



Homes plan for car park and green space

By Lynn Winton

Hot on the heels of the controversial design plans to develop the Park House site opposite East Finchley station (The Archer, March 2025) comes a second project by Places for Barnet, the newly formed partnership between Barnet Council and private developers The Kuropatwa Group.



Development: New homes could replace the pocket park and the car park where Manor Park Road residents leave their vehicles after part of their street was pedestrianised.

Images: Places for Barnet

This second, smaller development is a proposal to build 10 homes, a mix of maisonettes and flats with communal gardens, on the existing pocket park and car park in Manor Park Road.

Places for Barnet's stated mission is to build creative housing projects for the private sector on land owned by Barnet, with Barnet's share of the profits ploughed into improving social housing areas, primarily Colindale.

The Manor Park Road scheme was unveiled at a public drop-in event on Wednesday 26 February at Holy Trinity

Church on neighbouring Church Lane. I spoke to Oliver Kuropatwa, who was attending on behalf of Places for Barnet. He told me: "Both these East Finchley schemes, along with another one in Mill Hill, are about developing available land in an innovative way to generate more funds for social rent housing, also an overnight homeless shelter and other community facilities in Barnet."

Most residents who know the formerly protected space were reconciled to seeing it developed, given the government's well publicised intention

to encourage desperately needed house building, but were concerned about parking, traffic flow and access, saying it was already a tight squeeze to drive and park around there, particularly in the evening. One of these residents was James Masters, chair of Grange Big Local. He said: "Twelve parking spaces are going to be lost, and there's going to be ten households moving in with cars and no solution to an already overcrowded road."

Historically residents had asked Barnet to install a one-way system which had been

rejected.

Meanwhile Roger Chapman, chair of Barnet Green Spaces Network, said: "There is a small pocket park on this site which lies in an area that Barnet Council themselves identify as being deficient in open space. The manifesto for the incoming administration pledged 'We will protect... our parks and our green and open spaces. We will not build on them.'

"Their new local plan which they adopted on 4 March 2025 contains policies to protect open space. This scheme builds on public open space and should

be rejected especially as there is no replacement provision."

The planning application will be submitted this spring or summer, after considering the feedback received. You can find more details at manorpark-road.co.uk

Residents in Manor Park Road and neighbouring streets are raising their concerns formally with the development company, with Barnet Council and with local MP Sarah Sackman. They have drawn up a document available on request by emailing: mpreastfinchley@gmail.com

Art in the suburb

The HGSART group is hosting an Art Fair on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 May at Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11 6YD from 11am to 5pm each day. Visitors will have the chance to discover work by more than 20 local artists, including paintings, sculpture,

jewellery, photography, textiles, ceramics, prints and glass. Admission is free and WI Finchley will be serving a range of refreshments with proceeds going to local charities. There will also be free art activities to entertain children. Find out more at www.hgsart.co.uk

Mural makeover for empty walls

An illustrator based in East Finchley has turned her love of sketching in cafés into a mini-business creating murals on café walls. Diana Morales Nielsen works as a graphic designer and was trying new ideas over a coffee at the La Genoise café in North Finchley when the owner noticed what she was doing.

This led to him offering her the chance to design a mural for his empty café wall and the experience was so much fun for Diana that she has since immersed herself in mural art courses and taken on new projects.

Diana said: Although I had never done a mural before, I embraced the challenge—and I loved every second of it. The experience sparked a new passion.

Whether it's a café, nursery, restaurant, or beauty salon, I create murals that add personality, warmth, and creativity to a space."

Diana's love of illustration and patterns started with her own range of wrapping paper and gifts, which she sold at Spitalfields Market before moving online when the pandemic hit. Find out more at nielsenpat-terns@gmail.com



Food display: Muralist Diana Morales Nielsen with her work at the La Genoise café in North Finchley

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