

FBWRA Chairman's Report for November 2021 Committee Meeting

Planning –

Barnet House –. Our further submissions were posted on the Council website and when last checked were the first item. The FinSoc technical objections that it included make it look quite authoritative. My request to the planning officer that the officer's report on the application should include the Council's estimate of the actual car parking requirement that will be generated so this can be compared with the proposed number of spaces received a reply that avoided the question. I have sent a further request for "clarification" as my questions merely required yes/no responses.

Application 20/5845/FUL St Johns Church Hall N20 OLP- currently "pending decision".

Application 21/4178/FUL Proposal for BT Hub outside 836 High Road London N12 9RE (North Finchley Sainsbury's) – still "pending decision".

Application 21/ 5449/FUL 1522 High Road London N20 9PT Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of a new two storey dwelling with basement level and rooms in the roof space, to provide 8no. self-contained flats. This application follows an unsuccessful planning appeal against refusal of an earlier similar proposal. The new application attempts to remedy the issues referred to by the Inspector as being the reasons for refusing the appeal. I have objected on a narrow design ground relating to a balcony with a high opaque balustrade, saying this is not "good design". We were contacted by local residents about the earlier application

Council planning website. At some point over the last couple of years the Council ceased to post responses of statutory consultees in relation to planning applications on the planning website. I have put in some FOI requests about this and also about the basis for refusing to disclose pre-application advice. For good measure I have specifically requested copies of the statutory consultee responses for the current Barnet House application and two others. Replies due mid November.

North Finchley Town Centre – development. The reports that the Council plans to sell the Arts Depot and Lodge Lane and Woodhouse Road car parks to a developer are confirmed. Also other properties and N. Finchley Library.

Membership -Leaflet distribution in new developments in Whetstone- Sweets Way, Well Grove and houses in Quayle Crescent – leaflets delivered. Thanks to those Committee members who assisted.

Display Boards – possibility of borrowing from the History Society – further investigation required (outstanding action on my part)

Newsletter – the draft content has been submitted to ACE to work on. They have been asked to produce a draft for consideration by 5th November.

Liability insurance – after lengthy email exchanges I am broadly satisfied with the Zurich offer so I recommend that we accept it. We are unlikely to get better elsewhere.

Chaville Court flooding- Theresa Villiers' office provided me with the following from Thames Water-

"I'm pleased to confirm our work to rebuild the manhole chamber on Network Rail's land was successfully completed on 26 October. This work included raising the chamber to ground level and installing a new cover. Furthermore, the overflow connection within the chamber, which allowed surface water to make its way into the foul manhole chamber that surcharges, has been sealed off to prevent this from occurring again.

As you know, after working with our Sewer Crossing Rail team and Network Rail, we carried out sewer cleaning work in early July, where six plus tons of silt and debris were removed. This means surface water can flow through the surface water pipe and not in back up into the foul water sewer, significantly reducing the risk of future flooding.

There is of course always the possibility of flooding from other causes, and the footpath under the bridge seems to be a low point for surface water collecting generally, but it won't flood through this mechanism again."