

THE ARCHER



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Waitrose in the wings?

By Diana Cormack

Two months ago *THE ARCHER* reported on a rumour that was rife among residents and businesses adjacent to Cherry Tree Wood. This linked the leasing of the pavilion in the park to Waitrose Stores with the idea that Waitrose wanted to set up a supermarket on the site of Park House, which is the building closest to the park entrance opposite East Finchley tube station. At present it houses part of Barnet's Directorate of Community Services, dealing with the elderly and disabled.

Empty Assurances?

At that time, Barnet Parks and Countryside Department assured the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood that there was no connection between the futures of Park House, Waitrose supermarket or the Cherry Tree Wood pavilion. In addition, Customer Services at Waitrose Head Office told *THE ARCHER* that there were no plans at all for this area at the moment and that it would generally take two years to develop a site.

Yet *THE ARCHER* can reveal that proposed plans, which indicate Waitrose's interest in Park House, are in circulation. Granted, they do not appear to have anything to do with the development of the pavilion, but they certainly underline the old adage "There's no smoke without fire".

Local MP's update

At the end of October Dr Rudi Vis, MP for Finchley and Golders Green, told the AGM of the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood that he had seen two such plans in the previous two weeks. These indicate that it is not only Park House that is of interest but also the entire row

of shops and offices adjoining the GLC minicab business, right up to Baronsmere Road. Both plans include a store and a car park.

While there are many local people who welcome such a development, the effect on some businesses in the High Road could be highly detrimental, not to mention those trading or living in the premises directly concerned. It may also cause some increase in traffic. Let *THE ARCHER* know what you think!

Local involvement important

According to East Finchley councillor Alison Moore, the supermarket chain has been looking around for potential sites all over north London but, at the time of writing, Barnet had not received any formal planning application. Dr Vis has advised that the plans are informal and are being circulated among "certain councillors". It is thought that Budgens will remain, but Rudi Vis feels it is important for all affected people and businesses to become involved.



Mary Bolyan and Eugenie von Piccardio with Alex Ferns of *EastEnders*. Photo by Femke van Iperen

Tenth Anniversary

By Diana Cormack

Congratulations to the volunteer workers at the North London Hospice Shop, 123 High Road on ten years of raising money for a much-needed cause. Set up in East Finchley by Ros and "Mac" Mc Kenny, more than £880,000 has been made in that time. Pauline Treen, main fund raising organiser for the charity, said that of the hospice's total needs 22% come from their shops.

Star guests at the Saturday morning celebrations were Carolyn Pickles of Bedford Road (and *Brookside*) a long-term hospice supporter, and Alex Ferns (Trevor in *EastEnders*) who is a bereavement volunteer at the North London Hospice. Managers Mary Bolyan and Eugenie von Piccardio and their hard working helpers received much deserved praise for all their efforts.

However, the shop really needs more volunteers for any time you can manage. For whatever time you can offer, please phone the shop on 8883 6493.


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