



New tower block proposed for heart of East Finchley

By Janet Maitland



Homes and garages between the two current towers would make way for the new tower. Photo Mike Coles

A plan has been unveiled to build a new 11-storey block of flats in the heart of East Finchley, creating 42 new homes as part of an initial 320 homes being built for affordable rent for Barnet residents.

Barnet Homes says the proposed block in Prospect Ring will replace four two-storey homes and a garage court in the small estate off Market Place, which already has two tower blocks plus some low-rise housing grouped around a circular green space with several mature trees.

tacted by several people living in Prospect Ring who are worried that the new development will increase traffic, noise and pollution, make parking harder, deprive residents of light and privacy, spoil the central green space, and put pressure on local schools and doctors.

“The massive increase in traffic will make life unbearable not only for us, but for the

residents of Market Place and Kitchener Road,” said Dermott Donnelly. A resident of one of the existing tower blocks said: “I will lose the much needed natural light and green views for which I bought my flat.”

Mark Chapman, chair of governors at nearby Holy Trinity School, said: “We believe that the scale of the building, overlooking and reducing light to our school as it will, is disproportionate, and there will be increased traffic and parking issues.”

Low-rise alternative

One resident suggested a more acceptable alternative would be a new block of three to five floors which would create more affordable housing without being overbearing. We asked Barnet Homes if a low-rise building had been considered and a spokesperson informed us that it had, but as the estate was in a highly built up area with limited space, the high-rise block was the preferred option for consultation.

Further consultation

Approximately 50 people attended the public consultation event on 19 April. “There was mixed feedback,” said the Barnet Homes spokesperson. “Some residents were supportive of the principle to build more affordable homes, but there were a number of concerns which will be taken into consideration throughout the design process where possible. There will be another consultation event later in the year before the planning application is submitted.”

Call for new crossing on busy High Road

A petition has been submitted to Barnet Council asking for a new crossing to be installed in East Finchley High Road to prevent pedestrians and shoppers having to “run the gauntlet”.

It has been organised by Paul Spencer-Smith, of Lincoln Road, and calls for a new crossing just south of Beresford Road, equidistant between Fortis Green and the existing crossing near Huntingdon Road.

Paul said: “In busy times it is quite difficult to cross the High Road to get to the shops. I live in Lincoln Road so we experience running the gauntlet.

“In crossing from the Budgens and Iceland side a pedestrian looks to see if the Fortis Green lights are red and the flow of vehicles has stopped but there is a curve in the road and visibility is not good.

“The distance between the two existing crossings is approximately 240 metres. This is quite a long way for an older person or a heavily loaded shopper.”

His petition claims that the provision of a new crossing would relieve the stress to pedestrians crossing, particularly older people, and reduce the risk of accidents. It has been signed by 25 people and will be reported to the Finchley and Golders Green Residents Forum on 5 July. The council will decide whether the request should be formally considered or referred to an area committee for possible funding.

Grange Big Local AGM

Team members at the Grange Big Local project will be holding their annual general meeting at St Mary’s Parish Centre, High Road, N2, from 2pm on Saturday 17 June. Everyone is welcome to come along to find out how they have started spending the £1million of lottery money they were awarded.

A new board of up to 17 people will be elected and residents can put themselves forward to join or volunteer. Email info@grangebiglocal.org, telephone 020 8364 8400 ext. 241 or go to the website / www.grangebiglocal.org.

Open spaces survey

Are you interested in playgrounds, outdoor sports or how open spaces are used in the East Finchley area?

The Grange Big Local project has commissioned Space + Place Design to produce an open spaces and environment strategy. Fill in a questionnaire online and help shape potential projects for the area. Go to: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/5CMLQZB or find more details at www.grangebiglocal.org.



Aerial view of the proposed location of the third tower, in yellow, as displayed at the Barnet Homes consultation

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