



They got rhythm: Dancers get into their stride at a Caramba Party class. Photo Mike Coles

Yay Caramba... it's time to dance

By Diana Cormack

Are you missing your weekly fix of *Strictly Come Dancing* or hoping to find a New Year fitness activity that is also fun? If so, The Engine Rooms at 82-92 Great North Road, N2, might have just what you're looking for.

On Tuesday evenings you won't hear the sound of engines revving up, only the rhythmic beat of Caramba Party's Salsa, Tango and Bachata, where you can learn to dance whilst socialising. The restaurant, wine bar and events space situated just beyond the junction

with The Bishops Avenue is the setting for Fredy Montero's Latin Soul dance classes.

Fredy, who is originally from Cali, Colombia, trained as a professional dancer and has extensive experience working as both a professional performer and as a teacher. He has been passing

on his knowledge and sharing his passion for dance through private events entertainment, group and one-to-one tuition since 2010.

For details of these and other activities in his Latin-inspired events company, visit www.latinsoul.co.uk

Grange Estate: Fewer new homes but demolitions still planned

By Janet Maitland

Barnet Homes will provide fewer new homes on the Grange estate and surrounding streets in East Finchley than originally planned (*The Archer*, May 2021). But Brownswell Road and Tarling Road green spaces will still be built on and three homes will still be demolished, despite protests by local residents.

Two thirds of the 47 new homes now proposed will be built on land currently covered with grass and trees even though Barnet Homes said in response to a petition signed by 700 people that a "key aim of the project is to add more high-quality green space".

Grange homes because the proposals were not classified as a regeneration scheme but as redevelopment.

We understand they were also told that Barnet Council's allocations policy does not allow anyone over the age of 18 who is not in education



Brownswell green: Children play in front of the three homes set for demolition. Photo Mike Coles



Celebration: Hair 202 manager Kelly Leach with a customer

Hair 202's 20 years

By Debby Hiller

The team at High Road salon Hair 202 celebrated its 20th birthday in November, having served East Finchley throughout all of this time, except for the nine and a half months they were forced to close during lockdown.

Team members who have been there since the beginning include Bill Hussein, Kelly Leach, Yasmine Hussein and Kenji Takahashi. They have been joined by Grace Ferrie, Georgia Dalton, Finola Santarelli and Holly Dolby, and form an intimate and friendly team. Their clients include TV presenters, actors and musicians.

There have been four refurbishments of the premises over the years, and the last one was done during lockdown to create more space for staff and clients to be in the same room safely. The salon still retains its perspex dividers and other safety measures for virus protection.

New clients who bring this article to the salon will be given 10% off the cost of their first appointment. Existing clients with appointments will be given vouchers allowing them £10 off their next appointments in January and February.

Major change to plans

Last year, Barnet Homes originally submitted plans to create 100 homes in the Grange estate area. Over 40 would have been built on the Brownswell Road play area and on a green space and car park in Tarling Road.

Sixty four more would have been on the Grange itself by adding extra storeys to existing blocks and constructing new blocks on Red Lion Hill, Central Avenue and on the High Road side of the estate. Assessment surveys have caused Barnet Homes to reduce the total of new homes by more than 50%.

With the new total at 47, we asked why the demolition of existing homes was still necessary. A Barnet Homes spokesperson said that although ten fewer homes will be built on Brownswell Green, the demolitions will "allow the development of more affordable homes and the community amenity space".

Effects of demolitions

The two families who rent the houses (the third is owner-occupied) were informed last November that they could not be rehoused in any of the new

or a carer receiving Carer's Allowance to be considered for rehousing, nor anyone who is not vulnerable because they have a job. In fact, both the households under threat suffer from health problems and rely on other members of their family for care.

We asked Barnet Homes if they had any discretion when applying the policy. A spokesperson said that families would not be split up providing they could provide "evidence to show medical need for the family to be together".

They also said that "when, on occasion, a tenant has to move out of their home to allow for redevelopment, the council would use its discretion to prioritise a move to suitable alternative accommodation".

We understand that the owner of the third house will be given its market value plus compensation.

More details next month

Barnet Homes says 'in-person events' will be held with residents in February to provide details of the new designs. The planning application will not be formally submitted before "at least spring 2022".

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We meet each Sunday for worship at 10.30 am. If you would like to join us please go to our website for further details. All welcome.

For more information please contact the Church Office
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