



Rising costs of new community centre

By Janet Maitland

Barnet Council has confirmed that the cost of rebuilding the Old Barn community centre in Tarling Road will be more than the current available funds of £1.7m.

This budget was enough to cover the council's original plan for the centre: refurbishing it and adding a new wing for the Somali Bravanese Welfare Association (SBWA), whose centre on Coppetts Road, Muswell Hill was burnt down in a racist arson attack in June 2013.

The costs have risen because the council, following consultation with local residents and other stakeholders, now proposes to demolish the Old Barn, replacing it with a two-storey building, half of which will be used by the SWBA. "A building of this size will cost more than the current £1.7m budget," said a council spokesperson.

The extra costs (still being estimated) will be met through fundraising from external sources. If there is still a shortfall, the council will "consider meeting it in order to provide an equitable solution that meets the needs of the entire community."

How will the new centre be run?

In the run-up to the council's submission of the planning application, scheduled for late October, there has been much debate about how the centre will be run. A public meeting was held on 27 October at the Green Man Community Centre to bring interested groups together.

We asked the council how the centre will operate.

The Archer: Do you plan to appoint an organisation to undertake the overall management of the centre?

Barnet Council spokesperson: We intend to invite potential organisations to bid for the role of managing the centre in an open and competitive process.

What will be the leasing arrangements?

These are yet to be determined but we envisage that interested groups, including the SBWA, will lease the space directly from the management organisation who will, in turn, lease direct from the council.

Will the leases include any specific stipulations about religious activities?

This is possible but has not yet been decided because the council is still working with groups interested in leasing the space to understand their requirements. Whilst it is anticipated that there will be flexibility for lease holders to conduct some religious activities, such as Christmas or Eid celebrations, it is not intended that lease holders will use the community centre for the sole purpose of religious worship. **What are the plans for resolving any conflict between groups leasing space at the centre or between these groups and the local community?**

A key criterion in the selection of the management organisation will be their ability to demonstrate that they can resolve conflict in a swift and timely fashion.

Surprise move by Santander

On 3 December the Santander Bank is leaving its premises at 87 High Road.

A leaflet informed clients that the team there will be moving to other branches located at 105 - 110 Muswell Hill Broadway, 50 Ballards Lane, Finchley and 760 High Road, North Finchley.

New yoga kid on the block

By Sheila Armstrong

Yogalogy came to the High Road on 21 September. Local resident and long time yoga practitioner Neda Shayeghi searched for a suitable property for some time before taking over the space above Jeremy Leaf.



Well balanced: Neda Shayeghi

Trained in Spain and with *Yoga Alliance*, Neda told *THE ARCHER* that she hopes to set up a creative and supportive yoga based community with an inviting atmosphere here in East Finchley.

Various classes are already running including dynamic

yoga, ashtanga, vinyasa and flow, dance and creative movement for children, and the sound therapy, gong bath. The most up to date details of what Yogalogy can offer are on the website yogalogy.co.uk including introductory deals for lessons.

Majjos is a local gem

Majjo's restaurant in Fortis Green has recently been included as a 'Local Gem' in the Good Food Guide 2016 published by Waitrose. Inclusion in the guide, which has been running for 65 years, is purely on the basis of anonymous inspections and recommendations.

The Majjo's entry reads: 'The family-run deli-style takeaway has been an East Finchley favourite for more than 30 years, so loyal supporters are delighted there's now a restaurant next door, offering authentic north Indian/Pakistani cuisine based on family recipes and fresh ingredients.'

Consistently good

'The cooking is consistently good, varied in flavour and very good value. Samosas are light and crisp, and there is good papri chaat as well as tender char-grilled lamb chops, chicken ginger, saag aloo and excellent dhal. It's "unpretentious, unexpected" and un-licensed, so you can BYO corkage free.'

Wellbeing: What's out there for expectant and new mums

By Sunnah Rose

Sunnah Rose has been a pregnancy, postnatal and regular hatha yoga teacher for more than eight years in East Finchley. Here she rounds up just some of the classes and groups based locally that help new mums (and dads) find confidence, advice and new friends.

When I was lucky enough to become pregnant I experienced first-hand some of the amazing people and places that support new parents. Please note that these are just a few examples; I hope they inspire you to investigate everything that's going on.

Hypnobirthing is led by Ruth Sabrosa, a beautiful lady who will make you relaxed about

your birth. She's based on Fortis Green Road and her website is www.ruthsabrosa.com.

The Phoenix Cinema has regular 'Bringing up baby' screenings. Enjoy a film with a bunch of other mums and don't worry if your baby cries (www.phoenixcinema.co.uk).

You may remember the library as a boring place where

you study for exams but for a toddler or young person it's an exciting treasure trove of experiences! East Finchley's library at 226 High Road has a special children's reading room.

There are a number of amazing baby massage teachers so do look around. I went to Baby Yoga with Jaya, another East Finchley resident. For details of all her courses visit www.yogababies.co.uk.

NCTea is an informal get together and a great chance to meet other new mums. It takes place on Tuesday afternoons in Delicia cafe on Fortis Green, close to Muswell Hill.

Teddy Bears Music run by the lovely Camilla has live musical instruments from a trained opera singer. Babies, toddlers and breastfeeding mums are all welcome on Thursday mornings at Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane, N2.

And there are my own pregnancy and postnatal yoga classes held at Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane, N2. For more information visit www.stretchingpeople.co.uk.

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