



Wilmot site at centre of Stanley Field future

By Daphne Chamberlain

Could we keep Stanley Field for sport by agreeing to homes being built on the neighbouring site of the former Herbert Wilmot Centre?

East Finchley's bid for the complete area was clearly not enough. Roger Chapman and Chris Hampson revealed the margin by which it fell short at a public meeting at the Constitutional Club on 23 February. The London Marathon Trust, who were prepared to purchase the site for East Finchley, had valued the land at £125,000. The bids of the three commercial developers favoured by Barnet Council ranged from £2.85 million to £10.1 million. As reported previously, the three developers, who are all proposing a mixed use of the site, are Croudace, Fairview and One Housing. Barnet Council directed Sport East Finchley to negotiate with each of them separately, to see if they could reach a satisfactory conclusion. These talks are still continuing. At the public meeting, it was obvious that East Finchley people are still passionate about preserving and developing the field for recreation, and the great majority

trusted our present negotiators to work for the best deal possible.

State of play

Sport East Finchley issued the following statement last month: "We held a public meeting which gave us a very clear steer on how we should progress with Stanley Road Playing Field. Many thanks to those of you who came along.

"We have gone back to Barnet Council to say that the local community wishes to see the integrity of the field maintained for sports and recreation, but we would be prepared to see the adjacent small site (separate from the field and previously occupied by a youth centre) developed for housing. This would generate a capital receipt for the council whilst retaining the field for sport and recreation use. We are now awaiting a response from Barnet and will keep you all informed." Keep up to date with the Stanley Road Playing Field page on Facebook.

A long way for a young lad

Super swimmer Archie Price is hoping to swim 5km in this year's Swimathon charity event at Barnet Copthall Leisure Centre on Saturday 28 April.

Archie, a nine-year-old pupil in Year 4 at Martin Primary School, currently trains for Barnet Copthall Swimming Club four times a week. Although this is the third time he has taken part in the charity event it will be the first time he has attempted the maximum distance of 5km all by himself. His parents, who run swimming website Goggleblog.com from East Finchley, will also be taking part in the event, making it 15km of swimming between them.

Dad Chris Price says: "We are very proud of Archie. He is a great swimmer and we really hope he can make the distance. It's 200 lengths of the pool: quite a challenge for



Archie Price is aiming to swim 5km in the Swimathon.

Photo by Chris Price.

anyone, especially a boy who has only just turned nine." The UK's biggest charity swimming event, the Swimathon raises money for Marie Curie Cancer Care and this year is also partnering with the Big

Splash Mile to raise funds for Sports Relief 2012. For more information on the Swimathon go to www.swimathon.org and to sponsor Archie Price for a good cause visit www.archieprice.com.

Mayor digs in for double centenary

By John Dearing



The Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Lisa Rutter plants the centenary oak tree at Long Lane Pasture, accompanied by Ann Brown, chair of the Pasture Trust. Picture by John Dearing

Mayor of Barnet Councillor Lisa Rutter planted an oak tree at Long Lane Pasture to celebrate a double centenary.

One hundred years ago in 1912, this pocket of open land opposite our fire station was purchased for public enjoyment and recreation. The same year marked the death of Octavia Hill, co-founder of the National Trust, who as a girl lived at Brownswell Cottages, formerly on the High Road in East Finchley just south of the junction with the North Circular Road today.

David Gilks of the National Trust made a short presentation on the life and work of Octavia Hill, after which Ann Brown, chair of the Long Lane Pasture Trust, invited the Mayor to plant the oak tree. Assisting the Mayor at the planting on Wednesday 22 February was Wayne Armsby of the Trust. Also present were Councillors Alison Moore and Brian Coleman.

To commemorate the centenary further, the Trust is holding a photo and art competition. Find more details at www.longlanepasture.org/centenary

Nursery open morning

By Lucy Barrett

Parents are invited to have a look around Holy Trinity CE School's nursery and see it working on a normal day at an open morning on Wednesday 25 April from 9.30-11.30am.

The nursery promises to provide opportunities for every child to become the best that they can be. Nursery children are fully integrated into the school day and take part in class assemblies, Christmas and summer shows and sports day.

Holy Trinity also offers 'wrap around' care at the beginning and end of the school day. The free entitlement to nursery education is three hours per day, with fees applicable for both the Breakfast and Afterschool clubs.

All the children who attend Holy Trinity Nursery do so on a part-time basis for three hours a days, five days a week. Places are allocated according to the admission policy, a copy of which can be found at <http://webfronter.com/barnet/holytrinity2>.



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