

THE LADBROKE ASSOCIATION

The 26th Annual General Meeting
was held at no 59a Portobello Road, W 11.
on Monday, 20th June, 1994

Chairman : Stephen Enthoven

1. Apologies : None
2. Minutes of the last meeting : These were circulated and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.
3. Matters Arising : None
4. Chairman's Report :

The Chairman gave an account of the year under the headings of the aims stated in our Constitution, as follows :

1) to encourage & promote high standards of architecture.

There had been close liaison with the Council over planning applications and there had been no major battles. We had been able to assist St John's church in plans for landscaping the area around their church as we had photographs of the site before construction began and it had been restored as nearly as possible to its original state.

London Conservation Areas Conference.

In May there had been a meeting of the Conference Committee with the ministers involved at the Houses of Parliament. The outlook is disappointing. The DoE appears to favour amending the "Article 4 Direction" system so that local authorities may withdraw certain permitted development rights in conservation areas after local consultation. The Conference Committee is still pressing for the removal of rights of permitted development to avoid damage to buildings and our environment. The struggle continues.

During the year, English Heritage London Region had started to devolve their powers to councils and our own Council has already appointed two additional conservation officers to take over the functions previously exercised by English Heritage re Grade II buildings. Grade I and Grade II* are still dealt with by English Heritage.

McCoy Report. We had worked hard with the McCoy Partnership to include further buildings and other features within our area for Article 4 Direction and there had been agreement on a list which covers such buildings including features in communal gardens. Mrs H Phipps had been extremely helpful in producing a list and is now producing a photographic record. At this point, the Chairman thanked Mrs Phipps for all her help and for her contribution to the interesting local garden walks.

During the year, Miss Dent, Director of Planning, had died and had been successful by Mr French as Executive Director of Planning. We wished Mr French well and hoped our liaison would be effective while we have such weak legislation.

In November, the Director of Highways and Traffic, Mr Davies, and the Chairman of Highways and Traffic Committee, Cllr Gillford, had visited us and we had discussed many issues relating to our area, including the problematic junction of Kensington Park Road and Ladbroke Square.

In March, the Council held a Planning & Conservation Liaison meeting which was attended by the Chairman. Various conservation areas' associations had submitted questions and we had pressed for clearer planning applications with more accurate drawings, in future.

Since the Election, there had been changes in Council personnel. The Chairman of the Planning Committee, Andrew Fane, had been succeeded by Desmond Harney and Cllr Brian Levitt was now Vice Chairman. Cllr Campion was now on Planning Services. It was hoped that close liaison would continue.

UDP lodged in 1992. The Inspector had now produced a very long report in which she recommended some changes and had asked the Council to respond. The Chairman thought it all looked promising. Cllr Campion felt the report was unsatisfactory. Once the Council had digested this report, it would make its views public. A year would probably elapse before it was adopted although it would be taken into account when decisions about appeals occurred.

The Council had held an Environment Day the previous Friday and had had many Stands representing their activities.

Lamp Posts. The concrete ones were gradually being replaced.

Parking Enforcement. The Chairman gave details to members with queries or complaints of the new Parking Enforcement manager, Chris Yates and his assistant, Dave Eskrick. According to a recent survey, about 80,000 parking offences in the borough occurred each day. Only 1000 per day could be handled so the wardens would be discouraged from reporting trivial ones. As there are 50% more cars than residents' parking places, problems were inevitable. The Chairman had asked that residents should be treated differently from commuters, visitors, shoppers, etc.

There followed a discussion about the existing parking situation in Holland Park Village and the difficulties of local shoppers. Some residents are happy as things are. Cllr Campion had heard otherwise and thought it possible that more short-term meters could be installed in roads adjacent to Holland Park Avenue as well as in Notting Hill Gate near shops benefitting those wishing to shop there at the expense of residents' spaces.

Trees. We had two tree wardens, Paul Bastick and Brian Ellsmoor. They were in close liaison with Derek Austin, the Council Arboriculturist, who was active in protecting trees. The tree wardens were worried about recent digging and trenching in the Chelsea end of the Borough by Videotron installing cables for TV or Mercury. When they start in our area, it would be helpful if residents could phone the Council when they first noticed holes or trenches likely to endanger trees. Both street and private trees could be at risk.

Cllr Campion reported that the Council had taken Videotron to court for not replacing paving stones properly and new contractors were now on the job.

Estate Agents' Boards. B Ellsmoor, undeterred by a serious operation, had been energetic about report boards to the Council. The ban had been due to expire, and agents anticipating its end, had been erecting boards. However,,the ban had been renewed. Residents should act quickly when they saw boards so that estate agents did not benefit from their display while action was being taken.

2) to stimulate and promote public interest.

This is achieved by yearly events and News Letters.

In November, there had been a Christmas party at 40 Kensington Park Gardens, the home of Charles and Caroline Levison which had been a great success. It was hoped to find another such interesting house for next time. It was proposed to hold this event further away from Christmas and to give more notice. Anyone with ideas was asked to contact Peggy Post.

On 24th November, the Winter event had been a talk given by Hermione Hobhouse on "A Survey of 100 Years in London". This had been well attended. Anyone with ideas for a lecturer or subject for next time, was asked to contact P Post.

On 6th June, there had been a walk in the Hanover and Ladbroke Square gardens which had been well attended. It was hoped to continue this as an annual event.

And this evening with the AGM, there was to be a talk on Victorian Interiors given by Ian Grant.

The News Letter. There had been difficulties in getting volunteers to produce it. It was hoped to resume two issues per year. However, the one we had got out had been very successful with its feature article by Mrs H Phipps on changes in communal gardens. There had been many letters of congratulations.

The Chairman praised the work of Colin Cohen who had done type-setting in the past. He also praised Jane Martineau for her editing. He thanked Roderick Orr-Ewing who had agreed to take this on, and for his help the evening with the projector.

Membership Drive. There were about 52 new members.

3) to encourage the preservation and improvement of buildings of historic interest.

The Committee had continued to press for improvements in street furniture, trees, etc. The Council and Conservation Associations were all working together in the Notting Hill Improvement Scheme with both short and long-term objectives including a Millennium project. Already, old railings in Notting Hill Gate had been replaced by black ones with knobs on. Trees had appeared outside Waterstones and elsewhere and the wall by the Czech Embassy had climbers on it. Out of a total expenditure of £260,000, the Council would contribute £130,000. There had been substantial contributions by Land Security and other commercial users. Robert Meadows, acting as our representative, had spent a lot of time on this.

Cllr Campion reported that Mercury intended to flood the area with telephone kiosks.

Trees. In November 1993, the Council had stipulated that anyone wanting work done should give two days' notice so that it could be supervised by their tree officer. It promised to take action to replace certain trees which had been mutilated or removed without permission but this had not been done yet.

Road lay-outs. The Council had introduced a scheme of traffic accident cells to prioritise spending on road improvements, that is, accident black spots were to have money spent on them. The Committee had felt that the junction at Kensington Park Road and Ladbroke Square was

potentially dangerous but had now been somewhat reassured as various traffic-calming devices had slowed down the traffic.

London Transport had proposed that their buses could turn right at the top of Kensington Church Street. It was felt that this would lead to increased traffic chaos and at least for the moment, the plan had been turned down.

English Heritage had formed the London Historic Parks and Gardens Trust. Any volunteers should contact the Chairman.

The marble drinking fountain outside St John's church in Ladbroke Grove had been very nicely repaired by the Council and restored to its original position.

The Chairman had written to congratulate Sir Angus Stirling on his knighthood in the recent Honours List.

The Chairman had then thanked Paul Bastick for his hard work as Membership Secretary as well as Treasurer.

He thanked Guy Mayers our auditor and Janet Barton, Minute Secretary; Peggy Post, Events Secretary, who had organised events with such enthusiasm; Robert Meadows and David Marshall, who had worked so hard on planning and writing letters whenever necessary.

Cllr Campion thanked the Chairman for all his hard work and great leadership over two years and wished him luck for his third year.

5. Amendments to the Constitution :

The amendments submitted to the Charity Commissions were now valid.

6. Adoption of Accounts : Copies of the accounts were circulated. The Hon Treasurer reported on the Financial Year. Income had increased because of increase membership. Outgoings were similar to last year. The aim was to maintain the surplus which could be used as a fighting fund if necessary, should a planning battle occur when we would have funds to pay a consultant to act on our behalf. As the income had been satisfactory, there was no need to raise subscriptions for another year.

R Orr-Ewing proposed and P Post seconded that the accounts be adopted.

Cllr Campion proposed and Lis Meyland Smith seconded that the auditor, G Mayers should be re-appointed.

7. Election of Officers :

The Chairman had one year still to serve.

He proposed and R Orr-Ewing seconded that P Bastick be reinstated as Treasurer and Secretary.

8. Election of Committee :

Two members were due to retire, D Marshall and C Cohen. The Chairman proposed and B Ellsmoor seconded that D Marshall be re-elected. C Cohen wished to retire, leaving a vacancy on the Committee. The Chairman proposed and Miss Pettit seconded that L Meyland Smith, a co-opted member, be made a Committee member. It was proposed that Miss Robina Rose be co-opted.

9. Any Other Business : None

The Chairman thanked P Post, I Grant and R Orr-Ewing for making the evening such a success.