



Clash over changes to Victorian house

By Nick Young

A loft conversion to a Victorian house on Church Lane has angered local residents after revised plans were exempted from planning permission requirements following the rejection of the original plans.

The original planning application was submitted to and rejected by the East Area Planning Subcommittee in July. An amended application, which was submitted in August, did not have to go through the committee process as the (reduced) size of the proposed extension in the new plan means that it is exempt from planning permission requirements.

Letters of protest have been sent to Barnet Council urging them to reconsider, according to local resident Jael Reece. "After all, the Planning Committee was almost unanimous in insisting the roof should not be altered only on 4 July this year. What happened to democracy?"

Another neighbour, Jane Higgison, described the planned extension as a "carbuncle", adding: "They are ruining a beautiful 1880s house."

The owner, Guy Davis, informed THE ARCHER that he had had no idea that his application would raise such strong objections, and the original design had been altered accordingly for the amended application. "We have worked to enhance the character of the property," said Mr Davis. "We have done our level best to maintain the beauty of the building."

Locally listed

The house is a locally listed building, meaning that it is included in Barnet Council's schedule of buildings of local architectural interest, but such properties do not have any additional protection in planning law.

In a letter to the press, Mr Davis's solicitors emphasised that their client had not broken any planning rules. "We are concerned... that local residents believe that our client has exercised a loophole in the planning process," said the letter. "This would be untrue and grossly defamatory."

Goodbye to a legend

By Sam Grove

Finchley united on Tuesday 9 October to bid a fond farewell to one of its most well-known and well-loved sons at the funeral of Stanley White, better known as Horace, held at Islington Cemetery Chapel. Horace passed away a fortnight earlier outside the Whittington Hospital, and in the wake of his death tributes flooded in for the man best known for wishing people "The best of luck".

Such was the impact Horace had on the community that as many as 600 people from all ages and backgrounds attended to pay their last respects. Among them were representatives of the London Fire Brigade, who brought a wreath, and of the Whittington Hospital, whose staff had cared for Horace over many years.

The private man

The service was delivered by the Reverend Michael Giles with a reading by Horace's best friend Leon. The highlight was his sister Selina's eulogy, read by the Reverend. Over the past 35 years we have all come to know the public Horace who roamed the streets with his suitcase, drew pictures and remembered everyone's names, but Selina gave us a glimpse of the private Horace whom she and a select group of others were privileged to know.

One story in particular drew a laugh from the crowd. She recounted how she had given him £4 for lunch every week when he attended the local day care centre, only to find out seven years later that the centre had been closed since 2005. When she asked him why he kept accepting the £4, even though the centre was closed, he replied that "because he had been forced to attend the centre against his will for so many years, he needed compensation".

The service concluded with a collective "Three cheers for Horace" followed by a more impromptu round of "The best of luck!"



Hundreds turned out to say a final goodbye to Horace White.

Photo by Sam Grove.

Finchley Jazz special

A very special Jazz Night is planned at the old Wilf Slack Cricket Club (now the Hall School Sports Ground) at 19 East End Road, N3, on Monday 19 November from 7.45-10.45pm.

As the former Finchley Jazz Club secretary and ARCHER team member, Pamela Kent, is now a cancer sufferer, all proceeds will go to Macmillan Nurses and Cancer Research UK.

There will be a seven-piece band, led by Peter Rudeforth, who is one of the lead trumpet players with Chris Barber, and all the musicians will be of the highest order.

The entrance fee will be only £8 per person and, as there is no bar, you can bring your own booze. There will also be a raffle and an auction of a top-class violin.

If you wish to donate a prize of books, CDs, DVDs, boxes of biscuits/sweets or bottles of wine etc they will be most welcome; just bring them along on the night. Please come along for a superb evening of top-quality jazz.



Pasture friend Linda Dolata shows off some of the art work.

Photo by Diana Walsh.

Pasture's 100 years

To celebrate 100 years of the Long Lane Pasture, an exhibition of paintings, sketches and photographs ran at artsdepot, North Finchley, throughout the month of October, showing more than 100 views of the pasture, its wildlife, flowers and some quirky observations.

Titles such as Fox by Moonlight, Bee at Sunset, Chaffinch in Snowy Hawthorn, Contorted Hazel, Ladybird on Ropesnake and Pasture with Clouds give some indication of the variety on view.

This was added to by pupils from Year 5 at Tudor Primary School, who had visited the pasture during Environment Week. The lovely work produced by the nine- and ten-year-olds in Chestnut Class proved their interest in art, nature and the environment, for which they were awarded a special certificate.

If you missed the exhibition, selected entries will appear in

the Long Lane Pasture Calendar 2013, which will be available soon. Long Lane Pasture, which was originally used for grazing and to grow hay for horses, was purchased by the council in 1912 for public enjoyment and recreation. Local residents had a long struggle to make it what it is today. For further details visit: www.longlanepasture.org

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