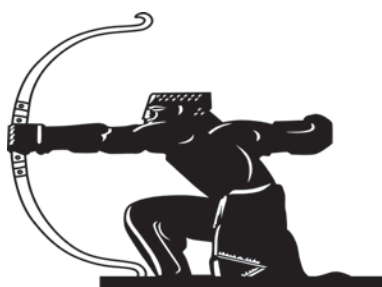




Local News is our Aim



The Archer



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Go-ahead for flats and offices in face of objections

Two controversial developments that will substantially change the face of East Finchley have been approved by Barnet Council's planning committee and by the Planning Inspectorate despite passionate opposition from many local people.

The first will bring two four-storey blocks containing 21 flats along with office space to the site at 12-18 High Road immediately opposite the tube station, which is currently occupied by taxi and courier company GLH.

High Road flats

More than 1,000 people concerned about poor design, risk of traffic accidents, over-development of the residential area and lack of on-site parking signed a petition urging the council to refuse planning permission to developers Safeland.

We reported on the original application more than a year ago and there was subsequently a formal objection from The

Finchley Society and more than 70 from local residents. Many are furious that they seem to have been ignored by Barnet Council.

Local resident Professor Colin Grant wrote to the Royal Institute of British Architects about the proposed development. In his words: "It gives architecture a very bad name indeed. This building will create permanent damage to the wonderful streetscape of East Finchley, aside from destroying privacy and adding serious congestion. In years to come visitors will contemplate this building and ask: "How on earth did they obtain planning



How the proposed building on the site of GLH would look. permission for that?"

There are concerns that the flats will have only two parking spaces and one small slip road for access, meaning cars and delivery vehicles might well have to reverse on to the High Road, close to the tube station's pedestrian crossing and with a blocked view to their left.

On the lack of on-site parking, Michael McGrath, an Ingram Road resident, said: "Barnet accept that there may be 14-29 additional cars looking to park in our roads. The council says new residents will not be issued a permit. This is unlikely to work." Safeland believes new residents will be able to find parking in nearby roads.

Continued on page 2

What's happening with Sainsbury's?

By Nick Allan

There seems to be confusion at Sainsbury's over its plan to open a Local store in East Finchley in the two vacant High Road shops next to the junction with Leicester Road.

A Sainsbury's spokesman, responding on Twitter to an enquiry by local resident Antonis Petrides, said the company no longer owned the stores. It advised all future enquiries be directed to Barnet Council. However, when contacted directly by *The Archer*, a Sainsbury's spokesperson assured us the company was still inter-

ested in opening the store, first announced 12 months ago, but admitted that its programme of works was proving lengthier than expected due to the age of the site and surrounding properties.

Sainsbury's has promised to create up to 25 new jobs in East Finchley. Those opposed to its opening fear it will threaten the High Road's independent traders.

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Woman dies in collision

Detectives are appealing for information and witnesses after a collision which resulted in the death of an elderly female pedestrian.

Police and the air ambulance were called just before 11am on Saturday 25 February to the junction of Lyttelton Road and Ossulton Way, N2. The woman, who was in her 90s, was taken to a central London hospital where she was pronounced dead two hours later. The driver stopped at the scene and assisted officers with their enquiries. There have been no arrests.

The Met's Serious Collision Investigation Unit ask that anyone with information calls them on 020 8991 9555.