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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Residents fight reservoir housing plans

By Mandy Rabin

Residents, Tetherdown School and the Fortis Green Community Allotments Trust are busy defending a plot of land from housing development.

The site, north of the allotments by the covered reservoir and behind 2-16 Lauradale Road, has been in dispute for many years, after being sold off by Thames Water to a property developer.

The current application to build two three-storey houses is the latest in a series of proposals which have been successfully defeated by the local community.

2011 rejection

Many feel the houses would harm the land's open nature, with the proposed buildings reaching over one metre higher than those already on the site, and would act as a precedent for additional building on reservoir land. In fact, the total building mass in the current proposal is little different from an application rejected in September 2011 by Planning Inspector Peter Willows. He reported then: "The dwellings would give the site a more built-up appearance. This would detract from the open character of the Significant Local Open Land and the area as a whole. Consequently, the proposal is at odds with the aims of policy... which requires proposals to complement the character of the local area and be of a nature and scale that is sensitive to the surrounding area."

Safety concerns

The site's access path, extensively used by pedestrians and cyclists, also contains the entrance to Tetherdown School, raising concerns about the safety of hundreds of children walking to this and other local schools, should there be an increase in traffic to the proposed

houses.

Almas Bavcic, the project's architect, told me that the building work would take 14 months, which would mean a long period of noise, dust and plant traffic next to Tetherdown School.

The building application was submitted on 19 July, a day before the end of the school term, making it very awkward for Tetherdown School to respond.

Local residents are leafletting the community to post objections to the planning application and are developing their campaign.

Details of the application can be found, and comments posted, on Haringey Council's web site at www.tinyurl.com/85woodside

For further information about the campaign see <http://www.85woodside.com/>



Paprika. Photo by Tom Bowles

Paprika at EF Arts Festival

By Betti Blatman

On Thursday, 11 October at 7.30 pm, East Finchley Arts Festival is featuring "Paprika" in All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley. I've seen this band many times, always admiring their fabulous performances of traditional Gypsy music from the Balkans and Eastern Europe plus Classical and Jazz tunes.

"Paprika" is led by the brilliant violinist, Bogdan Vacarescu, whose passion and speed on the violin is unbelievable! The two accordionists, Milos Milivojevic and Zivorad Nikolic, also play solo and duet which is an added treat. Vladimir Strkalj on guitar, James Opstad on bass and Rastko Rasic on percussion complete the band who will ignite their fiery music and ensure an unforgettable experience for the audience.

Tickets available from 02084444717 or 02088835631
Further information: www.eastfinchleyartsfestival.org.uk

and www.paprikamusic.com.
Turn to the back page for the full Arts Festival programme.

Party in the park

The Muswell Hill Festival takes place on Sunday 9 September from 12-6pm in Cherry Tree Wood, the eighth year the event has been in the park.

New this year will be Muswell Hill's Got Talent, a competition for local talent with the prize of a recording session or equivalent at BonaFideStudio in Muswell Hill, along with all the usual donkey rides, the popular monster veg competition, a dog show and live music.

As always there will be an eclectic mix of stalls from the local community, plus fun and games in the kids' zone. The popular miniature steam train ride, organised by the North London Society of Model Engineers, costs £1 for a return journey.

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