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Homes site to be sold with no conditions

By Lynn Winton

Barnet Council have disclosed they are dissolving Places for Barnet, their 50-50 partnership with developers London Placemaking to build houses for the private sector. As part of the dissolution agreement, the Park House site opposite East Finchley tube station previously set aside for the Cherry Tree Quarter housing project will be sold ‘unconditionally’ to the developers.

Valuations are currently being worked out to decide on the sale price. Residents have raised concern that more than £2million of the borough’s budget has already been spent on the Places for Barnet initiative and have questioned whether this will be written off or factored into the valuation.

Last year there was a public presentation at The Old White Lion Pub in East Finchley to unveil the partnership’s first artist’s impressions of Cherry Tree Quarter, consisting of 72 homes and a nursery building, then described by some visitors as “unfeasibly overcrowded”.

It remains to be seen how many or what type of homes will be in any future plans submitted for the site. Marcello

Burbante, spokesperson for Barnet Council, has confirmed to The Archer that there will “definitely” be provision for a nursery. As we have reported in recent editions, the current nursery tenant Monkey Puzzle is moving out to other premises on the High Road in May, and it is not as yet known if they will choose or be selected to return when any new nursery building is completed.

A smaller site in Manor Park Road, N2, which had been earmarked for ten new dwellings by Places for Barnet, will not be part of the sale and Barnet Council has confirmed it will remain undeveloped.

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Shoot and score: The Christ’s College Finchley boys netball teams ready for action

Netball is not just for girls

Proving that sport need have no gender boundaries, Christ’s College Finchley hosted its first-ever netball tournament for boys. More than 40 boys signed up to train and 16 were chosen to represent the school in two teams.

The event in late February brought together teams from several schools, including two teams from CCF’s East Finchley neighbours Bishop Douglass School, alongside teams from Clarion School and Compton School.

PE teacher Evey Becker said the tournament was particularly meaningful for the players as many of them are currently studying netball as part of their

GCSE PE practical, and the event gave them the opportunity to put the skills they have learned in lessons into a real competitive environment.

Student Ola said it was a great opportunity to “explore a sport that is traditionally female-dominated and help break gender stereotypes.” His friend Torben described the event as “brilliant and really

fun” adding that he is already excited for next year’s tournament.”

CCF staff said the whole event was a huge success and left them extremely proud. They praised the students for their effort, sportsmanship, and commitment throughout. After such a strong debut, the tournament looks like becoming an annual fixture on the school’s sporting calendar.

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