



Stanley Field fight goes to the top

By Daphne Chamberlain

Campaigners trying to save Stanley Field for the community in East Finchley took their fight to Barnet Council leader Mike Freer last month.

Councillor Freer placed a limit of four on the number of representatives he was prepared to meet although the campaign group wanted to present a wider range of support.

In the end the only ones to put their viewpoints were Roger Chapman and Martin O'Donnell, from the East Finchley Community Development Trust, Sylvia Duthie, Chair of Holy Trinity School Governors, and architect Chris Hampson.

They told *THE ARCHER* they had stressed the unsuitability of the site in Stanley Road for any other development, such as housing, and had shown Cllr Freer a sample timetable of sport and leisure events which would utilise the field.

Six weeks before the meeting, the campaigners had sent the council leader copies of correspondence with support groups and with former Council Leader Brian Salinger, but were told these had not been received. They have since been sent again.

The group say that Cllr Freer asked for a "viability plan" (not a full-scale business plan, but one "where the figures add up") to be submitted before the end of August.

After the meeting, Sylvia Duthie said: "He seemed to be listening. I hope we convinced him that we are serious about this. We're not a Mickey Mouse outfit. We're in it for the long haul."

Since the meeting, Roger Reed, Regional Facility Manager for the Football Association, has confirmed that a Football Foundation grant for the field would include funding for multi-sports pitches, as well as mini football pitches. In addition, the Football Foundation would now provide funding of up to 60 per cent for grants controlled by a charitable trust.

Another boost for the campaign group came when Barnet Youth Board told them that the Stanley Field project "looks great". The Support Worker

wants further discussions with young people, with a view to putting it forward to the Council as an area for regeneration.

Sale of land to fund schools

In the meeting with the Stanley Field group, Cllr Freer is reported as saying he had to find £220m over the next 10 years for the Schools Regeneration Project. Some of this would come from the sale of land.

Cllr Freer has already said, Stanley Field could become the victim of such a sell-off so *THE ARCHER* asked him for more details.

He confirmed that the overall estimate was £220m, divided into three "waves". Barnet is currently working up details of the Wave 1 proposals, involving rebuilding or remodelling about

11 schools and estimated to cost about £84m.

He said that the programme "will be funded partly by the sale of surplus school land, but also by existing grants, Section 106 agreements and prudential borrowing.

"The Government also has a Primary Schools Capital Programme, and Barnet has recently submitted a bid to become a Pathfinder. If we were to be successful, we would receive a sum of capital for use in 2008-9. We will not know the outcome of our bid until the autumn, and then we will have a clearer view of the money available, and guidance on how it can be spent."

Stanley Field is not school land, and East Finchley's campaign group is working on proving that it is not surplus either.

Your memories of Stanley Field

By Daphne Chamberlain

Some of you have recorded your own memories of Stanley Field in a book held by the Community Development Trust.

Memories range from 60 years ago: "We were taken from Manorside School for our PE lessons. We used to play rounders, mostly, cricket, and other games, during the 1940s", to a cry from the 21st century heart: "Where can we play ball?"

Here are some other comments.

"I played my first games of football and cricket on this field, but in the 1950s, when it was the games field for Holy Trinity School".

"I used to play cricket here in the summer, football in the winter. Murder on the knees if you ever went down! We had a high jump as well, but I was no good at that."

"I used to train twice a week

for the Five Bells FC."

"In the early sixties, my father used to organise Holy Trinity School football matches on Stanley Road, and I used to help. This kept 20 plus boys happily amused."

"Met up with the Wanderers and practised there every day for six weeks, in preparation for the Arsenal tournament. It was great - like it was our training ground."

"My son used to play football there, and I can't believe it's been allowed to get in such a bad state."

"Used to watch friends play football with floodlights on, before the gates were locked and the land was left to ruin. A gift to East Finchley friends for all their use."

All friends of the Field are hoping that it will be given the chance to create more sporting memories in the future.



Det. Chief Supt. Stephen Kavanagh, Barnet's new Commander of police. Picture by John Dearing

Barnet welcomes new police commander

By John Dearing

Detective Chief Superintendent Stephen Kavanagh has taken over as the new Borough Commander and is putting better communication with minority communities at the top of his priority list.

At a special press briefing, he told us that on his first Saturday in his new role, he visited various synagogues in the Borough, in full dress uniform, in the company of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Ian Blair and Lady Blair. They were gratified by the warmth with which they were received and the level of support for the police.

He said that as a founding member of the Racial & Violent Crimes Unit, he has had a lot of experience in connecting with minority groups. He felt there was a need for an independent advisory group for minority communities, especially those who are unrepresented, and he needed to be able to communicate quickly with appropriate groups in an emergency.

Mr. Kavanagh said he was a "huge supporter" of the Safer Neighbourhoods Teams,

whose local knowledge and intelligence gathering underpin communication initiatives through representative groups. He believed that the rank and file police were initially "somewhat cautious" about the teams and about Police Community Support Officers, but have become enthusiastic about them as a valuable resource.

He said that Golders Green police station was no longer fit for purpose, but he did not support its closure without replacement, nor should High Barnet station be extended to opening 24 hours a day if it meant fewer police on patrol.

He described the greatest challenges of the Commander's role as effective management of limited resources, and the need to learn how to use legislation on issues such as anti-social behaviour and hate crime.

Barnet has it all

Mr Kavanagh has been in the police for 21 years, starting in northeast London, before moving to east London as a Detective Sergeant. Highlights of his career include working in the anti-terrorist branch, in the homicide command as a Detective Chief Inspector, in the Met's anti-corruption squad as a Detective Superintendent, and a year as staff officer to Assistant Commissioner Brown. He specifically asked to take the job as Barnet's Commander, feeling that Barnet, with its ethnic diversity and wide range of degrees of affluence, encapsulates London policing as a whole.

Arts festival sneak preview

Organisers of the East Finchley Arts Festival have released more details of their autumn line-up to whet your appetite. Details of venues, times and booking arrangements will be in September's edition of *THE ARCHER*. The line-up so far is:

Thursday 5 October: Rimantas Vigras Piano Recital

Friday 6 October: Victorian Evening

Saturday 7 October: Charles Proctor Centenary Concert

Sunday 8 October: Daytime Puppet Shows and evening clarinet recital

Tuesday 10 October: Art Exhibition Open Evening

Wednesday 11 October: Vintage Jazz evening

Thursday 12 October: Dore Ensemble

Friday 13 October: London Mozart Players

Saturday 14 October: Theatre Roundabout

Sunday 15 October: Finchley Children's Music Group

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