

Planning

Bee Gee Robin attends new centre's opening

by Dean Carroll

BEE GEE Robin Gibb took time out from judging Fame Academy to attend the opening of a new spiritual centre in Willesden, last week.

The singer was one of more than 400 visitors to the Brahma Kumaris' new £5.5m self development centre in Pound Lane.

Mr Gibb, who is a follower of Raja Yoga, said the meditative learning technique practised by the movement had helped him to deal with the death of his brother Maurice this year.

"Meditation has helped me particularly this year. All cities should have a place like Diamond House.

"People need to have somewhere to go to find peace of mind, people need an oasis of this kind."

The religious discipline was formed in 1936 by Indian businessman Brahma Bamba, who at the age of 60 received a series of visions prompting him to set up the Brahma

Kumaris' first centre.

Rapid adoption of his thinking led to 3,200 centres being opened in 70 different countries and 450,000 people now adhere to the spiritual style of meditation and positive thinking to beat everyday problems such as stress and low self-esteem.

Elder sister Dadi Prakashmani, who came over from the Brahma Kumaris' headquarters in Mount Abu, India, especially for the opening, said:

"The time we are passing through is very precious.

"We must not waste our life in a way that makes it as worthless as a shell, but instead, makes it as valuable as a diamond."

The building's 14,500 sq ft is taken up by a conference hall, teaching rooms, accommodation and silence room where people can meditate.

For information on free courses available at the centre call 020 8727 3350 or go to www.bkwsu.org.uk.



Holy Trio: Members of the Brahma Kumaris.

le homes plan courts controversy

agreement that £614,000 is ploughed back into the community under a section 106.

The site is a pocket of land in open space between Church Lane Recreation Ground, Burgess Avenue, Townsend Lane and Elthorne Way.

Genesis development head Gareth Jones said: "We are working in partnership with Brent Council to provide much-needed affordable housing for rent and shared ownership properties

for key workers on the Elthorne Way site in Kingsbury.

"The planning application will be considered on September 25 having been through a consultation process with Brent's housing and planning departments and local residents."

Plans to develop the site for housing were first put forward by the then Paddington Churches Housing Association in 1998.

Residents objected to the develop-

ment and there was a major public meeting at Oliver Goldsmith School in Coniston Gardens to discuss the plans.

Despite objections the revised Unitary Development Plan - a planning blueprint for the future - said the site should be used for affordable housing.

Nine residents have objected in writing to the latest proposal because of a concern about a rise in noise and traf-

fic in the area.

Others say there is already too much new housing and it will put pressure on local services.

The land was previously laid out as 34 individual allotments and access is obtained from Elthorne Way.

Architects Vincent & Gorbing are designing the buildings on behalf of Genesis.

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Applications

LAND AT REAR OF 281-283 PRESTON ROAD: Erection of two-storey, three-bedroom house.
18 SHAKESPEARE DRIVE: Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of single-storey rear extension.
27 TYLERS GATE: Double-storey extension on the side of the house and new garage.

FRYENT

JIMMYS SANDWICH BAR, 171 EDGWARE ROAD: Proposed change of use from coffee bar to restaurant and change to shopfront to include table and chairs in forecourt.
5 HIGHMEADOW CRESCENT: Part single-storey, part two-storey

KENTON

14 CHAPMAN CRESCENT: Two-storey side and single-storey rear extension.
115 DORCHESTER WAY: Two-storey side and single-storey rear extensions and conversion to two self-contained flats.
67 REGAL WAY: Single-storey rear

rear extension.

PRESTON

30A&B LOGAN ROAD: Retention of two self-contained flats.

QUEENSBURY

11 ROE END: Single-storey rear exten-