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THE ARCHER




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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Master plan for playing fields

By Ann Bronkhorst

Improvements for Muswell Hill playing fields, alongside Coldfall Wood, were up for debate at a special Area Assembly as the first step towards a master plan for one of the area's largest open spaces.

On Sunday 7 September, a large number of people from Barnet as well as Haringey met in a marquee on the fields to put their point of view. Some wanted the fields to be left alone; some hoped for increased facilities for children or sport players; some were asking for paths, litterbins and toilets. Many were concerned about noise, vandalism and maintenance problems both now and after any improvements.

Halliwick Park

Several important points emerged from the assembly. One is that Haringey is committed to not building on open land, so it seems likely that the essentially open nature of the site will not be compromised. Housing in the Coppett's Road area, however, will increase in the next few years, affecting the existing and future infrastructure, including leisure facilities.

If the nearby but rundown Halliwick Park and playground, owned by Barnet, were improved, perhaps through a joint scheme with Haringey, local people in both boroughs would benefit. Haringey councillors say they will approach their opposite numbers in Barnet about this.

Consultation

Some residents at the assembly were concerned about the planned process of consultation by postal survey. Because of the odd borough boundaries, a sizeable area of Barnet lies on the eastern side of Coppett's Road. Residents in those streets will not be consulted, despite living so near the fields, and will have no say apart from a possible on-line response.

One important concession was won, however. Originally the survey was to cover only those homes within a 400m radius of

the fields. Thanks to pressure at the assembly it will now reach homes in Ringwood Avenue, Beech Drive and Church Vale (but not Twyford Avenue).

Continued on page 2



Calendar

THE ARCHER Calendar 2009 is going on sale soon. At just £5, it's the perfect Christmas gift and every penny raised will go to support East Finchley's good neighbour charity Contact.

Our full-colour wall calendar features 12 stunning photographs of people and places, all taken within the boundary of N2 by ARCHER readers. It comes in a stylish month-to-a-view format with plenty of room for you to scribble important dates and appointments.

Thanks to all our readers who contributed photographs. Enormous thanks also to Photobox.co.uk for printing the calendar for us.

You'll be able to buy it in local shops and outlets from the middle of October. Look out for it in Toni's Continental and Lazooli, and many

others.

You can also order copies now by post and they will be delivered to your door for FREE. Order as many calendars as you like, and don't forget copies for friends and family. Turn to page 11 for an order form.

THE ARCHER Calendar 2009 is supporting Contact, which seeks to improve the quality of life for elderly and disabled people, and those living alone in East Finchley.

Order your calendars now and you can make a difference to the work of this essential local charity.



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Floody hell

Residents in Bedford Road were confronted with knee-deep water on 31 August when the latest in a series of tremendous summer downpours caused havoc with the overused drainage system.

It was garden tools at the ready as these hardy residents resisted calls to the emergency services and cleared the drains within a few minutes. Photograph by Sam Clarke.



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