



Worries over school expansion

By Nick Young

Barnet Council has approved plans to expand Oak Lodge School, off East End Road, despite opposition from local residents.

Located on Hampstead Heights, Oak Lodge is a special needs school maintained by the London Borough of Barnet that currently has 165 students aged 11-19 with a range of learning difficulties.

As previously reported in *THE ARCHER*, the plans for its expansion include a new block and are intended to provide for an additional 35 places.

Objections to plans

Opposition has come from residents of Hampstead Heights, Heath View and Maya Road, whose views are represented by the Heath Heights Action Group (HHAG). Members of HHAG have been keen to stress that they are very supportive of Oak Lodge School and the work it does, but they have concerns over the expansion plans in their current form.

They expect a heavy impact on local residents' amenity levels and increase traffic, as the only way to access the school is via Hampstead Heights, which affects people living on all three streets mentioned above. They also claim the expansion will affect the character of the surrounding area, its trees and biodiversity.

Speaking at the Council's

Planning Committee meeting on 28 January, HHAG representatives Alan Judes and Mary Hogben, and East Finchley's Councillor Arjun Mittra, outlined the impact that the plans would have. "The school and the community," said Mr Judes, "deserve better plans".

Despite residents' objections, the plans were approved by the Committee, with seven votes in favour, two against and two abstentions.

Commenting on Twitter, Councillor Mittra observed that the residents' group had "secured some important conditions along the way".

When *THE ARCHER* asked Oak Lodge for a comment the school said, given the sensitivity of the building project, it would defer any response until it was certain it was going ahead.

Charity Zumba
A Zumba afternoon is taking place at St Mary's RC Church at 279 High Road, N2, on Saturday 14 March from 3-5pm to support refugees in Syria and Northern Iraq.

Give yourself and your family a good workout. The cost is £5. Under 5s go free.



Screen star: Charlie Lyne is interviewed by Lily Scott. Photo by Maurita Van Droogenbroeck

Teen movie talk

Beyond Clueless is billed as the ultimate movie about teen movies. Its 23-year-old director Charlie Lyne was at the Phoenix Cinema recently for a screening and a Q&A session.

The north Londoner's film combines clips from 200 age classics of all types, with a narration by Fairuza Balk, herself the star of 1990s teen film *The Craft*.

For the Q&A, he was interviewed by Lily Scott, who is part of a teenage screening

group at the Phoenix. Lily said: "I would like to study film at university, so it was amazing to talk first-hand to someone so young about his film-making. Charlie's film is such a hypnotic and captivating piece."

Call back?

Think twice

By Janet Maitland
If you get a missed call from a number you don't recognise, think twice before calling back. Ofcom is warning consumers about a mobile phone scam that tricks victims into thinking they've received a legitimate missed call and ending up being charged up to £1.50 a minute.

The numbers used start with 070 or 076, selected because they look like ordinary mobile phone numbers but cost considerably more to call. When you ring the number back, the call is immediately dropped or an engaged tone is played. Either way, you are charged.

Some callers have also heard a recorded voice suggesting a bad line, encouraging the caller to ring back and be charged a second time.

If you get a missed call number beginning with 070 or 076, make a note of it and call the premium rate regulator Phonepay Plus on 0800 500 212 to report it.

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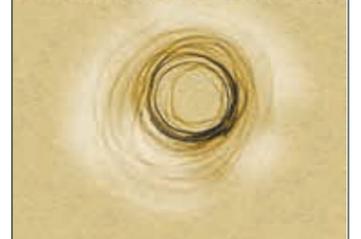


Police attend the accident on East End Road.

Car overturns after hitting lamppost

A car overturned after crashing into a lamppost on East End Road, near the junction with Abbots Gardens, at about 11.40pm on 16 February. The driver, a man in his 30s, was taken by ambulance to Barnet Hospital with leg pain. His injuries are not thought to be life threatening.

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