



## Developers knocked back three times

Robin Bishop writes

**We've had three big wins since I last reported. Mayor Sadiq Khan has refused to overturn Barnet's rejection of the Victoria Quarter and Whalebones developments. Also, demolition of a Locally Listed Victorian villa, 33 Lyonsdown Road, in favour of flats has been rejected by the Council. We wait to see what the developers decide to do next.**

We're also waiting for an application for High Barnet Station car park. Similar major developments at other tube stations, as well as others on the former Finchley Homebase site and

elsewhere in North London, have recently been refused, so politicians have begun to notice public concern about drastic change to the character of our suburbs.

Our campaign to stem abuses in Conservation Areas is progressing. The Council issued enforcement notices in respect of 70 High Street & 1 Sunset View, and the owners have appealed to the Planning Inspectorate. If the Council wins, it will send a powerful message to would-be abusers.

We've objected successfully to three developments in the Green Belt at the former Arkley Riding School, the former Cottage Garden Nursery and near Hadley Highstone. But decisions on a new gas plant and electricity battery off Partingdale Lane are still awaited.



Happily, Barnet has denied plans to build solar farms and batteries on what it terms 'low-value, low-quality' parks such as Highlands Gardens and Tudor Park. Two new cases particularly concern us. The first is applications for 175 lamp-post advertising banners in High, East and New Barnet and in Whetstone. We've objected to the one for Barnet Hill and High Street, which would negate the decluttering achieved since 2000, contradict Conservation Area policy and undermine the aims of the Chipping Barnet Community Plan.

The second, a proposal to add two storeys and a side extension to Barnet House as part of a scheme for 263 1-3 bed flats, is outside our patch, but very much in our view.

We will also be studying closely a plan for a 90-place school for pupils aged 5-18 with Autistic Spectrum Disorder at 50 Moxon Street.

New versions of both the London and Barnet Plans have been finally published. Having submitted many comments on both, by and large we support the end results - especially the lower housing targets, which have been so problematic.

Those Plans will count for little, however, if the government's radical planning reforms go ahead.

Read more about our recent activity on the Our Work page on our website.

◀ The Victorian villa at 33 Lyonsdown Road has been saved from developers who wanted to knock it down and build flats, above

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