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THE ARCHER



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CARS & COURIERS

January 2014 No. 242 **20p**
 ISSN 1361-3952 where sold

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

£500,000 boost for sport on Stanley Field

Stanley Field took another step closer to being a community sports facility again with the announcement in December that the Archer Academy's Stanley Road campus will be given £500,000 from the London Marathon Charitable Trust (LMCT).

It has also been confirmed that the Stanley Road facilities will be made available to everyone in the community outside of school hours in perpetuity, according to the terms of a deed of dedication.

The LMCT grant will allow the school to install a 3G artificial turf pitch at the site, which will be useable in all weather, instead of a grass one. The money will also fund an inclusive climbing wall, suitable for both disabled and able bodied users.

Sport East Finchley has been working closely with LMCT for many years to build a business plan and find funding for sports facilities on the field. The Archer Academy's own development plans for the field were seen as the best way to preserve the field for community use, while also providing much needed secondary school places.

Goal achieved

Roger Chapman of Sport East Finchley said: "The grant from the London Marathon Charitable Trust will enable this sports field to be brought back into active sports use for local people. Our community has campaigned for over 15 years to retain sports use on this field and with the backing of the London Marathon Charitable Trust that goal has now been achieved.

"We are still exploring other funding avenues for sport on the site. With the LMCT money now agreed we hope this will help us with other bids especially to bodies like Sport England.

"The grant from LMCT is subject to agreeing the Deed of Dedication which will be resolved when the site is purchased from Barnet Council in

the New Year. We are currently negotiating wording with Fields in Trust."

A Deed of Dedication generally ensures continuing community use, even if ownership of the facilities should change.

Roger Chapman told us that precise times of use will be negotiated over the coming months. He said that last month's planning permission set out a variety of conditions regarding times of use, plus the need for a community use agreement to be negotiated and agreed with Sport England for the all-weather pitch, hard courts and sports hall outside of school hours and during school holidays.

Avis Johns, the Archer Academy's chair of governors, said: "I would like to publicly thank the London Marathon Charitable Trust for this most generous grant, which will dramatically improve the facilities we can offer our children and our community."

Work at the Stanley Road site is due to begin early in 2014, with sports and teaching facilities scheduled to be ready for the school's third intake of pupils in September 2015.



A winter wonderland in the High Road. Photo Mike Coles

In thy dark streets shineth...
Real reindeer, fake snow, brass band music and plenty of street entertainment were just some of the highlights of East Finchley's second winter festival, held all along the High Road early in December. Turn to pages 6 and 7 to see our photo special.

Big Local is recruiting

The Grange Big Local project, which aims to improve life for residents on The Grange estate and surrounding roads, is looking for help.

Big Local rep Paul Bragman says he'd like to find an individual, consultant or organisation with a proven track record of community engagement and community development to work alongside the project's existing group of active volunteers.

The work will include assisting in managing and supporting local ambassadors, developing the partnership and coordinating the development of the project, starting in early February.

For a copy of the brief, visit the Grange Big Local website www.grangebiglocal.org or for further information contact Paul on 07887 721825.

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