

AMENITY – DIVERSITY – CHARACTER

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NOTTING HILL GATE IMPROVEMENTS GROUP

**MINUTES OF THE 61st MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20 MAR 08 AT 7.30
233-235 WESTBOURNE GROVE LONDON W11 2SE (JOHN SCOTT'S HOME)**

1. Apologies for Absence were received from Robin Price, Maria Vlotides, Iain Wilcock, Christopher Buckmaster & Toni Newman.
2. Present all those ticked on the list below.
3. Minutes of the last meeting (60th) held on 11 Jan.08 were tabled & copies circulated with the accounts at the meeting and were approved & signed.
4. Date of next meeting Tuesday 8th JUL.08 – same venue 233-235 Westbourne Grove (J. Scott's house) at 7.30pm.

ITEMS - REPORT & DISCUSSION

1. Retail Commission J.S. was unable to report of any concrete progress on this important initiative of RBK&C. Queries should be addressed to Chris Turner 7361 3236. Advertisements had been placed for the appointment of a "Champion" to activate policy. J.S. was required to report fully to the next meeting.
2. Art Project. The Light Koan – Lilian Lijn No progress could be made here because of the recent death of the owner & complexities of the executorship of the will.
3. 148 Kensington Church Street Bureau de Change. It transpires that Planning Consent for a mixed use for A1 & A2 shop has been granted here. This has enabled the use of the Bureau de Change to continue with 2 small showcases for silver objects. The plastic signs & pavement "V" boards proliferate etc so that the property is an absolute eyesore. The meeting expressed great concern and frustration at failure by the Planning Dept to take decisive action against this most alien incursion that damages the quality & standards of this cherished & characterful thoroughfare.
4. Coronet Cinema After much pressure by N.H.I.G. a meeting has been fixed with Sheila Stones (English Heritage), David McDonald (RBK&C) & Ron Salamat (Elim Church) to make concrete progress "to restore the Coronet to its former glory". It is much hoped that this meeting, together with the cover & full report by The Hill magazine on the plight of the Coronet, will have the desired effect. The L.D.F. literature always stresses the importance of preserving our built heritage and the Coronet is the only Grade II listed building in Notting Hill Gate and remains in a decorative derelict state.
5. Art Print Project Contact has been made with Peter Blake and it is hoped that the project can proceed.
6. L.D.F. Development plans A wide ranging discussion took place concerning the meetings held to garner local opinions from residents and interested parties on the North area L.D.F. Several members had attended 2 of these meetings held at David Game House N.H.G. and the Lighthouse (4th March). G.R. insisted that the L.D.F. site must not be split and the north strip be cut off for luxury housing. It must be considered as a whole and planned with the overall view. The

inclusion of, for instance, a relocated St Martin's College of Art, would add a vibrant use to give the entire project cohesion. This principle was unanimously approved.

R.R. expressed anger at the failure by the Council to prevent 148 Kensington Church St becoming a Bureau de Change. The consent granted to use this shop as A1 & A2 had had disastrous consequences.

D.M. urged that the Council should grant a developer extensive incentives for the construction of a substantial "decking" above N.H.G. to create more shopping and open space.

It was reported Urban Initiatives who are advising the Council on a plan / proposals are contracted at a fee of £50,000.

N.G. urged that the use of ~~§ 106~~ agreements are the best means of securing benefits to the Community from a major developer.

D.McH. reminded the meeting that 1% for Art had been an established rule for major developments and should be included in N.H.I.G.'s aims in the L.D.F. proposals. He also informed the meeting that the Czech Embassy has a large 160-seater basement cinema which ~~the~~ we should encourage the Czech Embassy to use as a Cultural activity.

(we)

7. Financial Report A most welcome donation of £1000 was reported from Mrs Raymond Berendt and unanimous thanks were declared. The financial report was produced and tabled showing a total surplus of £14,680.

8. The Meeting concluded at 9.30pm.

Distribution:-

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|--|------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Petra Brown✓ | Christopher Buckmaster | David Campion✓ | | |
| Frank Lieberman | David Marshall✓ | David McHugh✓ | Robert Meadows | Peter Mishcon |
| Toni Newman | Dez O'Neil✓ | Andrew Pilkington | Geoffrey Roome | Robina Rose✓ |
| John Scott✓ | Amin Taha | Maria Vlotides | Iain Wilcock | Willoughby Wynne✓ |
| Robin Price - Chairman of Kensington Society | | | | |
| By invitation -- Nathaniel Gee | MRIBA✓ | | | |