



## The Archer

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Thank you to The Bald Faced Stag and Cup of Joy for providing us with a meeting place.

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If you have a story for us, please contact us at the above address.

Comments to The Archer may be published unless clearly marked 'Not for publication' within the text.

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## Construction to start soon on derelict site

By Janet Maitland

**Have you wondered why someone, anyone, doesn't do something about the bleak wasteland surrounded by ugly concrete blocks on the corner of Church Lane and the High Road, N2?**

Six years ago the land was home to an unremarkable but convenient Esso petrol station. Then the owners sold it to development company Leopold Properties, who submitted a planning application in late 2016 to build eight homes with roof terraces, some with three storeys, others with two.

ing among the drifts of rubbish.

A Barnet Council spokesperson said that although permission to build the homes was valid until November 2022, they couldn't confirm that they will be built because, they said, the owner had not yet met certain conditions, such as the submission and approval of the



New homes: An artist's impression of the High Road development.

The plan was refused on the grounds that it would be an overdevelopment of the site and at odds with the surroundings. It took three years, another failed submission, a successful appeal to then Housing Minister James Brokenshire, and then yet another submission, before Barnet Council agreed that the development could go ahead.

This was despite the protests of some local residents who were angry that the density had almost doubled in the final application and now consisted of 20 flats in two large blocks, rather than the three terraced houses along Leopold Road and one block of six flats that the Secretary of State gave permission for in 2018.

### No homes in sight

That was over two years ago and nothing has happened on the site itself, other than more buddleia bushes sprout-

drainage strategy.

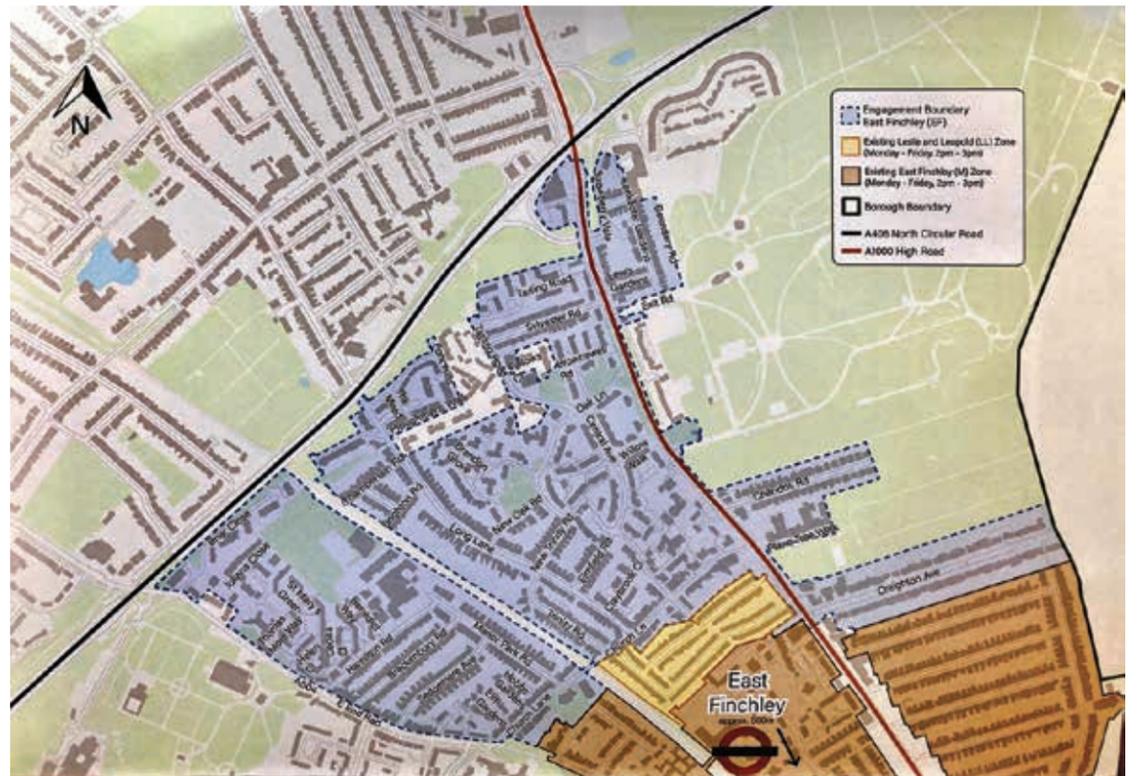
### 'Leopold Court' for sale

However, Joe Henry, the landowner's agent, informed us that his client "confirms they intend to implement the planning permission before it expires".

This was echoed by Richard Humphreys, Director of Goldschmidt & Howland, who are advertising the sale of the site, now named Leopold Court, for £6 million. Clay Street Property Consultants, joint agents for the site, are "inviting unconditional offers for the freehold interest".

### No affordable housing

When permission was given for the flats, the council asked the developers for a cash in lieu payment of £276,758 because there are no plans for affordable housing. A council spokesperson informed us "this money is usually used to subsidise opportunities for affordable housing".



Consultation: Barnet Council's map shows roads in yellow and brown where parking zones are already operational and roads in blue where the new survey is being conducted.

## Controlled parking could spread to new roads in N2

Continued from page 1.

"This is just another money-making scheme for the council," said one survey-taker. "Nobody likes charges but we do have to do something about the number of people who drive their cars in from outside and clog up the area," said another.

Barnet Council says it recognises that recently-introduced CPZs on roads like Leopold Road and Leslie Road can displace parking problems onto nearby roads that don't have controls and that is why it is consulting over such a large area of N2. It also states that it would be willing to introduce any new

controls on an experimental basis to assess their effectiveness.

### Last chance

The East Finchley Engagement on Parking consultation

began last month and runs until Wednesday 12 January. You can see an interactive map and take part at [www.barnet.gov.uk/parkingconsultation](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/parkingconsultation)

## Memorial woodland

**Children from Brookland Infant School were part of a project to plant 500 trees as a tribute to all those affected by the pandemic and ill health generally.**

Pupils from the school in Hill Top, NW11, helped to create the new memorial woodland in Mill Hill Park for National Tree Week last month.

It is made up of six different species of native trees: Field Maple, Crab Apple, Wild Cherry, Hawthorn, Alder and Goat Willow. The project was organised and funded by Barnet Council.

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### Barnet Council

#### 76 Bedford Road, N2

Single-storey side extension; depth 5.50m, eaves height 3.00m, maximum height 3.50m. Also, Lawful Development Certificate for roof extension involving rear full width L-shaped and outrigger dormer with a Juliet balcony and two front rooflights.

#### 29 Beresford Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension and garden wall.

#### Drummond House, 50 Font Hills, N2

Prefabricated grp plantroom unit, housing water tanks and pumps for a sprinkler system.

#### 186 East End Road, N2

Roof extension, including rear dormer window and two front roof lights.

#### 62 Hertford Road, N2

Part single, part two-storey side and rear extensions, following demolition of rear conservatory and side chimney. Additional front entrance with new access steps. Roof extension, including raising ridge height, two rear dormers, five front rooflights, and one (obscure glazed) side gable window to

provide conversion of two flats to two single family dwelling houses. Associated alterations to doors, windows and landscaping, including new raised patio and new glass balustrade and railing to front, and access ramp, side/front gate and railing to side. Cycle storage, plus refuse and recycling storage.

#### 12-18 High Road, N2

Non-material amendments to planning permission dated 17/06/21. Include correction to line of boundary wall and introduction of two angled windows on the 1st floor central eastern, and corrections to the neighbouring buildings to the north and east of the site.

#### 174 High Road, N2

Change of ground floor use from F1(a) (Educational/community use) to E(a) (Retail)

#### 401 High Road, N2

Swapping of steelwork to support existing antennas; two additional cabinets; ancillary development thereto.

#### Old White Lion, 121 Great North Road, N2

One externally illuminated fascia sign, one pictorial panel to existing post sign, one post-mounted directional sign, and one wall-mounted directional sign.

#### 14 Summerlee Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Plus, Lawful development Certificate for Roof extension with rear dormer window, Juliet balcony and three front rooflights.

- Beginners & All Levels -

## Tai Chi & Qigong

\*\* Classes (E. Finchley) & LIVE STREAM \*\*

Wednesdays am & pm (Trial session: £5)

James Drewe is a qualified teacher and has been studying tai chi for 45 years. He is the author of 3 books on tai chi & is a member of the TUGB.

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