



Letters to The Editor

Gross over-population
Dear Sir,

The fourth set of amendments to the proposed development of the hospital site are at Barnet Council. The developers will not talk to the neighbours who had formed a NOGO committee in July 2002 to object to the original proposed development and subsequent amendments submitted over the last fifteen months.

A great deal of work and financial expenditure has gone into providing cogent argument why we object to the gross over-population of a conservation area which is the eastern gateway to the Suburb, and trust that the wise heads in Council will accept the force of our reasoning.

Roger and Wendy Sheridan
Address supplied.

Barnet Consultation
letter misleads...

Dear Editor

Barnet's fourth consultation letter of 14 November regarding the Neurological Hospital has the same reference number as the July and October set, namely C00070H/02. Despite the same number these plans are different. The developers have been forced to listen to objectors, but the Public are regrettably still being misled as defined below. These plans are described by the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association and Trust as 'overdeveloped'.

The 14 November consultation letter says that "two separate sets of amended plans have been received, the first involving amendments affecting the whole site, the second involved a reduction in height of the northern part

of the educational building to two storey." This implies the whole northern end is now two storey and that the whole of the northern 'part' has been reduced in height. Both are untrue! It is more correct to say that 'less than half the northern end of the educational building is now two storey and the classroom block is still only 20 metres from a residential home'. Barnet's Mr Pearson has agreed that the 14 Nov letter wording is misleading but can do nothing about it.

The application consists of 27 flats in two large four-storey blocks, and a 47,000 sq. ft. three storey building (plus "atrium tower") for the HGS Institute. In these latest plans a small part of the top storey of the proposed Institute Building (amounting to 15% of this floor) is removed, and the positioning of the three buildings is altered slightly but the Institute classroom block is still an objectionably abusive 20 metres from a residential home. After studying the plans, we conclude that they are still completely unacceptable, and do not meet in any way the fundamental objections that applied to Octagon's three previous sets of plans.

What will unavoidably affect all East Finchley residents is that the Institute still provides only 30 on-site car parking spots for almost 550 pupils and teachers who will come and go many times in the day and into the night all year round for the various classes. This will cause local traffic chaos and parking problems for miles around as the average 240 cars try to park wherever they can.

Please send your objections again specifically about the traffic, congestion and parking problems and the overdevelop-

ment that all East Finchley locals have not been consulted on, and which is a well kept secret, to: Mr Robin Pearson, Barnet Planning Dept, 1255 High Rd, London N20 0EJ.

Charles Adams
STOP
Edmunds Walk, N2
www.actiongroups.co.uk

Cuckoo commuters
Dear Editor

I wish to report a sighting of East Finchley's first genetically modified denizens of the Controlled Parking Zone. Genus Cuckoo can be seen driving their cars to Ingram Road from as far away as Lincoln Road – the better to access the tube station, you understand. Car drivers who have been overtaken by this syndrome seem to value their internal combustion exercises more than their cardio vascular system.

This will hardly seem credible to most residents, as surely it takes longer to drive than to walk that distance.

Help is in sight for the afflicted however. All that is needed is to ask the council to provide a minicab service from their front door to their car. I'm sure Barnet's Tory car champions will oblige.

In the meantime, please ask local residents to write when they next see these exercise-averse autophiles, so that the Council doesn't have to spend time dealing with them. Your ward councillors can more profitably represent East Finchley by dealing with opportunistic developers, venal landlords and tree planters.

Yours sincerely
Colin Rogers
Ward Councillor, East Finchley

OBITUARY

Joan Killingback

19/12/1920 - 12/08/2003

By Daphne Chamberlain

Joan Killingback, born Joan Jarvis, who died in August, lived all her life in East Finchley; for the last 59 years in Chambers Gardens.

She was born in an Oak Lane house called *The Grange*, where her father was the caretaker. The Grange housed Simms Motor Units, and her mother sold tea and cakes to the factory workers in a small canteen in the garden.

At the junction of Oak Lane and the High Road was a hollow tree, known as *Turpin's Oak*. When, in recent years, the remains of a tree was put by the North Circular and given the same name, Mrs Killingback was not the only local to be indignant. She sent protests to newspapers, including *THE ARCHER*, identifying the impostor as the "Beehive Tree", which had come from a nearby garden.

I met Mrs Killingback several times after this, and she made valuable contributions to our local history pages. She had a sharp mind and, although unable to get out much in her later years, remained keenly interested in current events as well.

She was a striking-looking woman, with clear blue eyes and a fresh complexion which always put me in mind of the country.

In fact, the East Finchley of her childhood did have a rural element. Mrs Killingback remembered seeing flocks of sheep walking along the High Road to market, as well as "Mr Jarman's trotters" – trotting horses kept by a neighbour in another of the big houses in Oak Lane.

When her father-in-law, Maurice Killingback,



Joan Killingback in 1987.

Photo supplied by Sheila Fleming.

and her husband, Arthur, ran their butcher's shop in the Market Place between the World Wars, they bought pigs in Prospect Place and grazed goats in the cemetery off Strawberry Vale. After World War 2, the Killingbacks opened another shop on the corner of Church Lane and Long Lane, which was there until 1969.

Mrs Killingback went to North Road (now Martin) and Tollington Schools, and worked for BT until she was married. After that, her main concern was bringing up her five children, and she was a long-time member of the Mothers' Union.

A sufferer with arthritis and diabetes, she had a fatal heart attack in the heat of last summer. We send our sympathy to her family.

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column.

Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.

**Public-Private Partnerships - A Pupil Protests**

By Hannah Eiseman-Renyard

I attend Fortismere School, and discovered only this term that it's in a public-private partnership (PPP) and apparently has been for three years. Under the twenty-five-year contract, Jarvis Plc. do all maintenance, repairs and improvements for free and in return they can rent out the school outside of school hours for profit. But if it's as reasonable as it sounds, why was this done in such a way that many of the pupils didn't know?

Screw-ups

Compared to some cases of Islington PPP schools where Jarvis have interfered with cleaning staff's pay and teachers' contracts, their screw-ups around Fortismere are pretty minor. They have lost all the attachments to the blinds, so teachers resort to pinning them up with drawing pins; re-built the between-wings walkway with steep earth banks either side and no drainage, so it becomes a slippery mud-chute in wet weather; inexplicably changed a Sixth Form boys' toilet into a girls'; built a bridge which slopes; as well as a large road down the middle of school to a new car park, so teachers now have to drive further past (or over) pupils to park.

What's in it for them?

It's the last few years of the contract that worry me. Currently Jarvis are refurbishing the school, so that they can rent it out. Currently it's worth their while to make improvements, but come the final years of the contract, there won't be time to recoup the 'investment' of any needed repairs or improvements. As one teacher said, "Whenever private companies put themselves forward, you have to ask what's in it for them." When there's no longer much in it for them, we'll be in serious trouble.

Christmas Church Services

St. Marys Catholic Church,
279 High Road
Christmas Eve - 6.30pm
Children's Mass at Christmas,
9.30pm Carols, 10pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day - Mass at 8.30am, 10am & 11.30am
Boxing Day - Mass 10am

Holy Trinity Church,
Church Lane
Sunday 21 December - 6pm
Carol Service by Candlelight
Christmas Eve - 6pm Nativity Play: Blessing of the Crib, 11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day - 10am Parish Communion

All Saints' Church,
Durham Road
Sunday 21 December - 6.30pm
Christmas Carol Service
Christmas Eve - 3pm
Children's Christmas Service, 11.30pm Midnight Mass of Christmas
Christmas Day - 8am Mass of the Dawn, 10am Mass of Christmas Day

East Finchley Baptist Church,
Creighton Avenue
Sunday 21st December - Christmas Carol Services, 11am - All Ages in Together, 6.30pm
Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Day - 10.30am
Christmas Morning Service



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