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Local News Is Our Aim

THE ARCHER



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Barnet battle lost

by David Hobbs

Barnet Council has lost its appeal over the development of 43 retirement flats on the old Texaco garage site in the High Road. As a result the developers, McCarthy and Stone, will now be able to build the flats without including any affordable housing.

The decision of the Court of Appeal ends a long running battle over the site which began when the council refused to grant McCarthy and Stone planning permission. The developers successfully appealed to the government Planning Inspector who accepted their claim that including affordable housing would render the development unprofitable. Barnet then appealed to the High Court and won only for the developers to take the case to the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal

overturned the High Court decision and so the inspector's decision to grant planning permission stands.

Need for houses

Although the council is committed to ensuring that affordable housing is included in all developments it now accepts that this particular battle has been lost. The council says that it has no regrets about pursuing the case and will continue to stress the need for developers to include affordable housing in their plans.



Stars on the Stairs

Photo by Ian Cormack

The revamped Phoenix was packed for its star-studded reopening benefit gala. Taking a good look round at the transformed foyer are Michael Palin, Maureen Lipman, Tom Wilkinson, Victoria Wood with Mike Cohen, chair of the cinema's board. Comedian Sean Hughes was also there. See next month's *ARCHER* for the full story.

Check out the new Phoenix website on www.phoenixcinema.co.uk



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Pigeon Corner - have your say

See page 6 for the proposals and your chance to vote.

News 24

by David Hobbs

Barnet Council has launched a new generation of interactive kiosks providing 24 hour access to local news and events, transport information and free e-mail.

The kiosks have been developed in conjunction with JCDcaux as part of Barnet's commitment to provide greater access to services.

At the moment the kiosks have been placed in High Barnet, Station Road, Edgware and High Road, North Finchley, but the Council say that they will be opening more of them later this year.

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