



Old Barn in the frame to become 'community hub'

By Janet Maitland

Barnet Council is proposing to spend £1 million on refurbishing and extending the Old Barn community centre on Tarling Road to create a 'community hub'.

The centre may also benefit from some of the £1 million lottery funding given to the Big Local to spend on the area bounded by Church Lane, the High Road, East End Road and the A406.

"We can fund local projects that will make a lasting difference to the area; youth and community facilities are likely to be a key priority," said local resident Jon Woolfson, a member of the Big Local steering group.

The plans for the Old Barn include a new wing, linked to the main building, for the local Bravanese community, whose centre on Coppetts Road, Muswell Hill, burnt down in June 2013. Barnet also plans to open up the land adjacent to the Old Barn to create a public open space and accommodate the enlarged centre.

Residents raise concerns

Council officials outlined their plans at a public meeting on 26 November attended by over 100 people. Residents from Brownsell Road expressed their anger that they had not been consulted before and said that the council cannot use the adjacent land to extend the Old Barn because it is protected green space.

"The meeting was the first opportunity for most of us to hear about the council's proposals for the site adjacent to the Old Barn," said local resident Helen Drake. "There needs to be a lot more interaction between the council and local residents, particularly those living in the roads nearest to the site."

"We feel that the way in which the meeting was planned was bound to cause unrest," said

Abubakar Ali from the Bravanese Welfare Association. "Much more time is needed for a dialogue which can allow everyone's interests to be heard and some kind of consensus reached. We haven't had the proper opportunities to build connections and relationships with local people."

Council response

A spokesperson for the council said the land adjacent to the Old Barn was not protected green space, adding: "Historically it was to be laid out for community use. It is currently unusable and we hope that the proposals will bring it back into community use. We've taken into account the feedback from the public meeting. Meetings and consultation will be arranged with local residents and all interested parties during the coming months."

Local resident Will Hudson, who has been an advisor to the Bravanese Community for several years, warned that if council decisions were made before the consultation is complete, this would be a disaster for local relationships and acutely serious for the Bravanese in particular.

The Old Barn was a thriving community centre for over 25 years until it was taken over in 2010 by a group of 'trustees' who discontinued all the services. The centre was finally reclaimed last October by the social and community group Mobilise who have been appointed as interim trustees by the Charity Commission. Anyone interested in getting involved in the Old Barn's future should contact oldbarn@mobilise.org



La Torre visits the Tower. Photo John Lindsay

All the local news (in Italy)

It's not only ARCHER readers who take their local paper to be photographed in various parts of the world. This group of Italians came from Tuscany to be shown round London by Rebecca and John Lindsay

of Cherry Tree Road and had their newspaper with them.

When the couple are visiting the group's home town of Massa

Marittima, they help them with their English studies. John said: "Their paper is a bit like THE ARCHER but the council helps to finance it."

Leisure passes for carers

Any registered carer, whether an adult or a child, now has free access to Barnet's GLL-operated leisure centres.

This includes free swimming at Cophall, Finchley Lido and Church Farm, as well as concessionary discounts on badminton, group exercise classes, and many more activities. To get a pass, just email the Prevention and Wellbeing Team at preventionandwellbeing@barnet.gov.uk.

Quick Tips To Speed Up Your Computer

If your computer is a few years old you might be thinking it is already past its sell-by date.

- 1) Reload the operating system from scratch**
Some computers have a recovery partition - CAUTION Make sure you have great backups.
- 2) Increase the RAM.**
This is the usable memory and if you are running with less than 4GB on Windows 7, it will make a big difference for a small cost.
- 3) Upgrade to Solid State Hard Drive (SSD).**
This will make your machine purr and breathe fresh life as a SSD can be 10 times faster to access.

We help local businesses and individuals with their IT, and are based in the heart of Muswell Hill. With over 25 years' experience, we are always looking to help and support the local community.



For more useful advice and information online, read our blog at www.northlondonitsupport.com/blog
Call one of our IT support technicians today on freephone 0800 7561400
4 Mews House, Princes Lane, Muswell Hill, N10 3LU



ALMAR BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

Accountancy | Payroll & Book-keeping | Tax services

Business services:

- Bookkeeping & Accounting
- Business planning
- Business start-up
- Company Secretarial
- Corporate tax planning
- eCommerce & Payment Solutions
- Payroll
- Service Charge Accounting
- VAT

Personal services:

- Personal tax planning
- Self assessment

Specialist sectors:

- Building profits
- Charities
- Owner directors
- Retail
- Sole traders

Why choose us?

By providing high quality of service and not charge over the top fees, we retain the business and loyalty of our customers, as well as win many new ones through word of mouth. We also work with tax specialists, investor advisors and auditors to provide clients additional services where there is a need.

Call us for a FREE review of your requirements and to discuss best way forward, with no obligation.
Tel: 0203 151 0750 or email: info@AlmarBSL.co.uk

Visit our newly improved website with useful and topical information: www.AlmarBSL.co.uk

Almar Business Solutions Limited is a registered company in England and Wales (registered number 04541322), holder of ACCA Practising Certificate with Association of Chartered Certified Accountants and has Professional Indemnity Cover for its business activities.

North London Floor Sanding Experts

We offer full floor renovation service which includes:

- Wood floor sanding and finishing, staining and dying
- Buff and lacquer/oil/wax
- Gap filling
- Repairs, bespoke floor fitting incl parquet

Free and no obligation estimates

www.sandingexperts.co.uk - 077 38753430

East Finchley, High Road N2

A Local Handyman

available for general household & garden maintenance.

No Job Too Small

Free Estimates

Call John on: 0789 010 3831

or: 0208 883 5325

ARE YOU LIVING WITH CONSTANT PAIN?

Would you prefer to rely less on painkillers?

Have you been told nothing more can be done to reduce the pain?

If so, my new Hypnotherapy-based programme for chronic pain control could help.

YOU CAN TRAIN YOUR BRAIN TO BLOCK THE PAIN

Most people notice improvements from the very first session



Free introductory consultation

Call or email me to find out more:

kathryn@kathrynskorza.co.uk 020 8444 5498 07703 404 83

www.kathrynskorza.co.uk

Japanese Acupuncture & Moxibustion

Gentle, dynamic & effective. Promoting health and vitality. Treatment is tailored specifically to your needs.



Ph 07795 203107

Please see www.fionahurlock.com
Utopia 1a Leicester Mews, N2 9EJ



- Back Pain
- Neck Pain
- Whiplash Injury
- Sciatica
- Sports Injury
- Frozen Shoulder
- Arthritis
- Tennis Elbow
- Sprain or Strain
- Rehabilitation
- Neurological
- Stroke

Wendy Longworth & Associates physiotherapy practice offers a variety of treatments at the clinic, or off-site, in patients homes, nursing homes, private hospitals and other organisations.

www.eastfinchleyclinic.co.uk

020 8883 5888

2-3 Bedford Mews Bedford Road London N2 9DF