



New light on High Road

Shoppers could see the High Road in a new light at Christmas under an ambitious plan being put forward by traders.

The idea is to install thousands of white fairy lights in the large trees on either side of the High Road to supplement the existing coloured lights mounted on lamp posts.

Traders group REEF says the lights would mark out East Finchley as a Christmas shopping destination and bring new shoppers to the area.

Funding, however, is the challenge. To light each tree properly would cost £1,200 per tree per year and the money will need to come from local businesses.

Paul Homer, Phoenix Cinema general manager, is keen to test the water on behalf of REEF.

"More Christmas lights in East Finchley would make

people stop and shop, and spend more money in our local bars and restaurants," he said.

"If we want to do this we'll have a lot of money to raise. I'd like to see how local businesses react to the idea. Please get in touch with me at the Phoenix and maybe we can make it happen."

Barnet Council has told the traders that it will be able to obtain the lights from its regular supplier and install them but will not be able to contribute financially.

The existing coloured lights were funded by the former East Finchley Traders Association, led by Lawrie Chivers, amongst others. They cost £12,000 to buy, with a major contribution coming from McDonalds.

Supermarket plan back on the shelf

By Janet Maitland

Planning permission for a supermarket at Stag Court, High Road, opposite the library, has been refused. The owner of Stag Court first applied for planning permission earlier this year, but withdrew the application after 321 local people signed a petition opposing the plan. The application was resubmitted in June.

This time, 506 people protested that a supermarket would threaten existing shops, cause traffic and parking problems and spoil East Finchley's village atmosphere. Sixtytwo people were in favour of the proposal.

"This shows that the council really cares about the local community," said Harish Shah, of Galaxy Store in Church Lane, one of several shopkeepers who organised petitions against the plan.

Reasons for refusal

The planning committee's reasons for refusing permission for the supermarket were that its scale and location were thought to be "detrimental to the vitality and viability of the town centre". They couldn't find any evidence that a more central location had been sought or that the site had been actively marketed for its current use as offices.

The committee was also concerned about the impact of increased traffic and demand for parking on residential roads that are already under stress.

Appeal likely

The applicant, who asked not to be named, is planning to appeal. He said: "The protest was just propaganda by family businesses selling alcohol and tins; my supermarket would sell only fresh food.

"Parking is not a problem. There is plenty of space in Leopold Road and my supermarket would

A career of caring

By Diana Cormack

In July Margaret Singer retired from her role as a community nurse after caring for people in the area for over 20 years.

Originally from Australia,

Margaret met her husband when she was here on a world trip and nursed in hospitals before training as a district nurse. From 1991 she was based at Oak Lane Clinic and latterly at Finchley Memo-

rial Hospital. Margaret treated patients of East Finchley medical practices in their own homes as well as in local residential care. *ARCHER* reader Ann Inglis summed up how people felt about her visits: "When she arrives in your house, it's like the sun coming out."

Margaret's tribute

THE ARCHER interviewed Margaret with the intention of writing a retirement tribute, but she already had one prepared. Typical of her generous nature, it is in praise of others. Here is what she wrote:

"East Finchley is a community in the real sense of the word, more of a village atmosphere with many neighbours supporting and looking out for each other. Most of all I will miss the great enjoyment, fulfilment, diversity and fun of meeting and being involved with so many in this area. I am so privileged to have been able to be a small part of so many people's lives whose stoical courage and perseverance to deal with severe health and physical problems makes it a very humbling and enlightening experience, memories of which I take with me.

"My ability to treat, support and help these people would have been greatly curtailed if it were not for the brilliant team of nurses I have had to assist me. I am so lucky to have had the opportunity of a career in district nursing, especially in this area."

Judging from the comments of her patients and colleagues, the area is lucky to have had such a wonderful nurse.



Margaret Singer. Photo by Diana Cormack

Fund raising for autism

Two sponsored events are taking place to raise money for autism research. On Sunday 7 September women can join a team of runners and walkers in Hyde Park for the Adidas Ladies 5km Challenge. Register at www.autismspeaks.org.uk/hydro_challenge_2008.html.

On Sunday 12 October families and friends can take a Walk for Autism Research in The Swinley Forest, Bracknell,

Berkshire. Walks can be one, four or five miles and each walker who raises money will receive a medal. Register at www.autismspeaks.org.uk/swinley_walk_2008.html. For more information email lynn.hart@autismspeaks.org.uk or telephone 01491 411569.

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