

Local News is our Aim

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Cherry Tree Wood pavilion café plan

By Diana Cormack

Barnet Council has given notice of its intention to grant a 25-year lease for the disused pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood to be used as a café. The applicant does not wish to be named but for many years he ran a café on the High Road and recently opened a similar business there.

Last October, *THE ARCHER* reported that plans to turn the pavilion into a community café had been dropped. Sally-Anne Wigfield, who runs the Lazy Sally café in the park, told us then that her proposal had been outbid by another interested party.

The council's notice was dated 28 June and the proposed leased area plan was on view at their North London Business Park property services office. Before making any further decision, the council was considering written representations, which had to be submitted by 13 July.



Dilapidated condition

Since it closed a quarter of a century ago, the pavilion has become increasingly dilapidated, due to weathering, vandalism and break-ins. The council blocked off the front area with high wire fencing but this is frequently broken through.

Because of this barrier, people found it difficult to read the lease proposal notices on display at the pavilion. One had been stuck on the edge of the wall well behind the fencing. Another was impossible to read, being attached to a pillar on the verandah several feet behind the fence.

Opposition to last year's application included concerns about potential nuisance to near-neighbours, worries about parking problems and objections to the opening hours. According to the new proposals, the café's opening hours would be restricted to those of the park all year round, although this could be subject to varying weather conditions. No trees are to be affected by the development. As the pavilion is on Metropolitan Open Land it is subject to planning restrictions with regard to changes in the character or use of the building

and its surrounds.

The cost of refurbishment for Sally's community café was estimated to be around £175,000. Whether the proposed premises will be as costly we shall only know if and when these new plans for the pavilion come to fruition.



Pyramid scheming: Adrian Terruli, left, and the Christ's College robotics team in Mexico.

Robot boys make their mark in Mexico

By Adrian Terruli

Three years ago I started an after-school science club at Christ's College Finchley (CCF) where pupils began tinkering with Lego robots for the fun of it.

Each year we have entered the UK schools finals of RoboCup Junior and the current school team of Vinesh Khetani, Riku Murai, Nikunj Pindoriya and Shervin Sabeghi have turned out to be highly capable robot builders.

This year we came first in the UK finals and were invited to represent the UK in the 2012

World Championships, which led to us all travelling out for an adventurous week in Mexico City.

CCF made its mark by ranking 20th in the world. Considering we were up against some of the top public schools of China, Japan and Germany, this is a huge achievement.

I am happy to say that I was also able to drag the boys away from their robots long enough for them to enjoy some of the magnificent sights in and around Mexico City, including the amazing Aztec pyramids of

Teotihuacan.

Looking back on the event, our team from CCF left a great impression on the competition, making friends from around the world and acting as fantastic ambassadors for the UK as a whole.

The organisers would like to see us return in future years and CCF is expanding its robotics club to look for new pupils to form the teams of the future.

I would like to thank all staff, pupils and parents who have made donations to the robotics club to keep it going.

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