



# Fury as Cabinet approves rise in parking charges

By Diana Cormack

Press coverage of the vociferous Valentine's Night cabinet meeting at Barnet Town Hall has shown there was little love in the air, with council leader Lynne Hillan threatening to have protesters thrown out and to abandon the meeting.

The protesters were already dissatisfied with time limitations and answers given during public question time, so feelings ran high as people realised that, despite petitions, letters and emails appealing to councillors not to support proposed budget plans, they were going ahead.

## Reprieve for Newstead

East Finchley residents were among protesters against the hike in charges for allotments and parking spaces, as well as trying to save children's centres from closure and to retain wardens in sheltered accommodation for the elderly. Those supporting Newstead Children's Centre in Fallows Close learned that it would

be one of 13 to remain open. However, councillors returning from an unprecedented adjournment faced further fury as they ratified a raft of plans.

## Disproportionate

Residents living in the controlled parking zone (CPZ) opposite East Finchley tube station, south of Fortis Green and north of Cherry Tree Wood, where restrictions last from 10am until 6.30pm six days a week, felt the rise in visitor voucher charges from £1 to £4 would hit them particularly hard. They face paying a much greater proportion towards the upkeep of borough roads than all other Barnet road users, most of whom do not live in a CPZ (See Letters to the Editor, page 11).

## Campaign continues

Many are continuing with the protest, which has featured in the press, on television news and the internet. Solicitor David Attfield of Summerlee Avenue told *THE ARCHER*: "The Cabinet dealt with residents' questions in a contemptuous manner. Councillor Coleman even claimed that there had been 'extensive consultation' about the increased residents' charges. There hasn't. There has been a campaign, once residents found out about them. That is very different." He points out that all those living in CPZs are adversely affected by the increases and, at the time of writing, the legality of Barnet's actions is being investigated.

# Archbishop officially opens Academy

The Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams visited Wren Academy in Hilton Avenue, North Finchley, to perform the school's official opening ceremony.

Although the Academy opened to its first cohort of Year 7 students in September 2008, the official opening event was arranged to take place once all of the school's new buildings were complete

some of the Academy's lessons and took part in a question and answer session with students.

Year 9 student Amanda Shodeko said: "We were very privileged to have the Arch-

bishop delighted that the Archbishop was able to find the time to visit us. Our students have been absolutely thrilled to see him here. Dr Williams' visit is a huge endorsement of the Academy's progress."

Wren Academy is sponsored by the London Diocesan Board for Schools (LDBS) and Berkhamsted School (a leading independent school). The Academy's new buildings project was completed in the summer of 2010 at a cost of £23.4 million.



The Archbishop of Canterbury spent time talking to pupils during his visit. Photo courtesy Wren Academy.

and in use. Wren Academy now has three year-groups, with over 500 young people attending the school.

During his visit, as well as unveiling a commemorative plaque, Dr Williams sampled

the Archbishop come to the school. When the Archbishop went into the classrooms I think it was a moment that the students will never forget."

Academy Principal Michael Whitworth said: "I

# Options for Stanley Field

By Daphne Chamberlain

The Finchley Community Development Trust has until May to initiate a viable offer for Stanley Road Field. The Trust wants it to be an Olympic legacy in an area lacking sports facilities. Barnet Council, though, will want any offer to give realistic value.

At a public meeting in Holy Trinity School last month, the Trust asked East Finchley to consider four possible options for the future of the field.

- Open market development for an estimated 50-100 households, with associated cars. Cllr Brian Coleman said at the meeting that housing was not the only possibility, as some free schools were interested. This option had no support.

- A split between housing, and a cricket club incorporating other sports like badminton. The Trust would negotiate for public use.

- A combination of indoor and outdoor sports, with a cricket centre incorporating other sports, multi-use pitches, and a strip around the edge for dog-walking or an outdoor gym. This was the overwhelmingly popular choice.

- Outdoor five-a-side pitches, with changing facilities. This was rejected, as it could not be maintained.

The options were illustrated with drawings of how each could look by local architect Chris Hampson, who said that the indoor sports building would be about the height of Holy Trinity School.

Opinion in the hall was that

activities should integrate the public across age and gender ranges. Cllr Alison Moore said that the community wanted a sustainable package for young people and the whole of society.

## Sports organisations involved

The Trust's Roger Chapman, who chaired the meeting, said they were in discussion with Finchley Cricket Club, London Marathon, Sport England and governing bodies of various sports, and would explore collaboration with commercial sports centres. They must look for the appropriate solution for East Finchley.

Cllr Colin Rogers warned that Barnet must be convinced that any development could be maintained, but said that if we gave up the field it would be lost for ever.

## Can you help?

The Trust need volunteers to help assemble an offer, particularly people such as lawyers, accountants, business managers and Facebook specialists.

Keep in touch and/or offer your services or suggestions via Facebook (Stanley Road Playing Field) or email [stanleyroadn2@gmail.com](mailto:stanleyroadn2@gmail.com) or Rob Robertson on 020 8883 4916.

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