

## SUMMARY

Welcome to the third edition of the Finchley Central newsletter. This is a resource to share news and updates about council projects in Finchley Central, including the forthcoming Finchley Square project.

## FINCHLEY SQUARE PROGRESS UPDATE

Following a series of meetings with local Ward Members to discuss the design proposals, Council Officers and the consultant design team have continued to develop the designs in coordination with other stakeholders (TFL, Landowners, Metropolitan police, Fire Services, Businesses, Town Team, etc.) to continue to develop a holistic design proposal for the new square. The consultants are now preparing these designs in an engaging and sharable format to undertake further community consultation before the designs are finalised for delivery.

The current programme is for the consultation to start from the 6th of August for six weeks to allow ample time for comments. The council will promote the consultation on the Engage Barnet platform, via the project mailing list and Barnet Council social media platforms.

In addition to the four public engagement events hosted in Albert Place, we will use the [Town Centre Website](#) to host the information and a feedback form to allow the community to provide feedback on the proposals.

Throughout conversations with local Ward Members and the Finchley Central Town Team, the council was asked to pilot activation within the existing public space to support the consultation, explore how the square could be activated and to demonstrate the potential impact of the scheme.

From the start of August, we will therefore trial the closure of a section of road on Albert Place for a temporary period (see image below for location.) The object of this closure is:

- To host several public engagement events around the Finchley Public Square design proposals, at various times of day/evening;
- To provide a space in which community events can be trialled, to inform the longer-term events program being developed (see following piece).

To pilot the public space on Albert Place, we will install temporary planters, benches, a games area and a music/busking spot using temporary floor graphics. Parking will be relocated to either Popes Drive or Redborne Avenue, with no loss of spaces.

This has been developed in collaboration with Parking and Highways colleagues and the two disabled parking bays in this location are being relocated nearby to Redborne Avenue.



Image showing proposed location of temporary road closure.



Image showing Town Team discussion about event ideas to trial within the space.

## Finchley Central Cultural Programme

To further support the project, in May, the council appointed Cultural Curators Make:Good. Over the next 12 months, Make:Good will work in collaboration with the Town Team and local community to co-develop a Cultural/Public Art Strategy - including a strong local identity and a programme of events that will activate the new public space.

One of their first steps has been to work with the newly formed Town Team to appoint a part-time Local Cultural Producer: somebody with local knowledge who lives and works in Barnet and will be focussed on developing an Events Programme for the Town Centre. This opportunity was advertised through the BOOST network, Barnet's CTN bulletin and promoted through council and local social media platforms

Following a successful recruitment process, the local Curator and Make:Good will now start to work with the Community to activate the pilot space over the Summer. The first call out for local ideas around identity can be found [here](#).

## Finchley Central Town Team

Last year the council convened a group of local businesses, residents and community organisations under the umbrella of the Finchley Central Town Team. This local group continues to meet on a monthly basis and, as noted, has been taking an active role in supporting the development of the programme to activate the square and help promote other initiatives in the town centre.

In June and July, Make:Good hosted the first of a series of workshops with the Town Team—Identity and Community Events. This workshop has helped to make steps towards building a list of event ideas the group felt would benefit the Town Centre and local businesses.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9th August, when we will carry out a focused workshop on the proposals for Finchley Square, in parallel with the wider public consultation events, to get the Town Team's feedback.

## Town Centre Heros



Over the summer months, the council will be hosting 'High Street Heroes' exhibitions in seven of our main town centres, one of which will be Finchley Central Town Centre. The exhibition is looking for the community to nominate their heroes to share and celebrate those who have gone above and beyond to support their town centre community during this challenging time.

In Finchley Central Town Centre, we are in conversation with landowners around the Tesco under-croft about the use of blank building facades to host the exhibition and help to activate this area.

Please [click here](#) to find out more and share this opportunity.

## Summer Festival 2021

The Discover Barnet Presents Summer Festival 2021 kicked off with an open air cinema and sports screenings in Victoria Park, attended by over 3,000 people.

Barnet residents gathered in sun and rain to view, celebrate and commiserate a variety of films and live sporting events. As well as bringing the community together. Initial feedback from the Town Team was that they had seen an increase in

