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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Call for secondary school rethink

Local Schools for Local Children, the secondary school campaign group, has won a significant victory in its efforts to get better secondary provision for the East Finchley area.

On 28 April, in response to a question tabled by Labour councillor Alex Brodkin at the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee, Barnet Council agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group.

Campaign co-ordinator Avis Johns said: "There is no space available to build a new school, so we need to re-look at existing provision to ensure that it can meet the local demand for co-ed community schooling."



Supporters of 'Local Schools for Local Children' lobbied Councillor Andrew McNeil at his advice surgery on 30 April. Photo by Mike Cronshaw

This will examine secondary school provision across the borough, with particular focus on south Barnet and on places for girls. At the time of writing, it was also announced that Mike Freer MP had secured an adjournment debate in the House of Commons on 24 May regarding

capital investment for Barnet schools.

"So much to offer"

Members of the parent campaign have lobbied local councillors and Mike Freer, and have been buoyed up by the support they have received. At their second public meeting on 12 May, held at Martin Primary School, parents spoke passionately about their aim that schools should cater properly for children in the area, but should also be performing at excellent levels.

One parent commented: "Our local children, parents and businesses have so much to offer schools in the area and yet so many of our children miss out on places. A local community secondary school is long overdue, so we will keep going until we achieve it."

The group is encouraging local residents to email Mike Freer(mike.freer.mp@parliam ent.uk) to express their views. To find out more or join the campaign, email localschools @live.co.uk or follow Twitter LocalSchoolsN2 for updates. For more on secondary schools, see our Letters and Soapbox on page 11.



Highlights for hairstylist

Stacey O'Makalwala, a senior stylist and technician at 202 hair salon in the High Road, has won through to the regional finals of NYC Redken's hair awards. In doing so she has beaten 130 other entrants so far in this annual event organised by the American hair products company based on Fifth Avenue, New York. Let's hope the judges put Stacey ahead of the others and select her for the national finals, due to be held in September.

ARCHER Calendar 2012

After a year off, *The Archer* Calendar will be back in 2012 and we're asking for your photos again to help make it better than ever.

Your images of people and places in East Finchley made our two previous calendars sell-out successes and raised thousands of pounds for local charities in the process.

This time, to tie in with the 2012 Olympic Games, we're looking for any photos of sports, games or fun activities taken in East Finchley or N2. You may have shots of epic football matches, a walk in the park, a treasure hunt in the wood, skateboarding, cycling, or maybe just a game of tiddlywinks at home.

Please send photos by email to the-archer@lineone.net and mark your email Archer Calendar 2012. Our judges will pick the best 12 and the calendar will be on sale in plenty of time for Christmas, thanks to photobox.co.uk and local traders.

We're accepting images now until the end of August. Contributors whose photos are printed will receive a free copy of the calendar. Look out for news in future issues on the local charity that calendar sales will be supporting. Thank you.

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