



Frustration over latest plan for former GLH site

By Daphne Chamberlain

A new application to increase the number of flats at a new development on the former GLH site opposite East Finchley tube station has left local residents angry, frustrated and disillusioned.

Safeland Plc was granted permission last year, by one vote, for 21 flats at 12-18 High Road. This was in the face of over 1,200 objections, centred on congestion, risk of traffic accidents, insufficient waste storage, fire safety worries and lack of parking.

concern that access to the site is difficult and that sprinklers should be fitted.

“Only one on-site parking space is to be provided for residents of the development and council figures suggest at least 30 parking spaces would normally be expected



Artist's impression: How the development opposite the tube station would look.

for a site of this size, which will have around 80 residents. The developer claims there is ‘ample’ parking within a short walk of the development.”

Questions and objections

Objections had to be filed by 18 June. Barnet’s website was flooded with objections. Comments include: “I wonder whether it’s even worth documenting concerns, as no-one seems to be listening in the Planning Department” and “This is an even worse proposal than the last one.”

Mr McGrath questioned why this time Barnet Council had decided not to write directly to residents inviting comments and called on it to publish a full and definitive set of plans and documents to avoid any confusion about what is being agreed. The Archer has asked Barnet Council for a comment but nothing had been received by the time of going to press.



Library demo: Campaigners protest outside Hendon Town Hall ahead of the council meeting.

Moving protest over library cuts

By Ruth Kersley

Supporters of Save Barnet Libraries held a demonstration outside Hendon Town Hall prior to the community leadership and libraries committee meeting on Tuesday 11 June. They are campaigning for a transparent review of the effect of changes to the Barnet library service since their implementation in 2017.

Main areas of contention are unstaffed libraries and the question of personal security; locked toilets during unstaffed hours; the fact that children under 15 are not allowed to use their local library during unstaffed hours; and the effect of the closure of study areas on young people.

During the meeting that followed several members of the public were able to address the committee describing how

the new measures have affected them. Particularly moving were the testaments of Harriet Connides, a disabled woman who is now no longer able to use East Finchley Library when unstaffed as she feels unsafe with her daughter, and nine-year old Siah Kamanda, who is now unable to use the library after school as her mother works full time as a nurse and cannot accompany her.

An opposition amendment was put by Labour Councillor Sara Conway to broaden the scope of the review so that additional problems are assessed, including: toilet access; cleanliness of buildings; personal safety; and reduced space. The committee voted to agree to this amendment, which Save Barnet Libraries sees as a measure of public concern about the service.



Across the board: Archer Academy headteacher Lucy Harrison and students celebrate their Ofsted rating.

Academy graded outstanding

Just six years after opening, the Archer Academy has been judged an outstanding school by Ofsted. The inspectors felt that the school deserved the top rating in all four areas: effectiveness of leadership and management; quality of teaching, learning and assessment; personal development, behaviour and welfare, and outcomes for pupils.

Among the strengths highlighted in the inspectors’ report are exceptional leadership, outstanding progress for pupils and routinely strong quality of teaching. Pupils were found to be friendly, articulate and self-confident, with excellent behaviour and attitudes to learning.

Headteacher Lucy Harrison said: “I am delighted that Ofsted have recognised that we are, as we have always aimed to be, an outstanding school. My thanks go to my fantastic staff team,

who work as hard every day as they do when the inspectors are visiting, and to my students, who have done us all proud.”

In 2015, the Academy’s first full Ofsted report gave the school a rating of good overall, with an outstanding rating for pupil behaviour and safety.

Avis Johns, the school’s founding chair of governors, added: “The Archer Academy began as an idea, underpinned by the thought,

‘If we were to create a new school, how good could it be?’ Now Ofsted have given their answer: it’s outstanding in every way.

“I too would like to thank my team of founders and governors, all volunteers, who have worked so hard to create and shape the vision for our school, and support its development.”

You can read more and access the full report at <http://thearcheracademy.org.uk/ofsted>

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