



# Residents meet with council over new homes

By Lynn Winton

The residents of Manor Park Road, whose car park and adjoining green space are designated for demolition to make way for a private development of 10 homes, have continued to voice frustration with what they consider overdevelopment and lack of transparency by Barnet Council.

As reported in previous issues, the developers will be Places for Barnet, a 50/50 partnership of Barnet Council and the Kuropatwa property group. Barnet Council has pledged that all their share of the profits of this enterprise will fund social housing in other parts of Barnet.

Manor Park Road spokesperson Susannah Hall explained that the road, along with Cherry Tree Quarter opposite the tube station, are two of the first of 21 sites across Barnet earmarked for development in Phase 1 of the partnership's building plans.

She said: "We are by no means anti-home building, but we question the wisdom of

whether these are the right homes in the right places and whether the cost and effort to build on these small spaces can ever produce enough profit for Places for Barnet's mission to use these private sector homes to fund social housing in other parts of the borough.

"Our concerns are about the shoddy processes and lack of diligence in forming an LLP Joint Venture that assures value for money and credibility in being able to take this and the further sites forward."

## Understanding

However, a long-awaited first meeting with key decision

makers on Barnet Council, which lasted three hours, has given the campaigners some hope that dialogue can go forward to finally resolve issues.

"Naisha Polaine, the council's Executive Director of Growth, was the person who at last understood why there is so much confusion about what's going on and admitted it's incredibly complex for us 'laymen' residents," said Susannah. "We emphasised we are not anti-homes or anti-development but feel their public, community focused consultation process is not fit for purpose, or built to ensure residents needs are equally



Earmarked: The car park and pocket park that would be built on under the plans. Image Places for Barnet

considered.

We are now submitting questions to her and she has personally committed to giving us the answers we need."

## Joined forces

Additionally, members of the Manor Park Road and Cherry Tree Quarter neighbourhoods have combined forces to create 'East Finchley Residents Collaborative' and have set up a crowdfunding appeal at

[www.gofundme.com/f/save-our-streets-green-spaces](http://www.gofundme.com/f/save-our-streets-green-spaces).

This will pay for expert legal and planning advice for both of the proposed local developments. At the time of writing, the total raised stands at £1.800 with a target of £2.800. Susannah Hall can be contacted at [mpreastfinchley@gmail.com](mailto:mpreastfinchley@gmail.com)

# Sweltering race runners hot on their heels

By David Melsome

Runners set off on a 10km course on one of the hottest days of the year when the annual Race the Neighbours returned to Cherry Tree Wood on the last Sunday of June. Three hundred amateur athletes completed the friendly challenge at the start of the morning and were thankful for any shade along the route to Alexandra Palace and back as temperatures edged towards 30 degrees.

Now in its ninth year, event organisers at the North London Hospice extended invitations out to five new postcodes this year. Added to the existing set of neighbours from N2 East Finchley, N10 Muswell Hill, N6 Highgate and N22 Ally Pally & Wood Green were N3, N11, N12 Friern Barnet, Church End & Woodside Park plus N8, N19 Archway, Crouch End & Hornsey.

The coveted Cherry Tree

Cup given to the postcode with the lowest average time was won by N22 Ally Pally & Wood Green, who also won the previous winter version of the race back in January.

The three fastest female runners were Chloe Lane, Barbara Keith and Helena Bale, and the three fastest male runners were Ed Boden, David Kirk and Peter Gould.

Anna Cooper, the hospice's director of fundraising, said:



Go, go, go: Race the Neighbours runners set off in Cherry Tree Wood. Photo North London Hospice

"Everyone who took part helped to raise £15,700 for the hospice which was vital in helping us meet our annual running

costs of £16million so that we can keep providing free end-of-life care to all those in North London who need us."

## From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

10 years ago:  
August 2015

TheArcherAcademy secondary school took formal possession of its new campus in Eagans Close, N2, on the site of the former Stanley Road playing field. The £12million development was funded by the Education Funding Agency, which purchased the site on behalf of the school, and supported by a £500,000 donation from the London Marathon Charitable Trust. The school reiterated its intention to make its sports facilities available to local residents outside school hours.

15 years ago:  
August 2010

Pothole problems are nothing new. Barnet Council launched its 'pothole elimination programme', aiming to mend all the borough's remaining potholes by the end of October. Over 9,000 potholes had already been repaired in the first half of 2010, but there were still many causing problems for road users as a result of adverse weather conditions the previous winter.

25 years ago:  
August 2000

Children from local schools, including Christ's College Finchley and the Finchley Children's Music Group, took part in the Queen Mother's 100th birthday celebrations. In total more than 160 children formed a procession depicting significant events of the past 100 years, a colourful tableau that demonstrated the rich cultural heritage and ethnic mix found in London.

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