

FINCHLEY & GOLDERS GREEN RESIDENTS FORUM

Greek Cypriot Brotherhood Community Centre, Britannia Road, North Finchley, London N12 9RU

TUESDAY, 26 JUNE 2012

ACTIONS/UPDATE NOTE

*Chairman: Councillor Reuben Thompstone

*Vice-Chairman: Councillor Graham Old

*denotes Councillor present

	Issue Raised	Action/Update
1.	<p>There is a low brick wall on East End Road (near Tangle Tree Close) which borders a green area which seems to be "damaged" on a regular basis as not long ago the damaged bricks were rectified but unfortunately quite a large section of the wall has been "damaged" and/or "vandalised" again and needs attention. In addition, it would be useful to know who is responsible for the upkeep of the green area as it is often frequented by pupils from nearby schools who litter the area.</p> <p><i>Ms Blatman</i></p>	<p>Officers have made enquiries and have discovered that the location in question is managed by Transport for London. Highways understand that a service request is currently being drafted to instruct contractors. Works should be completed within 28 days.</p> <p><i>Mervyn Bartlett, Transport and Regeneration Manager</i></p>
2.	<p>Petition: The Grove, Finchley Central – "Rush hour traffic mayhem, which is a weekday hazard to the residents of The grove and to the infants attending the ELY Nursery located at number 19". (64 signatures)</p> <p><i>Keith Graville/Stephen Isaacs/Simon McNaught</i></p>	<p>Traffic assessments were concluded week-ending 22 June 2012. The results are currently being analysed and the matter is under consideration. Any options or proposals that may be identified will be presented to the next meeting of the AESC in October.</p> <p><i>Neil Richardson, Highways Manager Traffic & Development</i></p>
3.	<p>Battered School sign on a pole outside the hair salon at 755 Finchley Road (the section between Cricklewood</p>	<p>The sign has now been removed.</p>

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	<p>Lane and Llanvanor Road). I believe that the school in question closed some years ago. If that is the case please could the sign be removed?</p> <p><i>Andrew Tucker</i></p>	<p><i>Mervyn Bartlett, Transport and Regeneration Manager</i></p>
4.	<p>(a) At a Cabinet meeting on 20 June 2012, the Finchley Church End Town Centre Strategy was approved by Members. Has any new funding been allocated to the strategy, and if not, what chance is there that the recommendations contained within the report will be implemented, or any real benefit seen in the area concerned?</p> <p>(b) In the report, there are references to the detrimental and 'unnecessary clutter' of advertising and signage in the Finchley area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The body responsible for this clutter in the first place is the London Borough of Barnet: why was this allowed to happen? • Why should tax payers now be expected to pay for the removal of signs and advertising which should not have been erected? • Can you confirm that questions in regard to the legality of the contract with street furniture providers JCDecaux have now been resolved? <p>Will the contract, if compliant, be continued, and if so, can any of the signs in Finchley be removed?</p> <p><i>Theresa Musgrove</i></p>	<p>At this point in time there is no additional funding allocated to Finchley Church End but having an agreed Strategy in place will provide the basis for negotiations with developers on future investment in the wider area as part of any planning applications that come forward and for future funding bids for pots of money from the London Mayor or National Government related to town centres.</p> <p><i>Lucy Shomali (Assistant Director – Strategic Planning and Regeneration)</i></p> <p>The question asks us to accept that errors of judgement were made when what is now referred to as 'unnecessary clutter' was introduced on-street.</p> <p>However, there are many reasons why such aspects would have been considered relevant at the time of their introduction either through local or statutory determination, that in time may no longer serve the purpose for which they were intended or their presence is no longer a statutory requirement. An example of this would be 'at any time' waiting restriction time plates that accompany double yellow lines. At one time an obligation was placed on highway authorities to install these signs where such restrictions were placed. Changes to signage legislation means that these are no longer required and therefore redundant, but for obvious reasons the Council cannot justify the expense of proactive removal unless as part of an overarching project where locally their removal can be facilitated.</p> <p>As Outer London Fund (OLF) funding was considered appropriate and made available, and street scene issues were integral to the bidding process then accordingly with a successful bid these issues can be addressed.</p> <p><i>Neil Richardson, Highways Manager Traffic & Development</i></p> <p>The JC Decaux contract is currently under review by the Council's Legal department. It is hoped that this will be resolved and finalised within the next 2</p>

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		<p>months.</p> <p><i>Charlene Witter, Procurement Manager</i></p>
5.	<p>Next to the lower entrance in Long Lane to Victoria Park, there is a former park keeper's lodge. More than a year ago, I believe, the family living there as tenants were obliged to leave, and the property has remained empty since then, becoming increasingly derelict. For some time now, the fence has been broken, trampled down and the site is accessible to anyone. This is in an area in which there have been instances of drug dealing, reported to the police.</p> <p>Why has this property been left unoccupied for so long when there are so many homeless families in Barnet?</p> <p>Why has the council not acted to secure the property?</p> <p>Has the council put the property up for sale, and if not why not?</p> <p>Is the council hoping that if the property deteriorates it can be demolished, and a more valuable site sold?</p> <p><i>Theresa Musgrove</i></p>	<p>Legal covenants in the title to the house relating to its disposal are complex and it is taking longer than anticipated to come up with a practical legal solution to enable the sale of the property to proceed smoothly when the property is marketed.</p> <p>The property was previously boarded up to the rear so as not to give the appearance of being vacant. Subsequent to this, security screens to all the window and door openings were installed on 15th June.</p> <p>The property has not been put up for sale due to the title problems referred to above. Best practice is to have all title matters fully investigated before a property is put on the market so the initial interest in the property is captured.</p> <p>This is not the case. Although the property needs refurbishment, it is more valuable as it is at present than as a site.</p>
6.	<p>At a recent council meeting, plans were announced to allocate funds for highway works. I note that the funding in Squires Lane is being given to the other end from us, i.e. in the Conservative ward, rather than the</p>	<p>It is not clear what council meeting is being referred to regarding allocation of funding for highways work so it is assumed this concern relates to planned maintenance, in which case the funding is allocated on a priority basis irrespective of where in the borough the road is located.</p>

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<p>Labour ward. I note that the area around the Sternberg Centre is included, which I would have thought has already benefited from the section 106 money that was supposed to be associated with the development of this site. Why is more funding being allocated to this area?</p> <p>Nearly four years ago there was a fatal accident outside our house (Squires Lane), due to a combination of a driver speeding at more than double the speed limit, and a junction with a notoriously bad sightline. After the accident we asked for improved safety measures to be put in place, as this junction, next to a primary school, is continually the location of collisions, and unfortunately it seem likely that it is only a matter of time before another fatality occurs. Despite assurances, nothing has been done, and worse still previous traffic calming measures in Squires Lane had subsequently been removed.</p> <p>Why does the council not see this eastern end of Squires Lane as a priority?</p> <p><i>Theresa Musgrove</i></p>	<p>Activity related to the Sternberg centre is funded through money secured via S106 financing, and therefore is a Capital contribution to the Borough for specific areas related to the development. This is the case with the current considerations for the vicinity of the Sternberg Centre, funding which the council could not secure purely to maintain the highway.</p> <p>Regarding the specifics of the accident four years ago, officers would be pleased to review this location again to see if there is merit in proposing any improvements that might be made and would therefore request more details regarding this.</p> <p>Contrary to the assertion regarding the eastern end of Squires Lane, Officers are currently reviewing junction safety issues throughout its length and anticipate responding back on the outcomes later in the year.</p> <p><i>Neil Richardson, Highways Manager Traffic & Development</i></p>
<p>7. Speeding in Petworth Road (& neighbouring roads) - to discuss ways in which the volume and speed of traffic could be minimised within our residential family areas.</p> <p><i>Rosemary Suswillo</i></p>	<p>The Item was referred to Finchley and Golders Green Area Environment Sub-Committee on the same night.</p> <p>RESOLVED – That subject to the overall costs being contained within available budgets, the Interim Director of Environment Planning and Regeneration be instructed to investigate ways in which the speed of traffic could be minimised within Petworth Road and neighbouring roads, and that a report on the outcome be brought to the next appropriate meeting of the Sub-Committee.</p> <p><i>Mervyn Bartlett, Transport and Regeneration Manager</i></p>

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Future meeting dates:

Date	Venue
Tuesday, 16 October 2012	Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, London N3 3QE
Wednesday, 16 January 2013	St Michael's Church Hall, The Riding, Off Golders Green Road, London NW11 8HL
Wednesday 13 March 2013	Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, London N3 3QE
Tuesday, 25 June 2013	To be confirmed
Tuesday, 22 October 2013	Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, London N3 3QE