



The new concrete barriers at the old Esso garage, Photo Mike Coles

## Garage site could stand empty for months after homes plan refused

By Janet Maitland

There was once an unremarkable but useful Esso petrol station on the corner of Church Lane and the High Road. Now there's a depressing patch of wasteland covered in weeds and litter and surrounded by a tatty wire fence reinforced with ugly concrete blocks. What happened to the homes that were going to be built there?

In early 2016, a few months after Esso sold the site to Leopold Properties, the new landowners submitted an application to build new housing. The proposal, for three terraced houses along Leopold Road plus a four-storey block of six flats fronting the High Road, with 16 parking spaces, was turned down. Barnet Council considered that "the excessive bulk, massing and siting of the buildings would be at odds with the surrounding pattern of development and would be an overdevelopment of the site".

The architects made several changes to the design and a second application was submitted early this year. The improvements were acknowledged as such by the council, but in August it was turned down again for similar reasons.

### Ventilators approved

Although it was not one of the reasons for the application's

refusal, the Shisha smoke drifting from the Oasis at 1 Church Lane was an issue in a council report about the proposed development, which states that this smoke could lead to 'justified nuisance complaints' from the new residents. However, the report also says that the mitigation measures proposed by the developers, acoustic ventilators for both the Shisha smoke and the traffic fumes from the A1000, are acceptable and would be secured by condition if the application was otherwise acceptable, which it wasn't.

Leopold Properties Ltd are appealing against the council's decision. "We strongly believe the proposal would bring considerable benefits to the area," said Joe Henry, the landowner's agent. "Unfortunately the appeal process takes approximately nine months so in the meantime the site will remain empty."

## Man jailed for Muswell Hill knife attack

A man who attacked and injured three people with a knife in Muswell Hill has been jailed. Kyal Moore, 31, of Warwick Road, N18, was sentenced at Wood Green Crown Court to a total of 12 years with an additional three years on licence. He had pleaded guilty to three counts of grievous bodily harm with intent, and possession of an offensive weapon.

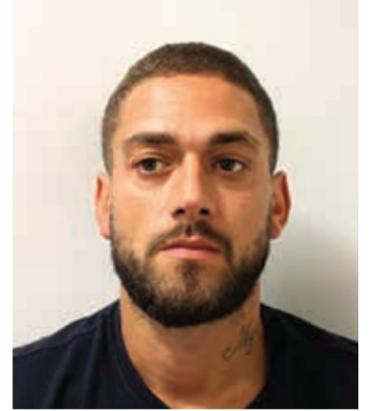
Police were called to Muswell Hill Broadway at around 3.40am on Saturday 28 January to a report of a number of men wounded. Two of the victims were standing outside the Socialite bar when they were approached by two suspects, one of whom was Moore.

After a brief exchange of words, Moore brandished a knife and swung at the victims, inflicting slash injuries. As

Moore made off, another man was wounded a short distance down the road. The three victims were treated for head and neck injuries.

Following a media appeal, Moore was positively identified by an officer and arrested on 21 June. A second suspect involved has not been traced.

DC Rob Wrightson, of Haringey CID, said: "This was an incredibly violent, unprovoked



Jailed: Kyal Moore

knife attack on several people enjoying their night out which could have had far more tragic consequences. The reckless violence used by Moore and the severity of the attack was recognised by the judge who imposed a substantial jail sentence."

## Travellers stop for a night at abandoned Esso site

By Janet Maitland

Residents were surprised to wake on the morning of Monday 25 September to find that a group of Travellers had set up an unauthorised encampment of about 10 caravans on the old Esso site at the junction of the High Road and Church Lane, N2.

Alarmed commentators on social media anticipated that the Travellers would be there for weeks, so when they left after one night there was much speculation about why.

The police informed *The Archer* that they were called at about 7.15pm to reports that a number of Travellers had accessed land close to Church Lane. "Officers attended and were informed that they only intended to stay one night," said a spokesperson. "Officers returned the following day and found that they had left."

We were told by Joe Henry, agent of Leopold Properties Ltd, who own the site, that they asked the Travellers to leave the site because they were trespassing. He also confirmed that the landowners erected concrete barricades around the site a few days later to secure it.

### The legal position

Local authorities used to

have a duty to provide caravan sites for gypsies and Travellers under the Caravan Sites Act 1968, but this duty was taken away by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act (CJPOA) 1994. A local author-

ity can evict Travellers from their own land using a County Court possession order or the CJPOA. Private landowners can use County Court possession proceedings or common law powers of eviction.

## Be on your guard against phone scams and rogue builders

The Safer Neighbourhood policing team and an Archer reader have alerted us to a series of recent scams. Please read and stay on your guard.

### HMRC phone calls

October saw a flurry of phone calls from people purporting to be from HMRC, the tax office. Typically a caller will not give their identity but claim to be from the tribunals division, or similar, and ask to be called back.

Do not call anyone back and remember that banks, the police,

HMRC and the Passport Office would never phone you to ask you for personal information, so never give it out. Never engage with incoming calls of this kind.

### Rogue builders

Watch out for rogue builders who cleverly target houses adjacent or very near to where other work is being legitimately carried out, such as a loft conversion. They can be very plausible and even dressed in 'company' logo outfits.

They introduce themselves as contractors working on the nearby house and say they've

noticed that there is a problem with your chimney and/or roof. They may show you a photo but it will not be of your house. They then offer to sort out your work as a favour or at a reduced fee. Work can then be done badly, or left half-finished, and the builders will give you a false receipt.

Homeowners are reminded never to agree to pay unsolicited callers, however plausible. Only ever engage with building firms from a reputable directory or from a word-of-mouth recommendation.

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