



Residents left fuming at 'shisha' restaurant plan

By Janet Maitland

Local residents are considering asking for a judicial review if Barnet Council approves an application to open the Oasis restaurant with shisha facilities at the eastern end of Church Lane.

"We can't understand why the council is not listening to the advice of its own planning officers and the Environmental Health Department," said Matt Rudge, of Leopold Road. "The idea that we need a late opening shisha bar or restaurant on this quiet street is incomprehensible," said a Church Lane resident.

Application deferred

Last November, planning officers recommended that the application be refused because the Environmental Health Department had detected smoke drift from shisha (hookah) pipes into properties in Leopold Road and the front entrance of nearby Martin Primary School, constituting a nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Nevertheless, the Planning Committee deferred the application to allow the owner, Mr El Khalil Jelbaoui, to come up with solutions to the smoke.

"I want to be part of the community and will do anything in my capability to fix this," said Mr Jelbaoui. "There's a ventilation system which converts smoke into clean air. It costs, but I will do it, to satisfy the community and the Environmental Health."

The council will consult with neighbours once Mr Jelbaoui has provided details. "This will give people the chance to comment before the application comes back to the committee in the new year,"

said a council spokesperson.

Objections

Thirty local residents have objected to the application, while seven support it. The governors of Martin School have objected, concerned not only by the smoke but by evidence that "promoting such premises so close to schools can normalise their activities".

"The smoking shelter is less than six metres from the end of our garden and opposite a primary school," said Michael and Rebecca Cooper, who live with their four-year-old twins in Leopold Road. "How Barnet Council, whose slogan is 'Putting the Community First' can be even considering this application is mind boggling."

Twenty five doctors from Imperial College have also informed the council that the shisha bar is a "substantial risk to public health, particularly children". MP Mike Freer has also objected to the application, as has local councillor Arjun Mittra.

Dance artist gets good vibes

Sauly B is a dance music maker who's going places while being quite happy to stay close to his roots.



Good vibes: Hip hop artist Sauly B

The musician has always lived in Muswell Hill or East Finchley. Now he's reached the point in his music career where he's released his first album, called Nu VibeZ.

Sauly B grew up playing dance and pop bands. He says his first was in 'Jonah's house on Huntingdon Road' when he was a young teenager, adding: "I played bass guitar because that was the only instrument left. We used to make loads of noise and mess about."

He used to work at the Lazy Sally Café kiosk in Cherry Tree Wood where Sally the owner encouraged him to pursue his musical talents. Now he works at Tony's Continental in the High Road. He says: "I have had good vibes working there. I meet loads of interesting people and Chris who works there has been really supportive of my tune making."

Sauly B has also DJ-ed at house parties and clubs all over London and Brighton. He's on the lookout for anyone who wants help with their own music or perhaps has some tunes they'd like him to produce.

Find his contact details and check out the ten tracks from his new album, Nu VibeZ, at: saulyb.bandcamp.com/album/nu-vibez

Electric hook-ups

Observant residents may have noticed that electric car charging points have recently been installed on the High Road.

This is part of a project by Barnet Council which is expected to be launched early this year. At present it is estimated that there will be seven

locations throughout the borough where electric cars will be able to be charged. More details when we hear more.



Cohousing homes launched

The ground-breaking cohousing project that we reported on in our November issue is reaching a key landmark in its development.

Building work is already underway on the old St Luke's Hospital site in Woodside Avenue, Muswell Hill, to create 30 flats and houses and a common house to be shared by residents, all in the over-55 age group.

This month the development comes on the market. From late January until July, cohousing members will have a window of opportunity to reserve self-

contained units together in a cluster they have planned around a shared garden.

Members meet regularly in Muswell Hill to get to know each other better and discuss how they will share a loosely community-based life. The scheme completes in December 2016 and there are still unreserved units. Find out more at www.cohousingwoodside.co.uk

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