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THE ARCHER

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Martin schools in line to be rebuilt

By Daphne Chamberlain

Martin Junior and Infant Schools may be amalgamated into one primary school in 2012-13. Under current Council proposals the school could be rebuilt on its existing site on the High Road.

This is part of Barnet's Primary School Capital Investment Programme, under which schools throughout the borough could be remodelled, rebuilt or amalgamated, in conjunction with the sale of "surplus land".

THE ARCHER can reveal that in 1998 there were proposals to either rebuild Martin schools or to amalgamate them with Coppets Wood School, a suggestion which was thrown out as unworkable. Then, in 2001, council papers recorded a surplus of playing fields (meaning a surplus to Department for Education guidelines) and a shortfall in the site of the school itself. This was at the time of the proposed move of East Finchley library into a Waitrose development on the Park House site opposite the tube station.

It was suggested that the "surplus" school playing field and the site of the library could be sold for housing development. As we know, this did not happen.

When asked if the Martin field was again under threat, a Barnet Council spokesperson said, "All schools will still have playing fields that meet DfES guidelines, and no playing field will be totally lost." The statement went on to say that the Martin rebuild is not a firm plan, only "provisional and possible".

Under the same provisional plans, Garden Suburb Infant and Junior would be amalgamated in 2013, and Brookland Infant and Junior in 2015.

See page 4 for news of the adjoining allotments.

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Photo by Roman Stachera.

Fairies, Elves and Father Christmas declare the Martin School Christmas Bazaar open. See page 8.

Two men charged with murder

Two men have been charged with murder after a woman's body was found in Elmshurst Crescent.

Police were called just after 11.00am on 30 November to a grassed area in Elmshurst Crescent near the junction with East End Road, where a passer-by had discovered the body. The victim was later formally identified as Jacqueline Queen, 39, of Gainsborough House, Thorpedale Road, Finsbury Park N4.

An incident room was opened at Barking under detectives from the Specialist Crime Directorate.



Police examine the scene in Elmshurst Crescent where a body was found. Photo by John Dearing

On 30 November, a man voluntarily attended Milton Keynes police station and was arrested in connection with the inquiry and transferred to a north London police station. Later that day a second man was arrested in north London in connection with the inquiry.

On 3 December, brothers John Seaton, 35, of Tyrell Stanstonbury, Milton Keynes, and James Seaton, 45, of Gainsborough House, Thorpedale Road, Finsbury Park, both unemployed ex-bricklayers, appeared at Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court, both charged with the murder of Jacqueline Queen and conspiring to pervert the course of justice on or before 30 November.

Both men were remanded in custody until an appearance at the Old Bailey on 12 December.

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