



# Rooftop flats plan rejected – but building work still goes on

By Janet Maitland

A plan to build four flats in the roof space of 127-133 High Road on the corner of Kitchener Road was refused by Barnet Council in October. This is the site that's been covered in scaffolding and draped with plastic for at least a year while a bigger roof has been under construction.

The council turned down the proposal because of inadequate levels of light, outlook and ventilation for future occupants and because there was insufficient information about parking provision. This is unlikely to be the end of the flats proposal, however. Building work is continuing.

## The application game

All those living nearby who objected to the flats proposal were concerned not only because they think the bigger roof is a blight on their surroundings but also because they consider the application to be a manipulation of the planning process. This is not, however, how the council sees it, which means that the door is still open for another application with improved designs.

The owner was told by the council in March 2015 that he could not build a fourth storey to accommodate more flats as it would be "out of keeping with other buildings in the area". So he submitted an application later that year to build a bigger roof. The council approved it and work began in 2016. Then in August this year the owner submitted the application to build four flats inside the new roof.

## Council's response

We asked the council if adding the flats to the roof would not have been an infringement of the permission to build the roof,

## New library

By Daphne Chamberlain  
The area's newest library, one of Barnet's four 'Core Plus' branches, is in Regent's Park Road, N3. Members of the public have pointed out that, in spite of its status, Church End Library is smaller than its predecessor, with less stock. In common with most of the rest of the borough's libraries, it is unstaffed for a good proportion of the time.

Entry during those times is only by registering and obtaining a PIN, and young people under 16 are not allowed in unless accompanied by a PIN registered adult.

People have also noted that the Baby Bounce for non-walking babies at the Church End Library now has an entry fee of £5 per child, when previously it was free.

regardless of whether or not the flats had enough light, outlook or ventilation, because their permission to build it had been dependent on there being "no changes to the internal rooms/spaces of the building".

The council made it clear that they see no irregularity in the application to build flats. "The roof that is under construction is permitted if built in accordance with the approved plans, which proposed to have no changes to the internal rooms of the building," said a spokesperson, adding that the focus of the application was on the use of the extended roof, i.e. the conversion into four flats.

We wanted to ask Atkins Developments, the company constructing the roof, if there was a plan to submit improved designs for the flats, but they did not get back to us.

## Restart Restart

Back in July, Archer Academy students took part in a project learning how to extend the life of electronics, and reduce electronic waste.

Working with a team from Restart, a social enterprise, and supported by High Road businesses East Finchley Electrical and The Exchange, the students learned how to repair electrical items brought in by the community that would otherwise have been thrown away.

The event was such a success that the school is looking to raise funds to share the project even further. Donations will help them run it again, inspiring more young people to avoid being the throwaway generation. They would be grateful for any financial help at <https://secure.thebig-give.org.uk/project/28572>.

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Smiles all round: Samantha Cameron chats with Alonso, who has been supported by Noah's Ark since he was a baby. Photo Jeff Spicer

# Building begins on a new children's hospice

Construction has started on Noah's Ark, a new children's hospice building in Byng Road, Barnet, to serve north and central London. The ground-breaking was attended by Samantha Cameron, whose son Ivan died just before his seventh birthday in 2009.

"It's an honour to meet with Noah's Ark children and families today, some of whom will benefit greatly from using The Ark, and some, sadly, who have already said goodbye to their treasured children," said Mrs Cameron. "When my son Ivan died we were devastated, and we will always remain so. It's something no parent should have to go through.

"The Ark will provide a peaceful place in which to take care of children and their families as they face death, but it will also be an environment for children, their siblings and parents to enjoy life and make magical memories together."

There are more than 1,200 babies and children with life-

threatening or life-limiting conditions in the area but currently no children's hospice building. Once built, Noah's Ark will complement the charity's existing Hospice-at-Home services, providing 24-hour end-of-life, post-death and bereavement care, overnight stays and sensory,

music and art rooms. The state-of-the-art building is set within a beautiful 7.5 acre nature reserve.

The Noah's Ark charity is appealing for everyone to 'Give an Hour' of salary to help complete the facility for local families. You can donate here at [www.buildingtheark.org.uk](http://www.buildingtheark.org.uk).

FUN and MUSIC for BABIES and TODDLERS in N2 on TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS at 10am



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