

HIGHBURY COMMUNITY NEWS

ISSUE No3

ALL

MEMBERS!

COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING ON ARSENAL STADIUM DRAFT BRIEF ON THURSDAY 13TH NOVEMBER AT 7PM AT HIGHBURY GROVE SCHOOL FOR THE FIRST TIME AN ARSENAL SPOKESMAN WILL BE THERE!

WHOSE HOMES WILL BE LOST? CAN OUR COMMUNITY COPE WITH MORE TRAFFIC AND MORE MATCHES? WILL BUSINESSES BE ALLOWED PARKING PERMITS? WILL ARSENAL REVEAL ITS PLANS?

COME TO THE MEETING TO PUT YOUR VIEWS OVER AND HEAR THE GILLESPIE WARD COUNCILLORS SPEAK.

ARSENAL UPDATE

COUNCIL ANNOUNCES PUBLIC MEETING

Islington Council advertised in the two local papers last week that they are holding a Public Meeting on Thursday 13th November 1997 at 7pm at Highbury Grove School, Highbury New Park. The HCA, and other groups, have been waiting since 11th September to hear HOW the Council intends to consult the public about the wording in the Brief. It is disappointing and frustrating that the Planners have taken such a long time to come up with a firm date for a Public Meeting.

Tony Wood, of the HCA says 'I hoped the Council would have held several public meetings, over the last 12 weeks, at which residents and businesses could ask the Council Planners and the Arsenal questions. Now, with only one big meeting, very few people will have the opportunity to respond with understanding, if the Brief is resubmitted to Council in December.'

The HCA would like to see the Brief state clearly:

- Expansion on any scale can only take place IF studies of traffic, economy and environmental impact show that expansion from the present 38,500 is sustainable.
- The Council will not issue Compulsory Purchase Orders to aid commercial expansion.

The present Draft Brief identifies no limitations, apart from the obvious, on any development proposals. The guidance given to the Arsenal by the Planners in the Brief is non-specific and too general. The HCA believes the Brief should provide more protection for the community.

The HCA calls on all members to come to the Council's Public meeting. The Planners say that normally only 20-30 turn up for their public meetings - we should be able to prove them wrong!

HCA HELPS BUSINESSES WITH LOCAL MEETING

Colin Small, owner of a joinery shop in the Blackstock Road, asked the HCA to help him organise a local meeting for his neighbouring businesses, to discuss setting up a Blackstock Road and Highbury Park Traders Association. The meeting took place at Brownswood Library, on 29th October. The library was closed by Hackney Council last year, but is being kept open for community use, with the aid of the Finsbury Park Action Group (FPAG). The HCA provided the invitations and arranged the venue.

Difficulties are caused by the placing of Traffic Cones on Arsenal Match Days in the Blackstock Road. Tom Kasapis, of Nick's Butchers and Grocers, explained 'This season the area Traffic Coned has suddenly extended in length. What makes it harder to predict if I can arrange deliveries, or expect customers, is that one Saturday they put Cones on one side, the next both and another time Cones appear on the opposite side. There's no system or logic in it.' The shopkeepers asked Colin Small to find out the system and rules from the Council, who took over responsibility from the Police on 1st September.

Colin Small, who lives near the Finsbury Park Road emergency barrier, raised a very serious concern. The barrier is always blocked 'with-

out fail', by one or more football supporters' cars. 'The fans know that they can park there without getting a ticket, despite it being a potentially lethal obstruction to emergency vehicle access. No traffic wardens patrol this area. Once a car was abandoned for days, and I could get no-one to remove it.'

The other major topic was the annual charge imposed by Islington Council on every business for rubbish removal. This is on top of the business rates paid. Colin Small said it was hard to understand the justification for charging businesses for removing a few bags of domestic rubbish a week. Obviously, some businesses generated a large amount of rubbish and one could see that this caused extra work for the Cleansing Department. The owner of the Cane Store in the Blackstock Road commented on the amount of litter, spread over a wide area, that was created by football supporters on Match Days. The HCA reported that the Arsenal does not pay for litter clearance by the Council on Match Days. This is paid for through the rates.

Colin Small welcomes shops and businesses, who would like to be part of a local Traders' Association, to ring him on 0171 226 1593 (work).

OTHER PLANNING MATTERS

Newbury Lodge, Hamilton Park West, N5

Residents living near this modern block were pleased to hear that, following a site visit, the Development Control Sub-Committee turned down the proposal to add an extra storey. Frank Turner, who lives next door, said 'I'm very grateful to the HCA for help with composing a reasoned objection to the application. It's a great relief that the Council agree it would have been over-development of the building.'

Highbury Corner Draft Planning Brief

The Council is asking for comments on their ideas for the refurbishment and redevelopment of Highbury Corner. The scheme is an ambitious one and presents several ideas and sketch plans

of the shape and positioning of new buildings, in the vicinity of the roundabout. The Draft Brief is quite detailed in its recommendations. It states that the developers who eventually get the contract must donate a set percentage of the cost to the Borough.

Frank Vincent, Chair of the Nag's Head Neighbourhood Forum is concerned that there is not enough time for the consultation and also says 'It would have been helpful if we could have gone to inspect a model of some of the schemes. It really is hard for ordinary folk to understand the diagrams they've given us'. The deadline for comments is 13th November. The Draft Brief is to be considered on 11th December, 7.30pm, at the Development Control Sub-

Committee. Copies of the Draft Brief from Tom Woof on 0171 477 2324

Sainsbury's Superstore, Holloway Road

Sainsbury's have come back for another attempt at getting planning permission to build a Superstore, this time fronting onto Holloway Road. Last January, Stop the Store Alliance successfully persuaded the Secretary of State to refuse consent for a similar scheme on the Lough Road industrial site. A 400 place car park would have been created, traffic congestion increased and the Nag's Head Shopping Centre would have lost a damaging amount of trade. Nick Jack, of Stop the Store Alliance, explained 'The discussions this time centre on striking a deal with the University of North

London, which owns the Warwick Wright Car Showroom and the Carpet Warehouse. Sainsbury's would build a Superstore, in place of these businesses, fronting directly onto Holloway Road and allow the University to use the upper floors. All the same problems which caused the Secretary of State to refuse planning permission, when we took the matter to Public Enquiry, remain.' The HCA understands that the Council is probably going to write a Planning Brief shortly. HCA members who are concerned about this large-scale development, which the Stop the Store Alliance will fight once more, can offer help to Nick Jack Tel: 0171 272 5210