



ASK asks again

ASK Restaurants has appealed to the government's planning inspectorate after the Finchley and Golders Green Area Planning Sub-Committee rejected its planning application for 84 High Road, despite Barnet's planning officers recommending acceptance (*THE ARCHER*, January).

However, *THE ARCHER* has since learned that, despite ASK appearing as the appellant's name, the proposed take-away would be run by a member of the ASK group called Lupa and ASK might not be the name above the door. Lupa has a strategy to increase the number of its outlets in the south-east.

If permission is given, one result would be an increase in the number of motorbikes delivering orders. Access to the back of the take-away depot would be by the unadopted road that runs between the rear of Fairlawn Avenue and property on the High Road.

Entry would be from Fortis Green but, as Fairlawn Avenue is one-way, it would mean delivery vehicles having to go from the back alley all the way down the avenue to exit on to the High Road by the Phoenix Cinema. Some residents are concerned about the disturbance this will cause, not only in the form of

noise but also the possibility of encouraging vermin.

Although 11 letters objecting to ASK's plans were received, only one of the three objectors who asked to speak was able to attend Barnet's consultation meeting in December.

Those objection letters will be used again unless the writers withdraw them within six weeks of the starting date of the appeal (31 January 2007). Any further representations need to be made by 14 March, quoting the planning inspectorate's reference number APP/N5090/A/07/2035639/NWF and three copies must be sent to: Dave Shorland, Planning Inspectorate, Room 3/19, Eagle Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN. ASK has made another planning application. Written representations about this have to be made to Barnet Council by March 19 in addition to the Bristol appeal.

Air pistols are not toys

Police are asking people to learn from an incident when three men were arrested and later cautioned after being caught brandishing an air pistol.

On Sunday 11 February at 4.30am a driver who had just come off the M1 and was heading down the A41 towards Hendon saw three young men standing at the side of the road.

One of them stepped off the pavement and stood in front of the car, pointing what appeared to be a silver and black handgun at the driver. He held the gun outstretched in one of his hands. The victim ducked down and swerved around the suspect.

Police were called and arrested the men, two of whom were 18 and one 19. On interviewing the suspects it transpired that all had been drinking alcohol. They had taken an unloaded air pistol out with them and were using it as though it were a toy and role playing with it.

The three men were cautioned by police for an offence contrary to section 19 of the

Firearms Act 1968, but only after consultation with the victim, as normally this would result in a visit to the courts to answer serious charges.

Police say this is a word of warning for those who think guns are toys: they are not. If you point a toy gun or air pistol at someone else, it doesn't matter that you know it's only a toy, what matters is the fear you cause to that other person. This is the crime. Sadly three men now have criminal records for a game that should never have been played.

Luckily their offence ended without anyone being hurt. Armed police officers were also attending this incident, as they do for all incidents where guns are used and, two minutes later, would have dealt with these men as armed and dangerous criminals.



Father Laurence Hill has been at Holy Trinity Church for 30 years.

Thirty years at Holy Trinity

By Julia Lawrence

Father Laurence Hill is celebrating 30 long and happy years as priest of Holy Trinity Church in Church Lane.

Born in Perth, Scotland, Father Hill says his ambitions were clear to him from a very early age and he became deeply involved in the church from the age of nine. "I went to a cathedral school which had a profound effect on me." There was a brief moment, however, where he was tempted by another career path.

"My first great love was the theatre," he says. "I played Widow Twankey's dresser in the Scottish rep for a couple of seasons. A fellow actor advised me that I really should drop the Laurence and become a Larry."

A defiant Laurence (not Larry or Laurie) arrived in London aged 20. His first curacy was in Feltham, in west

London, site of the notorious borstal - or young offenders' institute as it's now known - where Father Hill struck up a rapport with the inmates. "I had a beard like Rasputin and hair down to my shoulders. I think they could see that I stood outside the authorities."

His first parish was in Hampstead where he spent five years before arriving in East Finchley in January 1977. Over the years, he says, he has watched the demographics of East Finchley shift away from a diverse mix of old, established families and businesses to the affluent, professional newcomers and young families of today.

"I have waited 30 years for the High Street to be transformed and to my delight over the last three years it finally has." He is also a big fan of the Phoenix Cinema and loves walking on Hampstead Heath.

His work with Holy Trinity

School in the past 30 years means he has watched generations grow, and he has christened the offspring of children he used to see sitting cross-legged in assembly on Wednesday mornings.

In 2004, he married Japanese professional pianist and teacher Atsuko and is adding to his Japanese vocabulary daily. Today, Father Hill is excitedly waiting to become a grandfather for the first time; his daughter, Una, 37, from his first marriage, is expecting a baby later in the year.

Now aged 63, Father Hill jokes that another career path may yet open up to him: "Maybe I could make my fortune advertising hair products as I still do not have a single grey hair."

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