



Stanley Field - the battle continues

By Daphne Chamberlain

Does this sound familiar? "We, householders in the Finchley Parish, being convinced of the need of preserving as many open spaces as possible in the district, earnestly appeal to the Trustees of the Finchley Charities not to sell for building purposes the lands they hold in Trust."

The lands in question included what we now call the Stanley Road Playing Field. The year was 1908. Will Barnet Council take notice of the similar wishes of East Finchley residents today?

Councillors ask to see survey

Ninety seven per cent of residents neighbouring the Field would like it to be kept for community use and sports development. That was the result of the recent survey carried out by the East Finchley Development Trust. Now Barnet councillors have asked to see the survey.

The Development Trust and the Park Road Residents Association are stepping up their battle to save the field from building developers. They believe that the overwhelming majority of

East Finchley people have had enough of development outpacing infrastructure.

Sport lends support

They already have provisional support from the Football Foundation, and are now making sure that other sports bodies and influential people know what they are trying to achieve. People like Richard Caborn, Tessa Jowell, Ken Livingstone, Lord Coe, Trevor Brooking are on their mailing lists.

They are visiting similar sports projects, which are already running successfully elsewhere in London, and are investigating all possible funding sources. As one member of the committee said, "This has been a long, hard struggle - and it's not over yet."

Barnet not yet consulted on road plans

By Daphne Chamberlain

THE ARCHER reported last month on proposed traffic-calming measures in Woodside Avenue, the long cut-through between the Great North Road and Muswell Hill Road.

With differences in opinion still raging, we asked Haringey Council whether Barnet had been consulted about the possible knock-on effect of these changes on roads in East Finchley.

The plans for Woodside Avenue include three 'pinch points' to reduce the two lanes to one. Some residents fear the changed road layout will encourage motorists to use neighbouring Fordington Road and Lanchester Road as rat runs, or to change their route altogether to other roads like

Fortis Green in East Finchley.

Haringey said they had asked local residents, emergency services and London Transport for opinions, and were analysing their views, but had not yet consulted Barnet Council.

Spokesperson Tony Kennedy said, "We would not consult Barnet at this stage, as the proposals are unlikely to have a major knock-on effect. They (Barnet) would, however, be included at the statutory consultation stage."



Independent living

By Sippy Azizollah

This year's Independent Living Exhibition was held at Alexandra Palace instead of at Wembley exhibition halls. I've been to the exhibition every year for 10 years and have enjoyed looking at all the innovations to help disabled people remain independent.

As the Dial-a-ride bus climbed to the top of the hill I saw an enormous ramp and platform for wheelchair users and exhibitors to access the Palm Court entrance for the two-day event.

Gadgets and aids

My main aim was to look at the new gadgets available, but sadly there was only one gadget stand this year. It had some drinking cups that looked extremely good, so I took a catalogue. I spoke to Eva Claramonte (the coordinator of the exhibition) after the show to give her general feedback, and she assured me that next year there will be more gadget stands. The exhibition is there for you, so let the organisers know what you want.

Lots of people were trying out the scooters, wheelchairs, three-

wheel trikes and stair lifts; this is really important, as not all the aids are suitable for all disabilities. There were massage chairs, baths, showers, armchairs and beds as well as alternative therapies, books and much more. I even saw an adjustable bed that can be set to turn you every half hour.

The staff were very helpful and there were three eateries plus a bar where you could refuel if need be. I really enjoyed myself and hope that the Palace hosts next year's exhibition, as I found it a lot less overwhelming than the Wembley halls.

Independent Living Exhibitions are organised by Emap Healthcare, and you can contact Eva Claramonte, Senior Marketing Executive, on 020 7874 0332 or at eva.claramonte@emap.com.

Getting home safely

A new mobile phone service has been launched to help people get home safely from a night out in town.


The Home Office scheme lets you obtain local licensed minicab numbers by texting 'HOME' to 60835. You will receive two licensed minicab numbers and a black cab number in the same area you text from. Texts cost 35p plus standard network charges.

Police are reminding anyone coming home from a night out to use a black cab, a licensed minicab, night bus or tube. Never get into a minicab if you have not booked it through a cab office.


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