



Long and thin: Floor plans of the house, with Church Lane on the right.

Could you live in a house less than 3 metres wide?

By Janet Maitland

One of London's slimmest homes could soon be built on Church Lane, N2, after a developer submitted plans for a house measuring just 2.9 metres (9ft 6ins) wide. The tiny two-storey home would be squeezed onto an access path, currently fronted by a high gate, between numbers 24 and 28.

Developers have already applied twice for permission to build on the site but were turned down by Barnet Council on the grounds that it would be too cramped. Planning officials also ruled it would be out of keeping with nearby houses such as numbers 28, 30 and 32 which are listed as being of local architectural and historic interest. Two appeals have been refused.



Tight fit: The development site, centre, currently fronted by gates, is in the gap between existing properties.

Slim but deep

However, the skinny house has since been redesigned and another application submitted. Under the new plans the house appears to be one-storey high from Church Lane but is set deeper into the ground at the rear. Behind the front door is a small study with two cupboards, one meant for cycle storage, off a narrow hall. You then step down into a sunken living room and kitchen area, above which would be a bedroom and shower room.

Hobbit homes

This is not the only pocket-sized home that could pop up in the area. The same developer was given planning permission last December to construct five studio-style residential units immediately behind the BCS Joinery building, close to Joyce's timber yard.

The smallest of these units has an internal area of 42.5 square metres, including a 'hammock

area' for a bed reached by step-ladder. Its width at the front is 2.9 metres, the same as the Church Lane house, though it widens to 3.1 metres at the back. Even the biggest unit is just 46 square metres. The plans do not include outdoor space and light is from skylights and windows at the back of the building.

Lordly prices

The London Plan specifies that a one-storey, one-bedroom dwelling for two people shouldn't be less than 50 square metres. However these units may be intended for one person, which is required to have only 39 square metres of space.

But whether it would be feasible for one person to buy or rent a unit - or the Church Lane house - depends on the cost, which in turn is dependent on location. A house only 3.04 metres wide was sold for £800,000 in East Dulwich in 2016 and East Finchley is at least as desirable a place to live.

No to plastics: in it for the long haul

By Ann Inglis

As consumers, we are unwittingly accelerating towards a future ruined by a man-induced eruption of plastics. We must slam on the brakes, and we must do it now.

A number of us have already joined together to start making East Finchley free from single-use plastics like food wrappings and plas-

tic bags. It will not be easy but we are here for the long haul.

Can you help?

Do you too want to make a difference? Small, targeted efforts will all add up and there is a role for everyone! We have had offers of help but we still need volunteer team builders ideally with experience in team building or 'playing'. If this is you, we would like to hear from you.

Further down the line, we will be asking people to take on the roles of treasurer and grant fundraisers.

We will also publish more

news about the title and look of the campaign alongside details of further roles for website designers, programmers, social media planners and other players.

Everyone with a voice, a pen or a computer will have a role so please tell us about yourself by emailing no2plastics@gmail.com or search "N2 United - No to plastics" on Facebook.

Library turns into a palace

The afternoon of Saturday 6 October will see East Finchley Library celebrating its 80th birthday with a free festival of arts, music, sports, science and dance as it hosts the Grange Big Local Fun Palace.

On display will be information from the archives of East Finchley Library, and organisers are hoping to collect stories about it from people who have used it over the years. The music will be MC'ed by Benteki, of Repräsent radio, with football run by the Monday Club, cheer-leading from Saracens, free manicures from Vales Nails, dance from SOTO CIC, art with East Finchley Open Artists, the chance to look for aliens with Mill Hill Observatory and much more. People will also have their chance to say how Grange Big Local's lottery funding ought to be spent. For more information check out the Fun Palace website www.funpalaces.co.uk

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