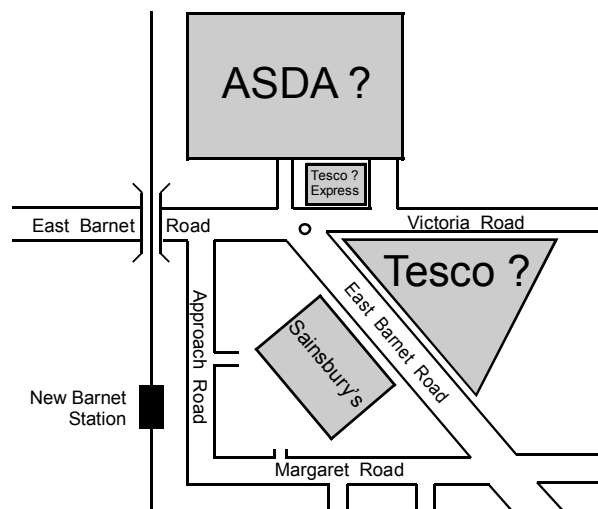


Save New Barnet

Newsletter

29th January 2012



Dear Friends,

First, a belated Happy New Year from everyone at the Save New Barnet Campaign. We're relieved to say that there has been very little to report for quite some time, apart from L&Q's plans for the former Middlesex University Cat Hill campus (more about these alarming proposals further on).

New Barnet Town Centre Framework

This development masterplan for New Barnet was approved by Barnet Council in late 2010. It is based on the "Residents' option" following public consultation on the options. The alternatives were the "Tesco option" or the "ASDA option". The framework says that there is **no identified need for further supermarkets in New Barnet** and that the shopping area should be consolidated along East Barnet Road centred on Sainsbury's. It also states that local housing need is for family sized, three-bedroom and larger housing and that conversion of other uses to housing outside the High Street area would be encouraged.

LINK: <http://committeepapers.barnet.gov.uk/democracy/reports/reportdetail.asp?ReportID=9828>

ASDA

Demolition work is currently being carried out on a number of properties owned by ASDA between the Salvation Army Hall and the main gasworks site in Albert Road. We expect that this is so that they no longer have to pay business rates on the empty properties. A wooden hoarding has been erected along the perimeter of the cleared sites in Albert Road to reduce the risk of squatting or other incursions.

Tesco

During 2011, a number of improvements were made to three sites owned by Tesco in New Barnet, mostly as a result of Section 29 improvement orders being served by Barnet Council following pressure from local residents.

15 East Barnet Road (the prominent building on the junction with Victoria Road). The surrounding eyesore wooden hoarding was finally removed, a new fence erected along Victoria Road, and the outside of the building painted.

7-11 Victoria Road. Extensive structural repairs were carried out to this semi-derelict building and it was also given a coat of paint. At one point, Tesco intended to demolish this building to construct a new Tesco Express store but the planning permission (granted at appeal despite local concerns about traffic and parking) will expire shortly.

LINK: www.newbarnet.org.uk/developments/tescoexpress

OpTex building & engineering works site, Victoria Road. The site was "tidied up" with car park and open land cleared of rubbish, weeds and overgrowth. The adjoining empty house was made secure. The trees and shrubbery outside the OpTex building were completely cut down recently, and it would appear that Tesco may be trying to make this site attractive to potential housing developers.

The Vision for New Barnet

The Save New Barnet Campaign is not against development, just inappropriate development. In fact, there is a Save New Barnet development plan for the vacant gasworks site, drawn up by local architects and based on local residents' wishes for low-rise family houses.

LINK: www.newbarnet.org.uk/events/publicmeeting19mar09/integrateddevelopmentandparkmasterplanmar09.pdf

The coalition government's Localism Act encourages early discussion between developers and the local community: we look forward to working positively with the Council, investors and developers to improve the heart of our community.

Read the community's Vision for New Barnet

LINK: www.newbarnet.org.uk/issues/avisionfornewbarnet.php

Campaign for Cat Hill

Middlesex University sold their Cat Hill campus to London & Quadrant Housing in July 2011. L&Q has since submitted three planning applications, the latest for 252 units including five six-storey blocks of flats, which would be visible from a wide surrounding area.

While the site is just inside Enfield, the worst visual and social impacts would affect Barnet; residents from both boroughs have expressed dismay about the visual and social impact of such a large scheme, including the destruction of protected wildlife and ancient woodland.

There is a local campaign group - Campaign for Cat Hill - which has a website containing news, updates and photos about the site.

LINK: www.campaignforcathill.com

The provisional closing date for the planning application is 6th March 2012, so there is still time to make your opinion known. Write to Richard Laws, Planning Department, London Borough of Enfield, Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield, Middx. EN1 3XY, or email Richard.Laws@enfield.gov.uk or development.control@enfield.gov.uk, quoting planning reference number TP/11/0904.

See the planning application on Enfield Council's website.

LINK: <http://forms.enfield.gov.uk/swiftlg/apas/run/WPHAPPDETAIL.DisplayUrl?theApnID=TP/11/0904>

Former Toyota Site

Jemca Car Group (formerly Currie Motors) closed down its garage and showroom on Brookhill Road earlier this month. Jemca has not announced its future plans for this large site but the Group states that it is "committed to ensuring the highest standards of environmental policy and ensuring minimal impact on the environment". We will be monitoring activities closely.

LINK: www.jemcacargroup.co.uk

Pymmes Brook Villas

The six family houses being built by Barratt Homes in Crescent Road are almost complete. They meet a local need and blend in to the street scene much more appropriately than the various blocks of up to 18 flats proposed over the past eight years.

LINK: www.barratthomes.co.uk/Find-a-Home/New-Developments/H5210-Pymmes-Brook-Villas

Barnet Local Development Framework

The Government requires every Local Authority to have an approved plan for the growth and regeneration of its area for the next 15 years.

Barnet's Local Development Framework (LDF) includes the Town Centre Framework for New Barnet (mentioned above). The draft document was produced in 2010, consulted upon, amended, sent out to consultation again, amended again, then subject to an Examination in Public by a Government-appointed Inspector in December 2011. The inspector raised some issues about the Brent Cross/Cricklewood

redevelopment, the need for more affordable housing, Barnet's restriction on converting houses into flats, lack of sites for travelling people and show people, and the car parking requirements being too high! The Council has addressed these matters and sent revisions out for consultation on 25th January 2012 with a closing date of 8th March. A few of these matters could have an impact on New Barnet, and these are being considered.

There was a discussion about the New Barnet Town Centre Framework (NBTCF) but no amendments have been made to the document adopted by the Cabinet of Barnet Council on 29th November 2010.

LINK: www.barnet.gov.uk/index/council-democracy/unitary-authorities/statutory-development-plans/local-development-framework.htm

New Barnet Community Association AGM

You are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the New Barnet Community Association at 7.30pm on Friday 3rd February in the Community Centre, 48-50 Victoria Road, New Barnet, EN4 9PF. The business part doesn't usually take long, and there'll be an opportunity to consider local issues - either in the meeting or over drinks and nibbles afterwards.

Friends of Victoria Recreation Ground

A launch event for the Friends of Victoria Recreation Ground was held at the Community Centre in November 2011. It was followed by a mince pie and warm drinks in the park on the Sunday before Christmas. The Friends will be giving an update at the New Barnet Community Association AGM.

For more information or to find out how you can get involved, email Chris Ward at Friendsofvicrec@live.co.uk or phone on 07939 234 625

LINK: <http://friendsofvicrec.blogspot.com>

Save New Barnet Facebook Page - ACTION NEEDED!

Facebook has announced plans to archive all groups created using the old groups format. This would result in us losing all our Facebook followers. If our Facebook group shows 'sufficient' activity (ie. followers posting on our Wall), we will get an upgrade which will allow us to migrate all members to the new group format.

LINK: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=18590613740

Previous Newsletters

You can still download all our previous campaign newsletters.

LINK: www.newbarnet.org.uk/documents/publicity

Regards,

Save New Barnet Campaign team

Save New Barnet Campaign

website: www.newbarnet.org.uk
facebook: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=18590613740
twitter: www.twitter.com/NewBarnet
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.