



**A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.**

## New tower block redesigned to be thinner but taller

By Janet Maitland

A new tower block proposed for Prospect Ring, N2, (*The Archer*, June 2017) has been redesigned in the wake of objections from existing residents but the changes have dismayed many of those who live nearby.

The block will now be 13 storeys high, two storeys higher than the original plan, and will have 51 flats where the original proposal stated 42. "It's a case of 'We hear what you say, but we're going ahead anyway'," said unimpressed resident Dermot Donnelly.

We asked Barnet Homes

why they thought the changes were an improvement given that some residents had been concerned that a new tower block would mean a loss of light, views and privacy. A spokesperson said the changed layout of the tower and its distance from existing buildings would ensure privacy, and that

the impact on views would be less because it was narrower.

Residents had also been concerned that an extra tower block would put pressure on local services, increase traffic, cause noise and pollution, and overstretch already limited parking space.

"The objective is to maximise affordable housing in an urban location with good public transport accessibility and services," said the spokesperson, adding that the redesigned plans included "better organised communal areas including new play spaces for children, new planting of shrubs and flowers and additional car parking."

### Planning committee

"It seems they feel that because we already have two ugly high rises already, they can squeeze in another one," one resident told us. Barnet Homes said that although residents' feedback was very helpful, there was a 'mixed reaction' to the proposal, which will be submitted to the planning committee at the end of the year. The planning process allows for nearby local residents to raise objections and to speak at the committee meeting.

### Borough needs affordable housing

The Prospect Ring development is part of an initial 320 homes being built for affordable rent by Barnet Homes, who manage the council's housing stock. The organisation said there were no plans for other towers at the moment but opportunities for building on council land across the borough are being explored in order to address the "acute shortage of affordable housing".



## Off-road rider taken off the road

Well done to the East Finchley Police team who seized the scooter of this problem rider who had repeatedly ignored police warnings not to ride on footpaths. Here the inconsiderate rider is seen almost running down a mother pushing her toddler in a pushchair in The Walks alongside the playground close to Holy Trinity Primary School.

## Summer festival 2018... the planning starts now

East Finchley's very own Community Festival, held each June in Cherry Tree Wood, is entirely run by local people volunteering their time, skills and energy. It has been running for over 40 years and planning for 2018 starts this month.

The organising team is always on the lookout for new people to get involved in the run-up to the event or on the day.

If you have ideas or feedback about this year's festival or want to get involved in Festival 2018 you are invited along to the first festival planning meeting on Monday 25 September at Martin

Primary School, Plane Tree Walk, N2, starting at 7.30pm. You will be very welcome.

If you can't make the meeting but still want to let organisers know what you think could be improved or want to offer your help nearer the time then send an email to: festival@myEast-Finchley.org.uk.



Two blocks: Prospect Ring as it currently looks. Photo Mike Coles

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