

Back to the drawing board for Golders Green



PETER MCCLUSKEY

On the evening of Thursday, 27th April Fellowship House was overflowing with residents of the Suburb and Golders Green, who were there to attend an open meeting called by the recently formed Golders Green Station Action Group.

The action group was formed to give affected residents the opportunity to respond in a concerted fashion to a development proposal made by Transport for London for consideration by Barnet's planning committee. Regular readers of Suburb News will remember that we published an article on this subject in our last issue at the beginning of May (Spring Issue 130, page 6).

After a brief exposition of the 49-page document submitted by TfL, the meeting was opened up

to allow those present to express their own views on the proposal. The importance of individual responses was stressed to show the strength of feeling about the plan and to add to the robust replies made by not only the Action Group itself, but also the RA and the HGS Trust.

Most of those who spoke were firmly against the proposals, although there were some who agreed that the bus station (Site A) could do with some improvement. There was little support for the idea of putting it in the undercroft as is the case at Tally Ho. There was some confusion as to why TfL was talking about increased services when they have recently reduced them as part of their 'wider programme' of change.

There was enough concern about the tube station and depot (Site B) redevelopment for the meeting to consider it should be withdrawn completely. This concern was not just about the proposed density but also the time frame. Unwarranted planning blight for property owners would occur by giving permission for such an intensive development in some years time.

There was no support for the proposed tall building, which would have adverse effects on universally acclaimed views, or the demolition of buildings in our conservation area to provide access to the development. Similarly the proposal to relocate the War Memorial provoked a lot of opposition.

Barnet subsequently received in excess of 1,000 individual representations as well as substantial opposition briefs from the Action Group, HGS Residents Association and HGS Trust. Councillors from Garden Suburb ward, Childs Hill and Golders Green, along with our MP, Mike Freer also became involved, voicing the concerns of residents.

All this activity has resulted in Barnet calling a 'pause' in the

process and the RA has been told by one of our councillors that he is "confident that the brief is very unlikely to survive in its current form." Barnet's Planning Policy Manager has written to say that "the high volume of representations" means that they cannot continue "without significant revision." He continues by saying that there will be further consultation once the brief has been revised.

If it is true, as was mentioned by some, that the timing of the proposal coincides with a Treasury-led position that TfL should move towards self-funding, we can expect more of the same in any new brief. The '2016 Memorandum of Understanding on future devolution to London' mentioned that the government, as part of Budget 2016, had "invited TfL to bring forward proposals for financing infrastructure projects from land value uplift."

So it is back to the drawing board for TfL and Barnet, while concerned residents of the Suburb and Golders Green, the RA, the Action Group and the Trust wait to hear what the new plans contain and the details of the next consultation.

TERRY BROOKS



Suburb Ward councillors meet to assess impact of proposed tall building



How new U3A has changed my life

"The period between Launch day, 2nd March, and Enrolment Day, 18th May, has changed my life," says Jack Berkovi, Chair of the new HGS U3A. Within less

than three months of the launch there has been a huge response to this new U3A branch, which serves Hampstead Garden Suburb and surrounding areas.



TONY BRAND

Over 300 questionnaires were completed at the launch; these showed people's interests and whether they wished to lead an interest group or serve on the Steering Committee. After the launch a Steering Committee was formed on 16th March. The name HGS U3A was established and a constitution was signed by those present.

The questionnaire responses were analysed and within three weeks around 20 Interest Groups were set up and published on a new website hgsu3a.uk.

18th May was set for the inaugural meeting, re-named Enrolment Day, and people whose e-mail addresses were captured at the launch were contacted and encouraged to enrol in advance. A membership fee of £35 was set covering the period 1st June 2017 to 31st August 2018 with a programme which would run continuously.

By Enrolment Day over 200 people had enrolled as members. 50 Interest Groups were available, ranging from Arts & Crafts; Card, Board & Tile Games; Current Affairs, History & Politics; Fitness & Well-being; Food & Drink; Languages; Literature & Writing; Music; Technology; Outdoor Activities and a third of all places were already booked.

At Enrolment Day a further 80 people signed up and many groups were beyond capacity after just two hours. Martin Bell OBE welcomed everyone during the morning and praised the U3A for its approach to learning.

Waiting lists have been established and new groups will be set up in the coming months to cope with the increasing demand. Since Enrolment Day, further interest groups have been created. Interest groups are divided into three categories; Home, Outdoor and Room or Hall based. The Home and Outdoor groups started in June, and the remaining groups start in Autumn of 2017, when we plan to hold monthly meetings with speakers for our members.

HGS U3A members can also take advantage of the many activities laid on by the national U3A organisation, which runs a Summer programme.

Joining U3A can be a life-changing event in itself. An opportunity exists to meet new people in a dynamic environment run by volunteers.



Golf Society Meeting

The Autumn meeting of the Golf Society will take place on Monday 9th October at the delightful Hampstead Golf Club. This is open to both Men and Ladies and will be in teams of three players with the best two scores counting towards the team score.

The Society is open to golfers of all abilities and the emphasis is on the social side of the game as it gives us all a chance to meet both old acquaintances and other Suburb residents in the most convivial surroundings.

The golf will be over 18 holes and will be followed by a light lunch. The cost of the day will be £30 (or a reduced rate of £5

for Hampstead G.C. members). We also encourage anyone who is thinking about taking up the game, or those of you who may wish to improve your golf, to take part in a group-coaching lesson whilst the match is taking place. The cost of the tuition will be confirmed in due course but will be modest.

Please note your diaries of this date and let either Paul Wenham or Sandra Okin know if you would like to take part either in the golf or the group coaching.

They can be contacted at: paulwenham@hotmail.co.uk or sandraokin@yahoo.co.uk.

Combat Stress Fair

Please do come and join us for the 10th Winter Fair in aid of Combat Stress (The Veterans' Mental Health Charity) from 10am to 3pm on Saturday 28th October in the Free Church Hall. This year's fair will be opened by a special guest at the new earlier time of 10am.

It's now 10 years since we started with a 'Coffee & Rummage' sale in a small Suburb kitchen and thanks to all our table holders, supporters, volunteers and the local community we've expanded into the Free Church Hall.

This year's fair will have a new layout so the very popular refreshments will have more room to serve the wonderful selection of home-made soups, light lunches, cream teas and cakes. There'll also be some new

tables plus delicious preserves and home made cakes, a raffle, tombola, plants, Combat Stress Christmas cards & gifts as well as hand-made jewellery, chocolates and gifts, local honey, olive oil and panettone, collectables and lots more!

You can meet your friends for lunch, do your Christmas or Seasonal shopping (where you can park for free) and help us to raise funds for Combat Stress.

We simply could not do the fair without our wonderful 'army' of volunteers so if you have a couple of hours to spare and you'd like to join us we'd be delighted to hear from you.

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday 28th October at 10am!

MARJORIE HARRIS



Become part of the community

Become part of the Suburb Community and join the Association. It's a friendly group of 1,800 households in which you can either play an active role preserving the Suburb or just support it with a small subscription of just £15 per household per year. Complete and return the form below, join online, or download a standing order form from hgs.org.uk/ra/joinnow.html. Alternatively, if you own a smart phone, scan the QR code.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

one subscription covers everyone at the address

I would like to join the HGS Residents Association.

PLEASE USE CAPITALS THROUGHOUT

Name _____

Address _____

_____. Postcode _____

Email _____

(Giving your Email address helps us keep in touch and reduce costs)

Phone _____

Subscription amount: £ _____ (Suggested minimum payment £15)

Fellowship donation: £ _____ (To support Fellowship, a Suburb charity, in its work for Suburb senior citizens)

Total: £ _____ (Total amount for cheque, standing order, PayPal or credit card via www.hgs.org.uk.)

Standing order is best – stays unchanged unless you alter/cancel it!

BANK STANDING ORDER FORM To the Manager:

Bank Name _____

Bank Address _____

_____. Post Code _____

Sort Code _____ Account No. _____

Account Name _____

(If different to name above)

Please pay the '**Total**' amount entered above now and then annually on 1st February until further notice to:

The Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association.
Account number: 91605747, Sort Code: 40-03-11
at HSBC, 40 Temple Fortune Parade, London NW11 0QU

Quoting Reference (leave blank, RA to complete) _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Please return this form with the bank standing order section completed or your cheque made payable to HGS Residents Association to: **HGSRA, 40 TEMPLE FORTUNE LANE, NW11 7UE**

Welcome to St Jude's

Thursdays: 9am Said Eucharist

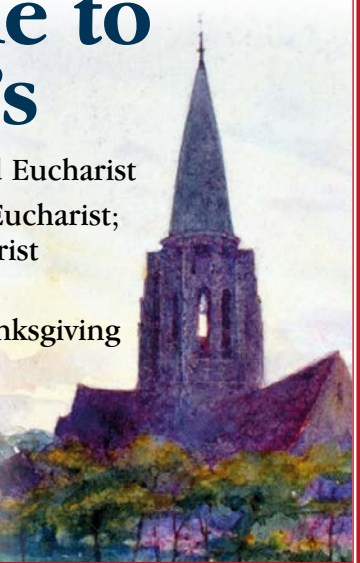
Sundays: 8am Said Eucharist;
10.30am Sung Eucharist

Sunday October 1:

10.30am Harvest Thanksgiving
and Lunch

Saturday 7 October:
Autumn Market

All Welcome



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www.stjudeonthehill.com