



Old Barn: More time to have your say

By Janet Maitland

Barnet Council has decided to delay its planning application for the extension of the Old Barn community centre in Tarling Road, N2, so that more consultation can take place.

The council's proposals include building a new wing primarily for the local Somali Bravanese community, whose centre on Coppetts Road, Muswell Hill, was burnt down in a racist arson attack in June 2013. The council had hoped to apply for planning permission in March/April, but this has been postponed to May/June.

"Some stakeholders have asked for additional time to allow more community engagement to take place," said a council spokesperson.

Community concerns

Local residents have raised a number of concerns about the proposals. One issue is whether the council has the right to build on the land adjacent to the Old Barn, given its history as protected green space. Another is frustration that the council can find money for the extension but not for local services under threat of closure. Some residents who live in the streets surrounding the centre feel aggrieved at the lack of direct consultation with them, given that they will be affected the most.

The council has employed

their community liaison service to facilitate the additional consultation. The council spokesperson said that the council wanted the needs of all parties to be "explored, understood and accommodated, so far as is practicable, so that the community hub and facilities can be shared for joint and separate group activities, for the mutual benefit of the community."

THE ARCHER asked if local residents, particularly those living in nearby streets, would be consulted. "Our liaison service will work with all parties," said the spokesperson. "The residents, the Somali Bravanese group, the Big Local and CommUnity Barnet will all be encouraged to collaborate on the design, build and use of the community assets that will supplement the Old Barn so that we can work together to provide community space that is based on a common understanding of the issues and needs."

The council hopes that if the application for planning permission is successful, the Old Barn could be completed by March 2016, although exact timescales will be "dependent on the final agreed design."



Owners Barbaros and Estella Cicek at the launch party for the Visage Beauty Salon in the High Road. Photo Mike Coles

New beauty salon launched on the High Road

A new hair and beauty business has opened at 148 High Road, the former site of the SevenHill salon. At the launch party of Visage on Sunday 12 April friends, family and other well-wishers were entertained by the jazz band Oriana and participated in a raffle with the proceeds donated to the North London Hospice.

This is a second salon for husband and wife team Estella and Barbaros Cicek, and their business partner Erkan Deniz, as they already have one in Belize Park. Estella said they are offering top of the range products along with a high standard of treatment which they offer at reasonable prices.

Hairdressing for men, women and children, including colour and bridal packages are available as are beauty treatments for face, hands and feet, waxing and massage.

Visage is open every day

of the week. For more information call 020 8444 3936 or 4340, email: enquiries@visage-hairsalon.co.uk or visit www.visagehairandbeautysalon.com. Facebook page www.facebook.com/visagebelsizepark



It has been a joy and a pleasure serving the Community of East Finchley. We have met some wonderful people over the years and we will miss them all.
Maxine & Maggie

So long, surgery

Patients and staff of the surgery at 91 High Road gathered for one final photo when it closed at the end of March.

Many had signed a petition to save the surgery but it was not to be. Receptionists Maxine and Maggie made their feelings clear in a note to patients, above.

The Finchley Charities



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Closing date 15th May 2015

RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

Home, Jeremy

After months of the unreal world of politics it's time to return to the reality of drink, drugs and insanity where everything happens in a genuinely surreal way. And what could be more surreal than the world after Clarkbore.

With hundreds heading for the bookies to put money on the dream ticket of Jodie Kidd, Sabine Schmitz and Vicki Butler-Henderson, there is a need for an alternative. It is time for an all-new Top Gear that doesn't let anyone smoke the tyres or try to out-Stig the Stig round a disused airfield in Surrey. Yes, it is time for the driverless car show. A nightmare for petrolheads they may be but driverless cars hold a strange appeal.

Let's start with the Friday night pub crawl. No longer does some poor fool have to drink water and drive their drunk friends around. Instead they can get into a Google self-drive, fire up the sat nav and hit the road. One over the eight? No problem, as long as you can find the car you can keep drinking. And, as long as you can remember where you live, it can get you home so that you can fall out into your own gutter.

Technology in action can transform your commute. No need to have breakfast before you leave the house; take it with you! Recline in luxury, eat your cereal, drink your organic vanilla latte and check out the new dancing cat video on FaceTube.

It's not just food and drink. You could sit there playing Grand Theft Bicycle in the knowledge that your car won't do anything half as stupid as you did the last time you tried driving. And you can do it without worrying about being late or getting suffocated on the tube.

And what about the girls? Well with Clarkbore, May and the Gerbil safely locked in their self-drive cars, Jodie, Vicki and Sabine will be able to get on with the real business of driving proper cars. Maybe they'll give me a lift.

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