



Traffic chaos warning over Budgens car park flats plan

By Lawrence Robinson

The planning application to build over the Budgens car park in Viceroy Close predicted on our front page last month has been submitted to Barnet Council. Details show that developers want to build a part two-storey, part three-storey block of eight flats and a raised landscaped courtyard over part of the car park and the service area where lorries currently deliver to Iceland and Budgens.

Pay and display parking spaces will be removed, with room left for eight vehicles belonging to residents. From East End Road, there will be a tunnel-style entrance underneath the flats into the new parking area.

The existing external staircase for residents of Viceroy Close will be demolished and replaced by an internal stairway and lift shared with the new apartments.

Local reactions

The closing date for public comments was the end of February but the planning application process will continue for some months and the council is still likely to take account of opinions submitted in the coming weeks.

Lisa King, a resident of neighbouring Beresford Road, is opposing the development, saying: "None of the flats will be social housing, all eight are to

the development would create traffic chaos in and around the High Road as the businesses in Viceroy Parade all receive deliveries through the car park.

"It is most likely that delivery vehicles would be forced onto the side roads bringing major traffic upheaval to East Finchley," he said. "It does not seem possible that either Budgens or Iceland in particular could receive deliveries during the construction phase



Close encounters: Joe Craig and Harpo

Things that go bump in the night

By John Lawrence

Joe Craig, author of the Jimmy Coates adventures for nine to 13-year-olds, has set parts of his action thriller series in East Finchley, but he got caught up in his own drama when he was out walking his faithful labrador Harpo late one night.

Joe had been visiting his sister and his family in one of the county roads when he heard muffled screams coming from the back of a small car and became convinced he was facing a dangerous hostage situation.

With Harpo by his side, he crept up to the boot of the hatchback and bravely flung it open.

Harpo piles in too

What he saw next is best described in his own words: "The boot light came on. I was staring into the face of a woman! The woman was naked. On top of the woman was a man. Also naked.

"They'd put the back seats down and were lying the full length of the car, heads in the boot. What does one say in that situation? I said: 'Oh, I'm terribly sorry. I thought you were trapped. Like a hostage. Because of the screaming and...'"

But before Joe could close

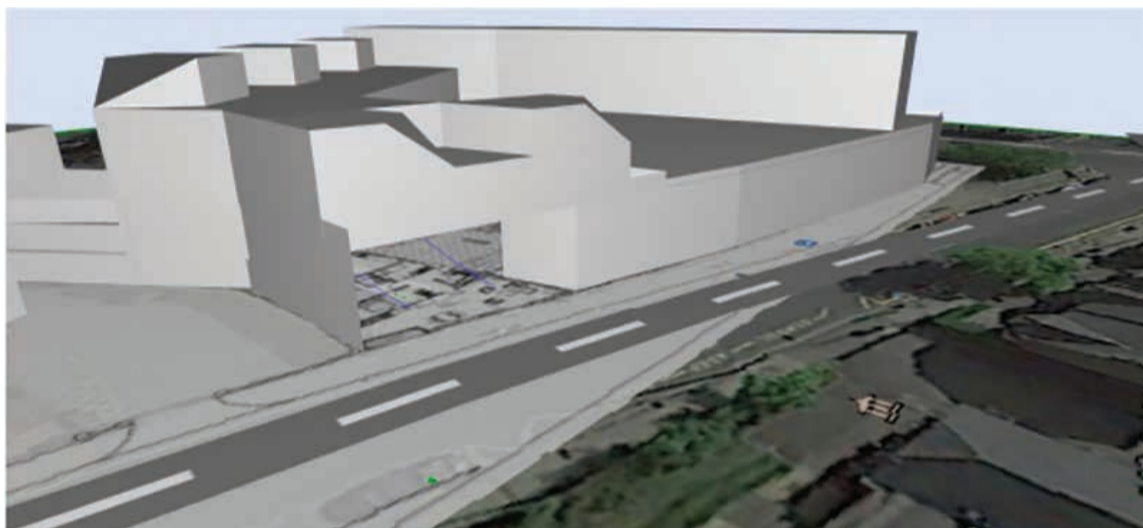
the boot and leave the couple to it Harpo, who is well trained and loves car journeys, leapt up into the car, right next to the couple's faces.

"Obviously I can't undo Harpo's training, so I said, 'Good boy.' Which I think gave the wrong impression. After that I made a swift exit," said Joe.

Ready to rescue

His shaggy dog story was an instant hit on Twitter and was soon picked up by media worldwide, getting coverage in the Telegraph, the Mirror, the Sun, the Huffington Post, Mashable, and newspapers in Germany, Spain, China and India.

"It's been quite a whirlwind," Joe told THE ARCHER. "If I heard screams coming from a car again I'd do exactly the same. I'm not easily embarrassed but I am slightly deluded so I'm convinced that at some point Harpo and I WILL come across a hostage situation and be able to save the day."



Flats plan: A view of how the Viceroy Close development would look taken from the planning application. Existing flats are at the rear. The tunnel entrance is shown off East End Road



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be small, expensive, executive flats. We...are dismayed at the thought of more traffic, disruption and congestion right on our doorstep, with fewer spaces to park, losing approximately 20% of all the pay and display spaces offered locally."

Shalil Bhattessa, a spokesman for Budgens, warned that

or post development as even the current car park arrangements are very tight for lorries manoeuvring in the car park."

To view the planning application online go to www.barnet.gov.uk/planning-applications and enter application reference 16/0487/FUL. Submit your comments by email to planning.consultation@barnet.gov.uk FAO Dominic Deer quoting the same reference. You can also write to Building Control Service, London Borough of Barnet, Barnet House, 1255 High Road, N20 0EJ.

Bye, deer

The small population of deer that used to be one of the attractions for visitors to the grounds of Alexandra Palace have been relocated to a new home.

Vets had found that they were showing signs of stress, possibly due to the size of the enclosure and general noise from the surrounding urban environment. The animals are now roaming free at two large deer parks in rural locations in Devon.

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