

NOTTING HILL GATE IMPROVEMENTS GROUP

MINUTES OF THE 55th MEETING
held on
WEDNESDAY 1 MAR 06
at
233-235 WESTBOURNE GROVE, W11

1. **Apologies for absence** Iain Wilcock, Willoughby Wynne, Steve Burgin, Frank Leiberman.
2. **Present** Those ticked on the list below.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting on 20 Apr. 05** were tabled & copies distributed for approval & perusal & signed.
4. **Date of next meeting** 7.30pm. 6 Sep. 06. Same venue.
5. a) **“Small Shops” All Party Parliamentary Small Shops Group - “A.P.P.S.S.G.”** In view of the importance of this matter it was agreed to leave more time following the other items.
 - b) **Underground Station** following a full meeting with Peter Zuk (Chief Programme Director) at 55 Broadway on 29 Jun 05, Geraldine Hope has agreed to provide an opportunity for us to comment on the Metronet refurbishment proposals.
 - c) **Use of forecourts at Pembridge Piazza** D.C. felt that the termination of licenses to use the forecourts had much improved the tidiness of the area.
 - d) **Coalhole Cover Art Project** M.V. reported that the Margaret Drabble cast iron cover “Behold the glittering Coronet of Diamonds. Tears & dreams” was scheduled for installation shortly. £1000 had been subscribed by N.H.I.G.: there is to be an opening ceremony close by The Coronet and it was felt that this would encourage others to follow. The Committee thanked M.V. profusely for her enthusiastic work.
 - e) **Art Print Project** This was somewhat becalmed as Peter Blake’s important contribution was difficult to progress. T.M. & J.S. agreed to try harder.
 - f) **Coronet Cinema** A meeting with Elim Church Manager Ron Salaman on 4 Aug had resulted in an assurance that improvements to exterior restoration & redecoration was to be scheduled. Efforts are still in hand to secure a firm commitment.
 - g) **Estate Agents Boards** J.S. Complained bitterly about this eyesore which is illegal in some areas but not others. The relevant Government office for London must needs send an official inspector to survey the area together with local statutory declarations & photos. J.S. asserted it was an outrage Local Authorities were unable to control this modest area of environmental improvement.
 - h) **Fly Posting** J.S. described the great success Bob Molinari (7974 3971) - of L.B. of Campden had achieved in ridding, totally, his area of fly posters. This was through heavy fines and prosecution of Diabolical Liberties Ltd. J.S. urged that R.B.K.&C. should be at the forefront of such an initiative. D.C. said a report to Katey Phillips at 7361 3352 was always rapidly acted upon. J.S. declared fly posters were “8 deep” on corners of Portobello Rd, Westbourne Grove & Denbigh Terrace.
 - i) **Trees & Flowerbeds** J.S. declared his despair at having constantly to chase Council officers to replant & replace the “green cover” in N.H.G. particularly Newcombe Piazza. Such replanting needs to be done within days to prevent erosion of standards of quality.
 - j) **Delancey & N.H.G.** A meeting has been arranged, to discuss the impending planning application, on 22nd March. Members were invited to indicate any points they wished to raise. The meeting agreed Steve Burgin should be encouraged to present D’s proposals to a Public Meeting for full discussion.
 - k) J.S. implored the meeting to earnestly seek a likely replacement, alternative or supporter for J.S. as Project Leader and more particularly a new Hon. Treasurer as A.M. wishes to resign.
6. **Financial position** as set out on the enclosed 28 Feb 06 report herewith showing an estimated surplus of £7,214.

7. **Small Shops** J.S. Introduced Geoffrey Roome who has shown commendable enthusiasm and knowledge on this highly topical subject. He has been the driving force behind a) Attendance by N.H.I.G. At A.P.P.S.S.G.

b) Distribution of a letter of 14 Nov 05 to M.P. Jim Dowd (copies to Leader R.B.K.&C., Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind, Karen Buck etc) - this was tabled at the meeting. c) Report of A.P.P.S.S.G. dated 20 Sep 05 - tabled at the meeting with extra copies of pages 72,73 & 74.

G.R. was congratulated on the highly encouraging A.P.P.S.S.G. report recommendations (pp 72-74) which largely adopted the urgings of our N.H.I.G.'s letter of 14 Nov.

G.R. declared the principles of our endeavours should be DIVERSITY, CHARACTER & AMENITY.

N.H.I.G. should swell the flow of the river of current public enthusiasm and encourage R.B.K.&C. to be in the front rank of the movement. (The Council & Leader to be congratulated on sending Michael French, Chief Planning Officer & Graham Foster, Director of Strategy to The Palace of Westminster meeting chaired by Jim Dowd). He noted that R.B.K.&C. was, the principal, if not only, Local Authority to attend and, give evidence. It was agreed that our 2 M.P.'s and 3 Ward Councillors should be at the forefront of our campaign. The Chairman urged that the most appropriate member was the Deputy Leader Cllr Daniel Moylan and C.B. agreed to effect the necessary liaison.

In a very wide ranging and zestful discussion the following points were made. a) Jim Dowd has admitted a pause is needed to consider and clarify how precisely to proceed. b) D.C. was concerned that Council officers would treat the new Local Development Framework (meant to bring into proper consideration local democracy and Small Shops policy) as a mere change of name for the old U.D.P. (which was a substantial failure in this field).

c) C.B. agreed to communicate the essence of this meeting to Cllr Jeremy Edge, Chair of The Scrutiny

Committee for the Public Realm. d) D.C. urged close liaison with Robin Price & The Kensington Society.

e) Subsidiarity and double devolution were discussed. J.S. vehemently expressed disgust that R.B.K.&C. did not have the power to ban Estate Agents boards in our area! Consent is required from The Association of Local Government / Local Government Associations....the very antithesis of subsidiarity! Ultimately some local body must finally agree 1) a new Use Class Order. 2) that there shall not be 85 Estate Agents within a 15 minute walk of N.H.I.G.!! and other matters to improve the retail landscape and provide "community glue". This body must needs be democratically elected. It will be a long but essential haul.

After much discussion it was unanimously agreed to appoint Geoffrey Roome "Small Shops Co-ordinator" and the Committee pledged to support and help him as much as possible.

8. **A.O.B.** Members having no further points to raise the meeting closed at 9.45pm.