

Fox Lane & District Residents' Association

Website: <https://foxlane.net>

23rd May

Dear Resident

As we start another Bank Holiday which promises more dry weather for us to enjoy, we are sending a few more updates. We begin with a small request on membership. Then local businesses, some important updates on our FLdra priorities and finally a number of pieces of information passed onto us by our local councillors

Membership

As all our members know our annual subscription is just £5. We do encourage you to pass our newsletters onto your friends – this link will take you to a copy on our website – which to you can put in your What's App group or other social media. But we also ask that you encourage those who are not yet members to sign up and join. The more we are the more effective we can be. [Link](#) to membership page

Enjoying the Bank Holiday at Home

Whilst we may not be able to eat out yet, our local restaurant and food scene is as vibrant as ever. And though locked down it is the envy of many of our friends at home and abroad. My niece in Italy has one local pizzeria – yet we can dine from China, India, Greece, Turkey, Persia, Bulgaria and the Seaside (to name but a few). Just now most restaurants and many cafes are now open for collections and deliveries. Some have reopened just this week, including Dipali, Aksular and The Little Green Dragon pub (take out draft ales etc). So enjoy your weekend and enjoy a meal in – the new eating out.

[Click here](#) for full list.

The end of Southgate Green Primary School

Last summer combined efforts managed to keep our local primary provision, Southgate Green, open with another year's admission to Reception in September 2020. However this time we have all failed. There will be no reception class in 2021 or ever again; the provision will be lost for good. Enfield Learning Trust which manages Southgate Green wrote to parents on 28th April 2020 saying that there was no prospect of long term security of provision on the site and so 'we regret that we can therefore no longer admit children to Bowes Southgate Green from September 2021'. FLDR raised this immediately with Enfield Council and in reply Cllr Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Children's Service, confirms in his letter of 14th May 2020 that the provision will cease.

The key issues remain unchanged:

1. Pupil numbers

There has been a 'bulge' of children into primary schooling in London and more places were set up (including Southgate Green as an annex of Bowes Primary School and a new build for Garfield Primary to take a higher intake). The numbers have turned out to be lower than forecast – there are lots of empty places in Edmonton – and are now forecast to drift downwards further. The DfE see no argument for building further provision.

2. A suitable site

There is no obvious suitable site for a new primary school in the area of need, the 'black hole' between Aldermans Hill and Bourne Hill. Enquiries about land close to Grovelands Park hit major barriers as a permanent site and the Southgate Green overflow class on the Broomfield School site was always seen as temporary, but then with nowhere to move to. Meantime the 'bulge' is reaching secondary schools and Broomfield is sure it will need all of its own site to accommodate the rising numbers.

3. Money

Specifically capital funding - the up to £10 million needed to acquire a site and build a complete new school. A long term rehab of part of the Broomfield site would cost less but still be expensive. No one has that sort of money and the advent of COVID-19 makes the situation even worse.

A fourth contributory factor has been school governance and control. Enfield Learning Trust is a multi academy trust completely outside the reach of the local authority (Southgate Green was established in close partnership with the council before the Trust was set up). Broomfield School is a Foundation School, a status dating back to 1998 that gives them full ownership and control of their site. The council itself is not allowed to open a new school, only the DfE can make that happen by approving a free school academy, though it does have a legal requirement to provide a place for every child.

FLDRA has mapped the local primary school provision for a number of years now. We have watched local catchment areas fluctuate year on year but always with a trajectory to shrinking, and always with a large space (from Conway Road/St Georges Road down to Old Park Road/Caversham Avenue and the railway line) which is outside the catchments of all the local community primary schools.

Alternatives for parents of young children include:

Bowes: the Trust has committed to taking all siblings from Southgate Green families. This year 2020 siblings take up 50% of the places at Bowes and that will increase when the school drops to 2FE (60 places) taking siblings from what has been a 3FE intake. This is an option for siblings of current SG pupils but not for anyone else. Provision would be in the main Bowes building across the North Circular.

Hazlewood, Highfield, Walker: almost certainly outside their catchment areas but you never know. Pupil movement in and out – mobility – means places do come up mid year for the child highest on the waiting list, ie proximity. Ashmole Primary is extremely popular, has a tiny catchment area, and will not be

accessible.

Garfield: beyond Arnos Grove station a mile or more away. Has space now but expected to fill up with new developments locally within a few years: for example Montmorency Park and the Arnos Grove station car park plans.

West Grove: in Chase Road, also a mile away. Most West Grove pupils who live near the school then transfer to Southgate secondary but from the FLDR area you will probably be outside the Southgate catchment, go onto a waiting list, and your child will lose their friends.

A church school: St Pauls CofE near Winchmore Hill station or St Andrews Southgate CofE close to Southgate Circus. St Monicas Catholic Primary in Cannon Road, actually within the FLDR area but centring its catchment on the church front door on Green Lanes. All these schools are popular and give priority to families who can demonstrate faith commitment by regular church attendance over a decent period of time.

- [Letter](#) – from Enfield Learning Trust
- [Letter](#) from FLDR
- [Map](#) Primary school catchments
- [Letter](#) from Cllr Rick Jewell

Residents must be told the truth about emissions from the new Enfield incinerator

The North London Waste Authority, which is run by 14 councillors representing Enfield and six other North London boroughs, is refusing to allow an independent assessment of the likely impact of the incinerator's emissions of carbon dioxide and polluting substances on our environment, or a review of the need for such a huge new incinerator, or any greener alternatives. In light of the Climate Emergency and new information suggesting, for example, that air pollution may contribute to COVID-19 deaths, our Association (FLDR) believes that such an independent review is necessary and urgent before any more work is carried out in preparation for the mammoth £1.2 billion project paid for by taxpayers.

FLDR calls on Enfield Councillors to ensure transparency and

accountability. Are there independent sources that confirm that the plan, which started more than a decade ago, is consistent with today's policies in response to the climate and pollution crises, and with rapidly changing scientific and technical knowledge? Does the size of the proposed plant reflect future trends in recycling and waste reduction? If the answer is not a clear Yes, there is a risk that the project will go ahead simply because it was approved some years back or because it is difficult to stop it. The road of least resistance is not always a good road.

Environmental groups have produced precise and persuasive data that challenges the claim by the NLWA that the project represents a low risk and show that the figures published by the NLWA do not give a full and clear picture. FLDRA will post a selection of recent statements and briefings on its website. For general information on the dangers of incinerators, readers may want to refer to "Dirty Truths: Incineration and Climate Change", a briefing by Friends of the Earth available on its website.

It is not disputed that the amount of waste to be burned in the new Edmonton plant will emit up to 700,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year. The NLWA does not deny this, but it claims that the net emissions will be only 28,000 tonnes. This figure is reached by offsetting estimated "carbon savings" from landfill (making the assumption that large-scale landfill is still the only alternative to burning waste) and other aspects of the operation. Whether one accepts the logic of these "discounts" or not, should the public not be told the true likely volume of greenhouse and polluting emissions that will flow from the plant?

The case for such a big plant is also very unclear. The plant is designed to deal with 700,000 tons of non-recyclable waste per year, but the 7 Boroughs currently produce considerably less and the figures keep going down. If recycling continues to improve, as it should, the case for the plant is highly debatable. It was originally intended to process domestic waste from the 7 participating Councils, but recently it has been extended to receive commercial waste and waste from a much wider 50 miles radius. Is this necessary, considering that existing incinerators have spare capacity?

The comment is often made "but the waste has to go somewhere". The existing Edmonton incinerator can be operational until 2027. It needs to be replaced, but there is time to ensure that the replacement protects us and our planet as much

as possible.

Scams – Stay Alert

Everyone of us has been targeted by scammers recently. They sound more and more convincing. But then something does not sound right. So we put down the phone or delete the email or decide not to respond to a text. So do discuss them with your friends and make them aware if you have come across a new one. [Link](#)

Other useful updates

- **Message from Enfield Council's Leader**, Cllr Nesil Caliskan - [Link](#)
- **Healthwatch Enfield** survey - Tell us the impact Coronavirus has had on your well-being - [Link](#)
- **Alcoholics Anonymous** recovery during Covid 19 - a note from the Public information officer in North London - [Link](#)
- **Balloon4Eid' campaign** - We are all encouraged to blow up a balloon on Saturday 23 May, as a clear sign of Defiance, against Covid-19 as it attacks our lungs; then celebrate it with neighbour, [Press release](#)
- **Broomfield Virtual Flower show** - Celebrate our local gardener's world by posting your plant photos and videos on the Friends of Broomfield Park Facebook page. [Link](#)
- **Chickenshed** goes virtual - Award winning theatre for everyone and 'Tales from TV' for young children, 0-6 years. [Link](#)
- **Information from Southgate District Civic Trust** . Civic Voice, In Conversation with events..... Register to attend - Conversations with people with a background or interest in planning, design, architecture etc. - [Link](#)
- **Police** (Winchmore Hill) [Newsletter](#) for May 2020
- **Talkies Community Cinema** - [link](#)

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