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Local News Is Our Aim

THE ARCHER



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Right on target - a member of Aquarius Archers Club. Photo by John Dearing

There's more than one archer in town...

THE ARCHER explores East Finchley's green spaces - their history and how to enjoy them. See the centre pages.

Library Lends Confusion

At an unusually lively meeting of Barnet's the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 May, the paper on Park House (and adjoining lands) was referred back to the Cabinet just one week after the Cabinet had approved it. The meeting opened with two speakers from Warning on Waitrose putting forward their objections in five-minute speeches, after which each was questioned closely by councillors.

At the earlier Cabinet meeting on 19 May, Barnet Council had promised consultation about the relocation of library services to the proposed Waitrose development. Councillors had received much correspondence regarding the library and Waitrose development proposals, and considered it vital to inform everyone in the area about what was going on in order to dispel rumour. The Cabinet agreed that the consultation, possibly the most comprehensive in Barnet's history, would take place throughout June and July, conducted by an independent research company. The outcome would influence any decision upon the use of the first floor in the development, for which the library is only one option.

Questionnaires were to be sent to every household in East Finchley, and there would be on-street interviews, perhaps including Haringey residents. Plans of the proposed library were to be on view in the existing library for four weeks from 2 June, followed by a further four weeks at the Phoenix. The result of the Consultation was to be reported to the September Cabinet meeting.

However, it appears that this consultation on the provision of library services in East Finchley would make no reference to the Waitrose plan and a previously mentioned feasibility study for upgrading the present library has not yet been seen. In calling (at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting) for the paper to be referred back, East Finchley Ward Councillor Phil Yeoman stated that the consultation should detail a range of options for the library as well as for any future development proposals involving Park House. The decision to refer back was won by one vote.

At the next Cabinet meeting on 16 June councillors may decide to ignore the view of the scrutiny committee and proceed as originally planned. Whatever happens, the library consultation will have been delayed.

The Council are set to vacate Park House by August 2003. It was agreed at the Cabinet meeting that Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute, who are looking for a new home, will occupy the premises for 18 months.

GLA U-turn at Henly's Corner

Mayor Ken Livingstone has said that he has no ideological objections to the original scheme for widening the A 406 between Henly's Corner and Brent and Bounds Green and Green Lanes.

Policy reversal

He has previously supported a watered-down scheme, but now considers that the unimproved sections of the A406 are causing major congestion and widespread rat running.

The Mayor and Council representatives agreed that Central Government funding should be sought in the next GLA spending review submission in 2004.

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