



The Archer

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Spare land: An aerial view shows the car park area at the rear of the Phoenix Cinema

Cinema sells off car park to fund second screen and future projects

By John Lawrence

The Phoenix Cinema has put the car park at the rear of its auditorium on the market for offers over £400,000 to raise cash for future refurbishment projects, including a long-awaited second screen.

Estate agents Martyn Gerard are handling the sale of the spare land measuring 2,600 sq ft, calling it “an exciting development opportunity”. It has been listed as ‘unconsented’ meaning any buyer would need to draw up plans and secure permission for building work.

The plot is accessed through a gate and single width entrance at the rear of the cinema. It is currently unused except for a couple of small outbuildings.

Phoenix trustees had once considered it as the site for the second screen that they hope will transform the fortunes of the cinema but that was ruled out because it would have involved knocking through the listed walls of the auditorium to connect it to the main building.

The latest plans for a second

screen are to house it in part of the space now occupied by the café and upper foyer. These have been given planning permission. A second screen would broaden the Phoenix’s programme options and enable it to show popular films for longer runs.

Alison Gold, chair of the Phoenix Cinema trustees, said the potential sale of the car park would be a massive step on the way to funding such a conversion along with other refurbishment work that the charity wants to carry out.

“Because we cannot connect this land to the main building without demolishing all or some of the listed walls on that side, it’s a plot that isn’t really helping us deliver the purpose of the charity,” she told *The Archer*.

“For years it has been sitting there empty, aside from a little bit of storage, so the time has come to make better use of it. We’ve come to the conclusion that selling it hopefully for a good price is the right move and we will certainly be able to make good use of any money it raises.”



Refurbishment plans: Phoenix Cinema. Photo: Alison Roberts

BE PART OF IT Volunteers wanted

Compiled by Lynn Winton

East Finchley Festival CIC is looking for a bookkeeper to assist with sending invoices and tracking income and expenditure. It involves 1-2 hours work per week and training can be provided. There are also assorted volunteer positions available - ranging from activity co-ordinators to general stewards for the 2024 festival. Please visit eastfinchleyfestival.org/volunteer for details.

Food Bank Aid provides essential goods to 31 food banks who in turn support over 20,000 people per week. The team is looking for drivers, and also for helping hands to sort and pack donations for onward distribution to the food banks. Their hub at the Great North Leisure Park in North Finchley is a fun place to work, with friendly people, music, cake, tea and coffee. Flexible shifts are available! Please drop them an email at volunteering@foodbankaid.org.uk

Could you spare an hour or so a week to chat to an older isolated person? **Age UK Barnet** is looking for befrienders to offer friendly chats, support and companionship. The charity also needs walking buddies to help older people to get out and about again after losing the confidence to leave their homes. Age UK Barnet is helping people who haven’t left their house for two years! Just a couple of hours a week of your time could make a big difference to an older person in East Finchley. Please contact Lisa on 020 8432 1422 or email lisa.robbins@ageukbarnet.org.uk

Proms at St Jude’s in Hampstead Garden Suburb needs enthusiastic and capable volunteers to join committees working year round to put on the annual festival of music and literature. Whether it’s education, fundraising, music planning, social media, catering or logistics, they’ll try to match you with the kind of task you would be happy to undertake, whatever time commitment you can offer. Find out more on the Volunteering page at www.promsatstjudes.org.uk

If you’d like your organisation to be included in this column and listed on the East Finchley community hub website, please complete the form at www.ILoveN2.co.uk/be-part-of-it.



PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet Council
Land at Central Avenue (adjacent To Willow House) The Grange Estate, N2

Non-material amendments to planning permission for development of the site to provide eight affordable homes (Class C3) in a three-storey building, together with associated public realm, landscaping and play space improvements, and car and cycle parking. Amendments include addition of a UPS room to roof; omission of hit and miss brickwork to wall between plant roof and green roof, and introduction of opening to the wall; provision of 1,100mm railing to perimeter of green roof; relocation of rainwater pipes, including removal of brick shields; changes to main entrance door and balcony door fenestration; reduction in opening of refuse store door to allow for dry riser inlet; alterations to windows

Land At High Road (between East View House and Hilton House), The Grange Estate, N2.

Non-material amendments to planning permission for development of the site to provide eight affordable homes (Class C3) in a four-storey building, together with associated public realm, landscaping and play space improvements, and car and cycle parking. Amendments include: Omission of Hit & Miss brickwork to ground floor refuse store and plant room; addition of louvres to plant rooms one east elevation and louvred door to north of refuse store; relocation of rainwater pipes, including omission of brick shields; changes to main entrance door and balcony door fenestration; alterations to windows

78 High Road, N2

Conversion into two self-contained flats, including a single-storey rear extension

and mansard roof extension with front and rear dormers. Modifications to rear access to maintain one car parking space and external amenity space, cycle storage and refuse and recycling facilities.

First Floor Flat, 68 Huntingdon Road, N2

Roof extension, including rear dormer window and three front roof lights.

Ground Floor Flat, 68 Huntingdon Road, N2

Single-storey side and rear extension.

Adj to 48 Lincoln Road, N2

Erection of two-storey dwelling with rooms in the roof space. Associated refuse/recycling and amenity space.

Market Place Playground, N2

Submission of details of conditions pursuant to planning permission (ecological enhancement, construction management and cotoneaster control measures).

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