



Youth make the most of Stanley Field

By Adam Castledine

Football fever came to Stanley Field once more when the East Finchley Monday Club held a mini sports day. For these young people, it is their only access to some form of permanent sporting facility.

Sandwiched between a railway track and a housing estate, Stanley Field has been long neglected but the Finchley Community Development Trust (FCDT) is lobbying for the 2.4 acre site to be developed for community use.

Dereliction

The asphalt pitch still exists but the floodlights are rusted and the field is horribly overgrown. Were it not for the dedication of local volunteers the site would be worse still, strewn with glass and refuse.

Chair of the FCDT, Roger Chapman, said: "In the absence of any firm progress from the council there is a risk Stanley Road will remain derelict for years to come. We are challenging Council leader Mike Freer to support the reopening of the playing fields for community use and not to allow this valuable open space to join the long list of playing fields that have been sold off and lost forever."

Enthusiastic response

The sports day was the

second time this year that the community had shown their commitment to the land. A football tournament was held back in April, too.

Joe Strong, one of the leaders of the Monday Club, ran a series of 'King of the Penalty Spot' tournaments for various ages together with a 'King of the Hoops' basketball competition that was only possible after they provided their own basketball hoop. The sheer passion and enthusiasm from the child, teenage, and adult competitors ensured that a fantastic day was had by all.

On site medical assistance came from Kate, 'the first aider', who admittedly had only one small bout of sun burn to deal with, and medals were handed out to the enthusiastic contestants and the winners of the competitions.



Young footballers want Stanley Field to be a field for the whole community. Photographs by Adam Castledine

Four months of disruption

As The Archer went to press, a four-month project to replace 550 metres of gas mains in East Finchley was getting under way. The work is expected to bring major disruption to the junction of Fortis Green, East End Road and High Road.

Four-way temporary traffic lights will be in use at the junction until the end of September. These will become three-way lights in October when East End Road will be one-way west-bound from the junction of the High Road to the railway bridge. Buses using East End Road will

be diverted via Ossulton Way.

National Grid said the work is part of a £70 million investment in the London gas pipeline network and is essential to improve local gas supplies.

Alliance construction operations engineer Mick Morris said: "We are aware this is a busy commercial area and we are working hard to minimise inconvenience to shops and businesses, which will be open for business as usual.

"We apologise for any inconvenience the temporary diversions may cause, but the work has been planned with the local authority and is essential to provide East Finchley with continued safe and secure gas supplies. The new gas mains will have a lifespan of around

80 years if left undisturbed once they are in the ground."

Friends of CTW

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood have a litter pick & AGM on Sunday 21 September.

The litter pick commences at 10 am, Equipment is provided and all are welcome, even if you can just spare a few minutes.

The AGM starts at 11am at the Lazy Sally Café (the café kiosk in the park) and will provide an opportunity to get involved, discuss any concerns and ideas, and learn about plans for regenerating the woodland.

Council leader comments on Stanley Field

Following an article in the *Hendon and Finchley Times* about the fight for Stanley Fields Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of Barnet Council, wrote a letter to the newspaper, which was published on Thursday 7 August. In it he stated that Roger Chapman had challenged him "to retain the fields and support the Development Trust's efforts". He went on to say that he had given 100% backing to their endeavours and that Barnet Council would be delighted for the trust to "take a significant chunk of the site and re-provide sporting facilities".

Councillor Freer, who was recently appointed to the London Development Agency, which is charged with maintaining the capital's economic growth, described the proposals for pitches, stands, cafés and floodlighting as "terrific". However,

he drew attention to the cost of the scheme and raised the question of funding, confirmation of which he said would be more effective than letters of support. He concluded that, with confirmation of funding, a deal could be done "and we can't say fairer than that".

Contractor injured trying to stop traffic

By Janet Maitland

A man was taken to hospital after a traffic collision involving a car and a pedestrian on Kitchener Road on 30 July. The accident happened at about 12.30pm when a contractor working for National Grid Skanska tried to prevent a motorist from entering Kitchener Road from the High Road.

"A crane was blocking the street, so you couldn't go down it anyway," said a bystander "and there was a warning notice on the pavement."

"The driver kept edging forward towards the workman," said a spokesperson from the Safer Neighbourhood Unit, who attended the scene of the accident. "When the car hit him and hurt his leg, the workman put his fist down on the bonnet of the car and dented it."

The ambulance service has confirmed that they took a 40-year-old man to Barnet Hospital with a leg injury. The injuries were not serious.

"The matter is under investigation," said a spokesperson from Skanska. "We are unable to comment further at this time."

the cherry tree

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