



## The Archer

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Copy deadlines - August: 12 July, September: 16 August; October: 13 September

## BE PART OF IT Volunteers wanted

Compiled by Lynn Winton

**Age UK Barnet**, based in East Finchley, supports older, isolated local people in the area and needs volunteers to help out in various activities and day clubs for people living with mild dementia. They also need befrienders and shoppers to offer weekly chats or a light weekly shop to someone who can't get out. Contact Lisa Robbins by emailing [volunteering@ageukbarnet.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@ageukbarnet.org.uk)

**Number Champions**, also based in N2, is an award-winning charity that helps young primary school children who are struggling with numeracy or lack confidence in maths. Its trained in-school volunteers use games and other creative activities in one-to-one sessions with children. If you have good basic numeracy, plenty of enthusiasm, 1.5 hours/week during term time and you're interested in volunteering from September, have a look at [www.numberchampions.org.uk](http://www.numberchampions.org.uk)

East Finchley-based **Barnet Lone Parent Centre** is looking for creative support volunteers to deliver family friendly art and craft activities for lone parent women with children 0-11 years. If you have patience, empathy, enjoy creative tasks, and can commit fairly regularly to four hours on the second Saturday of each month, contact [kealey.kissiedu@blpc.org.uk](mailto:kealey.kissiedu@blpc.org.uk). Find out more at [blpc.org.uk](http://blpc.org.uk)

**Food Bank Aid** provides essential items for 32 food banks in north London, who in turn support 20,000 people per week, and offer flexible volunteering for a wide variety of tasks in a convivial atmosphere. They can't do this without an army of volunteers. Located at the Great North Leisure Park in N12, opposite Hollywood Bowl, with free parking, music, tea and coffee, volunteers are needed for a variety of roles including deliveries using your own car or our van, picking and packing. Contact [volunteering@foodbankaid.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@foodbankaid.org.uk)

If you'd like your organisation to be included in this column and listed on the East Finchley community website, please complete the form at [www.ILoveN2.co.uk/be-part-of-it](http://www.ILoveN2.co.uk/be-part-of-it).



Undeveloped: A large pile of dirt is the only sign of activity on the former Esso garage site in the High Road. Photo Mike Coles

## Council not planning action over eyesore site

By Janet Maitland

A vacant plot of land on the corner of Church Lane and the High Road, N2, looks set to remain an ugly wasteland unless members of the public ask the council to investigate.

We reported in April that although they were given planning permission to build 21 flats in two blocks back in November 2019, landowners Leopold Properties have not laid a single brick, despite a statutory condition that building work should start within three years or permission is rescinded.

The council is not currently planning to take any action. A Barnet Council spokesperson informed us that it does not routinely check if work has started by the three-year deadline. Leopold Properties did inform the council a month before the deadline that building work had commenced, but no one checked if that was the case. The site was not inspected by a council officer until late March this year, shortly after *The Archer* first asked why it was still undeveloped. The officer found "some evidence of disturbed earth".

This pile of soil in one corner of the site, dug up just before the deadline in November 2022, may be considered sufficient evidence that building work has started. If this is the case, then it would be

up to the developers when they complete it.

If there is an investigation, "all parties will be given an opportunity to state their own cases," said the council spokesperson. However, he explained there is "nothing to investigate at this point in time in so far as no formal breach of planning control has been identified or requested to be investigated". We asked Joe Henry, agent for Leopold Properties, why building work hasn't started. He said he had "no further information on this site", but his understanding was that "ever-increasing build costs, partly attributable to more building regulation and energy efficiency requirements, and lack of skilled builders are making many housing schemes unviable for the moment".

Members of the public are able to formally request the council's enforcement team look into the status of the site by writing to Planning Enforcement, Barnet Council, 2 Bristol Avenue, London NW9 4EW or emailing [planning.enforcement@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:planning.enforcement@barnet.gov.uk).

## Parking zone

Continued from p1

While not entirely ruling out the possibility of the scheme being revived in the future, Cllr Rawlings' message will be good news for hundreds of people who would have had to pay up to £200 per year to park near their homes. Many said their roads did not suffer from daytime parking issues and branded the CPZ a 'money maker' for the council.



Parking zone: The proposed EF zone has been paused

However, some roads do report overcrowding from localised commuter parking and the council has not yet indicated how it will now deal with these, if at all. Edward Butler urged people to take part in his short CPZ questionnaire at [www.n2cpz.com](http://www.n2cpz.com), the results of which will be shared with the council.

He said: "The Leader's acknowledgement is welcome, however... it fails to address the fundamental concerns held by many local stakeholders about how the council has conducted itself and the lack of engagement which has surrounded the process.

"The Leader indicates that there are no plans at the moment but also makes clear it is likely to come back. We are committed to continuing with our efforts to ensure each and every East Finchley household and business has their say."

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**Barnet Council**

**145 Abbots Gardens, N2**

Part single, part first-floor side and rear extension with five roof lights. Roof extension involving hip to gable, rear dormer window with juliet balcony and three front-facing roof lights.

**Land opposite Chambers Gardens/Strawberry Vale, N2**

Remove one 15m structure to replace with one 18m structure with wraparound and nine antennae, along with associated equipment works.

**36A Sedgemere Avenue, N2**

Change of use of the property from a single family dwelling (C3) to a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) (Class C4) for three people (retrospective application).

**49A Sedgemere Avenue, N2**

Change of use of the property from a single family dwelling (C3)

to a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) (Class C4) (retrospective application).

**Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk, N2**

Installation of two air source heat pumps at ground floor to the school field opposite the road to the front of the school. Installation of two rows of solar panels to the front pitched roof on the main block (retrospective application).

**11 Ashburnham Close, N2**

Single-storey front extension.

**25 Bedford Road, N2**

Single-storey side/rear wrap-around extension to existing rear outrigger and addition of external insulation.

**59 Bedford Road, N2**

Two-storey rear extension; new cladding to rear walls; installation of solar panels to rear roof slope and side roof slope of rear

outrigger; changes to fenestration including new windows to rear elevation and insertion of a door to replace ground-floor window; insertion of one rear and one side roof light; installation of air source heat pump.

**32 Sylvester Road, N2**

First-floor rear extension.

**208 Creighton Avenue, N2**

Single-storey rear extension, two side roof lights to replace existing. Replacement of front door and garage doors.

**Haringey Council**

**20 Beech Drive, London N2**

Replace a steel beam at the existing rear extension. Convert the integrated garage (with existing electricity, existing gas pipes and existing water pipes) into a utility and storage room, replace existing garage door with a French garage door.



Medical Aesthetic  
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