

EXTENSION

'Bat colony' fails to stop plans

FEARS of disturbing a protected colony of bats in Billinge Woods have not stopped a house extension in nearby Lawley Road, Blackburn, going ahead. Councillors approved the plan despite a last-ditch plea to block it from neighbour John Haworth.

He spoke out at a meeting of Blackburn with Darwen planning committee at the town hall raising fears over the effect of the proposal to add a two-storey side extension and single storey rear extension to the detached house on the corner of Lawley Wood and Under Billing Lane looking over Witton Country Park.

The applicant, Paul Westhead of Dolphin Farm of Whittle le Woods in Chorley, revised his plans for 4 Lawley Road to meet four objections from neighbours.

Mr Howarth said that local residents had major concerns about the visually intrusive impact of the extension on views of Witton Park, for walkers who used Under Billing Lane as a way into the park and on local bats nesting in the woods.

Officials told the committee that because of the close proximity of Billinge Woods and local bat activity, an inspection of the property roof space took place which found no evidence of them or birds nesting.

Mr Westhead and his agent were not available for comment.

SUCCESS

Top stunt driver races in

A CHARITY night featuring a top stunt driver is set to take place on Friday.

The event, in aid of East Lancashire Hospice in Blackburn, has been organised by Gaskill Motorbodies of Great Harwood.

It is the second time they have put on the event which features driver Paul Swift, but this time it will be at a bigger site, the Lorry Park at junction four of the M65 from 6pm.

Boss Mick Gaskill said: "The event was so well attended we needed to find a bigger venue."

"The event is also being supported by the Lancashire Fire and Rescue road safety awareness team."

Also attending is the Under 17s Motor Club Northwest, which educates young riders and drivers.

Patient flees mental centre

Vulnerable man 'prone to violent outbursts'

A PATIENT is being hunted by police after going on the run from a mental health unit.

David Noble, 23, was living at Calderstones Hospital, Whalley, but fled the site last Friday.

He went missing from the unit at 1.30pm and was last seen at Blackburn Railway Station later that day. CCTV images show him at the station.

Police said that Noble is vulnerable and as such is potentially prone to violent outbursts.

He has family connections in the Salford area of Greater Manchester and police believe he may have travelled there.

He also has connections in Stoke-on-Trent.

Det Chief Inspector Dean Holden, of Blackburn Police, said: "David hasn't been seen for more than three days and we are growing increasingly worried about him."

"I would appeal for anyone who has seen him, recognises the description, or knows where he might be to get in touch with us."

"In addition to David's vulnerability his behaviour can be unpredictable and potentially violent and as such he may pose a

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threat to members of the public. If David is seen he should not be approached and the police should be contacted immediately on 999."

A Calderstones spokesman said: "David Noble is an inpatient in the non-secure service at Calderstones."

"He left the hospital on Friday without the knowledge of staff and took the 13.50 train from Whalley, getting off at Blackburn station but has not been seen since. David is a vulnerable adult and his clinical team are



MISSING David Noble, and below at Blackburn station



concerned for his own safety. They therefore immediately alerted the local police and asked for their assistance in locating him.

"The hospital has implemented its procedures for dealing with these situations and the clinical team are in touch with David's family."

"Because David has been without the care and treatment provided by Calderstones for three days, we are increasingly concerned about his welfare and this could contribute to him being unpredictable. Calderstones routinely undertakes an

internal review of the circumstances following events of this nature."

He is described as five feet nine ins tall, of medium build, with short, brown wavy hair and part of the front of his head is shaved.

He walks with a distinctive gait which may make him appear clumsy. He was last seen wearing a khaki hooded top, black jogging pants and black trainers. He sometimes wears glasses. He was carrying a Marks and Spencers carrier bag.

Anyone who sees David should call the police on 101.

Man arrested after hoax burglary call

A 35-YEAR-OLD man has been arrested after a hoax call about a violent burglary led to door-to-door police checks in Blackburn.

The call, stating an elderly woman has been burgled and was lying injured in her Wensley Road home, was made from a public telephone box in nearby Stoneyhurst Road 10.45pm on Sunday. During the

call, five names were mentioned to the emergency operator, and police later arrested three women aged 21, 21 and 29, and two men aged 25 and 35, on suspicion of burglary.

Yesterday morning, police sealed off the telephone box, and spent hours making welfare checks in Wensley Road, trying to establish the identity of the elderly woman.



SEALED OFF The phone box

Man admits tracksuit theft

ANDREW Wilde, 29, of Rawstorne Street,



Blackburn, was remanded on bail for the preparation of a pre-sentence report when he appeared before Blackburn magistrates and pleaded guilty to stealing a £60 tracksuit from Sports Direct.

Allotments hit

A COMMUNITY allotments scheme is being targeted by vandals. Police in Blackburn say criminal damage is happening to the 'Gro-Zone' behind Roman Road Community Centre late in the evenings.

CHOIRS and bands are needed to perform at the Roe Lee Park Christmas celebration in Blackburn on December 12. To apply, call Jason Walker on 07743101067.



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Green-fingered stars celebrated in the first 'Garden Oscars'

THE stars of the Galligreaves estate in Blackburn came out as Twin Valley Homes hosted its first Garden Oscars.

Blackburn with Darwen's largest social landlord held a competition to find the best garden and best hanging

basket/planter and the competition was close run thing.

The judging was carried out by Jason Harrison and Pippa Lishman from Twin Valley Homes as well as Coun Carol Walsh.

The winners were Eileen

Johnson (first in best garden) and Harry Smith (first in best hanging basket/planter).

The runners-up were Don Singleton (second in best garden), Peter Lord (third in best garden), and Brian Wignall (second in best hanging basket/planter). Eileen

Johnson also took third in best hanging basket/planter.

Presentations took place at St Phillip's and St Luke's Church Hall where all entrants and competition winners were awarded certificates and prizes, as well as a celebratory buffet.