



September 2009

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 Post Office Advisory Panel
 - The Finchley Society
 - Friends of Friary Park
 - The Friern Barnet & District Local History Society
 - Coppetts Wood Conservationists
 - The London Green Belt Council
 - North Finchley Local Agenda 21

Waste threat to Friern Barnet

Council plans for large waste disposal centre

Barnet Council has announced plans for the building of a large waste disposal plant in Friern Barnet. At a Council Cabinet meeting on 11 August 2009, the Cabinet approved a plan

- for the North London Waste Disposal company to build a plant on land in Friern Barnet,
- to relocate Barnet Council's depot for its waste disposal trucks and its fleet of other vehicles.

The site they want to use is the former Friern Barnet sewage works and is on land owned by the Borough. Currently a green field site, the land is located on the south side of the North Circular, actually just inside the Borough of Haringey but right next to, and only accessible from, the Borough of Barnet.

In the Report submitted to the Cabinet meeting by the Deputy Leader of the Council, he states "Wards affected—Outside Borough". Consequently there was no consideration given to how this Plan would affect the residents of Barnet. There was no consideration given to how the impact of a vast number of heavy duty vehicles in one location would affect the residents of this part of the Borough of Barnet.

The only way into, and out of, the proposed site is from the two slip roads which run alongside the North Circular Road, which currently provide access to the Friern Bridge Retail Park. Both these slip roads are in the Borough of Barnet. To say that the Barnet residents of Alexandra Road, Sydney Road, Hamden Road and other roads in the Coppetts ward of Barnet would not be affected by a large scale industrial site, located not 50 yards from their front doors, is simply nonsense. Hollickwood Park, owned and maintained by the Borough of Barnet, is right next to the land earmarked for waste disposal, in this proposed development



The residents of Friern Barnet can expect to see many of the Council's vehicles rumbling along Colney Hatch Lane, Friern Barnet Lane and Woodhouse Road, if Barnet Council's plans come to fruition.

Basic Plan

The basic plan is to take the 16.7 acre green field site and use it in the following way. There will be 11.6 acres of development land for the North London Waste Authority (NLWA). This is the body that handles domestic waste disposal for our Borough and five other neighbouring Boroughs. Currently, the NLWA major site is located in Edmonton and its large chimney can be seen as you drive east along the North Circular Road towards Walthamstow. The Borough of Barnet want a reserved area of 4.5 acres, made up of 3.5 acres for its depot, relocated from Mill Hill, and a 1.0

continued on page 2

Who will own and maintain the ecological and “retained” pieces of land is not stated.

Impact on the Residents

The Council should have considered the impact on local Barnet residents of noise, smell, dust and pollution. For it is not only those residents who live in that part of Coppetts ward south of the North Circular Road who will be affected. All residents living in the vicinity of Princess Park Manor (the old mental hospital) will be affected. Drivers who use Colney Hatch Lane will be affected by the increase in heavy trucks, and the impact on the already permanently congested North Circular Road between Tesco and Bounds Green, will be considerable.

Local residents will be concerned about a site that has two potential sources of obnoxious smells (the Council depot and the North London Waste Authority). The Council Cabinet did not take into account that smell is carried by the wind. The Council papers do not state what the North London Waste Authority intend to do with the site and they give no indication of caring about the details. The Council seems to be saying “we are selling the land to NLWA and what they do with it is of no concern to us, as long as they stay within planning regulations”. It is difficult to say what nasty odours are going to be imported into the area, but we do know that with waste comes smell. Furthermore, the Borough intends to park its waste trucks there. On those afternoons when it is not possible for the trucks to get to the North London Waste Park in Edmonton to unload, presumably these vehicles will be parked overnight in the proposed new Friern Barnet depot.

Mill Hill Depot

At the present time the Council’s refuse fleet, highway



The bridge across the permanently congested part of the North Circular Road, at the Friern Bridge retail park, is a relatively modest two lane structure, not built to take the pounding of heavy goods vehicles crossing it all day long. If this scheme of Barnet Council goes ahead, the bridge will have to be enhanced or re-built, at great cost, some time in the next

maintenance lorries, park maintenance vans and their other vehicles are parked in the Mill Hill Depot, just off Bittacy Hill. As part of its plan for the development of Mill Hill, the Council plans to sell off the land it uses for its Depot. It plans to vacate the Mill Hill premises by the end of 2009. After that time the Council would have to find “temporary” accommodation. This temporary accommodation could last a long time (and cost the Barnet taxpayers a lot of money).

The Mill Hill Depot is conveniently placed for Barnet’s fleet of vehicles, for on leaving the depot, the large refuse lorries can disperse to the north, south, east and west. A look at a map of Barnet will tell you that the Mill Hill Depot is centrally placed. Placing the refuse fleet in Friern Barnet will mean that the refuse lorries which service the north and east side of the Borough will all use Colney Hatch Lane as an access road.

continued on page 4

Government Inspector over-rules Council over hotel in Whetstone

A Government Inspector has over-ruled Barnet Council’s objections to plans for a 4 storey, 96-bed hotel on the site of the old Black Bull public house. The development will also have retail shopping on the ground floor. The basis of the Council’s objections were based, in their opinion, on the inadequate provision of parking spaces.

The developers argue that 23 off-street parking places are adequate for the hotel and the retail unit. The Council argued that 23 parking spaces is inadequate and that the development should provide for at least 48 parking spaces; and, that only 23 parking spaces would push hotel guests to compete for parking spaces in the already congested streets of Whetstone. The developers countered this argument, by saying that on booking a room, guests would be advised of the restricted availability of parking. And, the hotel would provide a lot of information about how get to

there by public transport, and so that the demand for car parking would not be as great as the Council were saying.

In his report the Government Inspector makes a couple of comments that may make local residents rub their eyes. In his opinion, “the proposal would enhance the character and appearance of the area” — implying that Whetstone is a suitable place for structures that are “somewhat taller than the buildings to either side” (*his words*). In commenting on the parking provision, he states “I consider parking provision (*as proposed by the Council*) would be likely to encourage more people to travel there by car, contrary to the objectives of national and local policy.”

Wonderful as the proposed hotel may be, we wonder for the future for the High Road in Whetstone. Over the years, low rise, low density Whetstone seems as if it is being replaced piecemeal by high rise, high density blocks.

A redwood tree grows in Friary Park

Thanks to the long standing twinning of Chaville, a suburb of Paris, with the Urban District of Friern Barnet, Friary Park has recently acquired a fascinating new attraction. A Dawn Redwood tree has joined a group of old established trees, in a recent ceremony which the Deputy Mayor of Chaville and the Mayor of Barnet attended.

The Dawn Redwood is a species which, until 1941, was believed to have been extinct for the last two million years, and known only through fossil remains. But in that year some 100 specimens were discovered to be alive and in good shape. This was in the Hupeh Province in China.

Seeds were collected and sent out to the USA and Europe by the Arnold Arboretum (a research and education institute within Harvard University dedicated to the study of woody plants) and so all growing examples of this rare tree found in Europe are “babies”. But when fully grown they reach a height of some 65 feet, and then our new tree will feel less dwarfed by the huge neighbours.

This Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia Glyptostroboidea* to give it its formal name) seems to be an unusual halfway house between coniferous and leaf bearing trees, in that it has needles but will shed those in the autumn (when the needles turn red-brown), hopefully to replace them in the spring.

Just now, it looks rather sorry for itself, but Antonio, our Park Keeper, is supplying it with water regularly—which the tree’s alternative name “Water Fir”, indicates it needs.

So, it is with gratitude to the Friends of Chaville who keep contact with our French Twin alive, that we can enjoy this exotic newcomer whenever we take a walk in the park.

KR



Longer opening hours for iBar in Whetstone approved

The iBar in Whetstone High Road has been given permission to serve alcohol until 1:30 a.m., and stay open until 2 a.m., on Fridays and Saturdays (just what the residents of Whetstone have been clamouring for!). Approval for the extended opening hours was given by the licensing committee of Barnet Council. The management of the iBar say that there will be no entry after 12:30 a.m.

Local residents objected to the application for extended hours, expressing concern about drunkenness, rowdiness and other anti-social behaviours. These objections were taken into account, and they didn’t seem to make any difference. The chairman of the licensing committee, Joanna Tambourides, who lives in Southgate, is quoted in the *Finchley and Potters Times* as saying, “we feel an extension is considered appropriate in maintaining the licensing objectives.” Ms Tambourides statement about appropriateness is difficult to make sense of, and does little to assuage local concerns.

HG



An early morning view of the iBar in the High Road Whetstone — note the large wheelie bins on the edge of the pavement.

Friern Barnet Summer Show 2009

And so the Friern Barnet Summer Show is over for another year. 2009 saw us blessed with the most wonderful weather... warm and sunny. However, on the Sunday, the Friern Barnet & District Local History Society did have to dismantle their gazebo as some furious gusts of wind almost took the tent on an unexpected journey into the fair!

On both days, the customers coming into the park were few to start with, but as the afternoons wore on, more and more people entered Friary Park. They had plenty to occupy themselves with. There were the familiar regulars, such as the Dog Show, the Baby Show, the Horticultural competitions and children's races.

The food and drinks marquees did a roaring trade, as did the face painting, children's go-karting and pet's corner. Stuntman Stannage kept his audience spellbound with escapology and motorcycle leaps in the arena. The Sheep Show was educational and entertaining with Richard, the New Zealand compère introducing us to a variety of Sheep from different parts of the United Kingdom and Hol-



Once again sheep roam the grass fields of Friern Barnet

land. The first day came to a close with popular music and the whole weekend came to its colourful end with a wonderful fireworks display.

We can safely say that the whole weekend was a big success. Those who attended the 2009 Summer Show thoroughly enjoyed themselves, as many of your committee members were told frequently throughout the two days.

Next year is Friary Park's centenary. As the new President of the Summer Show Committee, Derek Williams, announced in the programme, we are planning an extra special Show next year.

HH

... Waste threat to Friern Barnet

The proposed new depot has only one way out, and that is to the East via the slip road and towards the bridge over the North Circular Road by Tesco's.

Environmental Issues

As well as the pollution by noise, diesel fumes, odours and probably others from the new proposed Waste Centre, Barnet Council needs to consider the toxic waste that was dumped on the site when it was the Friern Barnet Refuse

Centre. Since the site was left idle considerable flora and fauna have prospered. Although the Council has done a wildlife survey for bats and reptiles, they have not looked for the badgers in the area. Similarly, they do not fully address Haringey's concern that a considerable proportion of the site, as a grade 1 site of local ecological importance, should be left for ecological use. Perhaps Barnet Council consider 1.0 acres out of 16.7 to be considerable.

HG

more concerns with site environment issues in our next edition

Forthcoming Events

Incognito Theatre

"Dinner" by Moira Buffini Sunday 27th Sept. - Saturday 3rd Oct 2009.
Sunday performance starts at 6pm, all other performances start at 8pm.
Ticket Prices : £9 non-members, £8 members, £5 students.

Friern Barnet and District Local History Society

Wednesday 23 Sept. London Garden Squares by Daphne Glick
Wednesday 28 Oct. The Parish Poor of Friern Barnet by Yasmine Webb
All meetings take place at St John's Church Hall, next to Whetstone Police Station, Friern Barnet Lane. Starts 7:45 p.m.; cost £2 to non-members.

Friern Barnet Library

Weds 14th October — Clear the clutter—A talk by Carol Holden
Weds 11th November — Illustrated Victorian envelopes—A talk by John Bohn
All coffee mornings are from 10.30 – 11.30

Contacts

Correspondence
Chairman FBWRA
33 Holly Park Road
N11 3EY
axin77@dsl.pipex.com

Membership FBWRA
112 Oakleigh Road North
London N20 9EZ
brucestanding@msn.com

Press Officer
153 Friern Barnet Lane
N20 0NP
l.e.bull@hotmail.co.uk