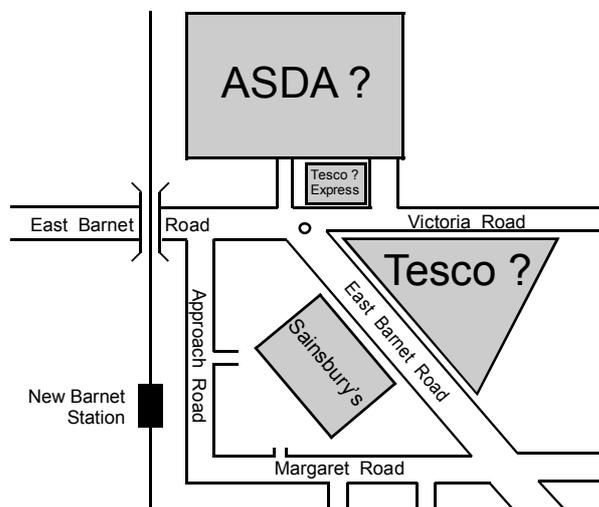


Save New Barnet

Newsletter

19th October 2010



Dear Friends,

Welcome to another roundup of news from the Save New Barnet Campaign.

Local Development Framework (LDF)

The final version of the LDF is now open to public consultation until 25th November 2010.

This important document sets out the development plan for the borough for the next 15 years. At first glance the new version looks better, but it is difficult to know what much of it actually means. Our concern is that developers could easily exploit the document's loose, imprecise language.

The sections relating to New Barnet have improved, and that is thanks to **YOU**. The high level of response from local residents helped to shape this document. Thank you for playing your part in local democracy - over 80% of the comments for the whole Borough came from New Barnet!

The LDF documents can all be found online -

LDF Core Strategy: <http://tinyurl.com/barnetldfcore>

LDF Development Management Policies: <http://tinyurl.com/barnetldfdmp>

New Barnet Town Centre Framework

We anticipate that the specific planning document for New Barnet should be published by the end of October. As that will be before the closing date for comments on the LDF, we should be able to check whether this key supporting document provides a consistent plan for the future of our local shopping area. We will let you know when the document is available.

Tesco and Asda

No news.

Water Mains Renewal

Works to renew main water supply pipes near the railway bridge in New Barnet, which were due to have taken place at the end of August finally took place in early October. We should perhaps be grateful that there seemed to be some coordination with the earlier gas works in Longmore Avenue, meaning that both of our east/west routes under the railway line were not blocked at the same time. The traffic jams created by the temporary traffic lights underlined our concerns that a major retail development accessed via the East Barnet Road / Victoria Road junction would bring constant gridlock to New Barnet.

Forthcoming Roadworks

Gas renewal works mean that the junction of Lyonsdown Road and the Great North Road will be under temporary traffic light control from 25th October. Expect delays for three weeks.

Additionally, works to replace gas pipes in East Barnet Road (between Margaret Road and Brookhill Road) are expected to take place soon.

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Groupama House

Origin Housing Group is starting the process of consulting the community over plans to convert Groupama House, one of the 1960s office blocks on Station Road, into flats. An exhibition will take place on the ground floor of the property on Friday 5th November (11 am to 7 pm) and Saturday 6th November (9 am to 3 pm).

JCoSS Planning Application

A planning application has been submitted by JCoSS to retain the caretaker's bungalow located just inside the site near the Westbrook Crescent entrance. In the original plan the bungalow was to have been demolished and the land used for part of the JCoSS car park.

This new planning application partly relocates the car park onto land that was to be used for a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA). This means the MUGA will be reduced in size from 10,732.5 m² to 8,806.2 m².

The Education (School Premises) Regulation 1999 requires that JCoSS should provide 55,000 m² of team games playing fields. The original approved plan had a shortfall, with only 45,459.4 m² provided. Despite the addition of an extra 340 m² all weather pitch at the rear, this new plan increases the shortfall by providing a total of only 42,286.6 m² onsite outdoor games space.

New Barnet Community Association will be submitting comments to the council's planning department.

One of the commitments made by JCoSS to the local community was access to its sports facilities. It is concerning that these are now being reduced in size before they have even been built. We will be watching closely for any other changes.

Full details of the planning application can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/jcossoc10>

JCoSS Contacts

We have been advised that as the main building works are nearing completion, Ben Rich (PR advisor to JCoSS) has come to the end of his contract. In future, liaison with local residents will be the responsibility of the Deputy Head Patrick Moriarty (pmoriarty@jcoss.barnet.sch.uk or 020 8344 2220).

JCoSS "Community Liaison"

A JCoSS Residents Liaison Group has been set up by Cllr Robert Rams and has now met on two occasions (20th July & 20th September 2010). A letter from the Chair of Governors (dated 23rd July 2010) distributed to residents stated that "*minutes of that first meeting will be circulated shortly*". In our last newsletter (dated 2nd September 2010) we included a statement from Cllr Rams in which he said "*I will be, with the agreement of the Save New Barnet team, publishing the minutes of the meeting on their website*".

We have still not received a copy of the minutes of that meeting, which is why they have not yet appeared on our website. It is now understood that the minutes of the meeting should be published on the JCoSS website (www.jcoss.org) by the end of October. We will let you know when they are finally made public.

You will recall that in our newsletter dated 19th July 2010 we expressed concern about the lack of clarity and openness surrounding the setting up of the committee. It is very disappointing that a group purportedly representing the views of local residents remains clouded in secrecy. We look forward to be able to report more positively in the future.

JCoSS Open Evening

There will be an open evening for local residents to view the school on Monday 1st November from 5.30 to 7.30 pm. There will be a short presentation from the Headteacher, Jeremy Stowe-Lindner, at 6.30 pm. We encourage all residents to take this opportunity visit JCoSS and to see the new school building for themselves. (If you are driving we are sure we don't have to remind you to park considerately, not blocking driveways or on the open green spaces in Baring Road.)

Chipping Barnet Residents Forum

The Forum is a regular public meeting where residents in the north of the Borough can ask questions about the work of Barnet Council to a panel of councillors and officers. The next meeting will be held at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 27th October at East Barnet School, Chestnut Grove, East Barnet, EN4 8PU.

Anyone can submit questions in advance to the forum administrator Pauline Bagley (pauline.bagley@barnet.gov.uk or 020 8359 2023).

Links to the action notes of previous Residents Forum meetings can be found via our website: www.newbarnet.org.uk/action/residentsforum.php

Friends of Victoria Recreation Ground

New Barnet Community Association (NBCA) is planning to set up a "Friends of Victoria Recreation Ground". The group will work in a similar way to the Friends of Oak Hill Park in East Barnet, to access funds to improve our local park. If you currently use the park or have an interest in improving local facilities and would like to get involved, please contact Barbara Howard at New Barnet Community Centre (newbarnetca@gmail.com or 020 8441 7044).

New Barnet War Memorial

NBCA has been helping with the project to add the names of World War II fallen to the memorial in Station Road. Donations so far total £4,422 but a further £1,500 is still needed to pay for cleaning the stonework and adding a plaque engraved with 137 additional names. If you know of any names that should be added to the list, please contact Catherine Loveday at 17 Lullington Garth, London, N12 7AP.

To make a contribution to complete this fitting tribute to the men and women from New Barnet who gave their lives in the cause of freedom, please send it to the above address. Cheques should be payable to NBCA Memorial Fund.

Libraries

Barnet Council are currently carrying out a comprehensive review of library services. If you use and value your local library it is important to make your voice heard. An online survey to gather your views is open until the end of November. <http://tinyurl.com/barnetlibsurv>

Newsletter

Do pass this newsletter on to friends and neighbours. If you have received this copy of our newsletter 'second hand', please sign up to our email list via our website to get your own copy direct.

Copies of our previous newsletters are still available from www.newbarnet.org.uk/documents/publicity

Thank you for your continued support

Regards,
Save New Barnet Campaign Team

Save New Barnet Campaign

website: www.newbarnet.org.uk

email: info@newbarnet.org.uk

post: % The Community Centre, 48/50 Victoria Road, New Barnet, EN4 9PF

Save New Barnet Campaign is a non-political group of local residents fighting for a better New Barnet. The group seeks to inform the local community about potential changes to the area, and oppose inappropriate developments. The group aims to promote a clear vision for how New Barnet could be developed for the benefit of the community based on the views of local people.

The campaign is funded entirely by donations from individuals. It is not bankrolled by any company or commercial organisation.