

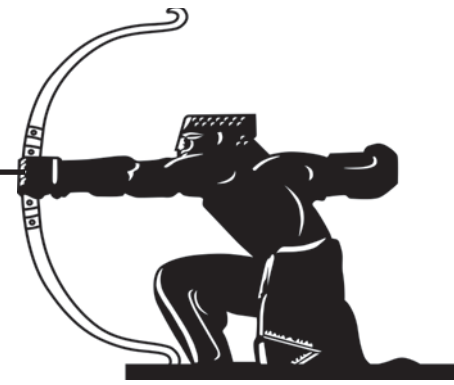


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# The Archer

Local News is our Aim



May 2021 No. 325

**A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.**

## By the way, we will be demolishing your homes

By Janet Maitland

**Residents of three houses were shocked to find out that their homes are being earmarked for demolition as part of a plan to create more council housing in the area of the Grange estate in East Finchley.**

Scores of people living in the Brownswell Road and Tarling Road area have vowed to fight the development plans put forward by Barnet Homes, which would also see the loss of two well-used green spaces and play areas to make room for 40 new homes.

The 21 people living in the houses under threat of demolition off Brownswell Road, one of which is owner occupied, knew nothing about the proposals until last month, despite a community consultation process that began last September.

Grange residents were specifically informed in February that none of their blocks of flats would be demolished. "No one

feels secure now," one of the Brownswell householders told *The Archer*. "If they can knock down our houses why wouldn't they demolish others?"

### Plan outlined

Barnet Homes has put forward an extensive plan to create 100 homes in the Grange estate area. Over 40 would be built on the Brownswell Road play area and on a green space and car park in Tarling Road.

Sixty four more will be built on the Grange itself by adding extra storeys to Oak House and Garden House and constructing new blocks on Red Lion Hill, Central Avenue and on the High Road side of the estate.

Dozens of residents attended



*Earmarked to go: Concerned residents on the playing area in Brownswell Road in front of the three homes to be demolished. Photo Mike Coles*

an online meeting on Thursday 15 April where Barnet Homes outlined the plan. It became clear then that the Brownswell residents had been inadvertently left out of the consultation process. Head of Development Meera Bedi admitted that people had been told there would be no demolition before adding: "But then we saw that although two social rented homes on Brownswell Road would be lost, we would achieve a strategic target of 38 affordable homes. The social tenants will be given another Barnet Home and the owner will be bought out and given compensation."

### Protect green space

East Finchley councillor Arjun Mittra said he was completely opposed to the demolition of people's homes and building on green spaces. He said: "Of course there's a need to build genuinely affordable homes, but not at the expense



*Landing zone: The Air Ambulance uses the play area*

of valuable green space." – Reaction from residents, turn to page 2.

## In this issue

### Movies return to the Phoenix

As we went to press the Phoenix Cinema was hoping to re-open on Monday 17 May, showing the Bafta and Golden Globe-nominated *Nomadland*, starring Frances McDormand. Turn to page 3

### Cash machine robbers foiled

An 80-year-old taxi driver was saved from a robbery by a courageous passer-by outside East Finchley station. Two young men dragged the elderly man from his cab claiming to be plain clothes policemen, then led him to the cash machine in front of the station and demanded £500. Turn to page 4

### Playground revamp plans

A total of £70,000 has been awarded to improve the play equipment and introduce new features at the popular Market Place Play Area in East Finchley. Turn to page 5

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