



Is The Dick Turpin closed for good?



By John Dearing

The Dick Turpin boarded up. Picture by Paul Dearing

Last year, we reported that The Red Lion had closed and was boarded up. In April this year, THE ARCHER learnt that The Dick Turpin, located nearby, had been refused a renewal of their licence to sell alcoholic drinks, as they had been caught selling drinks after hours.

Then a sign went up saying "Under New Management", but attempts to contact them to find out about their plans for the pub were singularly unsuccessful.

Now The Dick Turpin has been boarded up, joining The Red Lion. Presumably both will remain boarded up unless and until the Council Planners allow a "change of use" application, whereupon two more of the ubiquitous blocks of flats will rise in their stead.

New beginnings

By Diana Cormack

The new school year at Holy Trinity has started with a difference for, after 18 years in the post, school secretary Gillian Morgan has begun her retirement. During her time at the school, Mrs Morgan worked with four headteachers, 75 teaching and non-teaching staff and about 1,000 children!



Gillian Morgan. Photo by Diana Cormack

But one child in particular has persuaded Gillian to make the move, for she is now the proud grandmother of baby Kieran and she wants to spend more time with him and also with his grandfather Clive. The couple are about to go on holiday to Canada and have other long journeys in mind, all of which are now possible outside the school holidays.

Born and bred in East Barnet, Mrs Morgan used to travel to work from her home in Whetstone, where she had lived for thirty-nine years since her marriage to teacher and lecturer Clive. However, they moved to Hatfield and the long drive, along with the prevailing traffic conditions, were other reasons for her decision to retire.

Gillian's love of gardening was reflected in the many leaving gifts she received from staff, parents, pupils and governors and she planted a special tree to commemorate her years at the school. Rest and relaxation were catered for too, with one of her presents being tickets for a journey on the Orient Express.

But there is one aspect of Gillian's life from which she will not be taking a rest, for she has been a member of The Salvation Army from the age of only two weeks and is still actively involved.

Mrs Morgan's immense contribution to the school was recognised at a special assembly as well as at other end of term events in July. The place will not be the same without her.

Planning Committee in action

By John Dearing

The Finchley and Golders Green Area Planning Committee met on 12 July at 7pm. About 200 members of the public were present and the room was full to overflowing.

Numerous applications were considered; a few of the highlights follow. One involved building five houses on a plot that presently hosts a large pond full of frogs, which some councillors felt should be taken into account.

The most contentious business of the evening was the proposed re-development of the Sternberg Centre in East End Road. The committee decided that it should be referred to the Council's Planning and Environment Committee. At this point about half of the audience left.

Successively increased

A development company has made an application to build 72 flats on a piece of wasteland. Speakers against the application pointed out traffic concerns and the sheer size of the building, and presented a petition against the development. The architect spoke for the application, claiming that all objections had been dealt with, and that the development would enhance the value of adjacent properties. One of the councillors revealed that the owners have been granted permission to develop the site on several occasions over the last 15 years, and the size of the proposed development has successively increased. He felt that a smaller development should have taken place long ago. The

application was rejected.

Care homes

Two quite separate applications were taken, involving proposed extensions to care homes for the mentally ill. The first was not a registered care home. Numerous speakers catalogued a litany of problems, some of which had been caused by inappropriate referrals by Barnet Council. The management's response was to undertake to apply for registration! The application was rejected. In contrast, the second involved a registered and well-regarded care home. The management appeared to be taking steps to alleviate the impact on adjacent properties, and the application was accepted.

Although the room used was not best suited to the purpose – it was difficult to see and hear what was going on – the debates were informed and interesting, with councillors trying hard to stick strictly to planning issues. Speakers from the public who were concise were better received by the committee than those who allowed their emotional involvement to affect their presentation. The meeting closed at 10.30pm, which is a long time for committee members to maintain their attention!

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Local Planning Applications

201, High Road, N2 -

Change of use from B1 offices to A3 restaurant.

Five Bells Public House, 165-167, East End Road, N2 -

Single storey rear extension and alterations to existing conservatory. Installations of various externally illuminated and non-illuminated signage.

54, Hertford Road, N2 -

Two-storey side extension, following demolition of existing garage.

40, Fortis Green, N2 -

Single storey rear extension. Alteration to roof, including hip to gable and rear dormer window, to facilitate a loft conversion.

53, Summerlee Avenue, N2 -

Alteration to roof, including hip to gable end and side and rear dormer window, to facilitate a loft conversion.

238, Creighton Avenue, N2 -

Demolition of existing garage and formation of two-storey side extension to dwelling house.

1, Nursery Road, N2 -

Erection of front entrance. Formation of rear dormer to roof, to

facilitate loft conversion including a balcony.

37, Brim Hill, N2 -

Conversion of garage into habitable room, with associated installation of door at front. New rear door from kitchen. Enlargement of rear window. French doors at rear. Alteration to roof, including front and side dormer windows, to facilitate a loft conversion.

3, Abbots Gardens, N2 -

Alteration to roof, including hip to gable end and rear dormer window, to facilitate loft conversion.

1, The Leys, N2 -

Alteration to roof, including addition of side and rear dormer windows and rear conservation rooflight, to facilitate a loft conversion.

60, Bancroft Avenue, N2 -

Conversion of garage to habitable room, including insertion of front window.

23, Shakespeare Gardens, N2 -

Single storey rear extension.

86, Ossulton Way, N2 -

Removal of ash tree. Reduction in height, or lifting, of wild plum tree.