

LADBROKE ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting
Held at St Peter's Church Hall
on Tuesday 6th July 2010

Present (Committee) David Corsellis Chairman
Paul Bastick Treasurer
Anne Chorley Secretary
Peter Mishcon
Maurice Fraser
Andrew Lamont
Peggy Post
Sophia Lambert
Malcolm Pawley

Present (members) Natasha Jenner
Jane Beezley
Joyce Meadows
Benedict Thompson-McCausland
Nigel Pulmann
Eileen Strathnaver
Jo Simmonds
Lady Ebury
Jill Mizen
David Mizen
Paula Loudon
Carol Lawrence
Shirley McCullogh
Patrick McCullogh
Mary Lambe
Suzanne Day
John Alexander
Robert Streit
Jack de Gruiter
Walter Wolff
Kay Beckett
Michael Becket

1. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved. This was proposed by Malcolm Pawley and seconded by Peggy Post. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

2. Chairman's Report

1. Once again I would like to thank the Committee for their enthusiastic support over the year.

In particular Paul Bastick for looking after the accounts and standing in for me when I am away.

Anne Chorley for her splendid minutes and her deep knowledge of the Conservation Area.

Malcolm Pawley, David Marshall and Peter Mishcon who between them every month spend a considerable number of hours looking at the current planning applications and then advising the Committee – this is a task which involves them in some sacrifice in terms of their own working time. It has been my hope to try to find someone else with the required expertise to help to share this load. So far unsuccessful but we do need to attract someone to help on this.

Sophia Lambert and David Campion for producing two editions of the newsletter and again Sophia for all her help in putting together the Subterranean Development report and the subsequent work that has arisen. I will talk about this Report in a minute.

Also Peggy Post for setting up the most enjoyable and valuable Christmas Party.

Late in 2009 Robert Meadows died and you will have probably seen an obituary in our winter newsletter by Angus Stirling our President. We are very touched to see his widow Joyce here this evening. I didn't know Robert very well but clearly he was a very distinguished and wise man who contributed a huge amount to the Association and he must have had a significant effect on the development of the Ladbroke area which one often forgets was very very different 40 years ago. He had a large archive which must contain interesting records of those early years. We are hoping to ensure that this is not lost.

Lastly a few months ago Robina Rose who had been an important member of the Committee for many years decided to cut down on her commitments. She is on a sort of sabbatical and may well return one day. Robina has an extraordinary depth of knowledge of the area and a deep commitment to ensuring that its strengths are maintained. In particular lately she has been much involved in the happenings and future role of Portobello Road and its market. We miss her enthusiasm, her individual approach and her profound depth of knowledge of the area and also the complex bureaucracy that applies.

2. Estate Agents Boards

I thought I would deal with this first because it is the most topical issue and one that could affect everyone in the Area. You will remember that for quite some years there had been a ban on estate agents boards on residential property in the Ladbroke Conservation Area. We discovered nearly three

4. IMPACT OF SUBTERRANEAN DEVELOPMENTS

When I reported this time last year we were in the throes of writing the Report on this Survey. In the end we completed it and distributed some 200 copies just before Christmas 2009. I would just like to thank Sophia Lambert once again for the enormous amount of work she put into this Report. Essentially the Report went to all RBKC Councillors, all those who responded to the survey, Ministers and Local MPs, 7 other Councils, 13 Conservation or Similar bodies in K and Westminster and various individuals.

In January a number of interesting things happened

- a. Sir Malcolm Rifkind asked to see me to discuss the Report. He proved to be very supportive of many of the proposals we put forward. We may need to go back to him at some point.
- b. Westminster Council's planning dept asked me to a meeting to discuss the Report – they certainly intend to produce some sort of documents taking up some of our recommendations. They are exploring greater use of Section 106 which has up to now only been used for major development projects. This is something we are going to pursue as well.
- c. We received very strong support from all the various conservation/resident bodies – they are waiting in the wings to see how RBKC respond.
- d. We know that the Report has been looked at very closely by Councillors at RBKC

Councillor Julie Mills was given the Cabinet Responsibility to respond to the report.

A number of Councillors also contacted me offering support

In March RBKC produced a skeleton for the first draft of what they are calling The Considerate Building Code – we agreed to this quickly in order to encourage them to get on with producing a proper first draft. This code ought to equate roughly with what the Report called the Good Development Guide.

It is important to note that all those who have responded to the Report agree that the recommendations will in the main apply to all major residential developments and NOT just subterranean developments. This is important as if the Report can lead to this it will have a much wider impact than it would have if it merely affected subterranean developments. In short it will be much more relevant.

I was hoping to see the first draft of this Code at the end of May but no doubt the election has got in the way. There is no point in speculating as to how far the draft Code will go to meet our recommendations.

This afternoon I received an email from Councillor Mills saying that she has seen the first draft which needs a couple more weeks work before it goes to the other two Cabinet Officers involved for input and outline approval. She hopes to get a working draft to us by the end of this month. She expects to spend Sep and Oct redrafting and then to Cabinet for a decision in October

At some point we shall return to Westminster Council to see how they are getting on.

3 Adoption of Annual Accounts

The Treasurer circulated the accounts. Membership subscriptions remain at the 400 mark. We need to keep a healthy fund in reserve and we now receive gift aid. The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Anne Chorley and Seconded by Malcolm Pawley.

4 Election of Officers and Committee

Paul Bastick proposed and Anne Chorley seconded the election of David Corsellis as Chairman for the coming year. Paul Bastick was re-elected as Treasurer and Anne Chorley as Secretary and all committee members willing to stand were re-elected.

5 Any Other Business

There was general discussion on the subject of subterranean development.