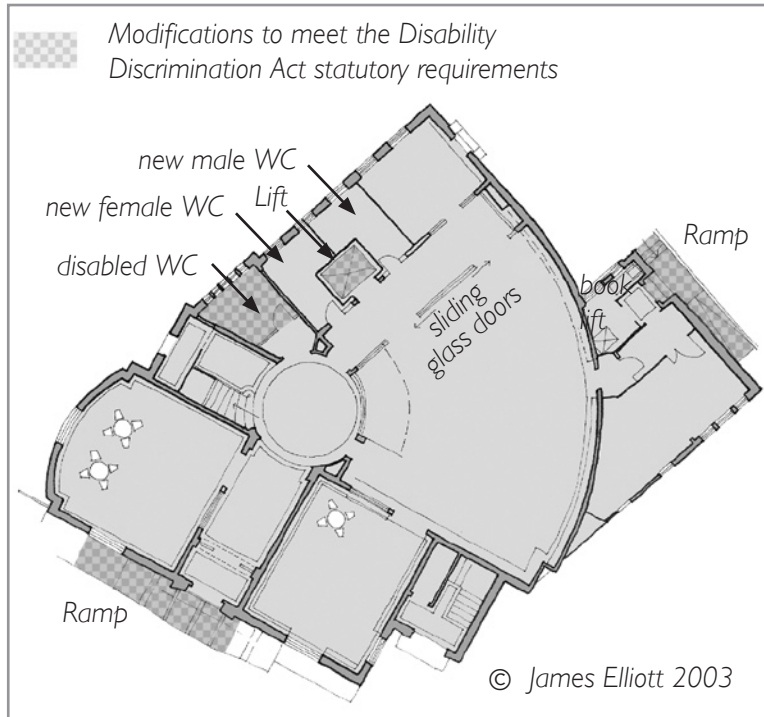
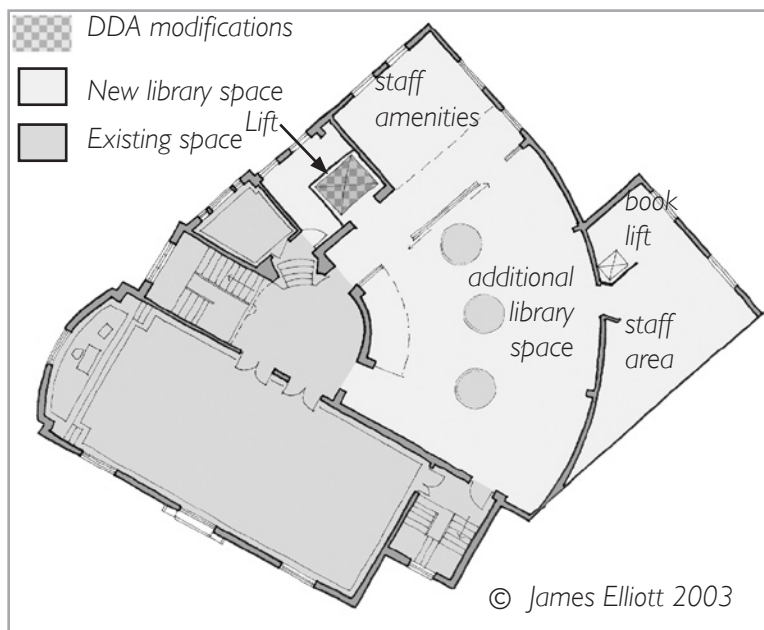




Front view of the library showing proposed extension taken from James Elliott's extension proposals



Ground floor plan of the library showing modifications to meet the Disability Discrimination Act, taken from the James Elliott proposals



First floor plan showing modifications for the Disability Discrimination Act and newly created library space, from the James Elliott proposals

# Proposals To Extend Library Rejected

Local architect, James Elliott, has drawn alternative plans for the future of East Finchley Library that provide for modernisation and enlargement of the existing building and facilities. This proposal goes well beyond the remedial works soon to be presented to residents as part of Barnet Council's consultation on the future of the Library. Mr Elliott claims that the costs would be easily covered by the proceeds derived from the sale of Park House at market value, which Barnet Council has already confirmed is planned to be disposed of.

Unfortunately these plans will not be included in the public consultation and so are reproduced here, in simplified form for your perusal.

Under Mr Elliott's proposal the ground floor of the existing library will remain broadly as it is, except for the provision of disabled access, upgraded public toilets, disabled toilets and a lift to the first floor.

A new first floor extension will increase the library space

by 40% and will add new staff amenities and a staff area. Finally a new roof, partly glazed, will provide natural light. The whole proposed development will, as can be seen from the photographs, be in keeping with the existing building's character although, in light of the recent Grade 2 listing (see page one) any such work would require the blessing of English Heritage in addition to other planning approvals.

Mr Elliott, having kindly allowed *THE ARCHER* to publish this extract preview, left, from his plans, will launch his full proposals in Maddens at 7.30pm on Tuesday 2 September, and they will be on display in Chorak from 3-10 September, and afterwards in Alan's Records.

*THE ARCHER* will, as always, be interested in your views on this controversial subject.

## Presidential Delight at Listing

Bill Tyler, President of the Finchley Society, has reviewed the plans for the East Finchley Library extension, created by James Elliott.

He told *THE ARCHER*, "I feel sure that the Society's planning committee will welcome this proposed extension. I am delighted that the library is

listed, because it is a distinctive building in East Finchley, and a modern intervention to extend the library can be done in sympathy with its new status.

It would ensure continued use of the library, rather than it becoming redundant—and consequently a building at risk."

## Consider Your Options Carefully

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Every household in East Finchley should receive a library questionnaire through the post. If you do not receive one, ring Tricia Little on 020 8359 7776. When you get one, consider your options carefully.**

Ms Little has told *THE ARCHER* that there will be only one vote per household, not one per resident. There might be space on the form to record that opinion is split, but she has been informed that only one vote will count. Only the votes recorded on questionnaire forms will be considered. In other words, letters or other expressions of opinion will not be considered.

### Doing Nothing?

The option of doing nothing apparently does not mean what it says. When *THE ARCHER* queried this, knowing that the building does not at present meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act, the reply was that various adjustments would be made to the ground floor.

### Refurbishment

When asked whether refurbishment would mean automatically implementing the Council plans on display, or whether other plans would be considered, Tricia Little could not comment. As reported elsewhere in this edition, the official line on enlarging the library is that it is not an option. The suggestion that it could be done by selling Park House met with "no comment".

### First at Last?

*THE ARCHER* has been told that a great many East Finchley residents have not received their August-September copies of Barnet First, which included a contact number to ring for information about the consultation. Apparently these were sent out in bundles by streets. We have been assured that the questionnaires will be sent to individual addresses.

Council plans will be exhibited in the library from 8 September for six weeks, during library opening hours. From 20 October until 28 November, the exhibition moves to the Phoenix. Here the display will be open from 4-9pm every day. The Phoenix is being used for display only, and has no view on library proposals.

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