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# THE ARCHER




**GLH**  
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CARS & COURTIERS

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*A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.*

## New future for High Road site

By Janet Maitland

**A prime High Road property that has stood unused for more than eight years could soon have an occupier. The ground floor of Stag Court is being remarketed by estate agents Martyn Gerrard.**

Stag Court has a controversial history. Although the ground floor has planning permission for office space, it has never been let and the windows have been boarded up for several years. The glass-fronted property stands in a prominent location opposite the library between Leslie Road and Leopold Road.

### Failed

#### planning applications

A series of unsuccessful planning applications was made for permission to use the site as a supermarket, in 2002, 2004, and 2008. In 2009, an appeal went to the Planning Inspectorate, but was also unsuccessful.

Local opinion has been divided on the issue, although the majority of those who petitioned the council were against the scheme. Those in favour argued that this part of the High Road would benefit from a general food store.

### Potential use

*THE ARCHER* contacted Martyn Gerrard's office, where a spokesman confirmed that Stag Court is being actively marketed and has the potential for uses other than offices. Until someone takes the premises, however, its future is unknown.

"It will be up to whoever takes it on whether they want to seek planning permission for a change of use," said the spokesperson.

Barnet Council's reasons for refusing permission for a supermarket were that it would be detrimental to the vitality and viability of the town centre and would cause traffic and parking

problems. They could also find no evidence that the site had been actively marketed for its current use as office space.

The Planning Inspectorate agreed, adding that they thought the town centre was fairly fragile and that this could be made worse by diverting trade away from established shops.

*How would you like to see Stag Court used - for a community group, as a shop of any sort, a café, or even a gym? Let us know your thoughts on what should occupy the property. Email the-archer@lineone.net or write to THE ARCHER, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA.*



### Face painting was for the grown-ups too at the East Finchley Community Festival.

The event on Sunday 20 June was another day of fun, food and fantastic entertainment. See our report and picture special on pages 6 and 7.

## Tributes to Rudi Vis

**Former Finchley and Golders Green MP Rudi Vis died on 30 May, having been diagnosed with cancer earlier this year. Rudi held the seat from 1997 until stepping down at this year's election. He also served as a Barnet councillor from 1986 to 1998, firstly for Woodhouse ward and later for East Finchley.**

At a packed funeral service on 31 May at Golders Green Crematorium, tributes were paid to Rudi by Father Christopher Hardy, Douglas Fenn and the Rt. Hon. John Prescott, MP. Readings included an extract from Martin Luther King's Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech and poems by Christina Rossetti and Brian Patten. The Wake was held at College Farm in Finchley.

Barnet Mayor Councillor Anthony Finn said: "Rudi Vis was a well respected politician who served his community either as a councillor or MP for more than 20 years. He will be missed and my thoughts are with his wife, family and



Rudi Vis

friends at this sad time." In a farewell message in May's issue of *THE ARCHER*, Rudi said Finchley and Golders Green was a jewel in London's crown, and he expressed his love for Jacqui, his wife of 25 years, and their 15-year-old twin sons.

*THE ARCHER* team would like to express their condolences to Rudi's family and their thanks for the campaigning and care he put into East Finchley during his 13 years as our MP.



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