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Thank you to Madden's Ale House for providing us with a meeting place.

Your contributions

THE ARCHER team wishes to thank all the generous people who give up their spare time, in all weather, to deliver the paper for us.

If you have a news item, memory or anecdote please send it in to us at the above address.

14 January is the copy deadline for the February issue.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Utilities (for N2)

Eastern Energy 0800 783 8838
London Electricity 0800 096 9000
OFTEL 020 7634 8700
Thames Water 0845 920 0888
Three Valleys Water 0845 782 3333
Gas consumers cncl. 0645 060708
Transco Gas Emerg. 0800 111 999

Councils

Barnet
Admin/Town Hall 020 8359 2000
Council Tax 020 8359 2608
Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600
Health Authority 020 8201 4700
Com'ty Health Cncl 020 8349 4364
Benefits Agency 020 8258 6500
Employment Service 020 8258 3900
Haringey Council 020 8489 0000

Leisure

Alexandra Palace 020 8365 2121
Cophthall Sports Ctr. 020 8361 8658
E. Finchley Library 020 8883 2664
Gt North Leisure Pk. 020 8343 9830
Muswell Hill Odeon 0870 505 0007
Phoenix Cinema 020 8883 2233
Tourist Info Service 0870 126 4018
Warner Cinema Village 020 8446 9933

**Calls to 09065 numbers are charged at £1.50 per minute.*

Help & Advice

Barnet Racial Equality Council 020 8446 0445
Childline 0800 1111
Citizens Advice Bureau 020 8349 0954
Cruse Bereavement Care 020 7431 7122
Disability Info Service 020 8446 6935
E Finchley Advice Service 020 8444 6265
Gingerbread 020 8445 4227
Missing Persons Helpline 0500 700700
National Debt Line 0808 808 4000
NSPCC 0800 800500
Rape Crisis Centre 020 7837 1600
Relate 020 8445 0888
Samaritans 020 8889 6888
Refuge National Crisis Line 0870 599 5443

Health Advice

AIDS Helpline 0800 567123
Alcoholics Anonymous 020 7352 3001
Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688
CancerLink 0800 132905
Carers National Assoc. 020 8343 3665
Drinkline 0800 09178282
Drugs Helpline 0800 776600
Health Information Service 0800 665544
Homeopathic Helpline 09065 343404*
MIND 020 8343 5700
N. London Blood Service 020 8258 2700

OAP's Advice

Barnet Age Concern 020 8346 3511
Barnet OAPs Welfare 020 8441 4853
Contact (N2) 020 8444 1162
Counsel & Care 0845 300 7585
Help the Aged 0800 096 2541

Crime

Emergency 999
Finchley Police 020 8200 1212
Golders Gr. Police 020 8209 1212
Muswell Hill Police 020 8442 1212
CrimeStoppers 0800 555111
Victim Support 020 8343 4435

Hospitals

Barnet General 020 8216 4000
Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792
Edgware General 020 8952 2381
Finchley Memorial 020 8349 6300
Oak Lane Clinic 020 8346 9343
Royal Free 020 7794 0500
St Luke's 020 8219 1800
Whittington 020 7272 3070
Western Eye Hosp 020 7886 6666

Transport

BR Enquiries 0845 484950
City Airport 020 7646 0000
Greenline 020 8668 7261
LT Enquiries 020 7222 1234
Grey-Green 020 8800 8010
National Express 08705 808080
Heathrow 020 8759 4321

Animal Welfare

Nat Strays Bureau 09065 123999*
RSPCA 0870 5555999

EAST FINCHLEY ADVICE SERVICE

42 Church Lane, London N2 8DT.
Tel/Fax: 020 8444 6265

General Advice.

Monday to Friday: 10am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 4pm.
Thursdays: 7pm - 8pm.

Immigration Advice.

Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm by appointment only.

Legal Advice.

Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm.

Councillors' Surgery.

Saturdays: 10am - 11.30am

**Contact East Finchley's
Community Police Officer,
PC Paul Carter, at
The Community Office,
Golders Green Station,
Tel: 020 8733 5562 or e-mail:
paul.carter@met.police.uk**

Community Services

❖ Credit Union, Green Man Community Centre 020 8883 4916
❖ Careers advice, Green Man, Community Centre 020 8883 4916
❖ Toy library, Muswell Hill 020 8444 0244/ 8489 8774

Remember The ALMO!

By John Dearing

Barnet Council conducted a consultation in 2002 on its proposal to change the basis of council house management. One of the options offered was an Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO) for the whole borough; this has become the option of choice in principle.

Whether or not there is further consultation, there are a number of issues that council tenants need to consider before any final vote.

Independent advisors

It is likely that Solon, the independent tenant advisors, will assemble a package called a "Tenants' Expectation Document" or something similar (if they don't, then they should be encouraged to do so). While it may be in the form of a comparison between the existing council management and an ALMO, this document needs to spell out unambiguously what should happen on a number of issues, particularly the nature of the new tenancy agreement.

This in turn should define:

- the security of tenure.
- the landlords' rights regarding eviction.
- tenants' succession rights for children, co-tenants, partners etc.
- the rules for rent increases (which should be stated as a function of the RPI).
- standards of repair, by categories, with appropriate response times.
- rights of consultation before any major changes, including improvements, significant repairs or redevelopment.

Assurances

The importance of this cannot be overstated; it is central to the process of creat-

ing the ALMO in a form that is acceptable to tenants. It needs to be unambiguous; many problems have been caused in housing transfers in other areas in the past by ambiguous tenants' documents. Of course there also need to be assurances that the provisions of such a document will be transferred to new tenancy agreements, as part of the ALMO process. Lastly, tenants' groups may need to consider pressing for representation on the board of the ALMO.

Scooter Death

Police are seeking witnesses to a fatal traffic accident on Totteridge Common, N20 which occurred at approximately 7.50 am on Tuesday 30 December.

A Nissan Primera, travelling west, was in collision with a 125cc scooter travelling in the opposite direction, near Long Pond. The scooter rider, a man in his 40s, was taken to Barnet General Hospital, where he died shortly after arrival.

The male driver of the Nissan, who is in his 20s, is under arrest on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving.

Anyone with information should contact the Collision Investigation Unit on 8246 9855.

Local School Fire

By Antonia Anderson

Local comprehensive school Christ's College has been beset by a further misfortune. After the two burglaries in which laptop computers were taken, the school has been hit by fire.

The fire broke out in the kitchen at lunchtime on the last Friday of the autumn term. The alarm was immediately sounded and two fire engines arrived, much to the excitement of the younger students.

Staff and students were evacuated to Brooklands and Bishop Douglass schools until they could be sent home.

The catering facilities are out of action until further notice and packed lunches are the order of the day.

Wilmot Centre and Stanley Road Field

The futures of the Wilmot Centre and Stanley Road Field are to be considered as one. This was confirmed at December's Finchley Forum, when consultation dates were announced for all the community groups concerned.

Local Planning Applications

Finchley Youth Theatre, 142 High Road -

Installation of disabled access ramp to front of building with new wall and balustrade enclosure. Installation of four by five metre high banner poles.

Vale Farm, Long Lane -

Erection of two two-storey (plus rooms in loft space) blocks to provide a total of 16 houses following demolition of Vale Farm House. Provision of 22 car parking spaces with access to the Meads and Font Hills.

60 Lankaster Gardens -

Redevelopment to provide eight self-contained flats in a three-storey building following demolition of existing house. Provision of ten car parking spaces with access from Lankaster Gardens.

Land adjacent to 1-12 Norfolk Close -

Demolition of existing nine lock-up garages adjacent to the High Road and erection of a two-storey building to provide ten self-contained supported persons flats for people with mental health difficulties together with ancillary staff and communal facilities and associated changes to parking and landscaping.

Former Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Great North Road (behind the Old White Lion) -

Environmental Impact Assessment - Screening Opinion.

Hexagon, 82-92 Great North Road -

Installation of four 8.1m high externally illuminated flagpoles on forecourt.

385 Long Lane -

use of premises as two self-contained flats.

Park House, 16 High Road - change of use from Class C2 (hostel) to Class D1 (educational). Applicant H.G.S. Institute.