



A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Thousands turn out to enjoy festival in the sunshine



Youngsters from the Fortitude Dance Company perform in front of a packed crowd at The Archer Newspaper Community Stage during the East Finchley Community Festival. They were part of a brilliant line-up of entertainment across two stages at the event in Cherry Tree Wood. Turn to pages 6-7 for our festival picture special.

Go-ahead for third tower block in Prospect Ring

By Janet Maitland

Barnet Council has given planning permission for a third tower block in Prospect Ring, East Finchley, despite formal objections from 88 people.

Construction work is expected to start later this year and last for two years. Local residents fear the 13-storey building will have a detrimental impact on light, views, privacy, parking, traffic and local services.

“Our points were not listened to,” said Antonia Dietmann, who spoke at the planning meeting on behalf of the Residents’ Association. “We were never against the new building *per se*, just its height.”

Reasons behind decision

Prospect Ring falls outside the areas identified as appropriate for tall buildings, not only in the London Plan but also Barnet Council’s own policy. However, its existing two 11-storey towers are cited throughout the council’s report as a reason why a third tower will not be an issue, saying at one point it will “complement the scale of adjacent buildings

and also create some variation in the skyline”.

Another factor is the council’s commitment to building 720 much-needed affordable housing units by 2020. The Greater London Authority were considering requiring the council to undertake a late assessment of the plan’s viability, but withdrew this because of the affordable rented accommodation the tower will provide.

Increased density

The number of housing units on the estate will increase from 119 to 167 per hectare, just under the maximum density recommended in the London Plan for urban settings, while the density level of habitable rooms will be 16% higher than the limit. “Densities are intended to be used as a guide rather than a rule,” said a Barnet Council spokesperson.

East Finchley councillor Arjun Mittra said he welcomed

the building of new council homes, but the Prospect Ring plan was too dense for the site.

Twenty-four parking spaces will be provided for the new development, 36 short of the total needed, meaning that the majority of occupants will not be eligible for parking permits. When we asked the council where up to 36 cars would be parked if not on the estate, they told us that residents will be “encouraged to use more sustainable forms of transport”.

School’s response

Paula Quiddington, chair of the Governors of Holy Trinity School, which neighbours Prospect Ring, said they had serious concerns about the new tower, which will block sunlight on the school’s playing field and classrooms. She said: “We’re also hugely concerned about the effects of the dust, noise, and general pollution associated with a build of this magnitude.”

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