

**MINUTES OF THE 51ST MEETING OF NOTTING HILL GATE IMPROVEMENTS GROUP
HELD**

TUESDAY 13 JULY 2004 AT 7.30 PM AT 223-225 WESTBOURNE GROVE (JOHN SCOTT'S HOME)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Christopher Buckmaster, Adam Moy, Maria Vlotides.
2. **PRESENT** Those ticked in the distribution list below.
3. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING** The Minutes of the last Meeting of 25 March 2004 which had been distributed by way of our website were approved and signed subject to the alteration that the next meeting Tuesday and not Thursday 13 July.
4. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** Tuesday 23 November 2004 at 730pm at 233-235 Westbourne Grove.
5. **APPOINTMENT OF NEW PROJECT LEADER AND FUTURE OF NHIG** This matter was extensively discussed and DC suggested that the work of NHIG could be considered at an end. JS did not want to see the achievements of all NHIG's members terminated and felt that there was a valuable and important role for NHIG to continue its work and has agreed to consider carefully nominations for suitable enthusiasts to share the burden. It was agreed to put a prominent notice on our website advertising for applicants for a Leading and Active Role in the Exciting and Enterprising Work of the Notting Hill Gate Improvements Group.
6. **FUNDRAISING**
 - a) **1% for Art** JS reported that he had written to Daniel Moylan (Deputy Leader of RBK&C) stressing the importance of this site currently on the market at £6-7 million for a development no doubt in the region of ~50 million was an ideal opportunity to secure a 1% Art Contribution to local art projects. DMcH added that it was of great importance that the criteria for such funds must be closely approximate to the area of the proposed development and there should be local representation on the body which decides on the art.
 - b) The Committee recorded its thanks and appreciation to David Game for £7,500, Mustard film for £400 and Love Production £100.
7. **PROJECTS REPORT**
 - a) **Maggie Baynes, Colour Scheme** for United and Astley Houses. Proposals were circulated and approved by the meeting together with £1,000 fee to Maggie Baynes payable on the completion of her final detailed proposals to Land Securities to whom the proposals have been given.
 - b) **Nadim Karam, "Elephant"** Nadim has been requested to liaise with Tony Putt of RBK&C regarding the installation of stainless steel bobbles in the pavement to warn pedestrians of the proximity of the Elephant to avoid injury. DMcH reported that the Pink Wall and Elephant were much enjoyed by the occupants of Newcombe House but that this project now having been in situ for 1 year should be taken over by Land Securities.
 - c) **4 Columns Mosaic** Costing details are as set out in the Finances indicating an existing £3,750 outstanding due to Westway Project. RBK&C are happily repaving this area with excellent quality Halifax York stone and liaising with Land Securities who are installing uprighters in the pavement. Great efforts are being made to secure the removal of the ugly and heavily soiled Interphone telephone box. Complex negotiations are in hand with the large number of authorities concerned with the Notting Hill Underground to secure the replacement of the existing 2 wastepaper bins by an attractively designed new installation which it is hoped will be executed by Tom Dixon the design director of Habitat.
 - d) **Eco Halo** No progress has been made on raising the estimated L1M required for this project. AP suggested this was an ideal case for the utilisation of 1% for Art Contribution towards a landmark local artwork.
 - e) **Tree Line (David Ward)** All trees in this important addition to "greening the gate" have now been planted but DC reported that there had been ill attention by the Council to weed the pits and some trees were dying. JS reported that the Council were failing in the NHIG area to maintain the public domain.
 - f) **Central Clock (Bill Woodrow)** This project was also considered an ideal one for the 1% for Art concept.

- g) **Build-ups at Newcombe Piazza** The meeting noted with approval and appreciation to Tony Felstead full restoration of the uplighters which greatly enhanced the 4 dwarf Cypress trees.
 - h) **Campden Hill Towers** This is being repainted after many years.
 - i) **Coronet Cinema** JS reported that the lease had been sold to the Elim Pentecostal Church who had declared their intention of maintaining the cinema as a place of public/family entertainment. IT was felt that it was unlikely that this would be continued in a way to enhance the cultural diversity of Notting Hill and that at a later stage the church would become a religious establishment thus requiring a Change of Use to D1.
 - j) **Tree of Life Sculpture (Nadim Karam)** Very extensive discussion took place and some members wished to make a planning application for the project. Chris Bodker, owner of Kensington Place, was considering this proposal with an alternative of erecting a plinth in the triangular flowerbed in which temporary works could be placed. A serious problem is the heavy moral obligation we have to Nadim who has effectively given us the Elephant Sculpture.
 - k) **Pembridge Road Coloured Chimneys Proposal** This proposed project with Westway Project would much enrich the vista from Kensington Park Road and Notting Hill Gate and involves an initial design and analysis fee of~1,000 which was approved by the meeting.
 - l) **Pavement Poetry Plagues - Maria Vlotides** This is an independent art project by our member Maria Vlotides involving the inseting of metal circular plaques simulating the existing coalhole covers. "Behold the glittering coronet of diamonds, Tears and streams. *Margaret Drabble, 2004*" (Proposed for a site outside the Coronet Cinema.) "A word in your eye, Don't worry or push. A step in the gate, Is worth two in the bush. *Sebastian Faulks, 2004*" There are 2 plaques proposed for NHIG area for which it was agreed that NHIG should make an initial encouragement donation of £1,000 towards Maria's most enlightened project.
8. **WEBSITE** It was agreed the agenda and minutes should be put on our website as soon as possible and that DC would liaise with Georgina Gooding (020 7229 7955).
9. **PROMOTION OF ART PRINT PROJECT WITH ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART** TN reported that 6 excellent prints had already been produced .Michael Horovitz and Peter Blake had clearly committed themselves to executing 2 prints and that 2 further artists were in the process of decision. The meeting congratulated her on her excellent work which it is intended to display early in 2005 at the Guest House, Westbourne Grove, the owner of which had contributed £5,000 to the project.
10. **FINANCIAL POSITION** As set out on the attached sheet.
11. **OTHER MATTERS**
- a) **Mosaic on Brick Elevation of Woolwich Building Society** JS reported on this proposal on the Woolwich from the Westway project which has been submitted to Land Securities. A suggested contribution from NHIG by way of encouragement of~1,000 was approved.
 - b) It was reported that Land Securities holdings in Notting Hill were now held in a "joint venture metro retail fund" with the new asset manager, Steve Burgin, responsible for taking this project forward. The meeting hoped this would result in a more proactive approach to Notting Hill Gate with enhanced cooperation with our work. DMcH distributed to the meeting a notice from "The Cut" recording that Land Securities had paid £5 million for community development in respect of a project in Southwark to the East Waterloo roundabout.
 - c) **Fly posting** was discussed and it was hoped that the success of Camden in combating this serious social evil would bear fruit.
 - d) **Czech Embassy** JS encouraged members to look at the proposals by the Czech Embassy to clad the entire building in glass, plans of which are available for viewing at the Town Hall.
 - e) **Winos/Beggars** The meeting wished to congratulate WPC Karen Smith for the work that she has done in keeping NHG relatively free of this blight.
12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** There being no further matters the meeting concluded at 9.45pm.