

Report of the Environment and Transport Committee

The Pedestrian Environment continues to be an important part of our programme and unfortunately this is likely to be the case for many years to come, although we have had some success with overhanging hedges. We have also found that it is quicker to report problems such as potholes and broken paving to Barnet Council www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/report-a-problem, which takes you direct to the relevant page on their website, rather than going through other organisations. Another concern has been the registration of footpaths and alleyways as these must be recorded on Barnet's maps before a certain date and although somewhat ahead, time flies, so it is necessary to get recording.

Two of our members spent a considerable amount of time preparing a response to Barnet Council Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, but months later we are still waiting for a reply. We liaise with the Planning Committee on some cases and we are particularly pleased that after 3 planning refusals the owners of Brookdene in Holden Road have submitted plans that exclude the open space behind the site that is a green oasis by the Dollis Brook.

With help from Chris Church of Mapping for Change we placed 20 small glass tubes around Finchley to check on the nitrogen dioxide levels, and generally these gave reasonable results. The two exceptions were where traffic was waiting for the lights to change. The suggestion is that traffic should turn their engines off at such situations as many of the latest vehicles do automatically.

The 50th anniversary of the recognition and listing of Conservation Areas will be celebrated on 17th June 2017. As Barnet are about to update their list of Buildings of Local Interest we are checking our own list.

To show our appreciation of anything that has been done which improves the appearance of Finchley and Friern Barnet and is valued by the public, we have initiated an Environment Aware Certificate and the first recipients were The Northway Gardens Organisation for reviving and maintaining the rose garden.

We are pleased to welcome Peter Hale as our new chairman of the committee.

Derek Warren