subscription to the East Barnet Residents' Association (£2 per year per household)

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

I would you like to receive newsletters by email: Yes / No *(please indicate)*

Please send cash / cheques (payable to "EBRA") to Rob White, 16 Woodfield Drive, East Barnet, EN4 8PA

Another Council Consultation - Drinking In Public

Barnet Council thinks there is a problem with people drinking on the street, so "to keep Barnet safe" proposes to ban all drinking in public places, across the entire borough of Barnet.

The Council estimates there is a "street drinking population" of 84 people in the whole of Barnet, so the Council proposes to impose a borough-wide ban affecting 300,000 residents. This ban would cost approximately £12,500 to implement, to cover the publication of notices, signage, and other administrative costs.

The police already have powers to deal with drunkenness. There would be no additional resources to enforce a borough-wide ban. But there is a worry that officials looking to tick some boxes or quotas could start targeting innocent people enjoying a glass of wine with a picnic in the park, or standing outside a pub.

You can find more information and respond to the consultation by visiting

http://engage.barnet.gov.uk/environment-and-operations/consultation_dppo/consult_view

or you can email

eando.consultation@barnet.gov.uk

phone 020 8359 7491 or write to:

Community Protection Group Manager
London Borough of Barnet
Building 4, North London Business Park
Oakleigh Road South
London N11 1NP

A very detailed analysis setting out the opposing view can be found on one of the Barnet Bloggers' websites:

<http://lbbspending.blogspot.co.uk/2012/06/lamb-to-slaughtered.html>

EBRA Tree

Our tree which was planted in March 2011 to replace our previous one commemorating 25 years of the Association, was attacked by vandals who ripped out its support stakes for their bonfire. The tree appeared to be alive, so I phoned the GreenSpaces department on Friday 15th June to ask if it could have new supports.

But by Sunday 17th I found that it was now leaning right over and almost touching the ground, so I sent an email to the Council helpline and our Councillors asking for urgent help. Councillor Andreas Tambourides escalated the message to Pam Wharfe (Director of Environment, Planning and Regeneration) in the early hours of Monday, and by Tuesday Andy Tipping (Principal Arboricultural Officer) had had the tree re-staked and reinforced with wire mesh.

Thanks to all involved, the tree now seems to be much more secure. What a great result!

There are some photos on our website <http://eastbar.net> and a map showing our tree's exact location, should you wish to visit it, is at <http://go.eastbar.net/map>

Rob White

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Chas R Lowe Estates are proud to sponsor the East Barnet Residents' Association newsletters.