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Doors finally open at new centre... but only an inch

By John Lawrence The new Tarling Road Community Centre in East Finchley has missed its opening date again, although some community activities are finally being admitted on a limited basis.

The finished centre has stood empty since October last year. When we last reported on it in May, we were told that it would be open to the community by the summer

There are some positive signs. The Just Like Home nursery group has moved in and the centre will be a venue for the Grange Big Local Fun Palace community event on Sunday 6 October. James Masters, Grange Big Local chair, said: "We hope the centre will become a vibrant hub for our local community."

Limited opening

The latest update from Barnet Council is that negotiations with City YMCA to manage the day-



Signs of opening: The Tarling Road Community Centre. Photo Mike Coles.

to-day running of the facility have still not been concluded. Until they are, regular bookings cannot be taken for community groups, and the centre's café cannot be leased to an operator.

A Barnet Council spokesperson told The Archer that they hoped to finalise the contract with City YMCA as soon as possible, in order to open the centre

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to groups and individuals who would like to hire space on a one-off basis. "While we are still in talks with City YMCA regarding the

contract to run the centre, we have opened it on a limited basis. The nursery has moved in, and we are working towards being able to accommodate community groups who would use the centre on a long-term basis," said the spokesperson.

Financial isssues

The building was opened for one day back in March to allow groups to view the facilities. We reported then that negotiations with City YMCA involved finding the balance between the rent they pay and the cost to users, in order to make the centre selfsustainable. Barnet Council said it would not take any surplus from the centre but was unable to cover running costs.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet Council

20 Abbots Gardens, N2 Single-storey rear extension: depth 4m, eaves height 3m, maximum height 3m.

O/s Budgens 71 High Road, N2 86" advertisement located on rear face of communications apparatus. The former Bobath Centre, 250 East

End Road, N2

Single-storey side/rear extension. 219 Creighton Avenue, N2

Lawful Development Certificate for single-storey rear extension. 82 - 92 Great North Road, N2

Installation of public payphone/commercial hub following removal of existing information column.

Adj Amazing Grates 61 - 63 High

Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension, following demolition of existing rear extension and conservatory. Single-storey side/rear infill extension. 172 High Road, N2

Single-storey side extension to existing car showroom, to provide small servery and preparation area. Insertion of new access door. New timber cladding to front elevation. Replacement of rear glazed doors. Ground Floor Flat, 5 Ingram Road, N2 Continued Use Application as class A1 (Retail) and D2 use.

17 Lankaster Gardens, N2

Details of condition 10 (cycle parking/storage) pursuant to planning permission.

A healthier start in life

Scribbles Nursery, in Hertford Road, N2, has been given a Bronze award in the Healthy Early Years London programme for helping to give its youngsters a healthy start in life.

To achieve the award the nursery undertook many projects, improving children's physical fitness, oral hygiene awareness, nutrition and portion control and numerous safety projects. Staff received specialist training in each of the areas and children had visits from the Traffic Club and Physi-

Pools stay shut until

next year The swimming pools at Finchley Lido Leisure Centre, which have been closed since March, are likely to remain shut until early next year, Barnet Council has announced.

The main pool and leisure pool were both closed for refurbishment of the roof, changing areas and ventilation system but specialist investigations in the last six months revealed that more work was needed to make them safe for public use.



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cal Literacy Advisor.

The nursery's Jill Hallums said children and staff really enjoyed taking part in the project and were enthusiastic to start work on the Silver award.



No access

A council statement said: "Due to the extent of the assessment and remedial action required, it is anticipated that full access to the wetside area will not be available until from early 2020."

School swimming lessons have been transferred to the new leisure centres at Barnet Copthall and New Barnet. The gym and studio at Finchley Lido remain open as usual.