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Local News Is Our Aim

# THE ARCHER



**GLH**

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*A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.*



Photo by Nelsy Cristancho.

## Reduced to Ashes

This was the scene of devastation in Cherry Tree Wood on 2 October after East Finchley's popular kiosk cafe was burned to the ground in a freak blaze. See the report on page 2.



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## Phones 'R' Us

An application by Hutchison Telecom to install a further mobile phone antenna on the roof of Viceroy Close has been withdrawn.

However Hutchison Telecom has won an appeal to build a 10-metre mast and base station opposite the old Texaco station on the High Road, permission for which was originally refused by Barnet Council.

Could the withdrawal of one application and the winning of an appeal over another similar one be more than coincidence?

## Waitrose Shows Its Hand

Plans for a full-sized Waitrose store opposite the station might change the whole face of East Finchley. Although a planning application has not yet been submitted, discussions with Barnet Council have started and some local councillors – and *THE ARCHER* – have seen plans for the proposed site.

The proposals would involve the demolition of Park House, the GLH offices and the row of shops in the High Road between GLH and Baronsmere Road. An underground car park with spaces for 140 cars is planned for the land currently occupied by Park House.

Fears that the proposed store would encroach on Cherry Tree Wood have been quashed with an assurance from Barnet Parks and Countryside Department that there would be no connection with the pavilion inside the wood.

### Reading Rooms

In an unexpected twist, however, the plans include a small two-storey library on the corner of the High Road and Baronsmere Road. This would replace the existing library building further up the High Road, which has apparently been deemed too expensive to update with

adequate disabled access.

### Traffic solutions

Waitrose seems keen to accommodate local views and needs, though many traders are anxious about the negative impact of the store. Planners argue that an anchor store would increase shoppers, but local opinion on the possibility of a new store seems to be mixed. Whilst some welcome the idea of a large supermarket within walking distance, many others are worried about an increase in traffic and pollution caused by shoppers coming from neighbouring areas.

East Finchley Councillor Alison Moore said, "One of the things we talked about is traffic calming. We think it's worth considering Waitrose to pay for certain traffic solutions."

Dr Rudi Vis, MP for Finchley and Golders Green, who has lived in East Finchley for 25 years, said, "Waitrose is an unpleasant attack on some of the people and shops of East Finchley and a godsend for others. I have asked many locals myself, and the score seems to be about 50-50. Whichever way, we will go on supporting our local shops as we have done for many years."

Full details of the plans will be printed in next month's *ARCHER*.

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