



Haringey Councillors write:

We have received many letters from local residents concerned about the Waitrose development at East Finchley and we are sure that there are many residents who have not yet contacted us but want to know what is going on.

It is clear that any development so close to the Haringey border will have implications for nearby Haringey residents, and as such we can promise you that we want to make sure that the views of Haringey people are fed into the process – it's time for joined up local Government!

We are also aware that people on the Haringey side are both for and against this development, and we think the important thing for the moment is to ensure that as much information as possible is given to people who will be affected. To this end, we have written to Barnet to request that Haringey residents are a formal part of the consultation process.

Barnet has actually not yet received a formal application for development. As the development is in Barnet, it is Barnet that will have the final say. However, Haringey will be formally consulted – and we've asked our planners that the Haringey response be brought up to a political level (rather than being done under delegated powers by the officers).

We hope this update is helpful to those concerned; we will keep you posted as more information becomes available.

Councillor Stephen Gilbert, Councillor Barbara Fabian and Councillor Matt Davies, Fortis Green Liberal Democrats.

'Warning On Waitrose' Update

By Diana Cormack

At the time of writing no planning application has been received by Barnet Council for the construction of a 20,000 square foot Waitrose supermarket, which would extend from the borders of Cherry Tree Wood up to Baronsmere Road.

The property developers, Kiafield, are said to be ready to go with their application at any time but the topic was not on the agenda for discussion by the Cabinet in March.

WOW are not sure whether this results from ongoing Compulsory Purchase Order concerns within the council or to letters sent in by local objectors to the proposals. Either way, WOW believes that this written pressure needs to be kept up so that councillors are aware of the scale of the opposition when they do eventually discuss it. This could well be in April.

Keeping informed

With Barnet unwilling to enter into discussions until planning permission has been

sought, WOW organisers want to ensure that people maintain interest and are kept informed of any developments. Members of the protest group have distributed thousands of letters throughout East Finchley, outlining their objections and describing the possible effects of the scheme. Six shops in the High Road display current information (Plummers newsagents, Tony's Continental Stores, Chivers A1 Motors, Natural Choice, A. Scott & Sons Fishmongers and Mandara Italian Delicatessen).

Meanwhile WOW says it is continuing to make preparations for action to be taken if and when the proposed planning application is made.



Harley John and the mighty beast! Photo by John Dearing

Drag Racer

By John Dearing

John O'Sullivan, "Harley John" as he is affectionately known, has been competing in drag racing for many years.

John started in the Street Bike class, where the bikes are largely as purchased from the shop, with just a few permitted modifications. He rose to become National Champion in this class no less than five times, racing a Buell which is a motorcycle based upon a Harley Davidson engine.

Raw Power

Now he has decided to race in the Street Bike Modified class, which involves building a bike that is customised to a much

greater degree. Again it is based upon a Harley Davidson-Buell, but it has a longer and lower frame than before, with a huge rear tyre, and a 1400cc engine whose power is boosted by Nitrous Oxide Injection. Revving to 7000 rpm, he expects it to produce 150 horsepower. To manage all this power, he has an 'air-shift' gearbox, whose operation involves pressing a button, rather than moving a lever. He intends to cover the quarter mile in 10 seconds, with

a top speed of 140 mph.

John plans to start testing the bike in mid-April, and will definitely compete in the first meeting of the year, on 5 May at Avon Park. He is in talks with some potential sponsors, but says that he needs further financial help and would welcome sponsorship from local businesses. A group of supporters often travel to watch him race, and he says that Drag Racing is a great day out for all the family.

Could you Drive our Van?

The North London Hospice Shop urgently needs volunteers to drive their small collection van. This would be for one day a week to pick up books, clothes, bric-a-brac, etc. and does not require a special driving licence. For further details call into the shop at 123 High Road and speak to Eugenia the manageress.

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