



Changes afoot to education service

Barnet Council is proposing wholesale changes to the way it runs schools in the borough. However, parents and governors are concerned that the consultation process is being rushed and is happening over the summer when schools are shut and families on holiday.

The council says changes are necessary because it faces financial problems, school performance challenges and a new education landscape. For instance, many secondary schools and an increasing number of primary schools are now academies, taking them out of council control and leaving less money in the education pot.

Barnet is proposing six models for the way it runs education services in the future. The first option is to remain the same with all services run in-house by the council. A second option would put education into the hands of a local authority trading company, and a third would outsource it to an unnamed supplier.

The fourth option is to give the schools themselves the lead through an enterprise organisation. Finally options five and six propose two different types of joint venture between the council and schools.

The consultation appears to be a part of a phased process with only headteachers, chairs of governors and parent governors engaged at this stage. Martin Primary School governor Roger Chapman said: "This first stage of consultation which ran until the 15 July is just the beginning. My concern is that this phased consultation process may reduce the number of options available without the full consideration of all the implications for each model and with only minimal input from schools and the wider community."

"The options constitute major changes to the way education is delivered in Barnet. This change needs to be thought through carefully, be evidence-based and seek consensus from schools and the wider community. This rushed, information and evidence-lite approach is not a good way to start such a process."



On the ball: The Grange gets its own World Cup.

World Cup comes to the Grange

Young people got together for a day of football and fun activities on the Grange. Sixteen super-fit teams entered the soccer tournament and battled it out on the open space along Oak Lane as spectators watched sitting on hay bales bordering the pitch.

Youth charity Art Against Knives joined with the Grange Big Local project to host the event on Saturday 12 July, which also had nail painting, graffiti art and a bouncy castle.

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Children's adventure begins in Cherry Tree Wood

By Diana Cormack

A story involving three children who undertake an adventurous journey from Cherry Tree Wood to The Wishing World "where dreams and desires can come true" has recently been published. In fact, *Jake Jagger and The Wishing World* is actually two stories, cleverly fashioned to run together by new local author Charlie Lucas.

Survival guide

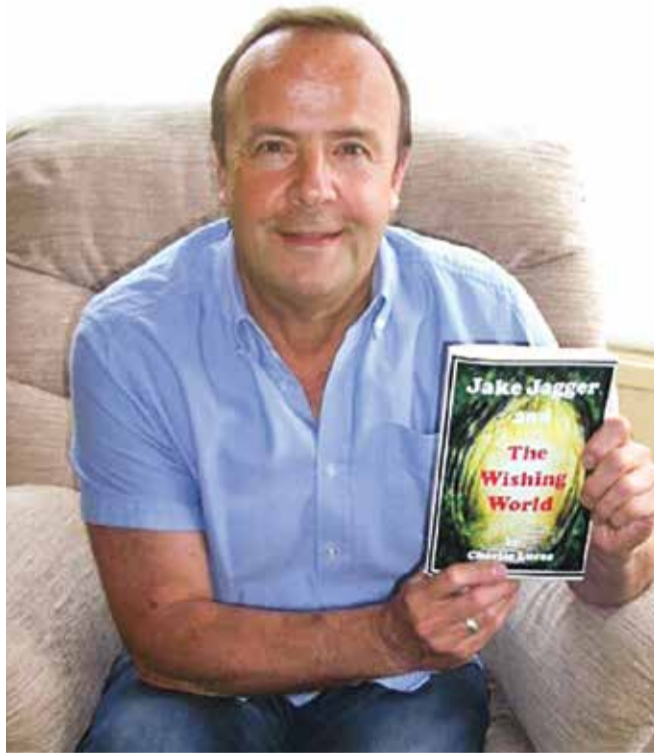
In one, primary school pupil Jake is compiling a book to help fellow pupils survive the school years, along with advice on how to manipulate teachers and other grown-ups to get just what you want from them.

He needs to keep this a secret from his parents, so whenever they are near his computer Jake switches to writing another story called *The Wishing World*. In this he tells how Danielle and her younger brothers Jake and JJ travel to this world using some strange methods of transport. They survive a variety of threats en route with the help of well-known sweets which contain magical properties and a number of fantasy character guides, along with a mysterious instructional rhyme.

Humour and intrigue

Children will relate to the sensible big sister trying to steady her younger brothers, the middle child who feels he should be looking after the others and the youngest who toughens up along the way. They will also enjoy Jake's *Just William*-type attitude in his secret story. He talks to himself and to his readers in an amusing way with very funny comments about grown-ups, school and fellow pupils. Switching between the two stories poses no problems and the humour of one is a match for the intrigue of the other. The ending is great!

Charlie, a long-term resident of Cherry Tree Road, also did the illustrations. He told *THE ARCHER* that he has always enjoyed writing but



Charlie Lucas with his book. Photo by Diana Cormack

this is the first book he has had published. Despite the proofreading leaving something to be desired, it would make a good summer holiday read for junior school children and is available on Amazon Kindle.

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