



Bid to save silver birches from the axe

By John Lawrence

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood have launched a campaign to save five long-standing silver birch trees which will be chopped down to make way for the new Cherry Tree Quarter housing development opposite East Finchley tube station.

The trees have stood on their prominent corner site close to the entrance of the wood in front of what is now the Monkey Puzzle Nursery for an estimated 60-70 years. They are not protected by tree preservation orders, although the mature yew tree alongside them is.

Developers Places for Barnet have said the silver birches will have to go as part of their plans to build 75 new homes on the land.

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood group says their requests to protect the trees with preservation orders have been ignored.

Petition

Roger Chapman, chair of the Friends, said their first requests were lodged 20 years ago, and in recent months they have written formally to Barnet Council but received no response. Last month they launched a petition online and gathered signatures at East Finchley Festival.

The petition has now closed. Roger said: "A petition seemed the only way to get ourselves heard. We needed 25 signatures to guarantee a response from the council but we are aiming for 500, which would entitle us to three minutes in front of Barnet Council Cabinet to make our case.



Under threat: The silver birches on the right with the darker protected yew on the left

"These five trees are a gateway into the park and have been for many years. They are the lungs of the Earth and a part of the local landscape for all of us. We have spent years working with the council on the Barnet Local Plan in such a way that we thought this site would be

protected. It turns out that is not the case."

The Friends say the Cherry Tree Quarter development could be modified to incorporate the silver birches, as it is already safeguarding the protected yew. Places for Barnet spokesman Marcello Burbante told *The*

Archer in our June edition that a full landscape design is being developed to include the planting of two new silver birches in the heart of the site, along with a number of additional trees on the edges of the site.

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Arriving now: One of the new electric buses on the 143 route. Photo Stan Harrington

First electric buses for East Finchley

By Stan Harrington

The 143 is one of six daytime bus routes to serve East Finchley, operating between Brent Cross and Archway. Over the past month, a fleet of brand new, fully electric buses have been rolled out on the route, replacing the 14-year-old buses used previously.

The new fleet of 16 vehicles feature updated information screens, USB charging ports and more spacious interiors, as well as being quieter and more environmentally friendly.

It marks the first electric bus route for East Finchley and the surrounding area, with the 263 set to follow, receiving its own fleet of 19 new, double decker electric buses at some point soon too.

Masters in harmony

Finchley Symphony Orchestra and Choir come together with conductor David Lardi on Saturday 12 July to round off their seasons in a concert of two masterpieces by composers at the height of their powers.

Finchley Symphony Orchestra and Choir unite for a powerful season finale for a powerful season finale Beethoven's Seventh Symphony pulsates with energy, while Haydn's Harmoniemesse showcases the 70-year-old composer's musical mastery through vibrant styles and rich textures. Together, these two masterpieces form a rousing conclusion to the Finchley Symphony Orchestra and Choir's season under the baton of conductor David Lardi.

This celebratory concert takes place on Saturday 12 July at Trinity Church, Nether Street, N12 in North Finchley, starting at 7.30pm..

Tickets: £18 general, £15 for under-26s and over-60s, and just £2 for under-18s. Save £1 per ticket by booking online at www.finchleysymphony.org £18, £15 for those under 26 and over 60, £2 for those under 18 and you can save £1 per ticket by booking online at www.finchleysymphony.org

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