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Thursday, Sep

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BYE-BYE TO THE 1960s EYESO

Plans unveiled to develop London Road site into flats and

By **Stuart Woledge**
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FOR many it has stood out as a perfect example of everything that was wrong with 1960s architecture.

But new plans have been unveiled that could see 66 London Road, Sevenoaks, pulled down and replaced with a modern state-of-the-art development more in keeping with its Blighs neighbour.

Under the scheme put forward by landowner Sevenoaks District Council, 60 flats could be built instead, along with 1,980sqm of retail space or

offices in a total of nine blocks.

A consultation has been launched over the proposal dubbed 'Blighs Phase Two' and the council is hoping its ambitious plan gets public backing so building can start around 2014.

Development

Council leader Peter Fleming said: "It's probably the last major development site in the town centre that we've got.

"This is a big opportunity. Most people think Blighs has been a success and we want this to be an equal

if not greater, success. I hope people will join in with the consultation. We're open to people's views."

Mr Fleming added none of the new buildings would be any taller than the office block currently at 66 London Road, which is home to Sencio, the organisation that runs Sevenoaks Leisure Centre.

The proposal, drawn up on behalf of the district council by Kent Architecture Centre, has made provision for 25 public parking spaces in London Road car park.

This could also double up as a new market on the block itself.

the development near Café Rouge could be raised above ground.

The Pembroke Road car park would be redeveloped, with two of the blocks and provide 91 underground parking spaces for the flats.

Problem

This part of the town has long been regarded as a problem for the district council due to its size and shape. A proposal for 100 flats was drawn up for the site in 2008, but planners went back to the drawing board following advice from Kent

opping cks Fizz

and on road again

thought 30 years ago I would still be singing, let alone still be in Bucks Fizz - it's great.

"Next year we want to make it big and we've got an album out that we're recording at the moment. We're two-thirds of the way through."

The mother of two remains addicted to Eurovision, despite believing the competition has become too political.

"We've come in the bottom three so many times in the past three years and the song can't have been that bad all those times," she said.

"It's bias for whatever reason and something has to be done about that.

"The only fair way for it to be done would be for all the candidates to be unnamed."

Cheryl looks great, having shed 18lb in just 11 weeks on the new Jenny Craig diet, launched in the UK earlier this year.

She is trying to get her weight down to 9st 7lb in time for the start of the tour and the iconic moment in Making Your Mind Up when we get to "see some more" and Cheryl and Jay's skirts are removed.

She said: "It's fantastic. I've done so many diets and the weight always comes back when you've finished, with a bit more.

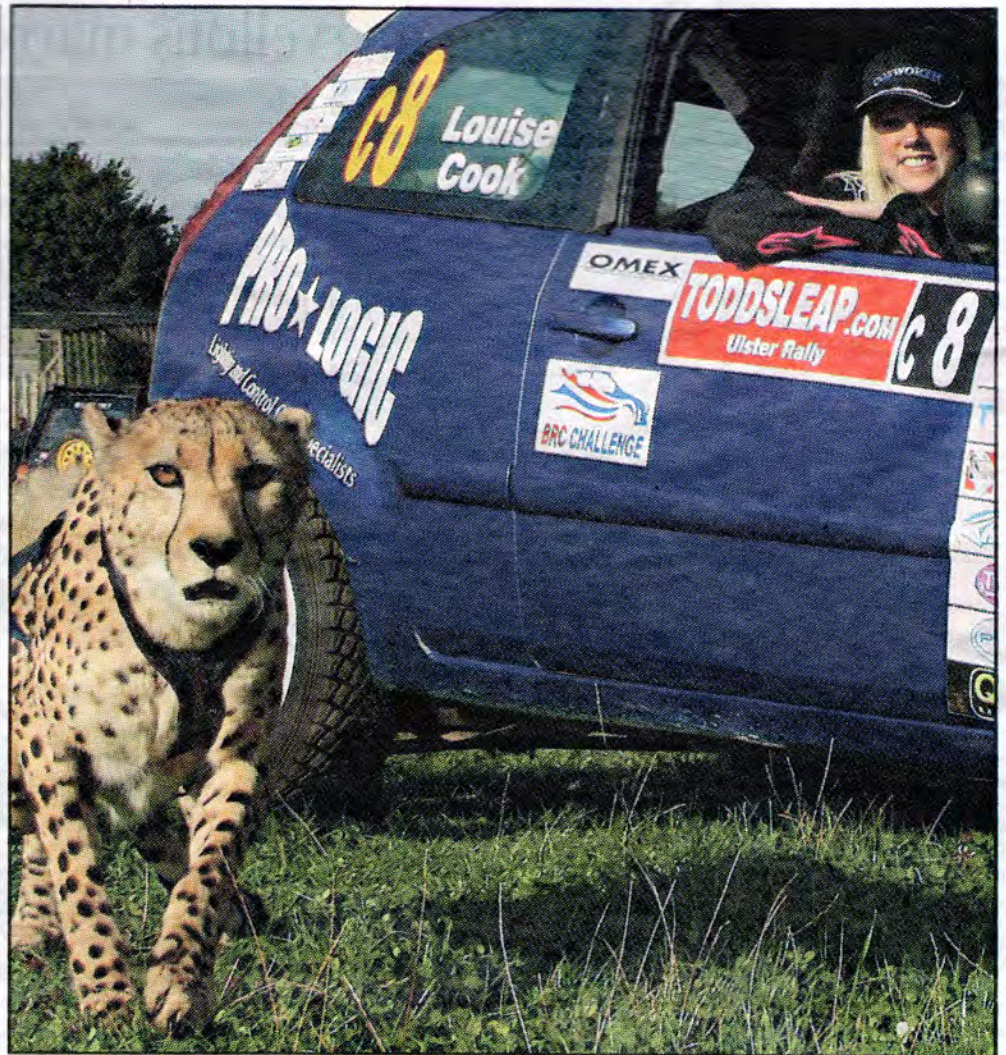
"I swear I've not been hungry on it and I feel like I'm being rewarded because I get to eat crisps and chocolate bars as well."

And fans of Cheryl need not be concerned about recent reports the house in Ightham she shares with husband Steve and their two daughters is on the market.

They are planning to buy a new home nearer to Sevenoaks town centre.



NEW LOOK: A slimline Cheryl Baker at her home near Ightham.



FULL SPEED AHEAD: Rally driver Louise Cook raced Boumani the cheetah over 150 metres. Boumani won the contest by 0.2 of a second

Photo: SEAN AIDEN TWISA20100509E_009_C

Louise races Boumani the cheetah in battle of fastest at Eagle Heights

IN A race against the clock, Eagle Heights' very own big cat pipped rally driver Louise Cook to the post - and there wasn't a cheater in sight.

Boumani, one of the fastest creatures on the planet, set a staggering time of 7.8 seconds to complete the 150m track at the Eynsford wildlife centre on Sunday.

Louise could manage only eight seconds.

"I am surprised we got as

close as we did," she said later.

"We had to run the car uphill opposite to Boumani for safety reasons, so 0.2 seconds behind is a fantastic result."

Skills

The British Rally Championship Challenge driver from Maidstone also put her skills to the test against a peregrine falcon, a greyhound and an eagle and managed to beat them all.

"It was a fantastic day, and Eagle Heights raised some good support for the Cheetah Conservation, so it was a big success," she added.

But now it's back to work for Louise, who is currently struggling to raise enough funds for the final round of the championship and is in the process of looking for someone to sponsor her.

■ Visit www.cutecookie.co.uk or e-mail louise_brc@hotmail.co.uk



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