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Local News is our Aim

THE ARCHER



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

One third of Stanley Field is not enough

By Daphne Chamberlain

Roger Chapman, Chair of the East Finchley Community Development Trust, has told *THE ARCHER* that Barnet Council is currently offering one third of Stanley Field for continued sporting use. The remaining two thirds would be sold off for housing development.

The Trust will not consider this offer. They want to retain the whole site, because only then could they supply the range of facilities they are proposing. Roger Chapman says that anything less would mean that continued playing field use would not be viable in the long term.

Facilities for whole community

The sports proposals, which have been backed by East Finchley people at public meetings and in surveys, are for a correctly sized football pitch for top year primary school pupils, a second grass pitch,

and an all-weather area for a variety of sports, with separate space for dog-walkers, cyclists and joggers.

Included in the plan are changing facilities, a café, an office, a community meeting-room, a sports development officer, and staff working on-site for security. These facilities would be available to schools, clubs, and individuals of all ages.

The scheme, which is similar to ones which have worked successfully in other areas, has won the approval of the Football Foundation and the National Playing Fields Association, with potential financial support

from the Football Foundation.

Roger Chapman is currently talking to other interested organisations. He says: "We continue to make our case to Barnet Council to retain Stanley Road Playing Fields in sports use. We have demonstrated that there is a financially viable proposal to keep this playing field. It lies in an area that the Council itself identifies as lacking in open space. At a time when the local authority and Barnet PCT are trying to increase the level of physical activity in the local population does it make any sense to sell off a playing field?"



British Gas volunteers brush up on their painting skills at Martin Schools, as part of "London Better Together Day". For details see page 8.

Picture by Natalie Griffiths (of British Gas).

For Sale signs cause concern

By Diana Cormack

The appearance of agents' signs on both Park House and the Greater London Hire building opposite East Finchley tube station made some locals wonder if another disputed development could be on the cards. Readers may remember that these two sites, plus the area up to Baronsmere Road, were the subject of a sustained battle by those residents who objected to plans for a Waitrose superstore (incorporating a new library) being built there.

At present Park House is rented from Barnet Council by the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute. The Institute's main body is situated across the High Road in the McDonald's building and earlier this year it opened a newly built Arts Centre on the old neurological hospital site behind the station.

Park House is being mar-

keted by Savills. The GLH site is being marketed by King Sturge. Kiafield, the property developers of Waitrose, now wish to sell the freehold which is subject to the existing lease. GLH has a long term lease on the property which will last until 2017 and, having been there for 40 years, has every intention of trading on the site till at least that date.

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