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Local News Is Our Aim

# THE ARCHER



**GLH**

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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

## Supermarket Dashed?

By Diana Cormack

Hundreds of residents packed All Saints Church in Durham Road to air their views at the Warning On Waitrose (WOW) meeting. Feelings were running high in the cross-section of our community, ranging in age from eight to 80. Despite chairwoman Annette O'Gorman encouraging opinions both for and against the proposed supermarket, only those opposed seemed moved to speak. Indeed, so many locals wanted to be heard that applause had to be cut out in order to provide more speaking time.

### Traffic concerns

The public's concerns generally reflected those of WOW: The expected increase in traffic could cause more congestion, pollution and parking problems. The superstore seems to be for the benefit of people driving in from other areas rather than those in the locality. Despite Waitrose and Barnet Council stating that it would "regenerate" East Finchley by bringing more customers to High Road shops, most local shopkeepers and their customers believe it would be detrimental to trade.

Many people expressed anger that Barnet Council seems ready to destroy the village atmosphere and community feeling which East Finchley enjoys. There has been no public consultation and the Council cabinet were even proposing to discuss compulsory purchase before any formal plans had been lodged.

### It stinks

Addressing the WOW audience, MP Dr. Rudi Vis said that the move by the Cabinet was "Underhand" and added, "whoever the administration might

be, Conservative, Labour or anyone else, this is wrong and it stinks!"

### A giveaway

Doubts were cast as to the wisdom of the Council's proposal to give away Park House, whilst in return leasing the new library building back from Waitrose. It was suggested that, were Park House (estimated value over £1 million) to be sold, there would be plenty of money to refurbish our present library, thus allowing it to remain in its more sensible location. Any threat to Martin School field might then be eliminated.

### Local representation

East Finchley councillors Alison Moore and Colin Rogers said they would represent local opinion. Representatives from property developers Kiafield also spoke at the end of the meeting, but failed to convince their audience. (*Kiafield answers back - see page 4*).

To contact Warning On Waitrose write to 22A, Aylmer Parade, London N2 0PH or see [www.stopsuperstore.co.uk](http://www.stopsuperstore.co.uk)



Full house - the WOW meeting at All Saints Church. Photo by Erini Rodis

## Decision Postponed

An agenda item for Barnet Council's Cabinet that dealt with the proposed Waitrose supermarket and library complex in East Finchley was withdrawn at the last minute on Monday 20 January. The reason given on the night by Cllr. Brian Salinger was that the Cabinet had not been given enough time to adequately prepare.

### Recommendations

The paper, available on Barnet Council's web site, recommended that the Cabinet approve a number of items, including: The redevelopment of the site for a supermarket, library and car park (if necessary, and

subject to the developers providing supporting evidence, to make a compulsory purchase order on the outstanding interests in the lands and buildings on the site) and to sell Park House to the developers at nil value in exchange for a 125 year lease on the new library at a peppercorn rent.

### Underhand

News that the Council was contemplating this move angered residents and businesses alike, particularly as the Cabinet meeting was, coincidentally, taking place at the same time as the 'Warning on Waitrose' meeting in East Finchley.

At the time of going to press, no date has been set for the paper to be considered by Cabinet, and no formal planning application has been submitted regarding the proposed redevelopment of the site in question.

Kiafield's reply and more Waitrose news on page 4.

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