



Restaurant still waiting to be served planning permission

By Janet Maitland

A restaurant that sparked objections from some neighbours over smoke from shisha pipes is currently operating without planning permission, it has been revealed.

The Oasis restaurant on Church Lane, N2, has earned good word-of-mouth reviews for its food and is a popular evening destination for people wishing to smoke shisha. It does not serve alcohol.

Owner Mr El Khalil Jelbaoui applied to Barnet Council nearly two years ago to turn the former Alexandra pub into a restaurant with facilities for smoking shisha pipes. In the meantime the restaurant opened to customers.

Ventilation system

In November 2015, Barnet Council planning officers recommended that the application be refused because the Environmental Health Department (EHD) had detected shisha smoke drifting into properties in Leopold Road and the front entrance of Martin Primary School.

But the application was deferred so that Mr Jelbaoui could come up with solutions to the smoke. Details of a proposed ventilation system were produced by Mr Jelbaoui's agent in January 2016.

The ventilation system was up and running by May 2016. Ten people responded to a council consultation at that stage, all of them objecting. After a further EHD inspection, Mr Jelbaoui's agent claimed the system "satisfied the department's concerns".

Council not satisfied

But the EHD said the system wasn't powerful enough because the fan seemed to be more suitable for internal use. They recommended that consent be granted on a temporary basis for one year to allow time for improvements. However, the council did not accept this recommendation.

So what's happening now? "The application will not be considered until we receive further information from the applicant," said a council spokesperson. "If and when it is due to be considered, there will be a period of consultation for residents and businesses."

Mr Jelbaoui told *The Archer* he thought the EHD was quite happy with the changes made, adding that "an independent environmental health consultant told us there was not enough odour to cause a nuisance under the legislation and if the council thinks there is, they should serve us notice."



Down the pan: Rev Michael Giles and churchgoer Jane Ray with the antique loo. Photo Mike Thomson

Who left the seat up? Toilet twinning idea hopes to flush out funds

By Neil McNaughton

Churchgoers at East Finchley Methodist Church are using a little piece of porcelain history to raise money to help those without a loo of their own.

An extremely rare example of Victorian 'column type' sanitary ware that has graced the vestry in the church on the High Road for more than 120 years is coming out of the closet to raise funds for an inspired toilet twinning scheme.

Get moving

This is a serious business! Upwards of 2.4 billion people in the developing world do not have somewhere safe and hygienic to go to the loo, something we all take for granted. The congregation wants to help by buying at least one loo for £60 and ideally a whole school block for £240 to transform and save lives.

Whoever makes the biggest donation at a special event can take the loo home with them and everyone who donates will get a 'thank you' photo

of the super loo. Anyone who can't be there on the night can telephone their offer to 020 8444 2016.

Historic porcelain

The toilet in question is not quite old enough to have been used by Methodist founder John Wesley himself but some of the Jarrow marchers may well have relieved themselves on it when they rested at the church back in 1936. Local centenarian Rene Bell, who at 103 is still running the Wives Club, says she remembers the marchers visiting when she was young.

Good deeds, bad puns

The bidding will take place at the church on Saturday 22 April from 6pm with entertainment provided by the London Metropolitan Brass Band. Find out more about the project at toilettwinning.org/what-is-toilet-twinning.

Superintendent minister Rev Michael Giles commented: "Toilet twinning speaks to our values. Methodism has always been better known for its deeds rather

than its doctrines, and this is a perfect example. As to the terrible puns, I will be so glad when Jane has got them all out of her cistern."

Drama, dance and singing classes

Young people aged 11-25 years with learning disabilities and autism are being invited to make new friends and learn new skills at drama, dance and singing classes at Finchley Youth Centre, also known as the Youth Theatre, in the High Road, N2.

The sessions will work towards a performance in front of an audience. To book a free taster session, email elizabeth.sacre@barnet.gov.uk or call 020 8359 5283.

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