

Northway Gardens Organisation win bid to adopt Rose Gardens

Barnet council officers decided recently between two bids from the Suburb to take over the long neglected rose garden in Northway Gardens. One was put forward by the RA's Trees and Open Spaces committee which included detailed planting plans drawn up by garden designer Stephen Crisp, the other by a group headed by resident and RA council member Brian Ingram. Tony Ghilchik, RA Trees chairman, said, "Barnet used their evaluation system to choose the winner, but the more I learn about Brian's plans the less I understand Barnet's scoring." Brian Ingram told Suburb News that his Northway Gardens Organisation have won a bid to Barnet Council to take over the management of the beds which have suffered from neglect because of the lack of resources for their maintenance over the last few years. Barnet

Council officers evaluated on quality and cost the two bids that were made and awarded the Northway Gardens Organisation a score of 68.36 compared to the other bidder's 57.64. A new water supply has already been ordered so that the roses can be watered when they are planted in the spring. The group expects the beds to be dug over and composted this November ready for ground cover planting and posts for climbers to be installed. The plans are for hardy long flowering roses and other shrubs to be planted with the emphasis on colour. The idea is to have a 3-year low-budget, low-maintenance plan carried out by professional gardeners. The group said, "It is unrealistic to expect Barnet to pay thousands of pounds for this amenity when elderly and youth facilities are being closed."

They are looking for donors and sponsors who could contribute to the cost of maintenance, pay for or take over a bed, or even donate plants. They will also apply for funds from local organisations. The bid by the Northway Gardens Organisation was led by Brian Ingram, who said of the members, "All of us are HGS residents. We came together because of our mutual annoyance at the continued deterioration of the Rose Gardens area in Northway Gardens." The



Shape of things to come?

fear that the beds could be grassed over was the spark that led to the creation of the group, and the decision to demonstrate to Barnet Council that they had a viable plan to restore the colour to the gardens. Residents who would like to donate to the Rose Gardens or find out more about the organisation and how to help should contact Brian Ingram at 69 Brookland Rise, NW11 6DT, by phone on 8458 5313 or e-mail ingrambluebird@hotmail.com.

Now the Institute really moves away

The Institute will be moving next year to Masons House, Kingsbury NW9, a modern three-storey building situated 6 miles and a 15 minute drive from its current location and a short walk from Kingsbury Underground Station (Jubilee Line). There will be 30 car parking spaces on site and extra parking is available in the surrounding side streets. The area is well served by various bus routes including the 183 from Golders Green.

Initially, from January next year, Masons House will only be hosting the Arts Courses (Pottery, Sculpture, Furniture Restoration and Stained/Warm Glass) that were previously held in The Arts Centre. All other courses will continue at Bishop Douglass School until the end of the academic year in July 2015. Evening classes currently planned at The Archer Academy will not be affected either.

The Institute is now in an excellent position to continue

all of the popular arts classes that they were forced to cancel in the Autumn term. They would like to apologise to all students affected by this decision.

From September 2015 they intend to move the majority of their courses to Masons House. The layout for the new building is being finalised and the curriculum adjusted to ensure it suits all of their students' needs.

A new Arts Prospectus will be available soon which will include more information on their new home and will allow students to enrol onto courses starting in the new year.

GREVILLE WATERMAN



Residents quiz Barnet councillors

(continued from front page)

Cllr Mitra said that for pedestrian crossings residents should go to the Finchley & Golders Green Residents Forum, and Cllr Marshall added that the criteria for a crossing include the number of people who use it.

Richard Wiseman expressed the view that the Suburb needed a holistic solution to the problems related to traffic and parking. Councillor Orbach wondered if a Suburb wide CPZ and 20mph zone could help and this solution had considerable support from those present.

The CPZ question followed on naturally and, as could be expected, proved to be a little contentious. This will not surprise readers who use the residents' web forum, the HGS List. The ripple effect of displaced parking is predictable and evident every time a zone is introduced or extended. Residents reported parking problems in Bigwood Road, Temple Fortune Hill, Heathgate, North Square, Erskine Hill, Ossulton Way and Meadway to confirm this. There was a worry that a CPZ, rather than just covering costs, can become a revenue earner for the council,

but Cllr Mitra said it should not be treated as a cash cow. There were calls for a Suburb-wide zone scheme, separate single-road schemes and no schemes at all, which demonstrated how there was no winning with parking as one councillor remarked.

Cllr Marshall said a CPZ is not needed in every road, but Barnet will introduce them when residents require them. The councillors try first to listen and then respond to residents, which leads to an incremental approach. Separate zones for each road are regarded as impractical. A holistic view could be a CPZ and 20mph limit for the whole area, and a proposal from the RA to do so would be welcome.

The meeting moved on to cyclists with a plea from Terry Rand to stop cyclists using the pavement on Falloden Way. It is dangerous and he was once knocked over and injured outside his house. Some cyclists probably feel threatened by the traffic on the road, but the pavement is too narrow for both pedestrians and cyclists. There were also other complaints of cyclists

disregarding the rules of the road and a desire to see more enforcement of those rules. Councillors said cyclists should obey the law, but the only remedy proposed was to put up signs; something which is supported by the police.

Alan Walker called next for comments and questions about bins and rubbish, another popular topic on the HGS List. Claire Calman mentioned the problems in the Artisans Quarter where for many houses there is not enough space to keep all the bins and wondered about the possibility of having smaller bins. Diane Walsh asked if the bin lorries could use the service road behind the houses on Lyttelton Road because the steps to the front of the houses mean bins are left on the pavement. The open bins in parks were criticized as they leave the rubbish for birds and animals to scatter and the new closed bins in the playground work well. For some the fortnightly green bin collection is not frequent enough. The new outsourced call centre was criticized for being difficult to get through to and for staff not having local knowledge.

Cllr Rozenberg said the council would consider closed litter bins and using the service road on Lyttelton Road. The bin size was standard for the lorries used so there is no possibility of smaller bins. Recycling has now increased to a level that allows Barnet to claim a rebate. Residents who want a weekly green bin collection can buy a second green bin to put out fortnightly. There was no comment on the call centre.

Time was now running out, but the chairman found enough for quick comments on a few more questions. The Rose Bed bid in Northway Gardens had been won by the Northway Gardens Organisation in a tender process decided by council officers. The group would be giving more information about their plans soon according to Brian Ingram. Max Petersen asked about council policy on Car Clubs and was told any proposals would be considered. On housing there was little prospect of taking action on empty properties. Compulsory Purchase Orders are too expensive and the process is too lengthy and tortuous.

Finally problems encountered by the H2 bus came up again. In the course of the evening there had been reports of a dangerous parking bay in Asmunds Hill where the bus stops, and choked points, such as Erskine Hill and Northway, where parking was causing problems. A member of the audience suggested that councillors should take the bus themselves to see the problems first hand. Cllr Moore said that the fluidity of public transport is a priority.

The meeting could not cover all the topics put forward at the beginning, but it ran for an hour and a half and it could easily have gone on for twice as long. The councillors, the Rev Alan Walker and the audience were thanked by RA chairman Jonathan Seres. A councillor remarked that the meeting was a fine example of civic engagement. It was the latest in a series of Open Meetings organised by the Residents Association in order to give residents a chance to meet together, be informed and express their views. Residents can keep up to date with future meetings by looking in Suburb News, reading the posters on our notice boards in Suburb front gardens or visiting the website at www.hgs.org.uk.





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