



Circus invited to perform shows in Cherry Tree Wood

By Fiona Macdonald and John Lawrence

Barnet Council has invited a circus to perform at Cherry Tree Wood over Christmas and New Year. While some are welcoming this 'first' for East Finchley, there are also serious concerns over the suitability of the park, which is prone to flooding over the winter months.

East London-based Revel Puck Circus is currently selling tickets for 25 shows, each with an audience capacity of 500, between 21 December and 7 January.

Sorrelle Morris, from Revel Puck, told a meeting of the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood and local residents last month that the circus would be on site for a total of five weeks, with a big top, bar area, fencing and around 15 trailers. Staff living on site would require a diesel generator running continuously throughout their stay.

The Friends group and residents pointed out that this would close off much of the park for the five-week duration. They also raised concerns about noise from the generator, light pollution affecting the wood's wildlife and potential damage from HGVs bringing circus equipment on

and off site.

"Has this idea really been thought through?" asked Roger Chapman, chair of the Friends group. He is calling for the circus to be sited elsewhere.

Revel Puck said it was Barnet Council who had suggested Cherry Tree Wood and no other location was offered. Barnet Council has told the Friends that they are not required to consult with them or with neighbouring residents before granting permission. Revel Puck Circus will be presenting their plan to the Safety Advisory Group later this month.

Revel Puck describe themselves as a young and dynamic company who bring their shows to "sites and spaces outside of traditional performance settings to activate an area and community through vibrant live performances and local partnerships".



Soggy bottom: The proposed circus site in Cherry Tree Wood is prone to flooding after heavy rain

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Winners: Women and men from the East Finchley Women's FC and EF Neighbourhood Support FC teams celebrate their mixed team victory.

Goals galore for grassroots football

By Fiona Doyle

East Finchley's grassroots football teams are steadily growing, with successful clubs in both men and women's football now representing the community.

On Thursday 24 August, East Finchley Women's FC and EF Neighbourhood Support FC held a mixed tournament to share their love of the game, promote both teams and, most importantly, have fun on the pitch.

They played at Christ's College Finchley school off East End Road and ran three seven-a-side mini games of 15 minutes each. Four mixed teams competed and performed admirably, with the eventual winners achieving two wins and a draw.

An informal presentation ceremony was held afterwards at the Five Bells, with a trophy for the winning team and a top scorer trophy being awarded to Helena from EFWC for scoring

four goals. With the recent success of England's Lionesses in the World Cup, it's exciting to know that we have such talent in our own community.

East Finchley Women's Football club began in 2014, starting with one group of ladies at the Archer Academy. They now train over 70 women a week, running three different sessions and have four competitive teams playing in two leagues. You can find out more about them by visiting their website at efwfc.co.uk.

Supporting volunteers

East Finchley Neighbourhood Support FC is a local men's team that began their first season in the Barnet Sunday Football League last year. They play to support the N2 Food Project, a non-profit run by East Finchley Neigh-

bourhood Support CIC, which sees local volunteers cook 200 meals every Sunday at Martin School and distribute the meals on Tuesdays at the Phoenix Cinema between 10.30am and 12.30pm. They rely solely on donations from the public and would be grateful for any contributions, either on Tuesdays outside the cinema (cash and card accepted) or online at www.iloven2.co.uk/food-project.

It was fantastic to have such a fun community initiative take place and all involved are keen to do another one soon. Thanks to all and good luck to EWFC and EFNSFC in their respective leagues this season!

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