

THE LADBROKE ASSOCIATION

The 21st Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday, 7th  
June 1989 at 8:30 pm at St John's Parish Centre, 2 Lansdowne  
Crescent

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Chairman : P Thorold

1. Apologies for absence : Michael Wolf, Lady Jacomb, Harold Stringer  
Mr & Mrs Peter Lawrence Valerie Wallace  
E. Mostyn-Owen

2. Minutes and Matters Arising:

The Minutes of the last AGM were circulated. The Chairman gave an up-to-date resume of the matters which had been discussed then.

Estate agents' boards: for 5 years, from 19th June, these are to be banned; the smaller boards already up will not be replaced.

Street Lighting: this had been dealt with in the News Letter.

Hotel at 15 Kensington Park Gardens: this now bought for residential use.

The 20th Anniversary Commemoration is to be held on June 16th.

10/12 Horbury Crescent : conversion into flats.

48 Clarendon Road: this was watched and the development is in line with proposals accepted by the Council.

Underground parking : this an on-going matter. There is a move to amend legislation.

Rates / poll tax: I Grant explained that a surcharge representing the garden rate would go on to the poll tax.

The Minutes were approved and signed.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman started by referring to several common assumptions which needed questioning. One was that the Borough's Planning Department was too often uninterested and indifferent. In fact, officials of the Department showed great application and usually good judgment; the Association's representatives on the Committee drafting the new Conservation Area Policy document for Ladbroke had been impressed by the expertise shown by the Borough's representatives and advisors. Where we had been at variance over the last year was on questions of details of importance to the Association but seemingly regarded as trivial by the Planning Department; their failure to act in respect of the vandalised pillars at no 34 Ladbroke Grove was an example.

Another example, this time on a listed building, was a balcony at no 10 Stanley Crescent which had been removed without authorisation several years ago. The Chairman had raised the matter partly as a test case, during meetings called by the Planning Committee Chairman, but without result. It was another common assumption that co-operation and liaison were always useful. If in general principle they were, they had nevertheless to be underpinned by formal Minutes and a practical purpose.

Again, it was not easy to establish effective relationships with other conservation societies. The Chairman referred to what he had said on this subject last year; the need for stronger central conservation organisation.

He talked of the special standing of local conservation societies and it was true that they possessed a statutory protection. But the old special status of twenty years ago when the Ladbroke Association was founded, no longer held the same weight. After all, now more than 2/3rds of the borough was made up of conservation areas.

This led us to a question which was very important and very urgent. In the old days when the Council, egged on by us and others, turned down a planning application, they could usually reckon that their decision would be sustained if the developer appealed to the Department of the Environment. Now, however, it is the other way round.

In October last year, the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor Gordon convened a meeting at which, having explained the new background, he announced his decision to resign the chairmanship in order to fight more effectively. A letter received from him recently explained that though fighting hard to bring pressure to bear on the government, he was not successful and now felt that approaching the House of Lords might prove to be the answer.

1987/1988 was remarkable for the number of important planning applications which were received. The most important and certainly the one which generated the most anxiety was 15 Kensington Park Gardens. Happily, after a long time, the developers withdrew and the building will revert to a private house.

This year had been in terms of individual applications, rather less hectic, though there were 2 developments which have caused particular anxiety:

a) Ladbroke Terrace : the replacement of the old Bowley Clinic. The Council's objections were over-ruled by the D of E. A great deal of indignation had been expressed because the facade of 7 Ladbroke Terrace had been demolished without planning permission. The Association remonstrated and it was confirmed that the facade will be re-instated in the form laid down when the planning application was approved.

b) 36/38 Kensington Park Road, formerly a hostel and converted into a school without planning permission. The residents objected here but the Council has still not come to a decision.

Another vexing question was dish aerials for receiving satellite broadcasting. The Borough has defined its policy and in some cases, planning permission is necessary.

The Chairman reminded the meeting of the 20th anniversary of the Association and the party planned for June 19th. Although the original objectives remain the same as in 1969, circumstances are very different and indeed, it was thought necessary this year to produce a new brochure outlining the aims and details of the Association. He felt that there is now more general understanding on the part of the local authority as well as the residents on the importance of conservation.

He spoke on behalf of the Committee when he declared that the goodwill of residents was vital and that we were working on the drafting and distribution of a pamphlet explaining how to protect buildings and stucco.

He reminded the residents that the success of an organisation, above all a voluntary organisation such as the Ladbroke Association, depended totally on the people who work for it. He paid tribute to the Committee, particularly the vigilant attention to planning applications by David Marshall and Robert Meadows and the work they consistently did. Also, he particularly thanked Peter Austerfield for his social arrangements both for the AGM and the coming party.

4. Adoption of annual accounts:

(Peter Thorold on behalf)  
The Hon Treasurer presented the accounts and confirmed that the financial situation of the Association was sound. Receipts exceeded expenditure by £771. and together with the accumulated fund, totalled £3,806. 19. It was proposed by S Enthoven and seconded by T Pakenham that the accounts be accepted and signed.

Cllr Campion queried the donation to Bramham Gardens. As this was outside the Association's area, he was uncertain of the legal position where members' money was involved. It was thought important that the Association could contribute to causes outside its area as part of a mutual support network.

Guy Mayers was re-appointed as Hon Auditor.

Thanks were expressed to Mr Bastic and Mr Mayers for all their work during the year.

5. Election of officers /committee:

The Chairman explained the present situation; As the Chairman and Treasurer shared between them, the secretarial tasks and the Minute Secretary dealt with Minutes, it was thought unnecessary to appoint a Secretary. The Constitution would be examined and perhaps altered to allow this situation.

The Committee members due to retire, I Grant, R Meadows and T Pakenham were re-elected as follows:

I Grant, proposed by R Meadows and seconded by P Thorold  
R Meadows, proposed by T Pakenham, seconded by P Austerfield  
T Pakenham, proposed by P Thorold and seconded by I Grant

It was agreed that their expertise, hard work and specialised knowledge were invaluable and thanks were expressed for all they had done during the past year.

Three other members due to retire were P Thorold, M Evers and R Bird. Three new names were proposed and elected as follows:

Mrs Peggy Post, proposed by T Pakenham, seconded by R Meadows  
S Enthoven, proposed by P Thorold and seconded by D Marshall  
B Ellsmoor, proposed by P Bastick, seconded by L Kelly

It was proposed that T Pakenham take on the post of Chairman for one year which he agreed to do and he warmly commended the outgoing Chairman for all his hard work and time spent on the work of the Association. He also welcomed the new members.

Lastly, Jane Martineau who had been co-opted, was elected to the Committee, proposed by L Kelly and seconded by I Grant.

Cllr Champion also warmly expressed thanks and appreciation for all that P Thorold had done while in office and the meeting applauded.

6. Any Other Business:

It was suggested that a message of condolence be sent to Syracuse University, many of whose students had died in the Lockerbie disaster. This had, in fact, already been done.

C Cohen asked Cllr Champion about planning for trees, pruning and removal; and whether some notice could be given in advance of the Council's intentions. Cllr Champion agreed to look into this.

Underground car parks: Cllr Champion reported that some amendment to legislation was pending and there was nothing definite to report now. Writing to our MP would be a good idea, however.

Coronet Cinema: although this was outside the Association's area, it was of considerable interest to the residents. It is not at present listed and individual appeals in support of the Camden Hill residents should be made. This subject is to be brought up at the next Committee meeting.

Cllr Champion explained about Article 4 Directions being an attempt to bring under planning control matters which had hitherto been exempt.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Champion for attending the meeting and for answering all the questions put to him. He also thanked all those present for attending.

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