



The Archer

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Nursery refused extension on development site premises

By David Melsome

A group of almost 70 parents of children at the Monkey Puzzle Nursery in East Finchley say they are “incredibly disappointed” at Barnet Council’s decision not to allow the pre-school to stay at its current home to see out the summer term.



Moving out: Monkey Puzzle’s current home at Park House

The nursery had taken the decision to move out of Park House, opposite East Finchley tube station, to premises further up the High Road near Creighton Avenue to avoid the potential disturbance of construction work on the proposed Cherry Tree Quarter housing development.

This would have demolished Park House and given the nursery a new home on the site while 75 homes were built around it. As we reported in December, that work has now been put on hold while the developers reconsider their plans in the wake of a public consultation. However, by then the Monkey Puzzle’s move was locked in for the end of May.

A group of 68 parents petitioned Barnet Council to grant the nursery an unpaid extension to its lease on Park House so that pre-schoolers could stay where they were until September, to limit upheaval for all families involved. They were told last month that this request had been turned down.

Parent Ella Doltis said: “We are incredibly disappointed in the lack of support from the Council for our children. This means that a large number of children will be disrupted just

before they move to school. The site is likely to sit empty until it’s developed and Barnet Council may even have to pay for a Guardian to occupy the space. “The decision has been made by the council and now the nursery and parents are focusing on making the transition as smooth and positive as possible for the children. Ultimately us parents support the nursery as they need to make a decision for the business and the children.”

In response to their concerns, Barnet Council said it had offered Monkey Puzzle an effective rent freeze for a new lease term starting in March 2026 but ultimately the decision to relocate was taken by the

nursery’s owner Paula Murphy. “While we respect Ms Murphy’s right to make commercial decisions in the best interests of her business, Barnet Council was not informed of the intention to relocate until after lease terms for alternative premises had been legally completed,” the Council told parents.

Barnet Council said Places for Barnet, the developers of Cherry Tree Quarter, had decided to take time to re-consider the proposals for the site. Design work is still progressing, in consultation with the Local Planning Authority, and revised proposals were expected to be put forward in due course.

BE PART OF IT Volunteers wanted

Compiled by Lynn Winton

The Together Project is looking for a Group Welcomer to support its Songs & Smiles session at Spring Lane Care Home on Fortis Green, Muswell Hill. The group runs on Mondays at 11am, bringing young children and older residents together through music and play. The Welcomer helps greet families, support the session leader, and create a warm, friendly atmosphere. If you’re interested, email songs@thetogetherproject.org.uk

Age UK Barnet needs volunteers to help in its Tuesday or Thursday day clubs in East Finchley which are for people living with mild to moderate dementia. By chatting to people, helping with activities and serving lunch and refreshments, you will help to make the club a warm, welcoming and stimulating environment for members. To find out more, contact Lisa on lisa.robbs@ageukbarnet.org.uk or call 020 8432 1422.

The 224 North London Scouts group is looking for adults to help its Beavers (aged six to eight) and Cubs (eight to ten) have fun, learn new skills and go on adventures. From games and crafts to cooking, outdoor activities, and trips, no two weeks are the same! You don’t need experience, just enthusiasm and a willingness to join in. Whether it’s a weekly commitment, occasional help, or support behind the scenes, you’ll make a real difference and be part of a friendly team. Get in touch today to find out more. Email del@224northlondonscouts.org.uk

Finchley Foodbank is looking for a new kind of volunteer to help people with all things digital eg searching the internet, sending emails, booking appointments. You will signpost people to help with the cost of living, employment, housing etc. You will need to be available for foodbank sessions on Tuesdays and/or Saturdays 11.30am-2pm twice a month. To find out more about becoming a digital champion volunteer, email: finchleyfoodbank@gmail.com

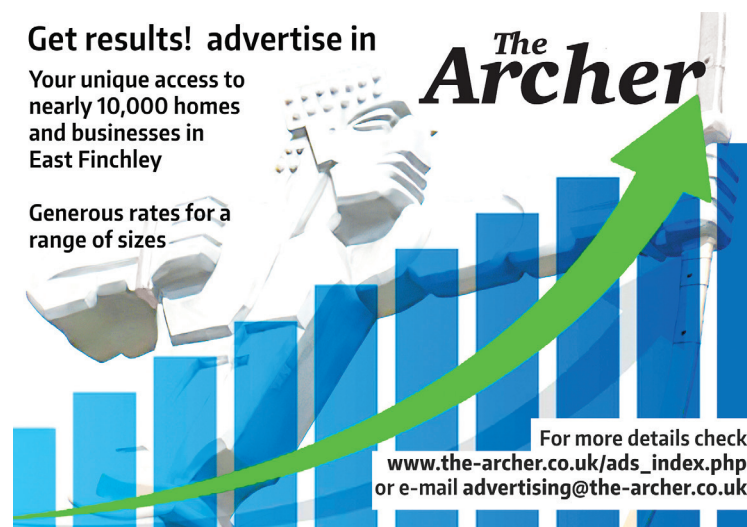
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PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet

136 High Road, N2

Change of use of the property from a single family dwelling (Class C3) to a five-bed House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) (Class C4) Associated refuse/recycling and cycle storage. Ref. No: 25/5167/FUL

Land rear of 136 High Road, N2,

Erection of a detached two-storey dwellinghouse with associated amenity space, refuse and cycle storage. Ref. No: 26/0113/FUL

9 Brighton Road, N2

Roof extension involving rear dormer window and solar panels on the flat roof and two front-facing roof lights. Ref. No: 26/0072/HSE

Fairacres, 164 East End Road, N2

Submission of details of condition 18 (Arboricultural Method Statement) pursuant to planning permission 24/1113/FUL dated 22/01/2025. Ref. No: 26/0036/CON

1 Summerlee Gardens, N2

Single-storey side return extension. Roof extension involving hip to gable with rear dormer windows with three front-facing roof lights. Ref. No: 26/0028/HSE

32 Kitchen Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension with one flat roof light and alterations to the existing patio area. Ref. No: 26/0006/FUL

24 Cherry Tree Road, N2

Single-storey side/rear extension.

Formation of rear basement level with two sky lights. New fencing and privacy screening. Ref. No: 25/5204/HSE

118A High Road, N2

Submission of details of condition 4 (Demolition, Construction Management and Logistics Plan) 8 (Cycle Parking/Storage) 9 (Enclosures) pursuant to planning appeal APP/N5090/W/25/3367137 dated 22/08/2025 planning ref 25/1546/FUL. Ref. No: 26/0129/CON

Mercian Lodge, Ephgrave Lodge and Witcomb Lodge, 68 Lankaster Gardens, N3

External wall remediation. Installation of vertical cavity barriers and

replacement of EPS insulation. Ref. No: 25/5122/192

Land at Central Avenue (adjacent to Willow House), The Grange Estate, High Road, N2

Non material amendment to planning permission 22/3539/FUL dated 12/07/2022 for ‘Development of the site to provide 8 affordable homes (Class C3) in a 3 storey building, together with associated public realm, landscaping and playspace improvements, and car and cycle parking (Subject to Unilateral Undertaking, dated: 21/12/22)’. Amendments include changes to the bin store location, updated play area provision and required

electric vehicle charging points. Ref. No: 25/5083/NMA

Haringey

36 Fortis Green Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension and internal alterations at ground, first and second-floor levels. Ref: IN/2026/0031

10 Ringwood Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension to a two-storey house. The work excludes any gas work subject to the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 and electrical work notifiable under the Building Regulation 12(6A). Ref: RV/2025/3050