



## Polyclinic back to drawing board

By Janet Maitland

The Mayor of London has decided that an application to double the size of the planned medical centre on East End Road does not comply with the London Plan for new developments.

Barnet Council gave permission for the polyclinic on the site of Finchley Manor Garden Centre last September. This followed an appeal by Cloverdale Estates Ltd, a property development company, against a council decision made in December 2007.

Permission was refused then because the plan did not protect the status of the site, which is designated as Metropolitan Open Land (MOL), equivalent to Green Belt. The appeal was successful because the new plan incorporated a 'wellbeing' garden and it was argued that no other suitable sites were available. Cloverdale has now revised its plans again and wants permission for

a bigger centre.

### GPs and pharmacists not consulted

The clinic will have facilities for consultation, diagnosis and treatment and could have an impact on local GPs and pharmacists. However, it appears that none has been consulted about the new application, nor were they last year.

A Barnet spokesperson said that last year's application and the latest one are "both classed as major applications for which consultation requirements are the same".

### Mayor of London's statement

Councillor Colin Rogers has registered with the Mayor

an objection that the council had approved only a clinic of less than 1,000 sq metres, not a "large medical centre that will not have a beneficial relationship with the open nature of the MOL site or its surroundings".

The Mayor has stated that the proposed use of MOL is inappropriate. However, he believes there are special circumstances, such as the preservation of the open frontage of the site, which override MOL requirements. His objections are in relation to sustainable development, access, transport and parking, not the size of the building. If Barnet decides to give permission, legislation requires that the Major must be consulted again.



This car was spotted driving the wrong way over the Church Lane bridge. Photo courtesy of the EFVRA.

## Green flag fails to fly over East Finchley's park

By Diana Cormack

Despite weeks of refurbishment work carried out earlier this year, Barnet's attempt to win Green Flag status for Cherry Tree Wood (*THE ARCHER*, April 2009) has been unsuccessful.

A council spokesman told us that Cherry Tree Wood was one of eight Barnet parks considered for the prestige mark for open spaces. The other seven were successful once again.

"Despite extensive improvement works which we worked on with the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood group, judges decided that the park was one point short of the total it required to be given a Green Flag," said the spokesman.

"Further improvements are planned for the wood, including new welcome signs for the fences that are being designed through a competition run by the Friends. The group is also gathering feedback from park users about other improvements they would like. The wood has also been chosen as one of the Playbuilder sites (see *YOUNG ARCHER* on page 8) meaning it will receive funding for natural play opportunities for older children before the end of this financial year."

### Pavilion and path

So how did Cherry Tree Wood fall short of the required total? Apparently the scoring for Green Flags is achieved by a combined score from several different assessments, including visual judging and assessments of the long-term plans for the park. The final score is given in bands and Cherry Tree Wood's band was one below the requirement. The main criticisms were about

the condition of the pavilion and the footpath in the wood and the uncertainty around timescales for improving both. The council said it remains committed to working with the Friends group and other park users to bring further improvements to the park in the near future.

Let *THE ARCHER* know what you think about Cherry Tree Wood. Our contact details are on page 2.

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## One-way wrong way

Members of East Finchley Village Residents Association have urged drivers to observe the one-way system in Church Lane.

An EFVRA member photographed a car coming over the railway-bridge the wrong way on a Saturday morning in August. Then one Friday in September, a group of EFVRA members were attending a street meeting with police constables from the Safer Neighbourhood Team when they watched in horror as a car calmly turned right out of Trinity Road.

The driver ignored the sign opposite showing that only a left turn was permissible, and drove up over the railway-bridge against the one-way system. The police constables were too far away to take any action, and the numberplate could not be seen in the fading light.

### Regular risk-taking

EFVRA spokesperson Caroline Broome said: "While there will always be irresponsible drivers who occasionally take a risk and break the law,

the case in Church Lane is quite different. These are not isolated events, but a regular occurrence, which we fear will inevitably result in someone being killed or seriously injured."

The group's members are also dismayed that Barnet Council has rejected out of hand the request for Church Lane to be made a 20mph zone. At the EFVRA meeting on 14 September, Councillor Colin Rogers agreed to raise the matter with the Environment Committee.

Barnet Council has told EFVRA that its decisions are based upon speed surveys carried out in Church Lane.

You can contact EFVRA at [east.finchley.village.residents.association@virginmedia.com](mailto:east.finchley.village.residents.association@virginmedia.com). The next EFVRA meeting will be held at The East Finchley Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2, on 9 November at 8pm.

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