

FBWRA Chairman's Report for January 2022 Committee Meeting

Planning –

Barnet House – The planning officer continues to ignore my requests concerning the estimate of the actual parking requirement likely to arise from the development proposals, even after a further reminder.

Minor revisions made by applicant to the application- I considered these and concluded they do not affect the validity of our objection. I wrote to the planning officer accordingly.

Application 20/5845/FUL St Johns Church Hall N20 0LP- still currently “pending decision”. Further documents recently added to the website, in relation to some of which I plan to make comments to the Council.

Application 21/4178/FUL Proposal for BT Hub outside 836 High Road London N12 9RE (North Finchley Sainsbury's) – on the Council website this is still “pending decision”, although Ravensdale Ave RA told us it had been refused.

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. Still pending consideration. The number of objections will require officers to reject or send to Committee to determine. There are now more than 50 public objections, including ours.

Application 21/5873/PNV Marlborough House Marlborough Gardens London N20 0SE. Application for 2 extra floors forming 4 flats. – we objected. The Council have now refused the application

Application 21/6624/PNT - monopole opposite Friern Barnet Library – I will be making an objection. I also plan, via Mailchimp, to invite our members to do likewise. Possibly also via NextDoor

Council planning website. The Council previously confirmed that responses of statutory consultees in relation to planning applications should be posted on the planning website and that in principle pre-application advice can be subject to FOI requests. Replies due mid- November relating to specific applications were received mid December. They reveal that consultee responses are patchy. I intend to write to the planning department with regard to the 2 problems that appear to need to be addressed-

1. failure to post consultee responses on the website; and
2. failure by Council departments to respond promptly.

I have held back doing this until the New Year. I will write to the Head of Development Management Planning and Building Control.

Parking surveys to support planning applications. I raised the inadequacies of the “Lambeth Model” with the planning department. The Head of Development Management Planning and Building Control has responded that he has asked the Highways Department to let him have comments.

Effect of changes to applications on status of prior objections – as previously advised, the Council confirmed prior objections are not invalidated by changes to an application (this is in the context of the “threshold” for applications to be referred to Committee rather than being approved by officers under delegated powers).

169 Friern Barnet Lane – as previously advised, following the December meeting I carried out a site inspection. The new structure is single storey and the Council had confirmed it did not require specific planning permission, as it was “lawful development”

North Finchley Town Centre development. I made a FOI request to the Council to try to identify relevant Council landholdings for the Arts Depot. External resources demonstrate that the reply received is incomplete. I will follow this up with a response.

FORAB- there is now a website - forab.org.uk This is run by the Secretary and Treasurer of East Barnet RA.

Highways- Friary Park Zebra crossing – I have submitted a FOI request to find out what proposals, if any, the Council has, prior to making any ourselves.

- FBL congestion. We would like to deliver a questionnaire (to be printed by ACE) to householders and then follow up those who do not respond to gather material on views about what sort of solution is preferred. We are working on a draft questionnaire.

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

Newsletter – ACE Graphics confirmed there would not be an extra charge for preparing a pdf version of the Newsletter

- I contacted Finchley Society about how they circulate their own Newsletters- they are in a rather similar position to FBWRA, with both print and electronic copies in circulation.

Ravensdale Ave RA. The Secretary and I met with the Chairman and a Committee member of the Ravensdale RA just before the New Year. We discussed possible arrangements for future co-operation between our respective organisations.

Seasonal message to members – circulated by Mailchimp. This did not include the content about the future direction of the Association that we discussed at our December meeting (further discussion required)

Chairman’s Reports- reports for the 2021 Committee Meetings are now on our website. I adjusted them to remove various names of Committee members, but retained references to Officers (by post, not name)

New member – I had a telephone discussion with a new member living in the Sweets Way development, who is interested in being actively involved. I promised to write to him after our January Committee Meeting.

Interview by student – I was interviewed by a Middx University student about the Barnet House redevelopment proposals for material for a project he is working on.