

# newsletter

**Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents' Association**



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## A WELL ATTENDED AND CONSTRUCTIVE MEMBERS' MEETING ON 27TH MARCH

A good number of our Members and local Councillors attended the Association's first Members' meeting since the pandemic. With the recent Ward boundary changes, FBWRA now reaches into four Wards. So we were fortunate to get representatives from each of them to attend.



They included Councillor Barry Rawlins - Leader of the Council and Woodhouse Ward, Councillor David Longstaff - Barnet Vale, Councillor Ella Rose - Whetstone and Councillor Geof Cooke - Friern Barnet. The open discussion covered the majority of "burning" local issues, such as pot holes, the large number of small flats rather than houses that are being built, the future of the arts depot, the Council's plans for the Leisure Centre and the Lido, ULEZ, cycle lanes, 20mph zones.

The consensus was that replies were on balance frank and generally to the point. FBWRA is grateful to the Councillors for taking the time to join us. It was, however, depressing to discover how little influence our elected representatives appear to have with appointed developers and other third parties. Commercial enterprises are contracted to carry out work for the Council on projects ranging from major redevelopments of significant local assets to small contracts repairing our infrastructure. Bizarrely, the bigger and more valuable the asset, the less influence on timing, design, location the Council appears to have! At least this is how it came across. What is the point of elections if the quality and fabric of where we live is ultimately in the hands of unelected and seemingly unaccountable third parties?

MJ



### FRIERN BARNET & WHETSTONE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 4th May 2023 at 7.30pm (doors open at 7.20pm) at St John's Church Hall, Friern Barnet Road, N11  
All Members Welcome

The meeting will be followed by a talk from Anne Clarke AM, Member of the London Assembly for Barnet & Camden and Barnet Councillor, representing Cricklewood Ward

## FBWRA's LEISURE PARK PLAN OF ACTION

Since our March email to members about the proposed redevelopment of Finchley Leisure Park we have made good progress with our campaign to protect the bowling alley and the multiplex cinema. We have:

- convened, and are leading, a working group of other residents' associations and societies across the Borough;
- developed a detailed Action Plan;
- discovered that under the terms of the Leisure Park lease residential use is absolutely prohibited, so if it has the political will to do so the Council as freeholder is in a very strong position to negotiate a deal that ensures the leisure uses are protected;
- written to all of Barnet's 63 Councillors;
- contacted the Borough's three MPs (and as a result of which the Council Chief Executive has been asked to provide a briefing);
- requested a meeting with the "lead" Councillor and Council Official. A meeting with the potential developer has also been requested; and
- contacted Hollywood Bowl and Vue Cinemas head offices to arrange discussions on their views. Other actions are in preparation.

DT

## STREETS SAFE

**StreetSafe** is a service for anyone to anonymously tell the Police about public places where you have felt or feel unsafe, because of environmental issues, e.g. street lighting, abandoned buildings or vandalism and/or because of some behaviours, e.g. being followed or verbally abused.

Please note: 'StreetSafe' is not for reporting crime or incidents, it's about prevention.

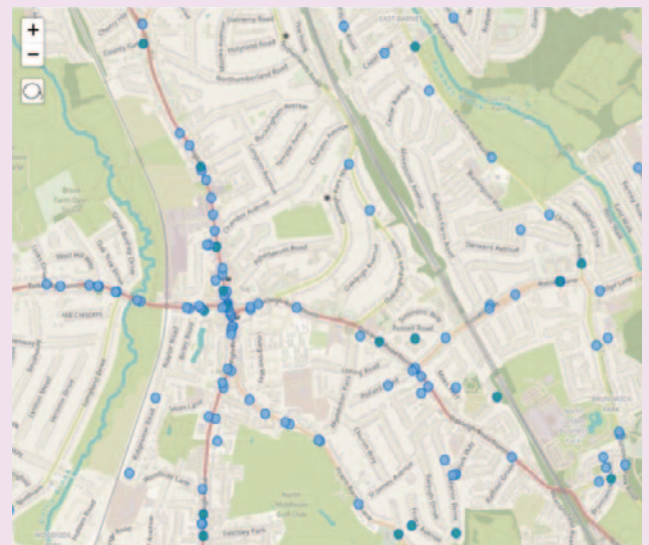


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## HOW SAFE IS YOUR ROAD?

Barnet Council's response to one of our Freedom of Information requests threw up a little gem for those with an enquiring mind – the TfL "Collision Map", which shows the locations of all road traffic accidents in London reported to the police since January 2017 where someone was injured or killed. The data is updated periodically and currently includes collisions up to September 2022.

The map is part of a suite of data relating to road safety published on the internet by TfL and the easiest way to find it is to search for "Road Safety Data – Transport for London" and you should find a page with that name amongst the top results. Then click on "Road Danger Reduction Dashboard" and this takes you to "Road Safety Data Reports" – this section has 8 pages – go to page 4 which is the "Collision Map", select "Barnet" on the left hand side (to exclude other areas) and then zoom in until you can see the roads you are interested in. You can easily draw your own conclusions from the map – for example, most accidents in our area are classified as "minor"; thankfully there are few fatal accidents; most accidents occur on main roads, with concentrations at junctions; accidents close to schools are rare and seem mostly to occur in the evening; small motorcycles seem



to feature disproportionately (by the way, this isn't intended as a scientific analysis).

The image above shows accidents reported in part of Whetstone for the period August 2020 – August 2022. Note the concentration in the High Road around the junctions with Totteridge Lane and Oakleigh Road North and the "accident-free" status of many minor roads.

DT

## ASHURST/ BUXTED ROUNDABOUT – HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT SPRINGS INTO ACTION

In our Winter edition we reported on the badly faded road markings at the roundabout sited at the controversial junction of Ashurst Rd and Buxted Rd Friern Barnet N12 (see “Once more unto the Breach...”). We raised the question of why the markings had been allowed to deteriorate to that state - particularly as Council officers were looking at safety issues affecting those roads. Shortly before Christmas, with no change in the situation, we decided to do something about it. On 21 December we emailed Barnet’s Director of Highways and Transportation, Customer and Place, Mr Ian Edser, requesting that the



Before

badly decayed and faded markings should be repainted without delay. Within 20 minutes we had a reply “I have requested that the roundabout be investigated and actioned.” A few hours later we received a further email from one of Mr Edser’s colleagues – an inspection had been carried out and “I can confirm that a works order has been raised...” So, well done Mr Edser and the Highways Department.

The Council’s contractors who were to do the repainting were left to programme the work, which was carried out on 3rd March. DT



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## ASHURST/ BUXTED TRAFFIC SCHEME - UPDATE - AND NO LTNS PLANNED IN BARNET

Also in our Winter edition we reported concerns as to Council proposals for a traffic scheme focussed on Ashurst and Buxted Roads. By way of update, last month we had a meeting with a member of the Highways Department. This was most constructive and the following emerged -

- In relation to Ashurst/Buxted, surveys had disclosed some speeding and the Council are looking at introducing 20mph speed restrictions and installing more pedestrian refuges on the roads (which have the effect of slowing traffic, although it isn’t their primary purpose). The intention is to make the traffic flow safer, not to re-

route it. There are no plans to restrict routes and there are no plans to install cameras to police the speed limit. Residents living in the affected roads will be consulted;

- There are similar plans for Torrington Park and Friary Road;
- There are no plans to create “Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) in the Borough; and
- Last year responsibility for road safety issues (but not other schemes such as route restrictions) was passed from Councillors to the Director of Highways and other Council officers (delegated powers) - good - we hope this speeds up decision making. DT

## TACKLING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY – EV charging

For the owner of an electric vehicle (EV) whose home does not have a driveway, recharging the EV's battery can be problematic, and running cables across a pavement is potentially hazardous for pedestrians.

Barnet Council is pursuing two programmes to provide hundreds of new public on-street charging points across the Borough. Most of the cost is being met by central government grants. One of the chosen locations is Glenthorne Road in Friern Barnet – a narrow road lined with terraced houses, very few of which have off-street parking. In March contractors (Trojan Energy) were busy installing 15 charging points located in the pavements and



powered from street-side cabinets located up to 100 metres away. The charging points are designed to lie flush with the pavement surface so as to be less of a risk for pedestrians. The charging points won't be subject to special parking restrictions so it is hoped there won't be any adverse impact on current parking arrangements- and Glenthorne is a road where parking occupancy at night is 100%.

Our pictures show work well under way. The points are spread out so a large length of the pavement is affected.

This is the only location being installed by Trojan in the FBWRA area. The nearest other sites are in Brunswick Park (Brunswick Crescent) and East Barnet (Jackson Road).

Whether the Council's forward thinking on this will be matched by necessary increases in generation and power distribution capacity remains to be seen.

DT

## COMMITTEE NEWS

### Another new Committee member

We continue to strengthen the FBWRA Committee. We are pleased to be able to tell you that in the New Year Graham Kantorowicz accepted our invitation to become a member. Graham has been a member of FBWRA for about five years, and describes himself as "very much a North Londoner", having grown up in Muswell Hill and lived in Friern Barnet for most of his adult life. Having retired from the brewing industry in 2015 Graham keeps active with a number of voluntary roles including rugby refereeing and acting as a trustee of the Tottenham Grammar School Foundation, a Haringey based charity.

### Effective communicator needed - Could it be you?

Are you a good communicator? If so, then we need your help!

The Newsletter has been the main way we communicate with our members for many years and will continue but those joining now are using our website and expect to find us on such places as Facebook, Instagram & TikTok. We need someone to help be the bridge between the Association and the world of multimedia. Training can be provided.

If you are interested, or know someone who might be please contact Tim Smedley at [FBWRA@btInternet.com](mailto:FBWRA@btInternet.com) or 07782 357 345.



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## Members Summer Splash 2023 Sunday, 20 August between 3 and 5pm

In the garden at the rear of  
St Mary Magdalen Church,  
Athenaeum Road,  
Whetstone N20

further details will be given  
nearer the date

### Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents' Association.

- We are non-political
- We work for all residents in the area
- We discuss issues with Local Councillors and Council Officials
- We are associated with the following bodies:
  - The Federation of Residents' Associations in Barnet
  - The London Green Belt Council
  - The Finchley Society
  - Love Whetstone
  - Friends of Friary Park
  - Open Spaces Society
  - The Friern Barnet & District Local History Society