

Planning & Environment Report – May 2020

High Street pedestrian improvements – Nearly completed; only street furniture to come.

Chipping Barnet Community Plan

- 20th May – Town Team workshop with Architecture 00 on project opportunities.
- 17th June – 29th July Online public exhibition of possible projects
- Mid-August – Selection of projects for detailed study.

Barnet Soc. Responses to public consultations.

Responses have been sent to Barnet Council regarding the

- Local Plan
- Long Term Transport Strategy
- Heritage Advisory Panel & Conservation Area Advisory Committees.

Barnet & King George V Playing Fields

Final Master Plan approved. The business case will be reported to a future meeting of the Environment Committee and other Theme Committees as appropriate.

Planning Committees

There was concern raised by Barnet Society and other organisations that Covid -19 would be used to justify reducing public scrutiny of planning decisions. Cllr Ryde assured them that although Planning Committee's would be online the public would be able to view them. RB had viewed the first one and it worked reasonably well.

High Barnet Station

The Chairman has seen the latest drawings and there is very little difference so BS are likely to oppose the plans as they are considered over development and not sympathetic to the area. It was agreed we will post our objections on the website and invite comments. We will also drip feed these on social media and try and drum up some interest/objections. Once the application is submitted we will respond taking the members views into account. LBB have given assurance that full consultation will take place.

Victoria Quarter

652 flats are proposed on gasworks site. By 14th May there have been 362 public comments with 358 objections.

The Society objects on the following grounds:

- Overdevelopment
- Excessive proportion of 1 & 2 bedroom units
- Risk of the development becoming a ghetto
- Visual impact especially on Victoria Recreation Ground
- Impact of another 392 cars on New Barnet traffic.

- Impact Of 1,200 + new residents on local services.

Save New Barnet doing an excellent job raising awareness and cycling organisation have also objected. The Society is preparing detailed representations.

It is acknowledged that we should welcome new housing in the area so young people could get housing. While the Society is not opposed to new developments, they must be proportionate and of good design.

Whalebones – 152 homes

B Soc objected last Summer and it has still not gone to Committee.

Kingmaker House – 145 flats -gone to appeal

384 Bus – Route has been extended to Edgware but cuts out streets in New Barnet. There was a lot of opposition to this proposal when it was suggested 18 months ago but it appears to have been ignored.

Barnet Hill Tree Planting – this is first stage of masterplan by David Lee. 50 hawthorn saplings were donated by the Woodland Trust and planted by volunteers from the Society and Kisharon, with help from Council arboricultural officers, to celebrate Tu B'shevat on 2nd March'20.

Five members have offered to help with future planting projects.

St John the Baptist's Churchyard

A large tree appears to have been mutilated at the churchyard at the High Street end. The Council said it was diseased and they have pruned it severely to see if it will recover.

Applications Approved

- Old Courthouse Surgery, Wood Street - extension approved
- North London Business Park – 1,350 homes approved

Applications Refused

- 1 Church Passage – roof extension
- 141-143 High Street (rear) – Third application for a 4 storey block of flats .
- 151-153 High Street (former car showrooms) new front extension for retail plus 9 flats and houses
- 71-73 High Street (rear) – 2 storey office block
- Avalon, Rowley Lane – 3 storey apartment block
- Hadley Hotel, Hadley Road – roof extension.
- Stables, Mays Lane (in green belt)

New Applications

- 17 Park Road – Sixth application for 7 flats on 2 floors of former offices, this has reduced from 36 units to 7
- Sky studios off Rowley Lane – 2,000 jobs on a 32-acre site.

Ongoing Case

- 1 Sunset View – enforcement of planning permission.

London Green Belt Council/CPRE

There has been a poll on community spirit and attitudes to green spaces during the lockdown and the results were as follows which is very encouraging:

- 62% of those living in London think protecting and enhancing green spaces should be a higher priority after the lockdown
- 59% report that the lockdown has made them more aware of the importance of green spaces for our mental health and wellbeing.
- 54% of Londoners say they appreciate local green spaces more since the country adopted social distancing measures.
- 44% reported visiting green spaces more since the start of the lockdown, which is significantly higher than the national average of 35%.