



Park House future in doubt again

By Janet Maitland

Park House is yet again facing an uncertain future. The development company Cathedral has decided not to proceed with the purchase of the site opposite East Finchley station, although it exchanged contracts with Barnet Council in February.



Park House photo by Sarah Clackson

A disagreement about land ownership was one of the reasons that made Cathedral think again. The disputed land lies between the boundary of Park House and Cherry Tree Wood and provides pedestrian access from the High Road to Brompton Grove.

Ron Collins, a resident of Brompton Grove, disputes Barnet's ownership of this land. He informed *THE ARCHER* that Cathedral contacted him to discuss the issue after seeing his letters to Barnet about the land. Mr Collins said: "Barnet were obliged to disclose my letters under the legal requirements of land searches."

Ownership registered

A spokesperson from Barnet Council said the dispute was a contributing factor preventing the contract for the sale of Park House being completed.

"The council has a legally

registered title of the portion of Brompton Grove between the boundaries of Park House and Cherry Tree Wood. This can be confirmed with the HM Land Registry. The resident did not provide any evidence to refute the council's registration of the land when he had the opportunity of doing so. There is a pedestrian right of way across this land."

Lack of consultation

In turn, Mr Collins claimed the whole process of registration was underhand. "There was no public information or consultation process. I've spoken to the Land Registry, who've informed me that an appeal against the registration is possible."

In 2005, developers tried to buy the site, but withdrew in the face of local protests about their plans to build a supermarket. Barnet Council says it is now reviewing its options.

CPZ problems could be solved

By Diana Cormack

The proposed sale of Park House stirred up the question of parking restrictions in the surrounding area. When the Institute moved into the building in 2004, the times of the Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) from Cherry Tree Wood up to Fortis Green and from the High Road across to Summerlee Avenue were extended to run from 10am to 6.30 pm Monday to Saturday. The rest of East Finchley remained at one hour a day between 2pm to 3pm Monday to Friday.

Barnet Council envisaged that the Institute would cause increased demand for parking spaces and wanted to ensure that on-street parking facilities for residents of the new zone area would be adequately protected from Institute users, while still allowing permit holders to park elsewhere in the East Finchley CPZ.

A review of the situation was supposed to be held within 18 months. This did not happen and the Institute has since moved from Park House to the other side of the High Road. Visitor parking vouchers at £1 each can prove costly, but spaces are at a premium in roads nearest to the station because tube travellers who live in East Finchley's one-hour CPZ can park and leave their cars all day.

Solution needed soon

Patients and staff at the East Finchley Medical Centre, on the corner of Baronsmere and

Park Hall Road, are adversely affected, as are shoppers who now have to Pay and Display or need a visitor voucher to park, even on Saturdays when the Institute is closed.

One local shopkeeper, who feels the problem needs to be addressed quickly, told *THE ARCHER*: "Waitrose didn't come and close us down, but parking laws could."

However, a long-term resi-

dent suggests a compromise: to provide a few more Pay and Display spaces, time limited to deter Institute students from using them while they attend classes. He also believes the roads immediately round the station should be designated a separate zone from the rest of East Finchley with the present restrictions remaining in force.

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East Finchley was given a tropical feel by beauty therapist Mandana promoting her summertime lemon and coconut facial at her Open Day on 12 June. Mandana is based at Jennie Mann florists on Church Lane, East Finchley. Photograph by Helen Drake

Be part of THE ARCHER calendar

THE ARCHER is launching its own 2009 calendar and we're looking for your photographs to make it truly special. Could you take or have you already got a photo that shows something extraordinary or beautiful about East Finchley?

We're looking for photos or art works, whether of places or people, that give a unique perspective on our community. Our judges will choose 12 of the best to go into our 2009 calendar. We want it to be a must-have to hang in everyone's home and, of course, it will make the ideal Christmas gift for friends and family.

Every penny raised from the sale of the calendars will

be used to support the work of a chosen charity based in East Finchley or one that does essential work in our community. Look out for more details in next month's issue. Thanks in advance to Photobox.co.uk for their support.

If you have a photograph or art work you'd like to be considered, please email it to the-archer@lineone.net. Digital images only, please, as we cannot accept prints. Mark your message 'Archer calendar' and tell us where and why you took the

photo. There are no rules about what you can and can't submit except that the photograph should be recognisable as taken within the boundaries of N2. Good luck.

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