



Olympic plan to transform East Finchley station

By David Tupman

In confidential papers seen by *THE ARCHER*, a consortium of Transport for London (TfL), Barnet Council and McDonalds are working to transform East Finchley station. Improvements include a new landmark building, new sporting facilities in preparation for the 2012 London Olympics, and enhanced leisure opportunities at no cost to council tax-payers.

At the heart of the scheme will be a spectacular open atrium spanning the entire station forecourt and the entrance to the McDonalds headquarters in the High Road.

One feature of the roof area, which is exciting for Olympic sponsor McDonalds, will be the training facilities envisaged for aerial, high-bar gymnastics, due to be an official sport in 2012. In the next six years many potential Olympic athletes will be training in East Finchley, creating tracksuit-making opportunities for local businesses.

Consultant architects envisage a post-modernist aesthetic using spare roof materials from the Millennium Dome in Greenwich. Purchased by the consortium's procurement unit under a PFI deal, the construction will meet tough EU environmental standards.

Strategically placed anchor points will support the flexible open atrium, but one anchor will necessitate the removal of the famous 'Archie' statue on top of East Finchley station. The confidential papers say that the consortium is very sensitive to local opinion on this potential World Heritage site and will hold an options review of future

uses for the statue.

The frontrunner proposal is that Archie should be rendered down for his rare metals, assisting Barnet Council in reaching its tough recycling targets set by central government.

Income generation

Beneath the atrium canopy, specialized catering outlets will be a key part of the income generation strategy. East Finchley station ticket office will be replaced by an Oyster card charging bay and the space used as a drive-thru Latvian sausage and dumpling bistro bar. Thus a new customer base should be created to tap into the needs of eastern European workers now practising their trades in north London.

As the bistro will boast Soil Association organic accreditation, discriminating local 4x4 drivers will be attracted to use the station car park, boosting TfL revenues. Officials believe that Latvian cuisine will help meet the many diversity and inclusiveness targets listed in the Borough's 2006 strategy action plan as amended on 1st April.

THE ARCHER contacted the consortium but no one was available for comment.

How your journey will be affected

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- Between Edgware and Golders Green: Northern line suspended from Good Friday, 14 April until Easter Monday, 17 April. Rail replacement buses will be provided.
- Between Camden Town and Kennington via Charing Cross: Northern line suspended for ten consecutive weekends starting on Saturday 29 April to May Day Bank Holiday Monday 1 May. No replacement buses will run because London Underground says all the stations on this part of the line either interchange with another line, or are a bus ride away, or within walking distance of another Tube station.
- Between East Finchley and Camden Town: Northern line suspended for 11 consecutive weekends starting from Saturday 15 July and, after a two-week break, for two consecutive weekends starting from Saturday 14 October. Rail replacement buses will run between East Finchley and Euston, calling at all stations except for Camden Town. A direct bus service will also run from Finchley Central, connecting with the Northern line at Golders Green.
- Between High Barnet and Finchley Central: Northern line suspended for two consecutive weekends from Saturday 30 September. Rail replacement buses will be provided.

How to check ahead:

Visit the Transport for London website at www.tfl.gov.uk/tubeworks, call the London Travel Info 24-hour telephone helpline on 020 7222 1234, see BBC Ceefax page 436 or ITV Teletext page 164, or look for information on posters, leaflets and the notice board at East Finchley station.



(L-R:) PCSO Jan Lovell, PS Alex Kay, Cllr Alison Moore, Fiona Mactaggart MP, PCSO Joseph Mahony, PC Keith Grant and PC Paul Carter in front of the plaque commemorating the opening of the East Finchley Patrol Base. Photo by John Dearing

Police patrol base opens in High Road

By John Dearing

Home Office Minister Fiona Mactaggart MP visited the new East Finchley Police patrol base for the official opening on Tuesday 7 March. The base at 113 High Road is the new home of the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhoods Team, who benefit by not having to commute to and from Golders Green Police station for their patrols.

The former shop has been refurbished, complete with disabled access, and is best described as a bright, modern office. Although it is not a police station, for East Finchley residents and traders it means a heightened police presence in the High Road, and a more visible police commitment to the ward.

At the opening, marked by a plaque near the entrance, Ms Mactaggart talked to virtually everybody present, gaining a perspective on local issues.

Also present were Councillors Colin Rogers and Alison Moore; East Finchley MP Rudi Vis; the Borough Police Commander, Chief Superintendent Mark Ricketts; Inspector Nick Davies; Sergeant Alex Kay and his team, and representatives of local organisations including Barnet Homes.

Locally based and locally responsive

Sergeant Kay, who leads the team, told *THE ARCHER* that the genesis of the patrol base was feedback received at the public consultation meeting in The Old Barn at the end of 2004. He described the Safer Neighbourhoods Initiative as being about listening to local views and concerns, and being based in the local community.

A key part of the initiative is the Community Advisory Panel. There are three for East Finchley, with areas of interest bounded by the High Road, the Northern Line railway and the ward limits. Each panel consists of five members of the public and meets bi-monthly with the police team.

Chief Superintendent

Ricketts said that the Safer Neighbourhoods Initiative would focus on the Borough's policing priorities, which are burglary, motor vehicle crime, robbery, domestic violence and violent crime.

The new patrol base is **not**, however, a police station at which crimes can be reported in person. In case of emergency, call 999, otherwise the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team can be contacted on 020 8721 2845.

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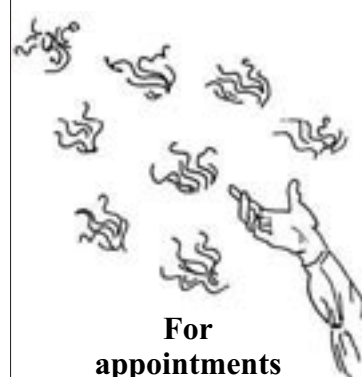
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