

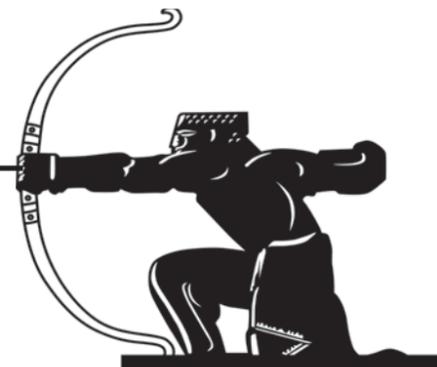


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The Archer

Local News is our Aim



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Residents still in the dark over Grange plans

By Janet Maitland

Barnet Homes are promising a 'large scale consultation event' in the new year before they submit an application to build new homes on the Grange estate and nearby streets in East Finchley. *The Archer* reported in May that families living in three homes had not even been told that their properties had been earmarked for demolition.

A plan for consultation activities with families and children over the late summer did not materialise, but

a spokesperson told us they had consulted with stakeholders such as the planning authority and urban designers.

Residents are not impressed. "They haven't shown us the new plans yet, which I think is outrageous," said Rebecca Weston, chair of the Residents' Association, whose home may be demolished if the plans are not changed.

Consultation 'a sham'

The Barnet Homes spokesperson said they had met with the Resident Interest Group (RIG) set up by the engagement consultants NewmanFrancis, conducted a walkabout for residents in Red Lion Hill, next to the Grange, and "kept local councillors informed of our position".

However, local councillors Claire Farrier, Alison Moore and Arjun Mittra branded the consultation a sham. "We support new genuinely affordable homes, but assurances that this scheme would not require demolition have not been honoured and communication has been exceptionally bad," they said.

The original plans were for 64 new homes - 23 in three new blocks on the Grange and 41 on the green spaces in Brownswell Road and Tarling Road - plus about 40 more from building additional storeys on top of existing blocks on the Grange to reach the council target of 100. However, a survey has recently concluded that building extra storeys is not structurally feasible.

Although they were not able to confirm if the plan to demolish three houses and build new homes over Brownswell Road and Tarling Road green spaces was still on the table, Barnet Homes stressed that they had listened to residents and "looked to improve the quality of the amenity areas that will be provided".

Residents' charter

The Resident Interest Group is drawing up a residents' charter in advance of the building works. "This is really important, if disruption and nuisance akin to that encountered in [the recent building work] in Prospect Ring in East Finchley is to be avoided," said local resident Sachin Patel, secretary of the Residents Association and a member of RIG.



Festive light on a winter's night

The statue of Archie stands out on high and the lights of East Finchley station seem to take on a heavenly glow in this wonderful image created by our photo editor Mike Coles for *The Archer* Christmas card this year. We send our heartfelt thanks and season's greetings to all our readers, advertisers and deliverers who have supported us and kept the newspaper running over the last 12 months. And as we approach our 29th birthday in January, we wish everyone a very happy and prosperous 2022.

Evening robbery at food store

By Janet Maitland

A group of four men robbed N2 Food Centre on the High Road while it was still open on Wednesday 17 November. "It's unbelievable, it was 8pm not the middle of the night," said manager Mahmut Kelec.

One of the men shoved the young assistant out of the way then grabbed him and held his arms down while the others snatched cigarettes, alcohol and money from the till. CCTV recorded the whole incident. Although the men pulled their hoodies down, they kept pushing them back and revealing their faces.

This was the third raid on an independent grocery shop in East Finchley in just four months. King Street Food and Wine Shop was broken into on 20 July despite having locked metal shutters. A couple of weeks later, Ella Food Centre on the High Road was robbed after thieves kicked the door in. Both robberies happened at 4am while the stores were closed.

Police enquiries are ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to call 101 or tweet @MetCC quoting CAD7095/17Nov. To remain anonymous contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. You can find current police security advice at www.met.police.uk

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