

THE LADBROKE ASSOCIATION

The eighteenth Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 25th June 1986 at 8.30 pm at St John's Parish Centre, 2 Lansdowne Crescent.

Chairman: Robert Meadows

1. Apologies for absence: Miss Muriel Cosh, Miss Sheila Robertson
Mr Ian Grant, Mr Paul Bastick
Mr Peter Mishcon, Mr Guy Mayers,
Mr Tim Herring and Mr + Mrs Porteous

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the last AGM were approved and signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the previous AGM.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Looking back over the past year, one sees certain on-going trends in the way the area is changing. The rapidly rising values have presented a great attraction to developers and the flurry of building activity continues. The results are not always desirable and lie more in the substantial profits for the speculators than in benefits to the local community and environment.

One of the Association's main tasks is to try and influence the changes that are taking place. Views on this vary widely. On the one hand purists will try and resist any change; on the other, there are people who call for greater freedom, especially in relation to their own activities! It seems to me that the policy of the Association should be positive and realistic; accepting change, but seeing that it is appropriate and sympathetic to the character of the area. The Association seeks to take such a balanced view in dealing with Planning Applications.

Three cases are worth mentioning. The recent work at 28-30 Lansdowne Road has caused much concern. We have spent considerable time with the architects and planners in trying to improve the standard of design, and I think the result is better than it would otherwise have been. The proposal to add another storey to the blocks of flats known as Lansdowne Court was considered inappropriate to the area. The Council took a similar view and the Planning Application was turned down. We continue to press for the completion of the external works at the Kensington Temple, and for a limit to be put on the use as car-parking of the area in front of the building. This case has dragged on for far too long.

We had a meeting with the Chairman of the Town Planning Committee, mainly to discuss the Council's policy on enforcement. We expressed our concern that the Council appeared willing to take enforcement action on what seemed to us some relatively trivial matters, but was unwilling to take such action over the larger and more

important issues. The outcome of this meeting was not entirely reassuring.

We supported the Campaign to Limit Agents' Signs and Hoardings (CLASH), and this has now had some success. Experimental controls are being applied to the placing of estate agents' boards in some Conservation Areas in the Borough. We are pressing for similar controls to be applied in the Ladbroke area.

Each year we make recommendations to the Council for suitable subjects for their scheme for Environmental Grants and Awards. A singular success has been the grant given for the re-building of the wall to the service road to Nos 65-77 Ladbroke Grove. We look forward to seeing this work completed later this year and the resulting environmental improvement. At the Association's suggestion, an Environmental Award has been given for the design of the new bridge linking Nos 13 and 14 Stanley Crescent.

We had two meetings for members this year. One took the form of a walk through the communal gardens on the east side of Ladbroke Grove. We were glad to have Dame Sylvia Crowe with us at this most enjoyable event. The other meeting was addressed by Martin Garman of the Notting Dale Urban Studies Centre. He gave a fascinating talk on the history of Notting Dale and its relationship with the development of Notting Hill.

Our Newsletter continues to be published twice a year. We thank Peter Thorold for his time as editor and we now welcome Colin Cohen in this role. I am sure he would welcome suggestions and contributions for NEWS FROM LADBROKE. This is our one link with all our membership.

In the spring we had a recruitment drive when we canvassed about 400 houses in the area. To date, this has had the gratifying result of adding about 60 people to our membership. There is no doubt that the larger our membership, the stronger our influence will be.

I have now come to the end of my term as Chairman and would like to thank all those who have supported me during the past three years.

5. TREASURERS' REPORT

The Hon Treasurer, Peter Austerfield, presented the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1986. These showed that income had exceeded expenditure and that there was over £2,000 in the bank.

Subscriptions had increased by 24% due to a successful membership drive. Subscriptions were still about £1. although many were paid by standing order and covenanted subscriptions brought in about £80. The Garden Walk and sale of wine had produced some income. Unfortunately there had been no donations.

Postage costs had increased by about 33% and the printing of the Newsletter had also increased and a Copyright fee for the map had been paid. Wine was free at the last AGM and the hire of the hall remained a constant expenditure. Subscriptions were donated to local committees and also to the Council for Lists of Planning Applications. A donation of £187.50 was awarded to a local group to cover Architects' fees.

In reply to a question, the Chairman said that the large amount on deposit could be used not only for smaller donations but also be kept in reserve to pay for advice on more complicated environmental matters.

Guy Mayers was re-appointed as Hon Auditor.

The adoption of the Accounts was proposed by David Campion, seconded by David Marshall and carried by the Meeting. The Chairman expressed the gratitude of the Association to the Hon Treasurer and the Hon Auditor for all their work during the year.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

a) Chairman : Peter Thorold proposed Richard Bird, seconded by Robert Meadows, carried by the Meeting.

The Chairman said that Richard Bird would bring a fresh approach and vitality to the Association and that he had the added advantage of being an Architect.

b) Hon Treasurer : The Chairman proposed the re-election of Peter Austerfield and this was carried by the Meeting.

c) Hon Secretary : There was no Secretary to date and it was agreed that the formal election of a Secretary should be left to an Executive Committee Meeting.

The Chairman expressed the gratitude of the Association to Elizabeth Beaven for all her help during the year.

David Campion proposed, seconded by Peter Thorold and heartily agreed by the Association, a formal Vote of Thanks to Robert Meadows as Chairman of the Association for the past three years.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

There were seven vacancies. Four members were due to retire - Ian Grant, Linda Kelly, Thomas Pakenham and Peter Thorold. They were unanimously re-elected. Robert Meadows and Mrs Marguerite Evers had been nominated and seconded and were elected accordingly. There remained one vacancy which could be filled by co-option if the Committee wished.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was a discussion on various topics of concern to the Association and the principal matters were the following:

Estate Agents Boards

Some estate agents are now putting up boards where no property is for sale as a form of advertising. Strenuous efforts will be made by the Association to press the Council to include the area in the current restrictions. However, it was recognised that there are some responsible estate agents.

Off-Street Parking

Peter Mishcon had written to the Chairman on the above and it was agreed that a more detailed discussion should take place in the near future.

Street Lighting

The lack of intensity of the street lighting on side roads was discussed and it was agreed that this is a matter which could be raised with the Director of Engineering. It was also agreed that there could be greater contact with the Director of Engineering.

Archives

A member offered Minutes of local Garden Associations dating back to the 1890's. Unfortunately the Association does not have the premises for such an archive and suggested that they should be lent to the local History Library on the understanding that they might be returned to the Association if an archive became available in the future.

Enforcement of Planning Applications

Although the Council do have a number of Enforcement Officers, it was agreed that great vigilance by the Association's members is still needed to keep Enforcement Officers abreast of local works.

In closing the Meeting, the Chairman thanked all those present for attending.
