



What would you do? Stanley Road playing fields photo by Kim George

Picture This

By Martin Earl

What would be your first priority if you had money to improve facilities in East Finchley? This is exactly the question that faces the new Community Development Trust. The trust is being set up to bring money into East Finchley for local projects. At the recent community festival it asked for ideas and received a large variety. Here they are:

“Public loos in the High Street”, was the most common cry, followed closely by, “doing something to get rid of graffiti”. Transport issues of all sorts, such as: better bus routes, cycle lanes, a new tube station at the NCR – were also prominent – though most would probably be better dealt with by the Local Agenda 21 Traffic and Transport group.

Could something be done about the disused launderette in Chapel Court? Could a garden centre with café be placed on the piece of land at the South West corner of the NCR and High Road which Transport for London is currently selling? Could the derelict house in Cherry Tree Woods be developed for exhibitions and teaching art? Could the café there be improved? Could there be a children’s play area for older and younger children.

Bring the bottle banks back to outside Budgens. Improve the flowers there. Get the bins off the pavements. Move the

advertising “obelisks”.

More Beer

Allow every restaurant a licence to sell alcohol – there are only a limited number available for the area apparently. Shops should invest more in their premises. We want a pub with reasonable prices. The Credit Union should have a High Street presence.

The idea of “a brothel or two” is unlikely to be taken seriously, but why not illuminate the Archer at the station?

“Obviously, not all suggestions are appropriate for a community development trust”, says Roger Chapman, chair of the steering committee, “but at this early stage we want to gather as many as possible. For example, we are looking at whether the CDT could help bring back into use the Stanley Road Playing Fields” - see picture.

To say what you think write to the CDT by using the coupon. *THE ARCHER* will report back on the results.

The facilities I would like to see developed in East Finchley are:

Please complete if you would like to be kept informed of the CDT's progress

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Return to: Martin O'Donnell, CDT,
Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale,
London, N2 9BA. Tel: 8883 4916.

A Good Neighbour

By Diana Cormack

Liz Santry and Sylvia Mannering have been next-door neighbours in Eastern Road, N2 for twenty-five years. As usual, when she went on holiday, Liz left her keys with Sylvia knowing that she could trust her neighbour to keep an eye on things.

But it was Sylvia's ears, which alerted her to the fact that something was amiss. At around 2.40 am she woke up and was puzzled to hear rummaging noises next door, so she went downstairs then out into her garden to take a look over there. As all was dark and silent, Sylvia went back to bed.

However, her sharp ears could still detect muffled sounds, so Sylvia put one to the wall and was then certain that somebody was in her neighbour's house. Again she went down to check, but not from the safety of her own property this time. Bravely she went to Liz's gate to have a look. Suddenly Sylvia saw a light flash in the bedroom upstairs and then she noticed that the front window downstairs had been opened.

Bang to rights

Her subsequent 999 call brought a rapid response in the form of four police cars. The burglar was captured in the back garden as he tried to make his escape. It was his third burglary in Eastern Road, in addition to several others in East Finchley.

Sylvia managed to contact Liz before her return the following day and Liz contacted *THE ARCHER*, so proud was she of her neighbour's exploits. When



Sylvia Mannering photo by Femke van Iperen

asked for a comment on the situation Sylvia simply replied, “I don't frighten easily”!

If you have a good neighbour you would like to tell the rest

of East Finchley about, let *THE ARCHER* know.

Building block

By Helen Day

“Yes!” is what one resident of Leslie Road cheered when they heard the news that the development at 201 High Road had been refused by Barnet Council.

At a planning committee in June the outlook did not look good, but a decision was deferred whilst at site visit was made. This went ahead on 2 July: two councillors and a member of the planning department met residents and heard their complaints and saw the site for themselves.

Just say no

At the planning meeting on 3 July all aspects were discussed again. Although the planning department had recommended approval the councillors unanimously refused, for the following reasons: out of keeping with the surrounding buildings, out of alignment

with the other properties that face the High Road and too large a building for the site. These are the reasons that the resident who attended the meeting remembers; the protesters are still awaiting the official reasons from Barnet council.

However this story will run on as the developer was very disappointed with the result and is sure to produce further plans that he thinks maybe more suitable for the site, so watch this space.

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