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Local News is our Aim

# THE ARCHER




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**CARS & COURIERS**

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*A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.*

## Million pound gift for 'forgotten' community

By Daphne Chamberlain

The Grange Estate and a wide swathe of roads around it have been given £1 million from the Big Lottery Fund's Big Local programme to be spent on projects suggested and agreed by local residents.

The area was identified as a "forgotten" pocket of London, previously overlooked for funding and investment, and facing difficult issues. Nine locations in London, and a total of 50 across England, received the same funding.

East Finchley's chosen area is titled The Grange, but is in fact all the roads in the pocket bordered by the North Circular, the High Road, Church Lane and East End Road. This is a large part of the Community Safety Action Zone, set up by Barnet in 2004.

Big Local Trust, who run the programme. This rep will introduce himself to the community, probably in March, and will encourage residents to consider their options. During this 'warming-up' period, each area can draw on up to an extra £20,000 to get things going.

Big Local has been running since 2010, and says it can be useful for people to visit other areas to see what they are doing. There are now 150 communities across the country, including 26 in London, who are working to improve their lives with the help

of Big Local Trust.

To see the map of the funding area, go to [www.local-trust.org.uk/?project=grange-estate](http://www.local-trust.org.uk/?project=grange-estate). The site also gives the name of the Local Trust rep as Paul Bragman.



### Residents decide

This category of funding differs significantly from the usual pattern of specific bidding. Big Local is proactive from the beginning, identifying neglected areas with the help of local authorities and organisations. Recipients have up to 10 years to spend the money, and they decide within the community how it should be spent.

Alison Rowe, London regional head for Big Local, told *THE ARCHER*: "This is all about helping people to develop confidence and to see what they really need. It can be challenging, because people have different issues, and may need support to come to a democratic consensus. It's exciting!"

The selected areas have the help of a representative from



Stallholder Monica Russel knitted her way through the day and had a line-up of tea cozies for sale.

Photo by John Lawrence.

## All wrapped up

Congratulations to all the organisers and volunteers who made East Finchley's first Christmas festival such a success. See our report and photos on pages 6-7.

## Home planning consultation

Barnet Council has launched a consultation to gather people's views on two planning documents which will help guide the future design of homes in the borough. The consultation will run until 17 January.

The first document provides direction on the design aspects of future developments and deals with modifications such as extensions and conversions to existing homes, and also provides detailed and locally relevant guidance on issues such as local character, car parking and density in relation to new-build developments. The second document addresses

the more technical design and construction aspects of development, such as how energy efficient they should be and how much indoor and outdoor space, such as gardens and balconies, should be provided for residential development.

Both draft documents can be viewed online by visiting <http://engage.barnet.gov.uk>. Alternatively, printed copies are available at the planning reception area of Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, or at libraries across the borough.



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