## The Archer

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# Council approves 20 new homes on old Esso site

Two blocks of flats have been approved for the former Esso garage site opposite Martin School on the High Road, N2, despite the developer more than doubling the number of units they will contain from nine to 20.

Although there will be relief that this eyesore site is finally being put to use, those objecting to the development will feel their concerns about privacy, the character of the surroundings, traffic, and children's safety have been disregarded by Barnet Council.

#### Refusals and appeal

The original planning application for nine units was refused in 2016, on the grounds that it would be an overdevelopment of the site and at odds with the surroundings. Another application was also refused in 2017, despite a few changes.

But when the developers Leopold Properties appealed to MP James Brokenshire, then Secretary of State, he thought that six homes in a four-storey block of flats fronting the High



New homes: How the High Road flats will look, right, as viewed from near Chandos Road.

Road and three three-storey terraced houses along Leopold Road would not be out of place. He allowed the appeal.

#### Overdensification

However, instead of going ahead, the developers then submitted a new plan. Although this more than doubled the number of units by turning the terraced houses into a block of flats and

reconfiguring the four- storey block, the council approved it because "the form and massing of the buildings have only minor changes from those given consent by the Secretary of State."

Those objecting don't agree that creating a second block of flats is a minor change. Nor are they reassured that the fourstorey block will be much the same when it is considered to be out of place and overbearing. "The decision by the Secretary of State was not carte blanche to allow the overdevelopment and over-densification of this site," said one Leopold Road resident.

Barnet Council says the increased density is "not excessive for an urban context" but those objecting believe it will add to existing traffic safety issues, especially as the estate will have access roads on both the High Road and Church Lane.

### Cash payment

The developers have been asked to make a cash in lieu payment of £275,758 because there are no plans for affordable housing. A council spokesperson told *The Archer* that this money is usually used to subsidise opportunities for affordable housing.

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

#### **Barnet Council** 20 Abbots Gardens, N2

Single-storey rear extension. 22 Baronsmere Road, N2

Roof extension involving replacement and enlargement of existing dormer window, addition and relocation of one rear rooflight, and new side gable window.

36A Baronsmere Road, N2

Roof extension involving rear dormer window with juliette balcony and three front roof lights.

#### The former Bobath Centre, 250 East End Road, N2

Variation of conditions to planning permission. Amendments include louvres and louvred door to the west, gate to East End Road fence, replacement of internal doors and further internal alterations, front and rear canopies, external and internal plant equipment, external CCTV cameras.

6 Brendon Grove, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Depth 4 m, eaves height 2.70 m. maximum height 3.60 m.

1 Church Lane, N2

Retention/continued A3 use of Oasis Restaurant. Additional use for shisha smoking facility. (Retrospective application)

26A Church Lane, N2

Non material amendment to planning permission, including additional roof lights.

219 Creighton Avenue Single-storey rear extension. Depth 4m, eaves height 3m, maximum height 3m.

27 Elmhurst Ävenue, N2 Conversion into two selfcontained flats

Land adjacent to East End Road, near junction with Tangle Tree Close, N2 Removal of 12.5m monopole.

Replacement by 15m high monopole with one GPS module and ancillary development.

Ground Floor Flat, 5 Ingram Road, N2

Single-storey side/rear extension.

17 Lankaster Gardens, N2 Single-storey rear extension. 60 Lincoln Road, N2

Ground floor rear extension, including two skylights and removal of chimney shaft. New rear patio paving. First floor rear internal alterations, including removal of existing window and insertion of new one. Roof extension, including two hopper windows to side and one skylight. New solar panels to front roof.

321 Long Lane, N2

Single-storey side/rear extension, following demolition of conservatory.

35 Park Hall Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension with two rooflights, plus bay window to side of existing ground floor extension, following demolition of conservatory.

**Prospect Ring, N2** 

Details of conditions pursuant to planning permission.

First Floor Flat, 17 Sylvester Road, N2

Roof extension involving two rear dormer windows and two front roof lights.

Viceroy Parade, High Road, N2 Replacement of existing cabinet with outdoor I rack and ancillary development thereto.



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