THE NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE WARNER ESTATE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION APRIL 2003

RESIDE

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ARE THE NEW BUS LANES BAD NEWS?



The idea behind the introduction of bus lanes is a simple one...clear part of the road of cars and the buses will get through more quickly, which will encourage drivers to get out of their cars and use public transport. Most sensible citizens will agree with that laudable ideal. However, what happens when the bus lane only runs for about a mile and involves removing cars onto the pavement to make way for the buses using the lane. And what happens when the road is now double the width on one side and half its width on the other side, yet the buses continue to run in both directions?

One side becomes a fast track for speedsters, with its added width and in the absence of a bus in the bus lane; the other side is too narrow to allow stationary buses to be overtaken by impatient drivers...Result? Face to face (or rather bonnet to bonnet) confrontations between the speedsters and the overtakers, with possibly dire consequences for nearby pedestrians and other drivers.

And what about those local folk who wish to stretch their legs down to the local shops or even to catch a bus...now obliged to dodging parked cars on pavements; and having battled their way through to the kerbside, being faced with a road which has cars and buses using this main thoroughfare in an inconsistent and dangerous



fashion.

Planning gone mad or what. We say that the bus lane is of marginal if any benefit, has made the road "unbalanced" and if the concern is speeding, introduce cameras, which will solve the problem in the blink of an eye.

Residents who are worried about excessive speeds may consider adopting a scheme featured in a recent copy of the *Sunday Times.* Apparently some local pressure groups have been borrowing speed radar guns from their police force, and while they are unable to make arrests themselves, can pass the information on to the police for action. Ring your street representative if you are interested.



WHAT DO YOU SAY?

RESIDENTS' PLANNING VICTORY

As most of you will know, the planning application to build eight houses in land between Priory Road/Priory Avenue/Clovelly Road and Linzee Road, was rejected by the Haringey Planning Department. One of the developers/architects was present at the meeting and he looked very unhappy at the verdict. Another application has arrived and quite possibly the marvellous campaign organised by the residents may have to go into action once again. More news on this as soon as we hear from Haringey Planning Department.



We must all be vigilant. There are other small pockets of land being eyed up by developers. If these developers succeed in building cramped little houses, they will leave residents to pick up the bill for new schools, doctors surgeries and extra transport.

WITH EACH ISSUE OF OUR NEWSLETTER WE INCLUDE AN INTERVIEW WITH SOMEONE WHO LIVES OR WORKS CLOSE TO US ALL AND WHO AFFECTS OUR LIVES. IN THIS ISSUE JEFF PROBST MEETS VINAY MEHTA, OUR LOCAL PHARMACIST

WE INTERVIEW VINAY MEHTA

For the past 14 years, Vinay Mehta has been our local pharmacist. He dispenses his wares, prescriptions and advice from Coral Pharmacy in the parade at Park and Priory Roads.

Vinay, who is 41 and emigrated to the UK from Uganda in 1972, lives in Edgware. He qualified as a pharmacist at Liverpool University in 1983 and worked as a locum and managed various pharmacies in London until he opened up Coral Pharmacy in 1989.

"There was a pharmacy here for fifty or sixty years before me," he says, and he hopes he can continue as our pharmacist for many more years.

But with the leases on the parade all due for renewal this year, the future of the pharmacy and the local businesses won't be clear for some months.

Vinay says: "I feel that if all the businesses get together and negotiate the rent, at least we can say, 'This is what we want to pay.'

"I definitely would like to stay. I've been here long enough and people know me. You do need a pharmacist in the area. There are so many elderly people around here and I can't see them going to Muswell Hill and Crouch End for their prescriptions."

Vinay recently instituted a delivery service; he and his staff often take residents' prescriptions to them.

He would also like the pharmacy to include homeopathy, chiropody and massage.

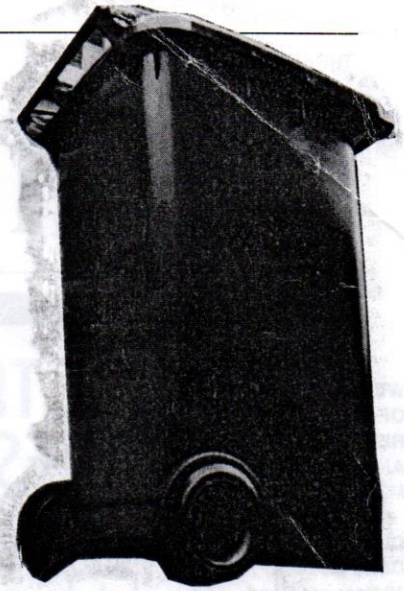
"They complement a pharmacy," he says, but he can't be definite about expanding the premises until he knows what the rent is going to be.

Vinay insists, though, that the future of the pharmacy and the parade depends on the residents.

"I would appreciate it if people would support us more," he says. "There is a risk of losing us. I'd hate to leave."



JEFF PROBST



JEFF PROBST

THEY'RE HERE

They are ugly, remind us of Dr Who's Daleks, were resisted by us for as long as we could, but they are here! *Wheelie Bins*. Actually now they are here I don't mind them. No longer does our cellar fill up with bin bags, filling our house with unwelcome aromas. But our local foxes and squirrels may start to become agressive now they are deprived of their food supply! Colin Brewster

BANK WITHDRAWS FROM PRIORY ROAD SHOPS

Sadly the HSBC Bank on Priory Road closed its doors on 28 February. Other shops in the parade were worried enough to recently set up a public meeting to discuss their future. It would be a devastating blow to the area if our shops were to close. It gives a very bad impression if shops are empty and covered in horrible 'fly posters'.

The other sad news is that the postmaster in the Park Road post office had a heart attack recently. The future for this post office may be doubtful. If you get the chance, sign the petition to retain a Post Office here because with the closure of the Bank our shopping parade needs to keep all its "must visit" shops. There may be more news at our AGM.

EARLY WARNING ALERT
Our next AGM will take place at the Moravian Hall Priory Road at 8pm Thursday 3rd July.
See you all there

If you are interested in local bus services and would like to be involved with a group who arrange bus frequency surveys and discuss related topics contact Chris Barker @BUS WATCH. Chris's telephone number is 020 8347 7684