



Neurological Hospital Site

By Erini Rodis

There were more fireworks inside than out at the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association meeting at Fellowship House on 5 November during a debate about proposed plans to move the Hampstead Institute into a new 3-storey building, on the grounds of the Former Neurological Hospital behind East Finchley tube station.

NOGO, which stands for Neighbours Opposing Gross Over-development, is a group of residents whose gardens face onto the potential site. They are concerned about the increase in traffic, pollution, noise and parking problems, which a public facility like this might generate. Two 4-storey blocks of residential flats (28 flats in total) are also planned.

Trees with preservation orders on the site are due to be felled, and privacy, along with their existing garden views, feels threatened. Following Trust tradition, Suburb residents are not allowed anything

other than privet hedges; and any external decoration needs to be approved. How can any construction company be allowed to erect out of character structures when the residents aren't even allowed to decide the colours of their own front doors?

Most people seemed to agree that the popular and successful Hampstead Institute does deserve its own premises. It has shared a building with Henrietta Barnett School for a long time and ideally it should remain within the borders of the Suburb (in this case, only just). For many it would be a welcome addition



al Hospital Convalescent Home, E Finchley

The Neurological Hospital in better days.

to public amenities closer to the centre of East Finchley.

'In principle'

The main issue however was that of trust and representation. Those opposed to the site felt that they had been ignored, accusing the Chair of the RA, Georgina Malcolm, of giving plans the go-ahead without consulting them. In her defence she pointed out that she had only agreed 'in principle', and proposed a motion:

That a small committee shall be formed to consider the full impact of the development, bearing in mind the views and objections of local residents.

The motion was voted through. Barnet Planning Committee will also carry on taking representations until the council holds a presentation meeting in January. (Check with the Green Man Community Centre for dates). Plans may be viewed at Whetstone House.

What do *ARCHER* readers think of the proposed plans? Write in and let us know!

Readers' Report on Scams

People who were on the alert after our recent warnings on scams have contacted *THE ARCHER*. One reader reported noticing that the Halifax automatic cash dispenser at the post office in Viceroy Parade had been fitted with a fake plastic cover.

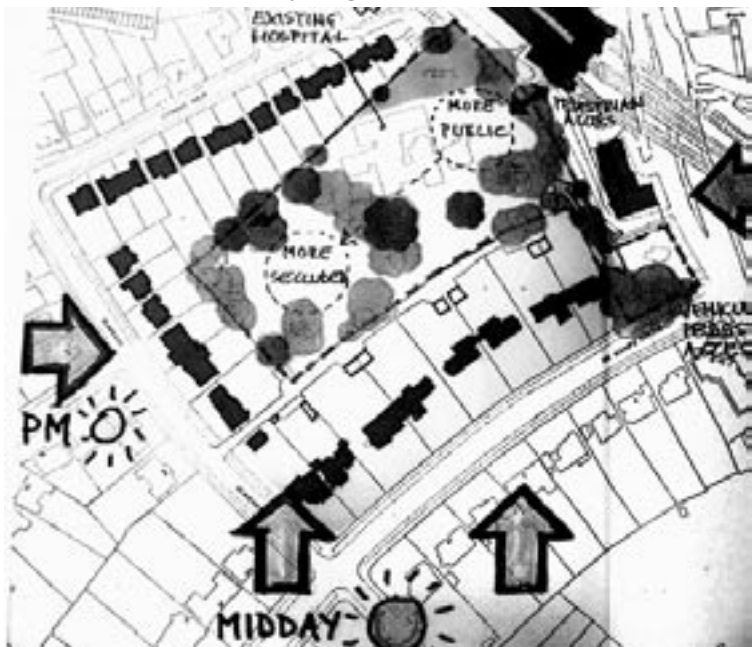
Another was approached outside Budgens at 8.30 a.m. by the woman who asks for £1 to buy petrol. (See October's *ARCHER*). She did not have a handbag and was carrying a petrol can, but did not seem to know where her car was. She was still there collecting money when our reader returned from work nine hours later.

A female of a similar description "thin, with long brownish (as opposed to red) hair and a slightly spotty face" approached another reader in Homebase car park, Southgate. Speaking with a natural or assumed French accent, she said that she lived in Montmartre, that her car had been broken into and she needed money for petrol, as she had to get to Dover. She was driving a small, old, two-door, maroon coloured Ford with British number plates. Our reader did not give her any money as her

car looked intact seen from one side, but she may have already obtained some, for she drove along the North Circular and then turned off into the BP filling station.

Let us know

THE ARCHER has been praised for printing these warnings. Please contact us if you know of any other scams that readers need to be made aware of. At a time of year when giving is at the forefront of our minds, it is sad to think that some people take advantage of the generosity of others.



A view of the proposed plot from above.

Council Buildings to Close

By John Dearing

Barnet Council met on 14 October to decide the future accommodation for many of its staff. In their subsequent announcement they said that a lease had been taken on two floors of the former Nortel Networks building in Oakleigh Road South, New Southgate, for a new temporary office complex to be known either as the Brunswick Park Office campus, or the Barnet Business Park.

Some 700 backroom staff would start moving to the new building in December, the bulk in January and February.

To pay for this move, the Council has decided to dispose of a number of existing council office buildings. Hatchcroft and Ravensfield House in The Burroughs are to be demolished and the site redeveloped.

Greatest respect?

The Professional Development Centre, formerly Finchley County School is to be sold, but a spokesperson for the Council said that while its future ownership and use were undecided, it would not be demolished. Councillor Anthony Finn has said that the war memorial housed in the building will be 'removed after consultation' and 'treated with the greatest respect'. Some people have already expressed concern that this

memorial, dedicated to the fallen pupils of the school, will not remain in the building those pupils attended, devaluing its meaning irrevocably. No new location for the memorial has yet been identified, suggesting that it may become difficult for people to visit it in the future.

Other buildings identified for closure include the former Friern Barnet Town Hall; again no decision has been made about its future.

Interestingly, Park House in East Finchley is not on the list, and the Council spokesperson declined to comment on its future, or even whether and when staff will be moved out of it.

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