

THE LIDBROKE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Fourth Annual General Meeting, 6 July 1972

1. Minutes of the Third Annual General Meeting

The Minutes of the Third Annual General Meeting held on 16 July 1971, having been read and approved by those present, were signed by the Chairman.

2. Accounts

The Treasurer commented on the audited accounts for 1971-72 which had been circulated to members. Although income from subscriptions was less than in previous years a number of subscriptions for the past year had been received after the accounts for the year were closed. The main item of expenditure had been the illustrated brochure. The Treasurer expressed the Association's gratitude to Miss Usher for her assistance with recovering tax on covenanted subscriptions which formed a valuable additional source of income.

The adoption of the accounts having been proposed by Mr. Gaspar and seconded by Miss Usher was agreed unanimously.

3. Election of Officers and Committee

Mr. Stirling and Mr. Bridge were re-elected as Chairman and Hon. Treasurer. Miss Lloyd who had been co-opted to the committee and acted as Hon. Secretary when Miss Pulmer left the area in October, was elected as Hon. Secretary.

The following committee members who had agreed to serve for a further year were re-elected to the committee:

Miss Carus-Wilson	Mr. Notcutt
Mr. Gage	Mrs. Pirie
Mr. Grant	Mrs. Quirk
Mrs. Kimmoth	Mr. Thompson-McCausland
Mr. Meadows	

4. Amendments to Constitution

Mr. Gage described a number of amendments to the Constitution which had been proposed by the committee and included in a copy of the constitution which had been circulated to members before the meeting. The proposed amendments included:

- i) a clarification of the committee's powers by the inclusion of 'promotion' in the aims of the Association;
- ii) addition of the word 'persons' in the description of those eligible for membership;
- iii) an increase in the maximum number of committee members from 10 to 12 and members to be elected to serve for a period of three years instead of one, the aim being to ensure continuity and establish a rota such that roughly one-third of the committee would be retiring each year;
- iv) the election of a Vice-Chairman by the committee to ensure that a meeting could be held and business conducted in the Chairman's absence (an eventuality which happily had not occurred since Mr. Stirling first took office as Chairman).

The amendments to the constitution were unanimously approved, their adoption having been proposed by Mr. Thompson-McCausland and seconded by Mrs. Barker.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman then commented on his report on the year, copies of which had been circulated beforehand. In referring to the consideration of planning applications, which took up a large part of the committee's meetings, he expressed the gratitude of the Association to Mr. Grant for the time and trouble which he took to inspect plans in the Borough offices.

Mr. Stirling expressed the disappointment of the committee that the traffic survey begun by students of the Kingston School of Architecture had not led to any tangible results after an apparently enthusiastic start, perhaps because the students' interest had been more aroused by the social and housing problems of North Kensington than those of conservation.

The Chairman suggested that the collection and publication of information on conservation problems in the area and other actions which might increase the awareness of residents to these problems might be one of the Association's most valuable functions. In this respect the recent showing of conservation films, introduced by the Director of the Civic Trust, had proved a rewarding evening which had been quite well attended.

It should be possible to increase the membership, and hence the income from subscriptions which would enable the Association to undertake more worthwhile projects.

The Chairman referred to the traffic study which had been undertaken by a small working party, for which the Association owed a considerable debt to Mr. Raymond Andrews and Mr. Meadows, as an example of such research and information work. It was intended to give the study wide distribution in the Borough and among other organizations concerned with traffic problems and copies would be on sale to members after the meeting.

6. Open Discussion

In the ensuing discussion the following points were made.

Detailed street-by-street comment on the proposed parking scheme was outside the purview of the Association although it was clearly of considerable interest to members as residents. The Association had been invited to inspect the plans and had submitted some general comments to the Borough. The date of introduction was understood to be still uncertain and linked to plans for traffic management in the area. Widespread commuter parking and overnight parking of commercial vehicles was clearly undesirable.

It was generally agreed to be more satisfactory to try to educate residents into a consideration of neighbouring properties when choosing colour schemes for exteriors, rather than to lay down rules or even a measure of uniformity with a possible loss of character.

The cost to a resident of restoring architectural features of enrichment, even with the aid of grants, could be prohibitive. The committee were already considering producing an advisory leaflet on such restorations and advice on methods and costs could be valuable.

It was suggested that the cost of producing such leaflets might be reduced if neighbouring conservation societies were to co-operate.

A number of members expressed concern that the Association's objectives were of too negative a character so long as they were restricted to conservation interests. It was recognised that many residents pursued other interests in the area outside their activities as members. Although there was general agreement that the objectives of the Ladbroke Association as such should be as described in the constitution, it was suggested that the Association might be more closely affiliated with other organisations in the area such as the North Kensington Amenity Trust. There was also general discussion on the value of local councils such as the Golborne Council. The Chairman said he appreciated that the social needs and amenities of Kensington were very important matters; but he thought it should be made clear at all times that it was only through the constant interest and vigilance of individuals that the architectural heritage of London would be preserved, and that the existence of different problems, though equally pressing, should not be allowed to blur the need for and value of conservation societies.

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It was queried whether or not the Association should be concerned at changes in the interior of houses, other than those which implied a change of usage, since such changes often led not only to destruction of the character of a house but also to more general changes in the character of the area e.g. the conversion of houses into smaller residential units. The committee would consider this question.

7. Acknowledgements

In closing the meeting the Chairman expressed the gratitude of the Association to the managers of the Knights of St. Columba Club for making their hall available.

THE LADBROKE CONSERVATION AREA

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REVIEW OF RESIDENTS' PARKING