



Leisure park homes plan under spotlight

By Roger Chapman, East Finchley Town Team

The next meeting of East Finchley Town Team will focus on plans by developer Regal to build 1,500 homes on the Great North Leisure Park, just over the other side of the North Circular.

As previously reported in *The Archer*, the site's existing cinema, bowling alley and restaurants will be demolished to make way for a mix of two and three-bedroom flats, new cafés and a public square. The swimming pool and gym will move to a new-build leisure centre on site.

A representative from Regal will be attending on the evening to give a brief overview of the proposals and our focus will be to explore and understand the implications of this substantial development on our doorstep.

Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting on Thursday 10 October from 7pm for a 7.30pm start at East Finchley Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2. If you have burning questions about the proposal do let us know in advance by emailing eftownteam@gmail.com so that we can ensure Regal get the questions in advance and can have answers on the night.

Oh no, not another one!

East Finchley Town Team are keen to reduce obstructions on our pavements. We are not always successful and you will have seen a new advertising hoarding and electric vehicle

charger, known as a JOLT charger, outside Caffé Nero in the High Road.

We went to the planning committee and objected to this but our objections were overruled. We do not oppose EV chargers but think they should be provided without the obstructive advertising panels. We successfully objected to further installations in the land between East End Road and Caffé Nero and these were withdrawn.

Now there is another Highways notice for a JOLT installation outside Tony's Continental at 138/142 High Road. In this instance the positioning near the permitted fruit and veg display outside Tony's would mean that no one, not least people in wheelchairs, parents pushing buggies and the rest, will be able to pass along the pavement freely in a clear pavement zone they are entitled to.

What do you think about these chargers? We would like to hear your views and you can contact us via email at eftownteam@gmail.com or visit our website www.east-finchley.london

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Pace setter: Keirha Blake-Lightbody takes the ball and attacks for Finchley RC. Photo Emily Grilli

Finchley RC, 100 years strong

By Andy Stone

Finchley Rugby Club kicked off their centenary season on the first Saturday of September with wins for all three adult sides and a sea of red and white shirts across the Glebelands playing fields in North Finchley as the Mini and Youth players trained on the Sunday.

The club was founded in its current form in 1925. There was a rugby club in Finchley 50 years before that, associated with Christ's College, Finchley, and three pupils educated there in the 1860s and 1870s were responsible for introducing rugby in New Zealand and South Africa and for establishing the Barbarian Rugby Football Club.

First up to play this season were the Finchley's Women's XV v Hackney 2s. Finchley established England's first Women's club side in 1984,

with the next president of the Rugby Football Union (RFU), Deborah Griffin, one of the players.

After last year's success for girls' rugby at Finchley it was fantastic to mark the reestablishing of a women's team with such a dynamic performance from players new and old; Finchley Women winning 43-5.

The men's teams, playing this season in the original 1925 blue and black strip, won their games too. The 1st XV is again aiming high after finishing third in their division last year and won their first league game

against a dogged Datchworth 41-3.

The 2nd XV, promoted in the league and runners-up in the cup last season, beat Finsbury Park 40-26. On the Sunday the Boy's Colts side beat Hertford 51-29.

The club has played at Summers Lane, N12, since 1929 with the Grade II listed grandstand built there in 1930. The 2024-25 season will see many sporting and social events to celebrate the centenary and, of course, prepare for the next 100 years. Spectators and new members are always welcome.

Thriving Scout group needs more helpers

By David Melsome

A local Scouts group has become so popular that it has a waiting list to join and has issued an appeal for more volunteer helpers so that it can welcome more youngsters to enjoy its activities.

The 224 North London Air Scouts has experienced tremendous growth over the past few years with numbers of members rising from 40 to 100. A new Beavers section now runs on a Saturday morning and organisers would like to start a new Squirrels section for four to six-year-olds. "To make this happen, we need to find a dedicated volunteer team," said group lead volunteer Derek Chambers. "We'd love to hear from you if you have some spare time and a passion for helping young people develop valuable skills, make friends, and have fun."

The group's members, both young and old, benefit from various activities that help them learn new skills and build lasting friendships, from backwoods cooking, climbing, and archery to learning about conservation, bushcraft and gliding.

Younger members have enjoyed visits to inner-city



Outdoor skills: The Scouts make a camp fire

farms, while the older ones have taken on challenges like scuba diving, parascending, and even sleeping on a warship. The group has also helped at events like the East Finchley Festival and given

back through various conservation projects.

To find out more visit <http://224northlondonscouts.org.uk> or email del@224northlondonscouts.org.uk



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