



Petition to save protected trees threatened by housing plan

By Lynn Winton

Seven magnificent and ancient trees, all with Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), are going to be destroyed unless East Finchley residents mobilise themselves to protect them. This is the stark warning delivered by Roger Chapman, chair of the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, who is urging residents to sign his petition.

Standing tall opposite East Finchley Station, they frame the frontage of the Park House site, formerly the home of Monkey Puzzle Nursery, which is now earmarked for demolition to make way for a private housing development. The plans include the removal of the protected trees and the green space to allow for 75 homes and a new nursery.

New homes and nature can co-exist. If you agree, please sign the petition."

Another campaigner added: "It has long been scientifically proven that trees make a huge improvement to urban areas, creating urban cooling, biodiversity, air quality, beauty, all contributing to the wellbeing of living in East Finchley for generations to come."

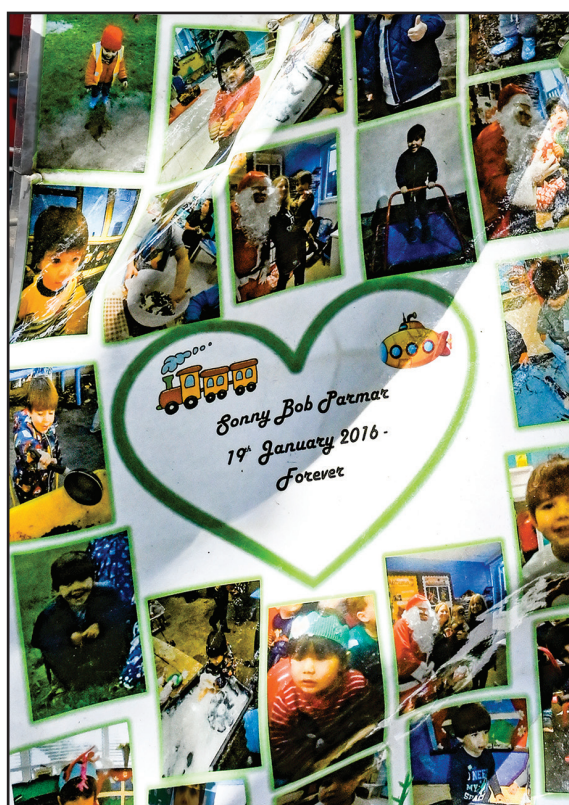
You can access the petition by using the QR code in this article or by visiting change.org and searching 'Save East Finchley Trees'.



Under threat: Campaigner are calling for the tree preservation orders to be respected

Roger explained: "We support redevelopment in principle, but all we are asking is to build responsibly, protect the existing green space, retain the protected trees and work with the community.

However, the current proposals indicate excessive building height and density, including a nine-storey element. "East Finchley needs new homes but not at the expense of irreplaceable mature trees, public greenery and local character.



Friendship tree: Fiona and Kishen Parmar with photos of their son Sonny who died in a road accident in 2019



Parents' plea for Sonny's tree in nursery playground

By Lynn Winton

Amongst the seven majestic trees at risk from the Park House redevelopment plan stands one very special, small crab apple tree, which also has a Tree Preservation Order, but for very different reasons.

This is Sonny's Friendship Tree, planted in the playground of the former Monkey Puzzle Nursery, to remember three-year-old pupil Sonny Parmar, who was killed in a road accident on East End Road, N2, in 2019. Every year since his death, his parents Fiona and Kishen along

with family and friends come to mark his birthday at the tree, which is adorned with messages and photos of Sonny. The thought of the tree being removed is a very painful one for both of them. They support Roger Chapman and hope his petition will get more signatures.

"Sonny's Friendship tree was where all the nursery children would come and sit down around it at special times to

remember loved ones and people they cared about," says Fiona. "When we saw the plans for the development, our first thoughts were that Sonny's tree may not be safe, and now we know that the developers have said a TPO will not save it. "We've been in touch with Barnet Councillors and our MP Sarah Sackman, we've tried everyone we can think of, and we've made sure they all know how we feel about it."



Sign up: Use this QR code to find the petition

Tell us the news

Have you got a news story or an interesting photo for us? Our readers are our eyes and ears, and we are always pleased to hear what is going on in East Finchley. Tips, ideas and stories, large or small, are very welcome. Please email news@the-archer.co.uk or leave a message on our free phone line 0800 612 0748. Thank you

Fortismere festival



Families from across the area are being invited to enjoy an afternoon of entertainment, music and community spirit at the Fortismere Summer Festival at Fortismere School, Twyford Avenue, N10, on Sunday 5 July, from midday until 5pm

Visitors can look forward to fairground rides, live music throughout the afternoon, a wide variety of stalls, a fun dog show, a display of classic cars, and an excellent selection of food and drink. A spokesperson for the organisers Friends of Fortismere said: "Every pound raised goes back into enriching the experience of all students at the school." The event is open to the entire community, not just Fortismere families. All under-18s can attend free of charge.

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