



Forum Report

By Daphne Chamberlain

Park House

An angry contingent from East Finchley asked why Park House has not been offered for sale on the open market and why the Council has dealt only with property developer Kiafield. Margaret McPeake, Head of Housing, said there were moves to put Park House, which needs extensive repairs, on the market in the next couple of months.

Bus lane to go

Paul Bragg, Highways Officer, announced that the Council had decided to scrap the bus lane from the station to the Bald Faced Stag. They just need formal permission from Traffic for London. Parking restrictions will be imposed to keep traffic moving.

"That won't be enough. We need a filter light", was the response. Several speakers pointed out the difficulty of the right-hand turn from the High Road into Fortis Green, with some vehicles going through the red light. This, they said, had been a problem for years, and stopping the right-hand turn into Baronsmere Road had not helped.

Cllr Jazmin Naghar agreed that the junction was "hellish", saying that a filter light would be "at the top of the agenda", if removing the bus lane proved to be not enough.

Paul Bragg guaranteed that the situation would be monitored and that the ensuing review might also lead to revised signal phasing, which could include a filter.

Deansway Traffic Calmers

A Deansway resident asked for clarification on the Council's plans to remove traffic calmers. When told that calming was reviewed in regard to traffic flow, he said that restricted flow in Deansway was actually caused by parking on both sides of the road. He asked that residents should be consulted before any decision to remove the calmers was made. Ward Councillors John Marshall and Jazmin Naghar supported this request.

Causeway Danger

Concerns were raised about safety in The Causeway after dark, as overhanging trees and bushes from neighbouring land make the path very dark in places. Police records show several cases of assault, indecent exposure and mugging there. It was confirmed that the Council has the power to ensure that overhanging shrubs are cut back.

Neurological Hospital

Local residents wanted to know why there had been four very similar plans for this site, all involving consultations. Were Barnet and the developers going to go on for ever, or until the residents were worn down? They have themselves drawn up plans and a model, at their own expense, but have had no response from Barnet. They wanted a formal response and the assurance that their plans and model would be presented to Council.

The reply was that a consultation has to be carried out for every planning application, however similar. Anyone submitting a planning application has to pay about £10,000 for every submission, which would more than offset any public expense. A formal response was promised.

Viceroy Close Masts

Viceroy Close residents protested about seven new masts, causing noise and leaky roofs. Dave Prince, Planning Officer, said he had received many complaints. Antennae up to a certain size were licensed by the Government, not the local authority. Above that size, local approval was needed. He was investigating the matter. Cllr Colin Rogers asked about a possible objection on the grounds that the masts were visually obtrusive.

The next Finchley Forum will be at 6.30pm on Wednesday 18 February at Bishop Douglass School, Hamilton Road, N2.



Dollis Brook at Windsor Open Space. Photo by Tony Roberts

Help The Finchley Society to Survey Dollis Brook

The Finchley Society is asking the public to help in a survey of Dollis Brook, Hendon NW4 on the weekend of 17-18 January, from the north end of Brook Farm open space to just south of Windsor open space where Mutton Brook meets Dollis Brook to form the river Brent.

The Society plan to look at specific subjects each month and form a record which will indicate changes in the environment. Items of interest on 17-18 January are birds on a winter visit such as redwings and siskins, plants in flower, foxes and special

trees worth recording.

Details should be sent to Derek Warren on 8359 5258 or c/o The Finchley Society, Avenue House, 17 East End Road, N3 3QE.

Please also let Derek Warren know if you want more information or if you would like

to take a more active part in the surveys. The results will be made available and also displayed from time to time at local events.

For information on The Finchley Society and how to join phone 8883 2633 or visit www.finchleysociety.org

Join the Big Fun Walk

Make it one of your New Year's resolutions to join this year's North London Hospice Big Fun Walk and you will enjoy one of the most interesting charity walks around. It starts on our own doorstep at East Finchley Tube Station on Sunday 14 March and over its 7½ miles passes through eight woods and parks, skirts Buckingham Palace and ends in the shadow of Westminster Abbey.

To take part, complete and return the form below or telephone 020 8202 5586.

The walk is one of the main fund-raising events for the Hospice and last year made over £120,000. It is open to all ages and refreshments are provided en route and at the finish.

Registration Form

London Hospice Big Fun Walk 2004

Check-in: Sunday 14 March 2004 from 9.15 to 10.15am

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other:.....First Name:

Last Name:

Address:

Post code:

Tel. Day: Eve: Mobile:

Email address:

Please tick this box if walker is under 18 years old

I understand that I take part in this event at my own risk, and that the NW Support Group of North London Hospice cannot be held responsible for any loss, damage or injury incurred whilst participating.

Signature Date

Return to: Mrs V Bentley, 11 Westchester Drive London NW4 1RD

THE ARCHER

ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

Tele: 020 8446 1725 ~ Web: www.stjohnsfinchley.co.uk

Services

Sunday 6.30 p.m.

Thursday 7.30 p.m.

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month 6.30 p.m.

Healing every Tuesday between 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.

Weddings ~ Christenings ~ Funerals (at the church or cemetery)

by arrangement with the Minister

All are welcome

Holy Trinity Church

Church Lane N2

Sundays: The Parish Communion 10 a.m.

Children including toddlers & babies are very welcome at all services in this multi-ethnic church.

Contact: The Revd. Laurence Hill Telephone: 020 8883 8720