



## Young at heart of local issues

By Daphne Chamberlain

Youth provision and green spaces, both of particular interest to East Finchley as the battles over the Herbert Wilmot Centre land and Stanley Field continue, were contentious issues at last month's Barnet Council meeting.

Conservative councillor Mike Freer attacked the opposition for being outdated regarding youth services. He said: "They seem to want to put them in a church hall. What next? Miss Marple cycling round the borough, tackling crime?" He maintained that detached and outreach work was the way to go for youth services. Mobile and street provision, not fixed premises, was the way ahead.

Council Leader Brian Salinger approved of current amenities in Barnet for

children and young people, praising the borough's green spaces and parks, and quoting a child who had put on record how much they enjoyed living here.

Opposition councillors called for more leisure and cultural activities for young people, one speaker drawing attention to the Council's plan for children and young people for the years 2006-2009. In its 23 pages, he said, sport was mentioned twice, and was not mentioned at all in the section on obesity.



Campaigners staged a demonstration outside Holy Trinity Church to protest at the plan to install mobile phone masts. Photo by David Broome

## Battle against phone mast heats up

Residents and parents fighting against plans to install mobile phone masts in the bell tower of Holy Trinity Church staged a pavement demonstration.

The group are trying to thwart a second planning application to install three masts in the church in Church Lane. A first application was turned down by Barnet Council in

December.

The Parochial Church Council and Revd Laurence Hill, of Holy Trinity Church, are supporting the installation, which has the potential to bring

in an annual revenue of up to £10,000.

Campaigners have raised their concerns for health and safety, environmental damage and the effect on house prices in the immediate area.

They are asking supporters to write letters of protest to Barnet Council's planning officer Fabien Bernard-Gaudin at Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, London N20 0EJ or by email to [fabien.bernard@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:fabien.bernard@barnet.gov.uk).



Karen the Punk and Fred the clown. Photo by John Lawrence

## Sunshine smiles on the Big Fun walkers

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Big Fun Walk in aid of the North London Hospice set off in sunshine from East Finchley tube station on Sunday 19 March.

A stream of walkers spent the next four or five hours winding their way down the seven-and-half-mile route through London's green parks to Westminster in some glorious spring-like weather.

Organisers are hoping the sponsored event will beat last year's fundraising total of £130,000 to support the hospice's vital work for patients and their families from all faiths.

## A whole new ball game

By Lucy Chamberlain

The former site of Highgate Lawn Tennis Club on Twyford Avenue, empty for over five years, has been earmarked for development.

This prime site, opposite Fortismere School's playing fields and close to Muswell Hill, is due to be converted by Acorn Property Group into nine luxury family homes with private woodland and tennis court.

Romy Summerskill, Acorn's Managing Director, said: "There has been a great deal of speculation over the future of Highgate Lawn Tennis Club and we are pleased to announce our intentions to create the best new development that Muswell Hill has seen." Acorn say they are also keen to reflect local archi-

ture in the new properties.

Local residents, however, are concerned about the development's impact on the area. John Hajdu, Chairman of the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association, said the group would work with locals to make sure the developers keep to their specifications.

Haringey Council's planning permission came with obligations of, among other things, payments to the Council of £300 towards legal fees and £58,441 towards 'educational costs'. Work is expected to start soon.

## Treasure a good cause

At the back of almost everyone's dressing table or drawer there is usually a piece of unwanted jewellery. It can be anything from a few links of broken bracelet to a watch that ceased to work years ago. It's of little use, but too good to throw away.

If you have some items like these, or can collect any, the Alzheimer's Society will be grateful for them. They will raise much-needed funds to help support people with all forms of dementia, their families and carers. The Society will be pleased to receive your items and happy to make it as easy as possible for you to send them.

You can order freepost padded envelopes or get more information from the Alzheimer's Society by phoning 0845 306 0898. Otherwise, simply send your donation to:

Old Gold Appeal, Alzheimer's Society, Freepost SW8 743, Gordon House, 10 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1YY.

## Seen and heard

Heck of a Wash Launderette on the High Road has a sign in its window giving its closing time in SEVEN languages.

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## Children's centre survives and thrives

A popular children's playgroup that nearly closed down after a massive council rent hike has survived and is still going strong.

The Pavilion Children's Centre provides an energetic and creative play and learning environment for toddlers and their parents and carers at the Cricket Pavilion in Lyttelton Playing Fields.

A year ago Barnet Council, who own the building, wanted to raise the rent and to put the group on a longer lease, which it couldn't afford.

Parents and playgroup leaders joined forces to put pressure on the council to change its mind. After

months of campaigning, they persuaded the council to abandon the long lease and to reduce the rent increase significantly.

Pavilion chairperson Orly Cohen says, "The good news is that the Pavilion is still open, so come along and join the fun."

Around 20 youngsters attend the playgroup each weekday morning from 9.45am to 12.15pm but there is room for more. Contact the group during opening hours on 020 8458 0630.