

THE LADBROKE ASSOCIATION

The 20th Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday,
22nd June 1988 at 8:30 pm at St John's Parish Centre,
2 Lansdowne Crescent

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Chairman P Thorold

1. Apologies for absence : Angus Stirling Miss M V Wallace

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the last AGM were circulated, approved + signed.

3. Matters Arising

These matters are incorporated in the Chairman's Report

4. The Chairman's Report

The Chairman opened by referring to the sad death of Sir Brandon Rhys Williams, the M.P. for Kensington.

He then referred to the number of planning matters which in one form or another recurred at AGM after AGM. He was glad to announce that one, estate agents' boards, given the ban by the DOE and the Borough, was now likely to disappear from future agendas. The last year had been notable for the number of proposed large developments with a concentration in Ladbroke Road. The Bowley Clinic, now in its second phase was an example, and others were the old Mercury Theatre and Kensington Temple. He was happy to report that in respect of the latter, the Association's recent forceful intervention had been successful and that with the help of the Ward councillors, a great deal of progress had been achieved. The proposed hotel, however, at 15 Kensington Park Gardens continued to be of considerable concern, and there was widespread dismay at the handling of the issue by the Council's officials.

The Chairman went on to discuss the problems faced by the Association and indeed by the Borough, brought about by the current attitude towards conservation by the government and the DOE. Appeals to the latter were regrettably more likely to succeed than in the past. With more decisions being made centrally, he argued for a more public stance on the part of the Kensington Society; it was also true that issues such as street lighting were better approached through a central body rather than through local conservation societies. He nevertheless complimented the Kensington Society on two initiatives it had taken in the past year and referred in particular to a petition to Parliament against the use of garden squares as subterranean garages. Copies of this petition were circulated to the meeting for those who wished to sign.

The Chairman concluded by referring to the discussion last year on professional assistance and to the fact that 1989 would be the twentieth anniversary of the Association's foundation. We were considering ways to mark the occasion. He expressed particular thanks to Robert Meadows, to Linda Kelly and Thomas Pakenham for their work on the forthcoming leaflet, and to Colin Cohen.

5. Points from the floor

It was felt the coming bye-election would be a good time for the Association to raise issues such as policy on garden squares, absentee freeholders and the right of leaseholders to buy, etc., with the candidates.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr D Champion and praised his efforts in connection with the Kensington Temple and 15 Kensington Park Gardens. Cllr Champion reported on the council's concern at the present government's policy of freeing development from planning control and the lack of policy on conservation areas. He explained about the increasing number of cases where the Council's decision had been overruled by the DOE and expressed the hope that with unremitting pressure and persuasion on the part of amenity bodies, these would help to effect a change.

15 Kensington Park Gardens : a discussion followed. A member challenged the apparent immunity of the Council's decisions from appeal. Cllr Champion assured the Meeting that proposals to convert the basement to a night-club or restaurant would be resisted.

In answer to a question, the Chairman elaborated on the question of additional professional help. Cllr Champion reiterated the importance of individual letters and keeping in touch with Ward councillors. The Chairman stressed that we needed professional help as well.

A question was raised on the possible development at 10/12 Horbury Crescent. No application received yet but this would be watched.

6. Adoption of Annual Accounts

As the Hon Treasurer was abroad, the Chairman explained these, pointing out that they were in a healthy state; subscriptions had increased as well as donations which included £200 from a film company. Outgoings were down due to much paperwork, leaflet printing, etc. being done internally. These accounts had been signed by the auditors and it was proposed by Cllr Champion and seconded by Mrs Meadows that they be accepted, subject to the Hon Treasurer's signature. The motion was carried.

It was proposed by Colin Cohen, seconded by Mr Woolf that the Hon Auditor be reappointed. Appreciation for his work was expressed.

7. Election of Officers

1. Angus Stirling, the Association's founder and Vice-President. The Chairman proposed on behalf of the Committee, that the position of President be created and Angus Stirling installed. A show of hands supported this motion.

2. I Grant proposed and R Meadows seconded that P Thorold should remain Chairman for another year.

Hon Treasurer - Paul Bastick proposed by P Austerfield and seconded by C Cohen.

Hon Secretary - M Evers : proposed by I Grant, seconded by R Meadows.

C Cohen, D Marshall and J Lever were retiring from the Committee and the first two being properly nominated, agreed to serve a further term. Charles Foster was also nominated to the Committee. Jeremy Lever did not wish to stand again and the Chairman thanked him for all he had done.

8. Any Other Business

Mr Woolf queried the efficacy of the Enforcement Officer and cited 48 Clarendon Road as example. Cllr Campion outlined the Council's general policy, that work should be in accordance with drawings, that it was costly for the Council to pursue cases where an appeal against the Council's decision was successful. R Meadows and P Thorold to look into this particular case.

A discussion ensued on the subject of estate agents' boards, uneven pavements, litter bins, service outlets and Cllr Campion assured the Meeting that attempts were made to co-ordinate services but it was difficult.

The Petition against development of underground parking in garden squares. Copies of this were circulated and people were asked to sign and if possible get other signatures, all before June 30th.

The Chairman brought the Meeting to a close and Cllr Campion conveyed on behalf of the Meeting, thanks to the Chairman and the Committee for all their work.

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