



Support for plans to transform pavilion

By Stephen Barry

Plans to convert the derelict pavilion building in Cherry Tree Wood into a new community facility are gathering pace a year after they were launched. Members of the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood Pavilion staged a public consultation exercise about the proposed venture on Sunday 12 July outside the derelict building.

Planning permission is being sought to convert the pavilion into a new community facility incorporating a café and educational and holistic well-being centre, with the accent on healthy eating and living. The pavilion would be run on a not-for-profit basis by Sally-Anne Wigfield, who runs the park's popular Lazy Sally Café.

Pavilion makes Friends

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood Pavilion, a group of local residents, has been formed to support the venture.

Committee member Rich Sparks, of Southern Road, said: "We support Sally in her plans to transform what is currently an eyesore into a community facility that East Finchley can be proud of."

"We are delighted that the vast majority of people who came along on Sunday positively supported the draft plans. There was a handful of objections from residents living close to the pavilion and we will take their concerns about possible noise and access problems into consideration before the planning application is made to Barnet Council."

An appeal for funding for the project is being made to Parks for People, under the National Lottery Heritage Fund, to enable building work to go ahead.

The Friends group has set up a website at www.foctwpavilion.org.uk to keep residents up-to-date with the progress of the proposed scheme.

Peter's ultimate saddle challenge

By John Lawrence

"I'm finding muscles in my legs that I didn't know were there," says casual cyclist turned bike obsessive Peter Noble. Not surprising, after three challenges that would test the mettle of even the most committed saddle fan.

Peter, of Brackenbury Road, has taken on three mammoth cycle rides in three months in aid of Action Medical Research, a charity that funds research into health conditions affecting babies and children.

He is raising money in memory of his daughter Michaela, who was born early at 31 weeks in 1999. She died from complications from a liver transplant 12 days after her second birthday.

Peter's wife Dorit and eight-year-old son Zac are backing him all the way.

Ride 24

He took part in the 100-mile Suffolk Sunrise ride in May, before joining a team of friends in the Ride 24 Challenge in June, a non-stop 24-hour relay event around the track at Donsfold Aerodrome in Surrey, home of BBC's *Top Gear* test track. There, Peter rode 196km in under eight hours.



Peter Noble is heading for Paris on two wheels. Photo by John Lawrence

"It was utterly exhausting but thrilling," he said. "None of us had ever done anything like it before. We had no race plan but once there we got caught up in the whole atmosphere."

London to Paris "a doddle"

The final challenge for Peter is the London to Paris cycle ride, which was taking place as *THE ARCHER* went to press on 22 July. He and two friends will be travelling up to 80 miles a day over four days between the two capitals.

"After Ride 24, London to Paris will be a doddle," joked Peter, 43. As a man whose longest ride was his seven-mile com-

mute into central London, he never thought he'd hear himself say that.

There is still plenty of time to support Peter and this extremely worthwhile cause. Sponsor him at www.action.org.uk/sponsor/peternoble

Hospital will be demolished

By Janet Maitland

Finchley Memorial Hospital building will be decommissioned and knocked down as soon as the new hospital on Bow Lane playing fields, North Finchley, is completed. Alison Blair, acting Chief Executive of NHS Barnet, gave the news in an exclusive interview with *THE ARCHER*.

"Although we appreciate the community attachment to it, Finchley Memorial Hospital building has no architectural value," she said. "We've asked the architects to incorporate the historic plaques and other artefacts into the new building. We also appreciate that the hospital is a war memorial, so one suggestion is for a memorial garden in the new green space that will be created."

Alison Blair also explained that the green space would include the part of the playing fields not taken up by the new building. "We're talking to local people about how best to use this chunk of unused space. Options include a cycle track

and extra playing space for a nearby primary school."

Effects on GPs and patients

Although GPs don't have to move to the new hospital, those in poor premises may otherwise find it difficult to meet the required quality, access, and infection control standards.

Alison Blair acknowledged concerns about increased travel times for patients. She said: "As GP practices move into the new hospital, some people will have to travel further to see a doctor, and others less. We're talking to Transport for London about possible demand for a small bus service."

The new Finchley Memorial Hospital will continue as a community hospital, but its services will be expanded to provide GP services, diagnostic services, pharmacy dispensing, urgent (unbooked) care, outpatient clinics, general health advice and specialist clinics. The new hospital is planned to open in 2012.

East End Road medical centre

THE ARCHER also raised the issue of the proposed polyclinic on the site of Finchley Manor Garden Centre on East End Road. Planning permission was given for this last year, following a consultation process that Barnet PCT did not respond to. A spokesperson from the PCT said at the time that they had "no objections to these proposals at this stage".

"We wouldn't close the door if it would improve local services," said Alison Blair. "But any new medical centre would only be given an NHS contract if it fitted into our overall strategy, was within our budget, and didn't have a negative impact on local GP practices. However, if the site was purchased by the private sector, we would have no involvement."

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