



February 2013

# Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents' Association

## Friern Barnet and Whetstone Residents' Association

- We are non-political
- We work for all residents in the area
- We discuss issues with Local Councillors and Council Officials
- Associated with the following bodies

- The Federation of Residents' Association of Barnet
- The Finchley Society
- Friends of Friary Park
- North Finchley Environmental Forum
- The Friern Barnet & District Local History Society
- Coppetts Wood Conservationists
- The London Green Belt Council
- Open Spaces Society

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COMMUNITY FOR EIGHTY YEARS**

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## Friern Barnet Library reopens as community run

On Tuesday 5th February 2013, Friern Barnet library reopened as a "Community Library". For ten months the library had been in limbo as it was closed to the public on 4th April 2012.

In recent weeks the Council, in their wisdom, had a change of heart. They had another look at their finances and saw that there was a possibility of having a community run library, if the community could get itself formally organised and that the occupiers left the building. The *Friern Community Library Ltd* was quickly formed and entered into serious negotiations with council officers.

The closure in April 2012 followed a fifteen month campaign by local residents to keep the library open. The campaign continued even after the closure, highlighted by a small community library run on Saturday mornings on the green next to the library.

Initially the council said that they wanted to sell the building. But first they were committed to providing some kind of alternative. A



*As part of the opening ceremonies of the opening of the Friern Community Library, Maryla Persak-Enefer made a 5 foot long "bookworm cake". Pictured from left to right are Councillors Pauline Coakley-Webb & Kate Salinger, Reema Patel (legal advisor to the Community Library), Maryla (turning away from camera) and Rabbi Jeffrey Newman (acting Chairman of Friern Barnet Community Library Ltd)*

few months after the Friern Barnet library closure, in July 2012, a small temporary library was opened in the Tally Ho Arts Depot. After about 5 months the temporary library closed. It was proving to be very expensive to run and it was getting only a few users

A group of occupiers entered the library building on 5th September 2012 and put the building back into public use. Thousands of books were donated, as well as computers, photocopiers and some furniture. A rota of volunteers was organised to provide a book lending service and once again the library was used by the local community.

### Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents Association

## AGM

**Thursday 18 April 2013 7:30 pm**

**at St John's Church Hall, Friern Barnet Road**

**All Members Welcome**

**The meeting will be followed by a talk by  
Dr Pauline Ashbridge on her recent book "The  
Fields of Friern"**

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## Monster waste recycling plant no longer a threat to Friern Barnet .. ... but beware, the waste authorities are not finished with us yet!



*Councillor Pauline Coakley-Smith speaking at the meeting held at St John's Church in Friern Barnet Road on November 22nd 2012. To her left are Stephen Brice and Jeffrey Lever, business and legal consultants to the Pinkham Way Alliance. To Pauline's right is Bidesh Sarkar, Chairman of the PWA and principle organiser of the meeting. On the right hand side are the local politicians who also spoke at the meeting. From top to bottom are Teresa Villiers MP, Andrew Dismore local GLA representative, Kate Salinger (local councillor) and Barry Rawlings (local councillor).*

On Friday 21st December the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) announced, in their own roundabout way, that they were giving up on their plans to build a large waste processing plant on Pinkham Way in Friern Barnet.

The of waste processing plant the NLWA wanted to build is known as a Mechanical and Biological waste Treatment (MBT). Now the NLWA say that they looking to build a new MBT at the Edmonton site, which is just off the North Circular Road (opposite IKEA).

The land for the proposed recycling plant was owned by Barnet but it is located in the borough of Haringey. Barnet sold the land to the current owners the North London Waste Authority but planning permission has to be granted by Haringey Council, and then the scheme would have to be approved by the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson and the Greater London Authority (the GLA).

The environmental impact would have been greatest in Barnet but with prevailing wind from the west, the people of Enfield (Southgate) would have been adversely affected.

Opposition to the building of this plant has been led by the Pinkham Way Alliance (PWA) — a collection of concerned local groups from Barnet, Haringey and Enfield. Your Association have been associated with the PWA for some years. The campaign has been long and its legal expenses have been formidable.

As part of the PWA campaign, a meeting of opposition to the North London Waste Authorities plans was held on November 22 at St John's church in Friern Barnet Road. The meeting was organised jointly by the PWA, your asso-

ciation and the Friern Village Residents' Association.

Our local MP, Teresa Villiers (Con, Minister for Northern Ireland), our local Greater London Council representative, Andrew Dismore and our three ward councillors, Kate Salinger (Con), Barry Rawlings (Lab) and Pauline Coakley-Webb (Lab) all spoke at the meeting.

All the political representatives agreed on the detrimental health impact the scheme would have had on the local population, especially the young. Particular concern was expressed about the vast amounts of diesel fumes that would be pumped into the local air by the heavily laden lorries, as well as the stink produced.

The local councillors pointed out the adverse impact the vast lorry fleet would have locally, pointing out that the North Circular Road at Pinkham Way is already heavily congested and the proposed scheme would suck even more traffic into Colney Hatch Lane and Friern Barnet Road.

Stephen Brice spoke about waste management and how the strategy for dealing with waste, and the figures for a business case they were using, were out of date. Jeffrey Lever spoke about the legal contract, the bizarre arrangement for planning permissions and financial risk in which Barnet was placed.

In recent weeks Bidesh Sarkar has resigned as chairman of the Pinkham Way Alliance (after dedicating two years of his life to this campaign). The chairmanship has been taken by Stephen Brice.

The NLWA are yet to announce their latest plans for the site.



## . . . Friern Barnet Library reopens as community run

. . . Following the occupiers entering the building, the council went to court on September 10th 2012 with intention of serving an eviction notice. The occupiers were given a stay of execution until October 19th to allow them time to organise a defence. The case was then adjourned and heard on the 17th and 18th of December, at which time the judge ruled that the eviction should be delayed until the end of January 2013. It was about this time that the Council changed its mind on the future of Friern Barnet library.

One of the highlights of the occupiers period was when the novelist Will Self was invited one evening for a reading and book signing. This brought in a packed audience of about 150 to 200 people.

On 5th February there was an opening ceremony. The signing of the licence by the co-ordinator of Friern Barnet Community Library Ltd. Then there was the handing over of the building keys from the occupiers to one of the Trustees.

The occupiers were thanked for their efforts in putting the library back into use for the last five months. Then there was a ceremonial dance around the library green. This was followed by a symbolic cutting of a ribbon across the library front doors. With everybody back inside the building there were speeches from one of the ward councillors, Pete Phoenix (occupier), the barrister for the occupiers from the court case, Maureen Ivens from the Save Friern Barnet Library Group and Rabbi Jeffrey Newman (Trustee of Friern Barnet Community Library plc).

## After years of neglect The Turrets finally bites the dust



The Turrets on Friern Barnet Road was demolished during the first two weeks of February. It had been in decline for many years. When the upper photograph (by John Donovan) was taken, The Turrets was a pub, and the image shows the building in its prime.

When the pub failed to bring enough business to make it a viable concern, it was converted to a night club. Frontage was modernised and stripped down. The night club folded after a stabbing on the premises. After that the building itself was unused but the grounds were used for a car cleaning business.

Planning permission for a building comprising apartments, offices and shops was granted some years ago.

Built in the 19th century, The Turrets was originally called The Railway Hotel. It had been granted locally listed status by Barnet Council, as a building of local significance.



## Membership and Subscriptions

This year we are going to try and collect the membership fee for 2013 before the Annual General Meeting, which usually takes place in April. We have been trying to gradually align the collection of fees over a number of years and we really would like your help in this matter.

The Friern Barnet and Whetstone Residents Association currently has xxx members and collecting membership fees for over xxx members has become a whole year process. Sometimes this means that we are still collecting membership fees late into December, for the relevant year.

This year we would really appreciate it if you could renew your membership before the AGM in April.

This year we hope to be able to encourage more local residents to join and any help with leafleting your neighbours, encouraging them to join, would be most welcome. Ideally we would like to see a member in every road within the boundary of the Association.

It goes without saying that the Committee would welcome any comments, suggestions or ideas that you may have. If you have a membership enquiry, please do contact me on [lorraine@fbwra.co.uk](mailto:lorraine@fbwra.co.uk), or write to me at 82 Tarrington Park, North Finchley, London, N12 9PJ.

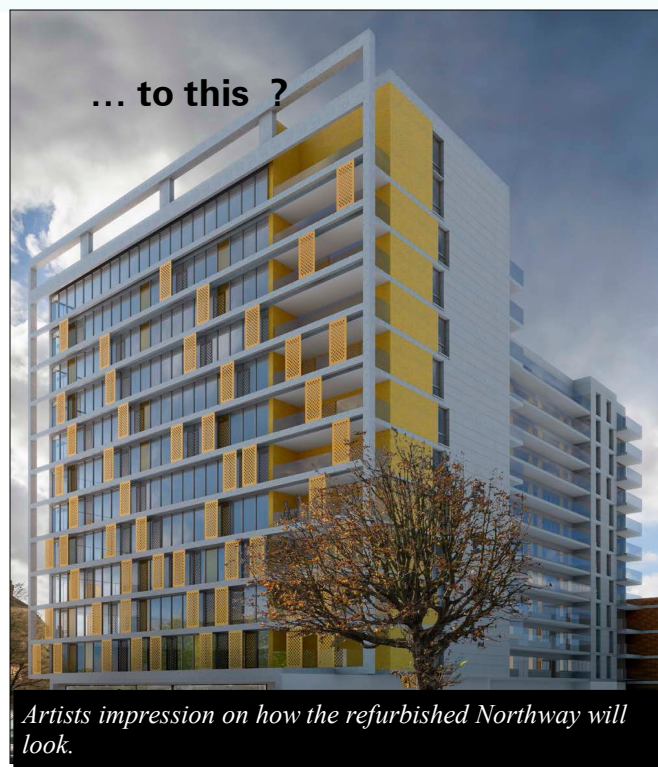
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### Officers of Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents' Association

Chairman:	Harry Gluck
Deputy Chairman:	Len Bull
Treasurer:	Bruce Standing
Secretary:	Michael Harold
Environment:	Ollie Natelson
Membership Secretary & Web:	Lol Patel
Parks:	Richard Testar

# A large apartment block for Whetstone

## *Northway House on the High Road may be converted to apartments*



Redrow PLC have plans in progress to convert Northway House in Whetstone to, mostly, apartments. At a public exhibition held 9th and 10th December at Northway House, Redrow held an exhibition about the current and future look of the site, as well as having discussion with the public and inviting comments.

As Redrow pointed out Northway House has only been 25% occupied in recent years. The longest advertising sign in Barnet, that has been hanging down the side of the building for many years, has not brought in enough business to keep the building as a viable office block. This together with the excess of vacant offices in Finchley and Whetstone has led to Northway House to be considered a candidate for redevelopment for housing.

The proposal is for 200 new units of housing. These would be 1, 2 3 and 4 bedroom apartments —130 of which would be in the top 11 floors of the building and 70 units in

a 5 story new build the rear of the current building. There will 2 floors of refurbished office as well as a refurbished café/ restaurant (where the popular Coffee & Tease are currently located).

As the artists picture shows it is planned to have bright yellow cladding panels and apartments with balconies.

Concern has been expressed as to the intensive nature of this development, as well as the garish appearance, which does not fit in with the conservative appearance of low-rise low-density Whetstone.

Greater concern has been expressed about this development setting a precedent for high rise developments elsewhere in Whetstone. Should the Gerson site next door come up for development, it will inevitably be for a 13 storey apartment block. The rest of the High Road in Whetstone would be under threat of high density high rise development.

### Forthcoming Events

**Friern Barnet and District Local History Society: "Dig for Victory" by Russell Bowes** Wed 27 March  
St John's Church Hall, next to Whetstone Police Station, Friern Barnet Lane. Starts 7:45 p.m.; cost £2 to non-members.

**Barnet Walks "The Battle of Barnet": Explore the famous battlefield of 1471** Sunday April 12th 2.30pm. Phone Paul for details (020) 8440 6805. £8:00, accompanied under 12s £4:00.

**Incognito Theatre "Play It Again Sam" by Woody Allen** Sunday 17th March to Sat 23 March (3 pm matinee on Saturday). All evening performances start at 8:00 except Sunday performances which start at 6 pm  
Ticket Prices : £9 non-members, £8 members, £5 students.

### Contacts

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