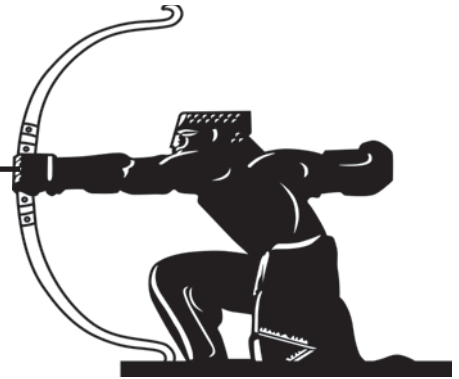




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The Archer

Local News is our Aim



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

More people to be housed on Grange

By Janet Maitland

A major redevelopment of the Grange Estate is being planned in order to tackle the shortage of affordable council housing in East Finchley. Described by Barnet Council as “mild interventions to increase density”, 100 new homes will be built amongst the existing blocks of flats.

A spokesperson for Barnet Homes, who manage the council’s housing stock, told us the majority of the homes will be let at affordable rents but there may be a small element of shared ownership.

“There will not be any high rise dwellings as the new dwellings will be designed to blend in with the existing estate,” said the spokesperson. “There is a strong sense of community in the area and not the same need for full redevelopment as there is elsewhere.”

Looking ahead

Planning permission will be sought in about six months’ time, but construction is unlikely to begin until the summer of 2022. The project will take up to three years to complete.

It is unclear what reduction in open spaces there will be. However, the architects say they are aiming to improve the quality of the existing courtyards and green spaces, provide better placed parking areas and introduce play areas, growing areas and areas to meet and exercise.

Consultation

Existing residents of the

Grange Estate are being told of the plans via newsletters, a survey, door-to-door and phone calls, and online workshops. Community engagement advisers NewmanFrancis are running the consultation. Resident involvement is currently said to be patchy.

James Masters, Chair of the Grange Big Local, a lottery funded regeneration project covering the area, said his organisation was trying to facilitate a bit more reach with the consultation to make sure that more people have a voice and are listened to. “We’re not involved in any official capacity and all the timelines are beyond our control, but we do want to make sure they consider things like parking and traffic safety, open and play spaces and we would support the residents forming a residents association,” he said.

Give your view

To make your voice heard, email grangeestate@newmanfrancis.org or phone 020 8536 1436 or freephone 0800 644 6040. You can also go to www.givemyview.com/grangeestate



Fill ‘em up: Viola Slodzinska, Vincenzo Napoletano and Anna Gajda cooking for kids Photo Mike Coles

Busy kitchen cooks up free meals

Over three Tuesday mornings last month a team of volunteers handed out home-made meals for free in a major project to support those who needed a little extra help to get by. Full story on page 4.

N2United wants big ideas for 2021

By David Melsome

Community group N2United is looking ahead to 2021 and is asking for everyone’s ideas on how residents, businesses and organisations in East Finchley can be brought closer together.

The group, originally set up as a business network but now aiming to become a hub for everyone in N2, is hosting its next online meeting on Thursday 14

January. Anyone is welcome to join via Zoom to share their thoughts and ideas. For more details, visit n2united.co.uk.

At last month’s meeting,

N2United Chair Nick Allan reflected on how people in East Finchley had rallied to provide support for those who needed it during the lockdowns of last year. Encouraging people to build on this, he pointed out that in challenging times a strong community spirit makes the difference. There was also a toast to everyone supporting the N2Unique campaign, set up to stimulate trade for all the area’s new and established craftspeople, cafés, restaurants, shops and small businesses.

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