

Shop's green light

A TAKEAWAY shop was given approval in Harold Hill by the council's planning committee – despite members being against it.

The proposal for a fish and chip shop in Tennyson Road received largely negative reaction from the Regulatory Services Committee meeting on Thursday, December 9.

They sympathised with residents' and Heaton ward Councillor Denis O'Flynn's concerns about littering, anti-social behaviour, traffic congestion and the potential interference of smells and noise.

The shop is currently vacant and permission is needed for it to become a take-away.

But the majority feared smelly fumes would filter into the upstairs flat from the "chimney-like feature" encasing the extract duct which was proposed to run inside the flat.

Matthew Bannister, who lives above the small shopping parade, explained the area had a history of anti-social behaviour problems and said: "We are extremely concerned a take-away would bring anti-social behaviour back. Especially with the lack of seating."

He said there were concerns it would encourage youths to loiter in the area, particularly on the staircase to the flats which could intimidate residents.

The shop would open from 11am to 7pm Mondays to Saturdays and not at all on Sundays or public holidays.

Councillor Barry Tebbutt (Brooklands, Con) said: "My heart says no but unfortunately the evidence says yes."

The final vote was approved by the seven Tory members with three objections from the Residents Association's members Councillor Nic Dodin (Hacton, RA) and Cllr Alexander, who were standing in for Councillor Linda Hawthorn and Councillor Brian Eagling, and Labour's Cllr McGeary.

Cancer charity

THE ROMFORD branch of an insurance brokers has been part of a team which has raised more than £500,000 for charity.

Towergate Risk Solutions, London Road, Romford, has helped raise the money for Cancer Research UK through staff fundraising activities and client donations.

The money has been given to a team of scientists who are looking at ways to stop tumours hijacking blood supplies so that they can't grow and spread.

Derek Lyons, managing director of Romford Towergate Risk Solutions, said: "One in three of us will be affected by cancer at some point in our lives. Most of us know someone who has had cancer."

"We are truly thankful to our staff and clients for their hard work and donations to help support this fantastic cause."

Photographer set to host exhibition at theatre



SEASIDE: Southend at the End of the Day – one of the photos expected to be in the display

See Barry's life through a lens

SUMPTUOUS seascapes and magnificent monuments captured by a Romford photographer will be exhibited at the Queen's Theatre in January.

Barry Kirk, retired editor of the Romford Recorder's sister paper the Barkings & Dagenham Post, will be showing his photography in the theatre foyer from Tuesday, January 4 to Sunday, January 30.

The display, titled Imagination 2011, will include a collection of images of stunning natural scenery, breathtaking local beauty spots and well-loved historic sites including haunting photographs of Southend seafront,

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a beautiful old Noak Hill church, fungus growing in Bedford's Park and a spectacular picture of Stonehenge.

Barry, who was also previously the deputy editor for the Romford Recorder, said: "I hope people will enjoy looking at my images and let their imagination roam."

Barry has enjoyed a long, varied career in photo-journalism for local and national press. Starting as a fashion, industrial and commercial photographer, he trained in London and, during the Swinging Sixties, was based in trendy Liverpool.

Sharing a building with Brian Epstein

and the Beatles, he photographed many of the day's famous pop groups.

After the excitement of his career, Barry is now devoting his time to what he has always longed to do – combining his professional skills with his love for nature.

Barry said: "I have spent decades taking photographs for others, now it is my turn."

"Combining photography with my passion for the natural world has been fascinating and produced interesting results."

"I find myself returning to landscapes I have captured in search of something new, which I find rewarding. Hopefully they will have the same effect on other people."

Barry's photographs are for sale and will be on display in the foyer bar area downstairs during opening hours. Entry is free.



BEAUTY SPOT: St Thomas' Church in Noak Hill, Romford



LONG CAREER: Barry Kirk

More chance of living following stroke

Havering residents have far lower death rate



SURVIVOR: Patient Ted Walton

HAVERING residents have a better than average chance of surviving a stroke, according to a new report.

Figures released by Commissioning Support for London, a body which monitors health services, show that death rates for Havering's stroke patients are significantly lower than the average for England.

The report also shows that the number of people admitted to hospital with a stroke in the borough is above the national average.

It is believed the higher number of people suffering strokes could be due to the number of older people living in Havering as well as the incidence of high blood pressure among the population.

By IAN WEINFESS

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Specialist therapy services provided at home for patients recovering from stroke have also improved recently, according to the report.

Frances Pennell-Buck, the chairman of NHS Havering, said: "Providing a high standard of health care is a particular priority in Havering where we have a growing older population."

"We are pleased the report recognises the improvements made, thanks to the hard work of our stroke care teams, and we will continue our efforts to provide an excellent service for patients."

Stroke patient Ted Walton, 70, from Elm Park, said: "I'm ecstatic with the care

I'm getting.

"When I first had a stroke at the age of 43 I was in hospital for 12 weeks, then you came home and you were left to it. But the care I get now is so much better."

People suffering from strokes in the borough are usually taken to the hyper acute stroke unit at Queen's Hospital, Rom Valley Way, Romford and are then sent home or transferred to St. George's Hospital, Suttons Lane, Hornchurch, if they need more time to recover.

When patients return home they are assessed by a community team to see if they need further therapy.

Signs of a stroke include sudden facial weakness, arm weakness or speech problems. Anyone who thinks they or someone else, are suffering a stroke should call 999 immediately. For more information visit www.stroke.org.uk.