



New tower block proposed for heart of East Finchley

By Janet Maitland



Homes and garages between the two current towers would make way for the new tower. Photo Mike Coles

A plan has been unveiled to build a new 11-storey block of flats in the heart of East Finchley, creating 42 new homes as part of an initial 320 homes being built for affordable rent for Barnet residents.

Barnet Homes says the proposed block in Prospect Ring will replace four two-storey homes and a garage court in the small estate off Market Place, which already has two tower blocks plus some low-rise housing grouped around a circular green space with several mature trees.

Local reactions

The Archer has been con-

tacted by several people living in Prospect Ring who are worried that the new development will increase traffic, noise and pollution, make parking harder, deprive residents of light and privacy, spoil the central green space, and put pressure on local schools and doctors.

"The massive increase in traffic will make life unbearable not only for us, but for the

residents of Market Place and Kitchener Road," said Dermott Donnelly. A resident of one of the existing tower blocks said: "I will lose the much needed natural light and green views for which I bought my flat."

Mark Chapman, chair of governors at nearby Holy Trinity School, said: "We believe that the scale of the building, overlooking and reducing light to our school as it will, is disproportionate, and there will be increased traffic and parking issues."

Low-rise alternative

One resident suggested a more acceptable alternative would be a new block of three to five floors which would create more affordable housing without being overbearing. We asked Barnet Homes if a low-rise building had been considered and a spokesperson informed us that it had, but as the estate was in a highly built up area with limited space, the high-rise block was the preferred option for consultation.

Further consultation

Approximately 50 people attended the public consultation event on 19 April. "There was mixed feedback," said the Barnet Homes spokesperson. "Some residents were supportive of the principle to build more affordable homes, but there were a number of concerns which will be taken into consideration throughout the design process where possible. There will be another consultation event later in the year before the planning application is submitted."

Call for new crossing on busy High Road

A petition has been submitted to Barnet Council asking for a new crossing to be installed in East Finchley High Road to prevent pedestrians and shoppers having to "run the gauntlet".

It has been organised by Paul Spencer-Smith, of Lincoln Road, and calls for a new crossing just south of Beresford Road, equidistant between Fortis Green and the existing crossing near Huntingdon Road.

Paul said: "In busy times it is quite difficult to cross the High Road to get to the shops. I live in Lincoln Road so we experience running the gauntlet.

"In crossing from the Budgens and Iceland side a pedestrian looks to see if the Fortis Green lights are red and the flow of vehicles has stopped but there is a curve in the road and visibility is not good.

"The distance between the two existing crossings is approximately 240 metres. This is quite a long way for an older person or a heavily loaded shopper."

His petition claims that the provision of a new crossing would relieve the stress to pedestrians crossing, particularly older people, and reduce the risk of accidents. It has been signed by 25 people and will be reported to the Finchley and Golders Green Residents Forum on 5 July. The council will decide whether the request should be formally considered or referred to an area committee for possible funding.

Grange Big Local AGM

Team members at the Grange Big Local project will be holding their annual general meeting at St Mary's Parish Centre, High Road, N2, from 2pm on Saturday 17 June. Everyone is welcome to come along to find out how they have started spending the £1million of lottery money they were awarded.

A new board of up to 17 people will be elected and residents can put themselves forward to join or volunteer. Email info@grangebiglocal.org, telephone 020 8364 8400 ext. 241 or go to the website / www.grangebiglocal.org.

Open spaces survey

Are you interested in playgrounds, outdoor sports or how open spaces are used in the East Finchley area?

The Grange Big Local project has commissioned Space + Place Design to produce an open spaces and environment strategy. Fill in a questionnaire online and help shape potential projects for the area. Go to: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/5CMLQZB or find more details at www.grangebiglocal.org.



Aerial view of the proposed location of the third tower, in yellow, as displayed at the Barnet Homes consultation

CGW SOLICITORS

Cree Godfrey & Wood provide a full range of services including Residential and Commercial Conveyancing, Landlord and Tenant advice, Employment (Compromise Agreements), Family, Wills Probate and Elderly Client advice and Lasting Powers of Attorney.

Why choose CGW Solicitors?
Our team are:
COMMITTED to excellent customer service;
Offer **GOOD value and reasonable fees;**
Here to **WORK** for you and give you honest, straightforward and effective advice in a timely efficient manner.

Cree Godfrey & Wood 28 High Road East Finchley London N2 9PJ
T: 0208 883 9414 F: 0208 444 5414
W: www.creegodfreyandwood.co.uk Email: gn@cgwsolicitors.co.uk

ACCOUNTANTS FOR SMALL BUSINESS

- Business Accounts & Taxation
- Self Assessment Tax Returns
- Bookkeeping & VAT
- Payroll CIS & RTI
- Company Formations
- Initial consultation free with no obligation

At TaxAssist Accountants we specialise in supporting small businesses.

TaxAssist Accountants
The Accountancy and Tax Service for Small Business

020 8883 5258
www.taxassist.co.uk/eastfinchley

Midhurst Butchers

Certified organic meat at reasonable prices
Free-range poultry
Home-made sausages (including Boerwors)

2 Midhurst Parade,
Fortis Green, London N10
Tel. 020 8883 5303

JAPANESE Acupuncture & moxibustion

Promoting good health & wellbeing



Fiona Hurlock

www.fionahurlock.com
Utopia, N2 9EJ Ph 07795 203107

- Beginners -

Tai Chi & Qigong

**** NEW COURSES ** in East Finchley**

Wednesdays am & pm (Trial session: £5)

James Drows is a qualified teacher and has been practicing tai chi for 40 years. He is the author of 3 books on tai chi & is a member of the BCCMA.

Other classes : www.taiji.co.uk

email: james@taiji.co.uk phone: 020-8883 3308

Josephines

Don't Forget Fathers Day Sunday 18th June 2017

We have lots of unusual plants and gifts for this occasion, including wine and champagne.
We are open on Sundays 10am - 4pm

www.josephinesflowers.co.uk Tel: 020 8444 9569 60 High Rd, East Finchley London N2 9PN