



# Push to avoid traffic congestion as construction plans clash

By Janet Maitland

Plans are taking shape to reduce the impact of construction traffic while a large number of new homes are built simultaneously across three separate sites in a small patch of East Finchley, but many issues remain.

All developers are required to take steps to avoid traffic chaos but coordination is especially needed in this case as the three sites have two different landowners.

As we reported last month, one development is of two

blocks with a total of 20 flats on land owned by Leopold Properties on the corner of the High Road and Church Lane, opposite Martin Primary School. The other two blocks are nearby on the Grange estate, managed by Barnet Homes. One block of eight flats will be on Central Avenue and the other next to the High Road.

## Communication with residents

Barnet Homes have written to Grange residents informing them that "construction logistics have not yet been confirmed" and that as soon as a contractor is appointed in the new year, they will "work jointly with the council's Highways department to review the options, aiming to minimise the impact on congested roads".

Residents will also be invited to meet the contractors and ask questions. Before work begins, a construction management plan including details of how vehicles will access the Grange sites and when deliveries are to be made will be submitted to the council for approval.

The approved construction management plan for the Leopold Properties site refers to establishing a 'liaison group' with 'close neighbours and those who would be affected by the construction'.

## Vehicle access problems

Identifying alternative ways to access the Grange sites is a critical issue, as there is currently just one vehicle entrance into the estate, accessed from roads which residents say are, in effect, single lane because cars park on both sides of the street. Two of these access roads run off narrow, one-way Church Lane, near where a new entrance into the Leopold Properties building site will be created for their construction vehicles.

Leopold Properties estimate that construction will take about two years, with a peak delivery period next spring. Building on the Grange should start next spring and will take about a year.

## From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

10 years ago:  
December 2012

We received confirmation that the new Archer Academy secondary school would open in the Arts Institute building off The Bishops Avenue, behind East Finchley tube station. Our article also introduced the school's headteacher Mike Quigley, who subsequently saw it through its first two years of operation.

15 years ago:  
December 2007

A serious accident involving a lorry and a bicycle at the High Road end of Creighton Avenue again highlighted local concerns about this junction. Campaigners for improved safety measures had long dubbed it "Danger Corner" because the shallow pavement curve allowed traffic to turn the corner at relatively high speed. Several more years elapsed before a pedestrian crossing and safety barriers were eventually installed at the junction.

23 years ago:  
December 1999

Our final edition of the last millennium reported on concerns around the proposed Controlled Parking Zone scheme, which is now a fixture of life in East Finchley. Local businesses in particular objected to the cost of their parking permits, then £125 per annum, compared with £20 for residents. Corresponding prices now are dependent on emissions/engine size and vary from £15 to £182.25 for resident permits and £200 to £787.50 for business vehicles.



Reggae on: Levi Roots entertains at the event marking Black History Month. Photo Age UK Barnet

# Levi adds spice to celebration

Celebrity chef and musician Levi Roots joined a special event at Age UK in East Finchley to celebrate Black history and culture. Levi is a familiar face at the charity's base in Oak Lane, N2, having visited the men's cookery class there in 2018, showing them how to make his famous jerk chicken.

As part of the celebrations, Levi talked to the senior people there about his fond memories of growing up in Jamaica and his experiences of moving to London, including how tough it was at times. He also talked about how his life changed since appearing on the BBC's *Dragon's Den* with his Reggae Reggae sauce.

Other festivities at the event included a lively steel pan orchestra, a cookery demonstration and taster and spoken word poetry. Councillor Linda Lusingu also shared her touching story of how she overcame prejudice after coming to London from Tanzania as a child.

Levi said afterwards: "It was fantastic to be back at Age UK Barnet, celebrating Black history, culture and music, and it was an inspiring day. It's really important that we draw on our heritage and celebrate being ourselves. Coming together for events like these is vital in helping to tackle loneliness and in helping older people to feel part of something."

Joyce, who brought her dad to the event, said: "My dad has loved today, especially Levi's talk. He started crying when Levi spoke about growing up in Jamaica, as it brought back memories of his own life in

Jamaica before he came to England."

Age UK Barnet services manager Jenny Jean-Charles said: "We were so blessed to have Levi spend so much time with us, mingling with everyone, signing autographs and having his photo taken with so many people. And his personal story totally captivated the audience."

"Our event highlighted just how crucial it is to bring older people in local communities from all different backgrounds together, helping to make a huge difference to older people who may feel isolated and alone."

## High Road Live event

After a successful sustainability day held on the High Road in September, the East Finchley Town Team is getting ready for their next major event. Scheduled for the weekend of January 28-29, it will be a music and arts event entitled High Road Live.

Planned for the entertainment line-up are bands, singers, open mic sessions, karaoke, choirs, dance, poetry, graffiti art, drumming, themed quizzes and jazz.

The Phoenix Cinema will host an East Finchley's Got Talent competition. With the inevitable interest in this, don't delay in contacting the organisers if you'd like to take part. An email to EFGotTalent@gmail.com should include your name/s and talent details. Let them know by Friday 16 December at the latest.

**Japanese Acupuncture Clinic Finchley**  
www.japaneseacupunctureclinicfinchley.com  
1 Bedford Mews, East Finchley N2 9DF

Marian Fixler 07966 411582    Fiona Hurlock 07795 203107    Julian Ormerod 07947 409809

Acupuncture & Moxibustion    Chiropractic & Yoga

**SONYA WHALEY**

**Rejuvenate your garden**

Kew and Capel Manor trained Planting Designer

sonyawhaley.co.uk



**ACCOUNTANTS FOR SMALL BUSINESS**

At TaxAssist Accountants we specialise in supporting small businesses.

- Business Accounts & Taxation
- Self Assessment Tax Returns
- Bookkeeping & VAT
- Payroll CIS & RTI
- Company Formations
- Initial consultation free with no obligation

**020 8883 5258**  
www.taxassist.co.uk/eastfinchley

**TaxAssist Accountants**  
The Accountants and Tax Experts for Small Business