

Mixed reaction to new Tube homes plan

Under TfL's scaled-back proposals for development at High Barnet Tube, mature trees are to be kept and the multi-storey blocks of flats have been reduced in height. However, there would still be a drastic reduction in the number of car parking spaces, writes Nick Jones

Revised plans for the redevelopment of the station site were unveiled by TfL and developers Taylor Wimpey at an exhibition in the station car park. In response to objections after a consultation in June, the development has been scaled back and plans for multi-storey blocks of flats fronting on to the junction of Barnet Hill and Meadway abandoned.

The latest plan proposes:

- **Construction of up to 300 new homes, instead of up to 450 as previously proposed.**
- Six blocks of flats instead of eight, and their height would be reduced to six to seven storeys high instead of 10 to 12.
- **The existing 159 car parking spaces would be cut to 32. This would comprise five drop-off spaces and 27 spaces for long-term parking, of which six would be for blue badge users.**
- The existing approach road would continue to provide



An aerial view of the revised development - the six blocks have been described as 'monotonous'

Building blocks

Transport for London's five-year business plan contains the ambitious target to build 10,000 new homes by the end of 2021.

"This means that half of the units brought to market since May 2016 will be affordable," TfL says.

"We already have development partners in place for 7,000 homes and by the end of this financial year we will have partners in place for all 10,000 homes." TfL says the homes will cater for every aspect of the market.

"We will continue to deliver a number of large sites through our Property Partnerships Framework and the London Development Panel, and encourage smaller providers through the Greater London Authority's Small Sites Framework and other innovative routes. We are searching for an investment partner to deliver our 3,000 Build to Rent homes targeting longterm revenue over capital receipts."

access for vehicles but would become one way and continue through the development, exiting on Barnet Hill, nearer Underhill.

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- **The incline of the footpath beside the approach road would be reduced so that it was "wheelchair compatible" and the bus stop near the top of Barnet Hill would be moved 85 metres nearer the pedestrian crossing.**
- Instead flats on either side of the pedestrian footpath leading to the station from the junction of Barnet Hill and Meadway there would be an improved walkway. 100 trees would be planted, in addition to the existing 200 mature trees.
- **There would be a new "square and community hub" in front of the station which would offer a flexible workspace-café with fast broadband. The block of flats nearest to the station would include a convenience store.**

The revised plan re-affirms that 40 per cent of the new homes would be affordable – "affordable rent" and "shared ownership" homes. Just over half the homes would be family homes – two bed and four person and three bed and five person homes.

In justifying the cut in parking space, TfL says this will reduce the number of vehicle trips to the station by 68,000 a year – reducing "noise,

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A new 'square and community' hub would offer a flexible workspace-café with fast broadband

Back from the drawing board

Continued from Page 1



If you're sitting comfortably...

congestion and emissions, and improve air quality”.

To prevent commuters parking in streets near the station, TFL is to consult Barnet Council on the introduction of CPZ controls to roads around Underhill, Meadway, Potters Close, Leicester Road and Station Road.

To encourage cycling, 50 covered spaces will be provided for cyclists.

Altogether, the development will provide over two acres of green and landscaped space and new habitat boxes will be installed for birds and bats.

TFL insists the redevelopment will have economic benefits. The proposed community hub and convenience store would support 18 jobs.

During construction, over 200 people would be employed on the site and TFL and Taylor Wimpey undertake to provide up to ten apprenticeship opportunities and between 15 and 20 local jobs.

Among the residents and business people attending the exhibition was David Eaves, managing director of JDC Scaffolding, one of the companies that will be displaced if construction goes ahead in the land currently occupied by storage and container yards.

Mr Eaves complained that TFL had failed to make contact with the company and explain how their lease might be affected.

“We just picked up the news of this exhibition. No one has had the courtesy to tell us how the future of our business might be affected, but we have been on the station yard site since 1990 and employ 100 workers locally.”



The current vehicle entrance would be transformed



Isabelle Parasram
LibDem candidate

“There is a need for new homes and the land at the station is an area that is ripe for sensible improvement. The homes should offer real affordability, be of high quality, whilst being in scale with the surrounding area. High Barnet is seen as a green gateway and any development must safeguard and improve the local ecology and environment. The development should deliver sufficient public services and infrastructure, along with a joined-up transport strategy. We still have a number of concerns such as the scale of the buildings, the number of car park spaces provided and integration of real bus links.”



Theresa Villiers
Tory candidate

“The changes made to the Transport for London plans don't go nearly far enough to alleviate the concerns that local residents have. The fact is that TfL have deleted two blocks and then left the plans pretty much the same as before. This still means almost no parking space at the station and the same high-density housing at the southern end of the site, which would threaten the suburban character of Barnet and see residential streets even more parked cars than they are already. If we're going to encourage people to use public transport, it makes sense to retain a car park at the station which on the end of the line.”



Emma Whysall
Labour candidate

“I have been working with the Labour councillors to convey concerns we have heard about this development directly to the Mayor of London. The revised plan is certainly better than the first one, which was entirely inappropriate. We are pleased that TfL listened to our objections and took a lot of them on board. That said, we intend to push TfL for further modifications. It is important that local people have an input into the finished scheme and this was underscored by Mayor Sadiq Khan who joined me in High Barnet recently. He heard first-hand local residents' views on the plan whilst going door to door.”

Robin Bishop, Barnet Society chair, gives his initial response to the latest TfL proposals

The new plan is a step in the right direction, but falls short in vital respects.

In September, after consulting members, we sent our criteria for development to TfL. Of our 20 points, about a third have been addressed.

The reduction in quantity of homes from 450 to a maximum of 300 is welcome, as is retention of the 'green gateway' at the top of Barnet Hill and upgrading of the pedestrian ramp from/to the A1000/Meadway junction. And TfL is committed to high standards of sustainable design.

But the scheme has major failings. The six housing blocks are monotonous and dominate views. Long-term parking spaces are cut to a sixth of the present number. Interchange between tube, bus, car and taxi is unchanged, except for a nearer northbound bus-stop.

The new one-way vehicle loop could be hazardous for both pedestrians and traffic. Pedestrian access to and from New Barnet is not improved.

A more detailed response has been emailed to members. We'll take on board your comments and send the final version later this month.

TfL hopes to submit a planning application at the end of December. Unless more radical improvements are made, we'll have to oppose it.

‘The Ark is full of light, life and love and it is a privilege to be here,’ says Mayor Sadiq Khan



The £8.5m hospice in Byng Road, High Barnet, will support children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions in north and central London and Hertsmere, writes Nick Jones

Children and their families will have immediate use of the play and activity areas and the hospice, with six bedrooms for children and three family rooms, should be up and running early next year, once approval has been gained from the Care Quality Commission, and fully operational by next summer.

Sadiq Khan paid tribute to what he said had been a fantastic fund-raising campaign on behalf of the Noah's Ark Children's Hospice which had brought together the people of north London and surrounding areas.

There had been an amazing

response from individual donors, the business world, faith and community groups, schools and sponsors such as Spurs, whose players and supporters had done so much to raise the profile of Noah's Ark.

“Tottenham Hotspur now have the best football stadium in the world, and I can say – after my whistle-stop tour of the Ark – that we

now have the best home in the world for children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions.

“The Ark will offer some very brave families and their children an opportunity to express themselves. The Ark is full of light, life and love and it is a privilege to be here.”

Mr Khan was shown round the Ark by Alison Goodman, director of fund raising, who was accompanied by the Spurs' goalkeeper and captain, Hugo Lloris, the Spurs' women's team skipper, Jenna Schillaci, and the club's executive director Donna-Maria Cullen.

Ms Cullen said Spurs had been delighted to help Noah's Ark increase their profile and the club's players and fans had done all they could to help raise the £8.5 million needed to build the hospice.

Jeremy Isaacs, chair of the charity's trustees, began proceedings at the opening ceremony with one word

“Wow”.

“We did it... the opening of the Ark is such a huge day for us all, especially for families across London who have been telling us for so long about their hopes and dreams of a fully equipped children's hospice.”

Noah's Ark charity was

founded in 1999, and there had been community care since 2006, but at long last the opening of the Ark would provide a safe environment for end of life care in partnership with the NHS.

In introducing the Mayor of London, the Ark's chief executive Ru Watkins, said the hospice would now be able to support many more of the 1,200 children across north London and Hertsmere who needed assistance.

Mr Watkins introduced Rose Charles, whose 13-year-old daughter Sophie has the support of Noah's Ark.

He said Ms Charles had been a source of real inspiration for the charity and they had made a joint pledge to get the Ark completed in time for Sophie to take advantage of its facilities.



Sadiq Khan joins Rose Charles whose daughter Sophie is supported by the Ark. From left to right, Ru Watkins, Noah's Ark chief executive, Tottenham Hotspur skipper Hugo Lloris, Spur's women's team captain, Jenna Schillaci, Sophie, Ms Charles, and the Mayor

Ms Charles told the assembled guests that her son Ben, who died in 2014, at the age of 17, had also been supported by Noah's Ark and her family was so grateful for the charity's help.ΩΩ

In his tour of the Ark, Mr Khan was shown the brightly lit sensory playroom, the high-dependency unit and the bereavement suite.

Innovations in the building itself include solar panels and a green roof.

Ms Goodman explained to the Mayor that the Ark shared the site of the Byng Road nature reserve with the Friends of the Barnet Environment Centre.

“Our E-centre is a lovely partnership with the environment centre next door whose volunteers care for the nature reserve and who show children around so that they can get as close as possible to a natural environment.”



The new £8.5 million Ark children's hospice in Byng Road should be fully operational next year once the Care Quality Commission gives approval



Robin Bishop, writes

Environment and Planning

Headline cases

Our two biggest projects in High Barnet for years have been the 'Tube flats' and Whalebones development. On the first, TfL has scaled down its initial proposals from building about 450 properties to 300 - a welcome reduction.

My initial response, as I have written on Page 2, is that the revisions are a step in the right direction but fall short in vital respects, particularly the monotonous design and the six block of flats' dominance of the views.

The second, the planning application for 152 homes on the Whalebones estate, has yet to go to the Planning Committee. Opposition has been massive: our objection was one of over 330 submitted by members of the public – and, significantly, by the Mayor of London. The developers may have been hoping that, because their plans exceeded Sadiq Khan's threshold of 150 homes, he would overturn a refusal by Barnet Council. In fact, Khan wants the quantity of housing to be reduced and the public park to be increased.

We have been told that the pavement widening of **Chipping Barnet High Street** will be ready for the Christmas Fayre on 1 December. Tree planting and street furniture will follow in the New Year.

Several **Battle of Barnet information boards** have also been installed in the High Street and Hadley which have been widely welcomed – though not by Barnet Highways, who promptly removed the one outside The Mitre on grounds of risk to health and safety, or by St John the Baptist's Church, for being sited on hallowed ground. (See separate story on Page 9)

Thankfully, planning applications for three **communication hubs** have been refused. There is one already outside Carluccio and another, already approved by planners, to come outside Melange. That would have meant a total of five within a quarter of a mile of the High Street, adding clutter - not to mention health and safety concerns - just at a time when we were trying to declutter the High Street. We objected strongly.



Other recent cases:

Approved

We supported two applications: *Fern Room site, Salisbury Road* – nine residential units and a community space (though who will run or use the latter is unclear) sympathetic to their neighbours.

152A High Street – A new maisonette above Hopscotch, filling a gap between existing buildings.

Refused

We objected successfully to two fresh attempts to convert commercial buildings into micro-studios via prior notifications (circumventing planning applications):

49 Moxon Street – This time just for 39 (instead of 107) units.

17 Park Road – 36 units were refused, but the developer is now trying again with 15 units.

Awaiting a decision

We objected to the following applications:

46-48 High Street – A roof extension above the former Londis and a new rear block, for 4 flats in all plus offices.

Rear of 141-143 High Street – Back again for a 4th attempt to build flats and offices on this car park, but as dull as before.

2 Bruce Road – 8 units in a house for multiple occupation (HMO) next to the Premier Inn.

We were neutral about the following:

133 High Street – 5 flats above and behind KFC.

164 High Street – 58 flats and houses on the Brake Shear House site, now over a year without a decision.

27 Wood Street – Roof and rear extensions to the Old Courthouse Surgery. The building is listed Grade II, and more care for the historic fabric is required. We were neutral about the application.

37 Dury Road, Hadley – Replacement of a large but nondescript extension to a locally listed building with a new block of flats. The design is unusually sensitive, neatly blending traditional and new materials and motifs

Gone to appeal

Still no word on *Meadow Works, Pricklers Hill; Avalon palazzo, Barnet Road or 151-153 High Street.*

Appeal dismissed

Cotswold Lodge, Stapylton Road – We had supported the proposed alterations.

Kingmaker House – The massive roof and side extensions (for 145 homes) have been rejected, as we hoped. But a slightly reduced scheme has now been submitted.



Finally, some welcome action by the Planning Enforcement team:

1 Sunset View – Following roof demolition and gutting of this locally listed building, planners have been monitoring the replacement work closely.

70 High Street (fka After Office Hours) – Planning permission was granted over two years ago for this site next to The Bull for 7 residential units above a bar. Since (illegally) demolishing the old building, a glaring gap has existed with little sign of building work. The Council has served a notice that work must be completed or the former building restored by May 2020 – a big ask! Watch this space...

Mini celebrated as it gets its bus pass

It was a case of some last-minute polishing and then bonnets were up, engines ready for inspection, as enthusiasts crowded into the basement of the Spires car park for the sixth annual show of the Barnet Classic Car Club, in the 60th anniversary year of the Mini, **writes Nick Jones**

A weather forecast warning of a wet afternoon forced the organisers, Chris and Diane Nightingale, to switch the location from the open-

used it since 1973 and it had been in her garage ever since, until I heard via the friend of a friend and had the chance to buy it in 2011.

"The car's last MOT was in 1973, with 47,000 miles on the clock. All that was needed to get her going again was cleaning her up, fitting a new battery and brakes, and she passed the MOT straight away."

Next door in the display to Mr Haggerty's mini was a green 2000 Mini-Cooper sports car, the last mini

to be produced.

Further along the line-up were two Ford Mustangs: a 2006 black Ford Mustang Supercharger owned by Gary Digweed and a silver 2008 4.6 Ford Mustang GT owned by John O'Connell.

"The Ford Mustangs are modern classics and becoming collectors' pieces," said Mr Digweed.

Chris Nightingale said the wet Sunday afternoon forecast meant that there

were a few absences among the 60 cars that were due to attend.

"Heavy rain was forecast from lunchtime onwards so at 9am we switched location from the top deck of the car park to the basement.

"We had to think of the owners of some of the open-topped sports cars who would have been reluctant to have their cars on show outside in the rain. Nonetheless it was very successful and enjoyable event down in the basement."

Among the other attractions for the day was the Barnet Teenage Market set up beside the Spires' bandstand. The monthly market had been rescheduled in order to take advantage of the classic car show.

Bob Burstow, secretary of the Chipping Barnet Town Team, who led the campaign to establish the teenage market, said the monthly market had become well established in the 18 months since it was launched.

As from December, six of the stalls will again be taken by teenagers sponsored by the Barnet Young Enterprise, a charity which helps 14-16-year-olds to launch an enterprise and set up their own company.

"There were several Barnet Young Enterprise stalls in the last academic year, and we hope for more again from December. The teenage market can provide an all-important sales outlet for the youngsters once they have set up a business and want somewhere to trade from."



air top deck of the car park to the basement, but the close proximity of so many vintage and classic cars – and their fans – added to the conviviality of the show.

Over 50 cars and motorcycles descended to the basement after a parade through Barnet High Street and initially the smell of petrol fumes was rather pungent, but as the enthusiasts said, it would not be a classic car show without some smoke from the odd exhaust.

A special feature this year was a 60th anniversary celebration of the Mini – and pride of place went to a 1960 red Austin Seven Mini owned by Derrick Haggerty who rescued the rarely used car from a garage in Southend eight years ago.

"The first mini came off the production line in August 1959 and mine was first registered in August 1960, and we think it's only one of around 100 of that vintage which is still in working condition.

"The lady who owned the car hadn't



TOP LEFT: A celebration of sixty years of the mini was one of the attractions at the sixth Barnet Classic Car Show. Chris Nightingale (left) with Derrick Haggerty, owner of a red 1960 Austin Seven mini, one of only around 100 thought to be still in working order.

MIDDLE: A last-minute polish by Gary Digweed as he prepared his 2006 Ford Mustang Supercharger for Barnet Classic Car Show

BOTTOM RIGHT: Barnet's sixth classic car show took over the basement at the Spires car park





Parents, carers, teachers and residents bare all supporting campaign against further nursery school cuts

Fight for proper nursery school funding

Parents at three nursery schools in the Barnet Early Years Alliance have joined a campaign to try to get secure and adequate funding in the face of further cuts by Barnet Council to reduce spending on schools, **writes Nick Jones.**

Within a matter of days an online petition attracted almost 1,500 signatures in support of efforts to improve funding for schools across the Borough of Barnet including three nursery schools where further cuts are feared – St Margaret’s Nursery School, East Barnet, Brookhill Nursery school, East Barnet, and Hampden Way Nursery School, Southgate.

The campaign was launched at a meeting in East Barnet of parents, teachers and residents which decided to raise awareness after the loss of one nursery school within the

borough and their fears that more nurseries might be threatened by further cuts and possible closures. “Our schools should not have to rely on parent donations and volunteers to keep them open and our fight goes on to secure the appropriate level of funding for Barnet’s nurseries,” said Amy Hayes, a parent at both Cromer Road and Livingstone Primary Schools, who created the online petition.

“Our campaign has already highlighted the case for more spending on schools across the Borough and parents can find more about us at our Stop School Cuts-Barnet campaign – on twitter @BarnetStop.”

The online petition -- <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-our-barnet-nursery-schools-1> calls on MP Theresa Villiers, to take up the case for adequate funding.

Residents target blue badge fraudsters

Residents in roads close to Barnet High Street and the Spires shopping centre have launched a campaign to warn drivers that it is a criminal offence to break the rules when parking with a disabled blue badge.

Reminder notices are being posted on the windcreens of cars where blue badge fraud is suspected.

The action group was formed after residents living in the controlled parking zone close to the Spires and Chipping Barnet library – in streets including The Drive, Salisbury Road, Caernarvon Road and Trafford Road – complained of flagrant abuse of blue badges.

Frequently blue badges are clearly out of date; cars are seen being left by able-bodied drivers with no sign of a disabled blue badge holder; and sometimes the blue badge is either counterfeit or appears to have been forged. Residents say they have been forced to take action themselves because Barnet Council has failed to include blue badge inspection in the list of duties for the parking enforcement officers who monitor and impose fines in the CPZ areas.

By publicising their campaign – and by placing their

own do-it-yourself reminders on car windscreen when fraud is suspected – residents hope that the Council’s anti-fraud team will do more to target areas around Barnet High Street and the Spires.

According to the anti-fraud team’s annual report for 2018-19, there was one street check in High Barnet on 17 September 2018 which was preceded by a sweep of roads in Burnt Oak.

Of the 68 blue badges checked over the two days, five cases of misuse were identified, and two badges seized. There were a total of nine intelligence-led street checks in the borough during 2018-19 – including sweeps in Finchley, Golders Green, Temple Fortune and Hendon – which resulted in the seizure of a total of 43 blue badges. These checks are carried out by the anti-fraud team supported by NSL parking enforcement officers and Barnet Police.

During the last 12 month period for which figures are available, the anti-fraud team dealt with a total of 412 cases of blue badge misuse; there were 69 successful prosecutions; 109 cases were closed

New Barnet right in the swim of things

New Barnet's new leisure centre and library – complete with a 25 metre six-lane swimming pool and a state-of-the-art gym – has been opened by the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Caroline Stock.

Two new leisure centres – one at the Victoria Recreation Ground, New Barnet, and another at Copthall, Mill Hill – which together cost £44.9 million, were both opened to the public at the beginning of September.

Barnet Council says the New Barnet leisure centre will help meet pent up demand in and around High Barnet for swimming and sports facilities.

Entry to the centre is via cashless procedures: residents can either sign up for a Fit and Active Barnet card, which offers a range of discounts, or pay as they go by using a credit card.

Mark Sesnan, managing director of Greenwich Leisure Ltd, which operates the council's leisure centres and swimming pools, told guests at the opening ceremony that the only teething problem was one of success.

"Barnet Council was very brave to invest £45 million in two new leisure centres, but the response in New Barnet has been fantastic. "Since we opened, we have had people queuing out the door and others saying they can't get into the car park, all waiting to get into the pools.

"GLL has been working with Barnet Council since 2003 and we have been looking forward to opening a centre for New Barnet and for finding a way to meet the untapped demand for swimming and sports facilities in and around High Barnet, so this is a massive opportunity."

Water used in the 25-metre swimming pool (kept at 28 degrees) – and a smaller learner pool (kept at 30 degrees) – is treated with filters using ultra-violet light.

Shaun Tolley, general manager at the New Barnet centre, said this advanced form of treatment produced better water quality and used less chemicals.

Another innovation is a wheelchair pod which provides easier access for wheelchair users and avoids the need for a hoist for disabled swimmers.

Other facilities at the centre include a gym, health and fitness suites, outdoor, flood-lit tennis courts, a multi-use games area and café.

Councillor Dan Thomas, leader of the council, told guests that nothing gave councillors greater pleasure than seeing the two centres open for use.

"Already over 20,000 residents have signed up to our Fit and Active Barnet cards which offer discounts on entry charges and we hope thousands more enjoy these new facilities."

Nathan Swift, of

architects Saunders Boston, said the challenge of designing the new leisure was to ensure they took account of its position in the middle of the Victoria Recreation Ground.

"We hope people in the keep-fit suites will enjoy the view of the park. The ground floor café leads from the park into the leisure centre itself, creating a community hub for New Barnet which now incorporates an on-site library.

"Residents have the chance to stay fit and healthy while enjoying the setting of the park and having the use of a new community hub."

Councillor Caroline Stock, Mayor of Barnet, said she was delighted to have been asked to conduct the opening ceremony. "In the nine days the New Barnet leisure centre has been open, so many local people have told us how delighted they are and how they have started swimming again. "Keeping fit does transform people's lives and it is all the more enjoyable to do so in a bright and welcoming environment."

Typical cost of entry for senior citizens and families: So far Barnet Council has issued over 20,000 Fit and Active Barnet (FAB) cards, which are free to residents and offer a range of discounts.

A senior citizen paying £26.95 a month gets unlimited off-peak access (between 9am and 5pm) to the swimming pool, classes, gym and other facilities. A senior citizen with a FAB card would pay £2.90 to use the swimming pool off peak or £4.55 to use the gym off peak. The cost for parents with FAB cards is £4.75 each for the swimming pool; £1 each for children aged 5 to 16; and children under 5 go free.

Pictures, clockwise, from top: the 25m pool at New Barnet. At the opening ceremony (left to right), Jake Sheaf, team England beach volleyball player, Cllr Dan Thomas, leader of Barnet Council, the Mayor, Cllr Caroline Stock, and Saracens RFC players, Cameron Boon and Tobias Munday. Left, the new leisure centre and library. Bottom far left: The Mayor and deputy, Cllr Lachhya Gurung, try out the rowing machines



Charges mooted for green bin collections

Barnet Council has asked for the views of residents on plans to introduce an annual charge for the fortnightly collection of household garden waste.

If the charge is agreed – saving the council £700,000 a year – only green bins with a special sticker will continue to be collected.

Residents had until November 22 to complete an online questionnaire and the findings of the consultation will be considered by the council's environment committee.

In explaining the reasons why a charge is needed, the council says the free collection of garden waste is not a legal requirement and is currently an opt-in service that is used by only 58 per cent of street-level properties across the borough.

The introduction of charges had the potential to deliver savings in excess of £700,000 a year and would enable the council to continue weekly waste collections.

"Introducing a charge to residents who wish to continue to benefit from the collection of garden waste will provide a fairer balance to residents that live in properties that don't require garden waste collections.

"Many UK local authorities have already introduced a charge for this service.

"We know that people value the garden waste collection service and we are asking residents to give us their views." If charges were introduced, the service would operate on the same basis, with fortnightly collections, of the 240-litre green garden waste bins.

Residents who choose to opt in to continue receiving the service will be charged an annual subscription fee for up to 23 collections a year.

Payment will be made online via the council's website and householders who sign up will be issued with a coloured sticker to identify a bin that has opted into the service. Black refuse bins that contain garden waste will not be collected.

For further information about the online questionnaire, see <https://engage.barnet.gov.uk/garden-waste-charging-2019>



Sorry Brenda, but it's another election

Barnet parish church of St John the Baptist is to host an evening hustings meeting for the general election on Thursday 5 December for candidates in the Chipping Barnet parliamentary constituency.

So far there are four declared candidates for polling day on Thursday 12 December:

Theresa Villiers, Secretary of State for the Environment, who was first elected as Conservative MP for Chipping Barnet in 2005, and who is seeking re-election.

Emma Whysall, the Labour candidate, who stood in Chipping Barnet in the 2015 general election, and who came within 353 votes of winning the seat.

Isabelle Amanda Parasram, who is standing for the Liberal Democrats.

David Farbey, Green Party candidate.

The hustings meeting, which will start at 7.30pm, is being arranged by rector of the parish church, Father Chris Ferris, who chaired proceedings at the hustings held before the 2017 general election.

Once the full list of candidates is known in mid-November, the parish church will invite residents to submit questions which will then be marshalled by the parish administrator, Tony Long.

This will be the third hustings organised by Chris Ferris who became rector in 2014 and who believes that providing a platform for a dialogue among political opponents in the constituency is an important role for the parish church.

"The Church of England is the established church of the land and we have a responsibility to facilitate democracy and what better venue than the parish church which is the focal point of High Barnet.

"A healthy democracy gives people the opportunity to ask questions of their representatives.

"In a very fractured and divided society we need to come together to learn how to disagree well and the church can provide a platform for dialogue among political opponents." Once an email account has been established, the parish church will invite questions. They can be emailed in advance to hustings19@barnetparishchurch.org.uk

Other key dates:

The deadline to register to vote is midnight on Tuesday 26 November (5pm deadline for postal votes). Deadline to apply for a proxy vote is 5pm Tuesday 4 December.

Nomination papers for all prospective candidates must be submitted to returning officers before 4pm on Thursday 14 November.

Highways' safety performance sweeps the boards



Gary Murphy, licensee of the Mitre, beside the Historic Barnet information board before it was deemed hazardous for pedestrians

Taverns lined the High Street in the days when Barnet was an historic coaching town

information boards in Church Passage, explaining the history of the Barnet parish church of St John the Baptist; beside the old drinking fountain and pond at the High Street end of Hadley Green; and close to the obelisk at Hadley Highstone commemorating the Battle of Barnet. Museum volunteers researched

“A disappointing and disheartening day” was how volunteers at the museum summed up their feelings when the sign outside the Mitre – which had been badly damaged in one corner – had to be removed from the High Street.

Within days of its original installation, Mr Murphy told the Barnet Society that the information board had been greatly appreciated not just by the Mitre’s customers but also by so many people walking along the High Street.

“It immediately attracted attention and it was obvious how interested people are in learning about the history of the taverns that once lined the High Street.”

Once the damaged information board has been repaired, the museum is hoping to take Mr Murphy up on his offer to help find a new site for it, either on an outside wall of the Mitre or inside the pub.

In the days when Barnet was a famous coaching town on the road from London to York up to 150 coaches a day used to pass along the High Street.

Below: Hadley Green’s Historic Barnet information board declares that the green is the oldest public open space in the London Borough of Barnet



A Barnet Museum Information board that told the history of the coaching taverns that once lined Barnet High Street was removed within days after Barnet Council’s highways department declared it was a hazard for pedestrians, writes Nick Jones

No sooner had Gary Murphy, licensee of the Mitre public house – that dates from 1636 – congratulated the museum on its initiative than a vehicle mounted the kerb, hit the sign and it was declared an obstruction on the pavement.

Even though the museum had spent months obtaining permission for Historic Barnet boards along the High Street, the highways department ordered the removal of the display outside the Mitre on the grounds that it was “hazardous to pedestrians” under the 1980 Highways Act.

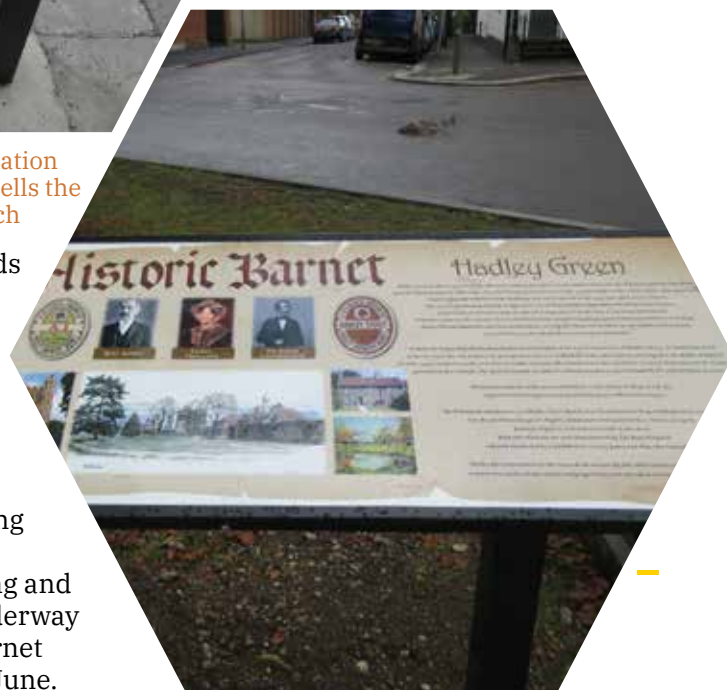
Each information board explains the history of Barnet and its importance as the site of the 1471 Battle of Barnet

Despite the debacle outside the Mitre, there has been a warm and appreciative welcome for the

An Historic Barnet information board in Church Passage tells the history of the parish church

and produced the boards as part of the Battle of Barnet project, which was financed in large part by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

In support of the celebrations, medieval banners were hung along the High Street for the second summer running and planning is already underway for the third annual Barnet Medieval Festival next June.



Barnet artists still going strong at 71

A new venue and an impressive entry of paintings and drawings provided a boost for the 71st annual show organised by the Barnet Guild of Artists.

For the first time, the guild exhibited in the Wesley Hall, in Stapylton Road, so that the show would be closer to the Spires shopping centre and Barnet High Street.



Portraits of Tracey Emin and Damien Hirst

Gillian Griffiths, who has returned to the position of guild chairman, told guests at the opening of the show that this year's entry of 149 paintings and drawings was "very impressive, and to a very high standard".

After touring the exhibits, Ken Rowland, chairman of the Barnet Residents Association, declared the



Barbara Gladding (left) with her acrylic of clematis and briar roses, and Gillian Griffiths, chairman of the Barnet Guild of Artists, who has recently returned to her post

show was open.

He revealed that as an artist himself, he "might be persuaded" to join the guild.

"Barnet Guild of Artists is a wonderful institution and in addition to painting sessions at their studio at Whalebones, they hold workshops and demonstrations and work with Barnet Council to deliver arts to the community."

Ms Griffiths takes part in judging for the care home art competitions for Silver Week, which is arranged by Talia Lief, care quality adviser for Barnet Council.

Ms Griffiths told the Barnet Society that the guild was still waiting to hear from the Charity Commission whether it could become a charity – a change that was considered necessary if the guild moves to a new studio that developers have promised to build as part of the redevelopment of the Whalebones estate.

Other options that the group are considering include the guild's becoming a trust or a charitable incorporated organisation.

The guild will need to have an enhanced status if it is to take on liability for a new public building – a move that will depend on whether planning approval is given for the Whalebones redevelopment; the demolition of the studio built by the guild's founder Gwyneth Cowing; and the construction of new premises for the guild and the Barnet Beekeepers Association.



Art sessions are held four days a week for the 120 members of the guild at their Whalebones studio and Ms Griffiths and the guild's committee are organising next year's series of monthly demonstrations by professional artists.

Chris Barker's 'Home Time - Barnet High Street' (above), one of the exhibits at the show, which sold, along with his depiction of winter at St Mary's Church

Left: more of the exhibits - there were almost 150 in total, which were all of a 'high standard'



Bull Players cast their net far and wide



Love and War finale (from left to right) Siobhan Dunne, director and producer, Susi Earnshaw, artistic director, Bull Theatre, Pina Griffin, cast member, The Bull Players

After establishing themselves as the Bull Players a year ago, members of High Barnet's newly formed amateur dramatic group had the satisfaction of performing to a sell-out Saturday night show at the recently refurbished Bull Theatre, writes **Nick Jones**

Their first production, Love and War – billed as an evening of passion and laughter – ended with a promise to carry on their efforts to encourage more locally produced drama and theatre-making.

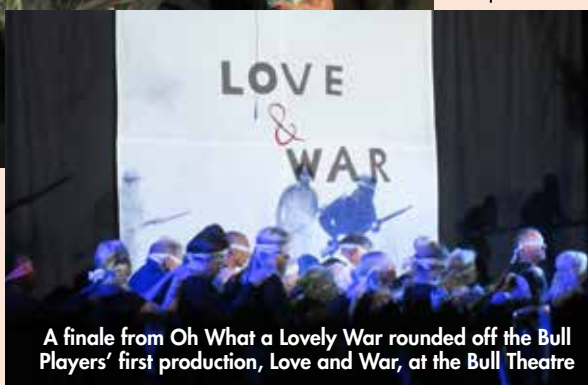
Cast member Claire Fisher – who presented Lally Tullett by Joyce Grenfell – described how weekly get-togethers had spurred the cast on to stage their first performance.

She thanked the show's director and producer, Siobhan Dunne, who had chosen for the cast a selection of extracts from well-known productions about love and war.

Ms Fisher praised another cast member Pina Griffin for all her inspiration and encouragement in establishing the Bull Players and thanked Susi Earnshaw, artistic director of the Bull Theatre, for all her support.

The Bull Players, whose ages range from 20s to 80s, meet every Wednesday to learn about drama, improvisation, script reading and theatre making.

When not attending their drama



A finale from Oh What a Lovely War rounded off the Bull Players' first production, Love and War, at the Bull Theatre

class, the cast members volunteer for a range of duties at the Bull, including serving as ushers and ice cream sellers.

Sequences in the show included Pina Griffin and Irving Wardle in *The Seagull* by Anton Chekov; June Warton as Mrs Pankhurst in *Oh What a Lovely War* by the Joan Littlewood Theatre Workshop; and Suzanne Hebrard and Francesco Giacon in *A Dolls House* by Henrik Ibsen.

Proceeds from the production went towards meeting the cost of new seating and associated improvements to the auditorium and foyer.

Rows of plush red seats with thicker cushions – together with wider aisles – have transformed the auditorium and Susi Earnshaw hopes it will make a visit to the Bull a much more enjoyable and comfortable experience. The new seating and

associated work cost just under £28,000 “We were really desperate to upgrade the auditorium because the steel frames of the old seats were falling apart and so often after a production my husband had to weld them back together, just to keep them going.”

Ms Earnshaw said that from mid-November she hoped the interior of the whole building would be transformed into a magical winter wonderland ready for the Bull's all-important pantomime, *Aladdin*, written and directed by Simon Rawlings, who produced last year's pantomime at the Bull. Councillor

David Longstaff will be taking to the boards once again, appearing as the Dame.

Four former pupils of the Susi Earnshaw Theatre School will be in the cast for *Aladdin*. “They're all donating their time and it will be so wonderful to welcome them back,” says Ms Earnshaw. Josh Lawton has the part of Wishy Washy; Roshan Sharpe, who has

graduated from a musical theatre course at the Brit School will play the genie; Christina Constantinou, an MA graduate from the Mount View Theatre School, will be the Spirit of the Ring; and Clementine Griffiths, who left the Susi Earnshaw Theatre School last year, will play Princess Jasmine.

The Bull Theatre presents Aladdin from Saturday 14 December to Monday 30 December. Adults £15, concessions £12.50



Susi Earnshaw, artistic director of the Bull Theatre and founder of the Susi Earnshaw Theatre School



Sir Michael Franklin remembered

Civil service colleagues and friends crowded into the Barnet parish church of St John the Baptist for a memorial service for Sir Michael Franklin, one of the Whitehall officials closely involved in the negotiations that led to the UK's entry of the European Economic Community in 1973.

Sir Michael, a long-standing member of the Barnet Society, who has died at the age of 91, had lived in Galley Lane for almost 50 years.

Reflections on his life were given at the service of thanksgiving by his son Robin Franklin, grandson Jamie Franklin, the Reverend Canon Guy Wilkinson, and the address was by Father Chris Ferris, Rector of Chipping Barnet parish.

On leaving Cambridge, where he met his wife Dorothy, Sir Michael joined the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and was a member of Edward Heath's

negotiating team when the UK signed up to the EEC.

He then joined the European Commission and on returning to Whitehall in 1977, he became head of the European secretariat of the Cabinet Office and had a significant role in Margaret Thatcher's renegotiation of the EU budget contributions.

He was knighted in 1983.

On his retirement from the civil service in 1987, he became an active local campaigner and joined the Labour Party, until resigning because of his disappointment over what he considered was Labour's failure to back Remain in the 2016 EU Referendum.

Sir Michael's support and involvement in the work of the Barnet Society was praised by Vice President, Dr Jenny Remfrey.



"Michael was always very discreet because of his background as a civil servant, but he was very active behind the scenes in doing all he could to encourage the Society's work and support for the parish church."

"He was very interested in local history and as a former resident of New Barnet, as well as having lived for so long in Galley Lane, he had a deep attachment to Chipping Barnet."

Nick Jones

High Street looks to be on the up and up

Chair's Report by
Robin Bishop

The campaign to regenerate High Barnet town centre goes up a gear this autumn. Not only will the High Street look more attractive with wider pavements, but work will begin on a Chipping Barnet Community Plan.

The aim of this is to develop a shared vision for the future and identify projects that would equip our historic centre for the 21st century. The scope could be very wide: from new employment initiatives and visitor attractions to public realm improvements and information services. This is a unique chance for us to decide our priorities for the town centre for the 2020s. If you have thoughts on these, please get in touch with me at the address below.

Our 75th anniversary

Next year is the 75th birthday of the Barnet Society. There's been much recent debate within the Society Committee about how to improve our effectiveness. It has become more

urgent because for the last four years our expenditure has exceeded our income. We still have significant reserves, but we can't let this trend continue. We agree that our founding purposes and image should be reviewed, and probably updated. We are looking at possible savings and ways of fund-raising.

We should also ask ourselves whether our present structure and ways of operating are really sustainable. Our constitution no longer reflects properly the way we run ourselves, and will soon need amending – or exchanging for another type of organisation such as charitable status.

We want to invite you to take part in the conversation. We have set up a group to organise a series of events between now and our anniversary in June 2020. These will include:

- **November 2019** – Our Committee is identifying topics for discussion, e.g. purpose, brand, member engagement and constitution.

- **1 December** – At the Christmas Fayre, we will have a stall inside The

Spires publicising our current work.

- **February/early March 2020** – We will hold our annual open meeting. The first part will be discussion of A Plan for Chipping Barnet. The second part will be about the future of the Society.

- **April** – We will produce a special commemorative issue of the newsletter, with features on the past, present and future of the Society.

- **30-31 May** – We will have a stall at the Medieval Festival.

- **11 June** – Barnet Society AGM and 75th birthday celebration.

We would love you to join us at these events. And if you would like to help organising any of them, please let me know at robin.bishop@gmx.co.uk

