



Bald Faced Stag - Partial Victory

By Daphne Chamberlain

Why was the Bald Faced Stag's application for extended hours and an entertainments licence advertised in The Edgware and Mill Hill Press, but not in THE ARCHER?

Punch Taverns were asking for an all-week music and dancing licence, with opening hours on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays extended until 11.30pm. When an Appeals Committee considered the application on 28 June, residents of Stokes and Diploma Courts and the High Road protested that they had consistently received information much too late. Some people had learned of the Appeals hearing only two days before.

They were furious that past complaints to police and environmental departments about noise, health hazards and damage around their homes had apparently been disregarded or not reported when Council officers had recommended granting the application.

Punch Taverns plan to convert the pub into one of their "Qs" chain, with music, dancing and a pool table area in a new extension.

Conditions of planning consent for the extension are that the pub can not be used after 11.30 pm, no members of the public will be admitted after 10.30pm, and that an automatic sound-limiting system will operate within agreed decibel levels.

"Decibel levels won't necessarily stop bass vibrations," replied one local resident.

"If they don't have doors, how can they stop people coming in after 10.30?" said another. In response, Punch Taverns were told that the doors must be supervised.

The Committee also cut back Sunday opening hours to 10.30pm. The licence will be reviewed after six months. The onus is on Punch Taverns to run a good house when the pub re-opens at the end of September, but residents said, "They can't control what goes on in our grounds, and that's bad enough already."

Cinema Scope

By Sippy Azizollah

This week, I have been approached by two people about the disabled facility at the Finchley Warner complex, N12. Both of these are more than happy with the access by lift up to the cinemas, but once inside, the seating for the disabled is situated in the block of seats at the front of each cinema. Why?

Just because we are classified disabled, it doesn't mean that we are unable to choose where we'd like to sit.

One complaint received was from a close friend of a wheelchair user, who had gone to the Finchley Warner hoping they would be able to sit together. However, they ended up sitting in separate areas as the wheelchair was unable to be placed in the upper tier

because of the stairs

It seems logical that when this complex was built, a ramp could have been installed on one side of the upper tier, giving everyone the choice of a place to sit. Did the designer assume that all disabled people were hard of hearing and visually impaired? I guarantee this is not true. Not just able-bodied cinema goers like to sit in the back rows, we do too!

East Finchley Baptist Church

just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2
Sundays at 11.00 am and 6.30 pm
for more information contact 8446 3571
Visitors always welcome

Special Notice

Log on & Listen in to

City Voice Internet Radio

<http://www.cityvoice.cjb.net>

Every Sunday at 11:45am

Rev Jim Patterson will present his message live from the Finchley Elim Pentecostal Church, Salvation Army Hall, Hertford Road, East Finchley, N2.

Our Sunday morning Family service with facilities for children starts at 11:00am ~ Visitors will always be welcome



The Natural Choice

By Daphne Chamberlain

"I'm very pleased to see a health food shop in East Finchley again. We've been too long without one."



Zena with customers Isabel Turner (a vegan) and her daughter Tammy Hepstead. Photo by Daphne Chamberlain

That was a typical comment from shoppers visiting The Natural Choice. Owner Zena Davidian, who lives locally, reports an encouraging interest, with the launch on 7 June "packed out".

Zena and her mother, Helen, a tutor at Barnet College, stress that the shop is not in competition with local chemists. "We don't want to cut anyone's throat. We want East Finchley to be a thriving shopping centre, catering for everyone."

So, for example, Natural Choice aims to provide vitamin and mineral supplements which are not in the standard basic range.

Similarly, Zena says she will cater for customers on special diets, including vegans. You can order a dairy-free cappuccino at the café-bar, or a lunch or dinner prepared for

your own requirements. So far, there has been a significant demand for gluten-free food.

The shop will also offer an allergy-testing service, which is already fully booked for the immediate future.

As you would expect, there is an emphasis on organic food. Zena would like the stock to be all organic, eventually. She told *THE ARCHER* that she is committed to providing what people want, and is ready to help customers with individual enquiries.

The Natural Choice is at 105 High Road. Tel: 020 8365 2020.

Net Result

If you use detergent tablets in your washing machine, you may sometimes wonder what you can do with the little net bags that come with each pack. After all, you only need one!

A lady in Lancashire uses them to pack small gifts which she sends to third world countries. So you could send your unwanted bags to: - Mrs J Jones, 73 Maplewood Drive, Thornton, Cleveleys, Lancs. FY5 1PW.

Solicitor Required

Setting up a community development trust for East Finchley may sound like a good idea, but after the idea comes the technical bit - how do you do it? According to those at the last steering meeting the best way is to form a company with charitable status. At which point the shout is heard, "Help! Is there a solicitor in the house?" If you are a solicitor working or living in East Finchley - or near-by - and could offer some free advice to a worthwhile community enterprise, the community trust steering group would like to hear from you. Please phone 8883 4916 and ask for Martin O'Donnell.

Anyone interested in the project is more than welcome to attend the group's meetings that take place regularly at the Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale - phone 8883 4916 for details.

East Finchley - An area of deprivation?

By Diana Cormack

Barnet Council has unveiled a five-year plan of action to make the borough second to none for sport and physical activity. Sport and health facilities will be developed and provided in a planned and coordinated way to encourage the whole community to get involved and ensure equal access for everyone. The economic profile of the borough shows areas of deprivation and some wards, which will be targeted, have been designated as priority areas by Sport England. One of these is East Finchley.

Athletic Support

Central to the success of the strategy is to get the most out of the council's own facilities and to plug the gaps in provision in different parts of the borough. School facilities, especially swimming pools, will be investigated with a view to opening these up to a wider public. There will be support for sport education at all levels through schools, colleges, the Youth Service and adult education centres. The council intends to appoint a school sports co-ordinator and also wants to encourage people to take part and train as volunteers in the project. Also planned is a complete audit of all pitches and playing grounds, better targeting of subsidies for priority groups and an extension of the Fitness for Life scheme.

Basketball Court?

Barnet Council are proposing to put a basketball court on one of the three tennis courts in Cherry Tree Wood and have asked for comments from the public. The courts are due to be re-surfaced, which is when the basketball court will be put in place. It will be possible to revert to a tennis court if and when necessary.