



Friends fundraising for a playground for future generations



Friends of Market Place Playground have begun the next stage of fundraising for their plans to turn the dated and neglected playground close to Holy Trinity Primary School into a natural play space.

The Friends commissioned landscape designer Aileen Shackell and play consultant Phil Doyle to create a concept design, in consultation with the community at an engagement day earlier this year, and to deliver a full costing for the design, which comes in at £354,000.

The design is innovative in its use of wood, trees, sand, planting and kit and will ensure the site becomes more accessible, sustainable, inclusive and a social hub for the entire community. Importantly the design will 'green' the space in Market Place, N2, providing pollinator friendly plants, shade, local cooling and will help mitigate against hot summers and high air pollution.

So far, the Friends group has secured a total amount of £110,000 towards the plans with Barnet's Green Spaces division committing £50,000 in June to add to commitments already in place from Grange Big Local and Barnet Council. Barnet's East Area Committee, which funds community infrastructure projects, gave in principle support to the plans at their meeting in June.

Fundraising ahead

The next stage of fundraising is in full swing with applications to The National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund and The London Marathon Trust among others. There are plans for a crowdfunder in autumn.

Samantha Haycock, of the Friends of Market Place Playground, said: "We would love to hear from anyone in the community who has ideas, connections or fundraising experience to help us reach our goal and deliver a much-needed park for current and future generations."

Get in touch on email at friendsofmarketplace@gmail.com. Friends of Market Place Playground now sits under the umbrella of East Finchley Communities Trust (Registered Charity Number: 1141564).

Users of underpass want to see it transformed

By David Melsome

More than 300 people have signed a petition calling for the well-used but unloved underpass beneath the Northern line between Trinity Road and Manor Park Road, N2, to be made cleaner and safer.

As we first reported in our June edition, the Grange Big Local (GBL) regeneration team started the petition to win Barnet Council's support and match funding for a full-scale refurbishment project.

Bishop Douglass School staff and students, who regularly use the underpass to reach the High Road from the school in Hamilton Road, are closely involved. Their comments on the underpass include: "It's a disgrace" and "Feels dangerous".

At a workshop with Bishop Douglas students, ideas for art installations included a light tube, stepping stones, sound installations, themes of local history and Black Lives Matter. The East Finchley Open Artists group has suggested carvings and sound installations. Com-

munity network N2United have thrown their support behind the project too.

Phyllida Mills, from architects Mills Power who have been commissioned to help with designs, said: "Lighting, drainage, path, track bed and embankments need repair and in some cases complete refurbishment to improve the sense of safety, accessibility and to reduce antisocial behaviour."

"It's an opportunity to transform the experience of walking through the underpass and also make it fun and engaging with play elements, planting and art works. Barnet Council working with GBL could grasp this opportunity to really improve the public realm and meet sustainability, community engagement, community safety and public health targets."

Activity updates from N2United network

By Ruth Anders

July saw the return of N2United meetings to the East Finchley Constitutional Club, with a welcome breeze flowing through the room from the front door to the garden.

A well-attended gathering saw a wide variety of individuals enjoying the meeting, a drink and each other's company, with representatives from the Phoenix Cinema, the Bald Faced Stag, East Finchley Town Team, the Engine Rooms, East Finchley Festival, Grange Big Local, Monkey Puzzle Nursery, Barnet Council and more.

One newcomer wondered how she had never heard of N2United meetings before as, had she known, she would have come along months ago.

Amongst others, updates were received from Grange Big Local who are looking for volunteers to become involved with various of their projects.

The Phoenix Cinema team is planning all sorts of programmes to include classic films such as *Wings of Desire* and *Pickpocket*, and a fascinat-

ing documentary called *Blind Ambition* to be accompanied by a wine tasting.

The Bald Faced Stag's manager Louise Fawcett told the meeting about her plans for quiz nights, painting classes, live jazz nights, barbecues and kids' craft club lunches, while The Engine Rooms, who have recently engaged a new chef, are looking forward to hosting a further event for N2United.

After the break

N2United is now having its summer break but do join us at our next meeting on Thursday 8 September. For more details and to find out about any of the items covered at the meeting, please visit www.n2united.co.uk



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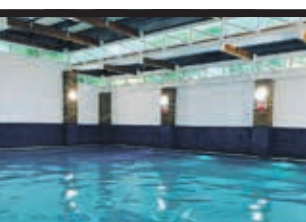
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