



FINCHLEY FORUM

By Daphne Chamberlain

Lankaster Gardens

Following the news that a developer has permission to build three blocks of flats, in part six storeys high, in Lankaster Gardens, local residents asked what Barnet will do about the extra traffic. Lankaster Gardens is accessed only by Chambers Gardens and Lewis Gardens.

Barnet's Highways Department Officer said that the Council had rejected plans for this site, but the developer had won an independent appeal. Highways would do their best to mitigate traffic, but the design of the estate and its access was the responsibility of the Planning Department. Planning officers had been asked to contact residents, but apparently had not done so. They would be reminded.

Councillor Colin Rogers said the independent Appeal Inspectors had imposed 25 conditions on construction of the flats, but very few concerned traffic. Conditions should still be checked, though.

Garden Centre

Residents near the former Garden Centre in East End Road asked what kind of application was likely to be approved for this site. Cllr Rogers reported that Barnet Planning Department wanted more commercial and less residential emphasis than in the current application.

Sternberg Centre

Neighbours of the Sternberg Centre in East End Road said they were disturbed by lorries at work on building developments at 7.30am, half an hour before the permitted start time. They also alleged that planning conditions regarding trees were not being observed. They asked for the Council to arrange meetings between the Centre and residents. A Finchley Society member asked for the Society to be included in these meetings, and also requested regular "monitored monitoring".

Unsafe structures

Any unsafe structure should be reported to 020 8359 2000. (This arose from a case of a collapsing fence in Long Lane.)

Stanley Field

The Stanley Field Steering Group asked for forward action on the scheme for community sports provision there. They were told from the platform that another meeting with Council Leader Mike Freer was imminent.

Recycling

Cllr Kath McGuirk said it was time to introduce household cardboard and plastic collection, as many people could not get to the Council dump.

North Finchley Bus Station

Several people said that the exit from the Bus Station was still dangerous. London Buses will be invited to attend the next Forum.

Footnote: The next Finchley Forum will be at 6.30 on Wednesday 22 November in Trinity Church, Nether Street, N12.

Get moving for MND

Motor Neurone Disease is a rapidly progressive fatal condition that kills three people every day in the UK. To raise awareness and to help raise funds for people living with the disease, the north London branch of the charity MND Association is holding a 10 km North London Walk. This will take place on Sunday 15 October in Trent Country Park, Cockfosters Road, Enfield.

The route is two circuits of the park, which is fairly flat but could be muddy in places if it has been pouring with rain. Those who don't feel up to 10 km can do 5 km by completing one circuit, which makes the sponsored event more appealing to young children. There will be a quiz for children with a prize for the winner. Buggies are welcome on the walk, as are

wheelchair users.

There is a café and a pub nearby. The nearest underground is Cockfosters; buses 298, 299 and 384. Registration begins at 10.00am and the walk starts at 10.30am.

For further information and sponsorship forms call Gay Watson on 020 8882 2233 or email gaywatson@btopenworld.com



Kate Fuscoe, husband James & family. Picture by Michael Cronshaw.

East Finchley family off to Mozambique

By Helen Drake

Kate Fuscoe and James Johnson, of East Finchley, are swapping their lives as lecturers in Further Education for a year's voluntary work in Mozambique. Accompanied by their two children, Miles and Joseph, they will live in the capital, Maputo, where they will help to train secondary school teachers. The placement has been arranged by the international development charity, Voluntary Service Overseas.

Both Kate and James have lived and worked outside the UK before the children (now aged 6 and 9) came along. Kate says, "We feel it is a window of opportunity, while the children are relatively young, to have this chance to experience another culture as a family. I hope we can play a small part in improving the skills of the people we will be working with. VSO calls for 'Sharing skills, changing lives' and we imagine that this will work both ways".

It costs £15,000 to recruit, train and send a volunteer. VSO

is mostly funded by the British government's DfID (Department for International Development), to support disadvantaged people in developing countries in key areas such as education, health and social welfare, HIV and Aids. Kate and James have set themselves a target of raising £500 for VSO to help towards the cost of sending out professional volunteers such

as themselves. If you would be interested in contributing to their efforts, please visit www.justgiving.com/wwwjustgivingcomkateandjames.

Voluntary Service Overseas organises work placements for skilled professionals from a range of different work backgrounds. If you would like to know more about VSO, visit www.vso.org.uk.

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