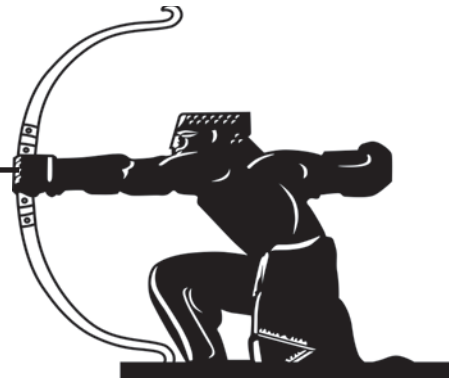




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The Archer

Local News is our Aim



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Delivered free to 10,000 homes and businesses across East Finchley

Can our area cope with 1,470 new homes?

By Ruth Anders

While Britain is facing a housing crisis there is no shortage of developers looking to build new homes. The dilemma, however, is where and how to build them. One answer is the plan to build 1,470 flats on the site of the Great North Leisure Park, just over the North Circular from East Finchley, that is currently home to the Vue Cinema, the Finchley Lido Leisure Centre and several restaurants.

But this has raised concerns about where so many new residents would park their cars, where their children would go to school and what local amenities like shops and GP surgeries would be within their reach.

gised attendees put questions to representatives from Regal, the developers of the leisure park scheme.

As we reported in our April edition, all existing buildings on the site would be demolished to

ment director Greg Lyons and Ian Fenn from JTP Architects outlined the plans and timetable for work. These included the character and height of the buildings (one at 25 storeys, prompting an audible gasp from the meeting), leisure facilities, green spaces, bicycle facilities, access and possible small shops. They promised that the current leisure centre would not close until the new one was ready.

Stressing that this was not intended to be a new town centre, Ian Fenn described the scheme as being “a pedestrian friendly place for the people of Finchley and for Finchley, creating new borough-wide facilities with buildings designed to last for 100 years.”

With an eye to environmental responsibility, a green pedestrian route would go through the heart of the scheme, the buildings stepping up in height towards the east of the site and there would be a focus on cycle spaces (2,000) rather than car spaces (300-400). Turn to page 2.



Homes and leisure: An artist's impression of the entrance to the proposed housing development from the High Road

Tackling some of these issues, a lively meeting at the East Finchley Constitutional Club on Thursday 10 October hosted by East Finchley Town Team saw more than 50 ener-

make way for the new homes. The Finchley Lido Leisure Centre would be moved to a new building on a different part of the site.

Regal's planning director Steve Harrington, develop-



Lifetime's work: Fleur Adcock marking her 90th birthday earlier this year with a new collection of her poems. Photo Mike Coles

Treasured poet Fleur Adcock dies at 90

Fleur, who lived in East Finchley, passed away in the North London Hospice on Thursday 10 October after a short illness. Full story on page 4.

'Tis the season

Everyone is invited to celebrate the start of the festive season with the switching on of East Finchley's lights outside Budgens on the High Road on Saturday 7 December at 5pm.

Local choirs will lead the carol singing as dusk gathers and, with no trees felled for the event this year, the lights will adorn the towering plant frame in the flower bed there. Mince pies and mulled wine will be

provided by Budgens.

The festivities coincide with the Christmas market taking place at The Bald Faced Stag, directly across the road, from 2-6pm, with stalls, hot food and music.

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