



Did you know that petitions have 'sell by' dates?

By Janet Maitland

When local residents heard that their protest against the opening of a supermarket in Stag Court on the High Road had been successful, they thought that was the end of it. The planning application was withdrawn in March after 321 people signed a petition opposing it. It has now been resubmitted and Barnet Council is acting as if the previous protest did not happen.

Phil Prentice, who lives opposite Stag Court, said: "Are the developers going to keep putting in the same application and withdrawing it until everyone just gets tired of objecting?"

Council's comment

"Although Barnet is aware of the public opposition to the previous application, this cannot be carried over to the new application," said a spokesperson from Barnet Council. "The previous application was withdrawn and is therefore closed."

The spokesperson said one of the main considerations in the new application would be to assess the impact of the proposed supermarket on the vitality and viability of East Finchley town centre.

Limited consultation

Businesses and residents

within a 50 metre radius of the site were notified of the application. The consultation therefore excluded most of the High Road, and the whole of the old village in and around Church Lane.

"This will have a direct impact on our business," said Harish, manager of Galaxy Store on Church Lane, "but we didn't know anything about it."

Barnet Council responded that anyone wishing to object can do so, including people who have not been formally consulted by letter. It said a site notice had been erected outside the premises and details were available on the council website www.barnet.gov.uk.

When *THE ARCHER* checked the exterior of Stag Court in early July, there were To Let signs, but no notice about the proposed supermarket.

Hole-y mess

By Janet Maitland

When a large hole appeared in the pavement in Aylmer Road towards the end of May, Neville Robinson had a strong sense of déjà vu. Last August he had reported water gushing out of the pavement in exactly the same spot, just by the entrance to Whittington Court.

"It took four weeks for Thames Water to repair the leak despite my phone calls," said Mr Robinson, "and that was at a time we were all supposed to be saving water."

This time the problem was a gas leak. When Mr Robinson rang the National Grid gas company to complain that the repair work was blocking the entire pavement, he says that it took 10 days for a truck to arrive with signs advising pedestrians to walk inside the boundary of Whittington Court.

Two months later...

THE ARCHER checked the hole on 1 July. It was still there, so we contacted the gas company.

According to a spokesperson for National Grid, they were not called to the gas leak until 4 June. He said: "To access the leak, we had to break a BT utility cover that was built over our gas pipe. The leak was repaired the following day. We are unable to reinstate the area fully until BT repair the box. We will continue to contact them."

After *THE ARCHER* explained the position to BT, the problem was investigated. "We have raised a fault to get the utility cover repaired as soon as possible; the matter is now in hand,"

said a spokesperson.

Mr Robinson's reaction to this protracted problem? "The Mayor of London should do something about the multitudinous holes in London's roads," he said.

Kieran: The Karate Kid

By Helen Drake

How does it feel to be a world-class athlete? For most of us it is something we can only daydream about. For 11-year-old Martin Primary School pupil Kieran Nunkoo, it is a reality.

With many previous high-ranking wins under his belt, June 2008 has been a particularly successful month for Kieran who took the Bronze medal at the World Championships in Sweden, the silver medal at the Karate Commonwealth Games in Scotland and the Gold at the British Amateur Martial Arts Association (AMA) competition in Sheffield. He is the youngest member of the AMA British squad, and this year he has won a medal (eight in all) in every competition he has entered, a unique achievement in his age group.

When he was six, Kieran's parents took him to karate lessons at the David Lloyd Club, but it was winning his first medal at the age of nine that built up his confidence to continue with the sport. Now a well-known figure on the karate circuit, Kieran practises two to three times a week either at the club or at home with his dad, and is very proud of his achievements. Aside from karate and art (his favourite subject) Kieran is passionate about cricket and is in the Year 6 cricket team at school.



A proud Keiran with his medals. Photo by Helen Drake

If you are inspired to follow in Kieran's footsteps, go to www.ashinokai.co.uk for more information on their classes at the David Lloyd Club.

Looking to the future

With Friern Barnet School beckoning in September, Kieran's ambition is not only to continue winning medals internationally when he moves into the older age groups, but also to get involved with other sports at secondary school.

So back to the original question: How does it feel to be a world-class athlete? Over to Kieran: "Really proud. Amazing. I can't really describe it as the feeling is overwhelming."

Barnet Senior Volunteers

Barnet's Retired and Senior Volunteers contribute significantly to the quality of life in this borough. They have fingers in many pies, and always welcome new members.

Their next meeting is on Tuesday 7 October, at 2.30pm in Barnet Library, Stapylton Road. It is open to everyone. More information from RSVP Organiser Bill Ibbotson on 020 8440 1291 or at bill.ibbotson@btinternet.com.

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