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# THE ARCHER



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



## Artists fight for Stanley Field

By Daphne Chamberlain

**“Where are you, Stanley? Stanley, save the fields!” Poetry and artwork from East Finchley Open Artists made a strong statement along the railings of Stanley Road Field last month. As Council Leader Mike Freer warned that money for rebuilding Coppetts Wood School might come from selling the “run-down” field, East Finchley was reaffirming that it wants to develop the space for the community.**

### Festival field day

The festival parade on its way to Cherry Tree Wood. See page 6 for our East Finchley Festival pictures.  
Photo by David Glick

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## Field supporters meet with council leader

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Representatives from The East Finchley Community Development Trust, The Walks Residents Association and Holy Trinity School will meet Council Leader Mike Freer at the beginning of July to discuss the future of Stanley Road Field. They have invited Roger Reed from the Football Foundation and Paul Allen from the National Playing Fields Association to attend the meeting with them.**

Cllr Freer has announced that Barnet plans to demolish Hollickwood School in the South Friern area and to amalgamate it with Coppetts Wood School. He said: “Rebuilding schools is a very high priority for Barnet Council, and will have to come from somewhere. The community gain may need to come from the sale of other land, such as Stanley Road Field.”

Local councillor Alison Moore opposed this, pointing

out that Barnet has obligations under the Children and Young People’s Act, and that East Finchley is already too densely populated. Sylvia Duthie, Chair of Holy Trinity School Governors, said the schools regeneration project already had massive central funding.

There is growing local concern over the discovery that Stanley Field is not officially listed anywhere as a playing field.

In just one hour, 60 people, including several children, added their signatures to a petition to save the field. The Community Development Trust, who organised the petition, said that this response, together with the enthusiastic take-up for the new East End Road Youth Group, proved that young people do want a settled spot to meet.

This counters Cllr Freer’s recent statement in Council that designated youth venues are outdated and unnecessary.

East Finchley Open Artists are pleased with the success of their “railing” protest, a new venture into using art to benefit the community. Spokesperson Eti Wade said: “This is the first time we have worked to a theme in collaboration.”

Karen Fraser’s video of the project was shown during the Open House weekend earlier this month.

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### Dear Editor...

Does East Finchley need another betting shop?

Should Fortismere be turned into a Foundation School?

Will parking for Institute students crowd out local residents?

See Letters on page 11.