

AMENITY – DIVERSITY – CHARACTER

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NOTTING HILL GATE IMPROVEMENTS GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE 63rd MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25th NOVEMBER AT 7.30
233-235 WESTBOURNE GROVE LONDON W11 2SE (JOHN SCOTT'S HOME)

The meeting welcomed two enthusiasts who have lived in the area for some 40 years, Lucy & Nick Morris, and Stefan Peter & Mark Irizarry of New York City.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Dez O'Neill, Robert Meadows & Elizabeth Lindsay.
2. PRESENT were those ticked on the list below.
3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (62nd) held on 8th July 08 were tabled & copies circulated with the accounts at the meeting and were approved and signed by the chairman.
4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING Tuesday 3 Mar 09 – same venue 233 – 235 Westbourne Grove (J. Scott's house) at 7.30pm.

ITEMS FOR REPORT & DISCUSSION

A. THE RETAIL COMMISSION J.S. reported that very little positive action had taken place save that Jo Hammond had been appointed Town Centre Initiatives Manager. A meeting with her was scheduled for Wednesday at 2.30. G.R. advised the meeting that her best advice & grasp of the problems and suitable solutions was best to be gleaned from individuals giving their personal views rather than the blunt and unfocused views of a Group. This advice was much welcomed.

THE INDEPENDENT LONDON STORE GUIDE was distributed to the meeting. D.McH. & J.S. had supported this excellent publication that extols the merit of small, family run, independent London shops. Members were encouraged to buy & distribute copies obtained from Effie Fotaki & Moritz Steiger (0208 986 3317 & 07748 767 602)

B. APPOINTMENT OF JO HAMMOND AS RBK&C TOWN CENTRE INITIATIVES MANAGER. J.S. reported on this long awaited advent to bring hope to the resolution of our many problems. (Later) J.S. has met J.H. for a lengthy discussion and feels she is an excellent person with a fine track record. She is keen to rejuvenate Portobello Rd by linking it to the success of Westbourne Grove – demolition of Longlands & Portobello Courts & provision of many small independent characterful 'cutting edge' shops and seeking to have shops open 6 days a week (instead of restricted one day trading).

C. 148 KENSINGTON CHURCH ST. It was felt Planning Officers ignored residents desire to preserve & enhance the public domain. Against local aims to reduce the proliferation of Bureau de Change this plastic & aluminium monstrosity has, infuriatingly been granted "mixed use" consent. This is a clear recipe for disaster as argument arises on the % used for bureau de change use. D.C. said a new enforcement officer had joined the Planning Team as Planning was wholly ineffective without proper enforcement.

D. CORONET CINEMA. After much discussion it was universally agreed that every effort should be made to ensure the Elim Church promise of "restoration to its' former glory" is kept. There are currently a vast number of architectural features damaged or missing. Cllr Daniel Moylan was awaiting a reply from Pastor Colin Dye to discuss this matter. Mr Nick Morris felt the concept of "Damage to the reversion" did not prevent action during the lease to comply with repairing covenants. It was noted that the multitude of

L.D.F. consultations invariably placed “Preservation of the historic built heritage” of the Borough as number 1 priority of all residents.

- E. ART PROJECT. Toni Newman reported:- 1) 8 prints have been completed and fully considered by our local gallery – England & Co.
2) England & Co. are currently offering framed prints of works by Peter Blake, Roger Mayne and Christopher Logue.
3) England & Co will host a show in their Gallery in Spring 2009.
4) First income to be paid to N.H.I.G. to reimburse the cost of £3250 for production of 55 prints of Peter Blakes’ oeuvre.
5) T.N. to agree a) % split of proceeds.
b) Duration & Date of Show.
c) Details of Exclusivity period.

T.N. was thanked for her efforts at bringing this project to fruition.

F. CHEGWORTH FARM SHOP 221 KENSINGTON CHURCH ST. The meeting was urged to support and encourage extensive use of this shop particularly the apple juice. Deliveries are easy 0207 229 3016 and make a fine Xmas gift.

G. PROJECT TO PLACE 2 STYLISH JARDINIÈRES ON TOP OF 2 PLINTHS (THAT PREVIOUSLY SUPPORTED 2 GATES) AT ENTRANCE TO LINDEN GARDENS, WITH PLANTING. Colour photos of this site were circulated and it was agreed to pursue this, hopefully eye-catching addition to the area.

H. MASTER PLAN FOR N.H.G. BY METRO SHOPPING. The credit crunch is causing this major project to be delayed. A recent proposal by the Developer to R.B.K.&C. had been returned as being inadequate in quality for such a prestige location. This Group consistently calls for a very high quality “wow factor” building at Newcombe House.

I. Resolution proposed that “NHIG is greatly concerned at the inability of the current planning legislation and the Council’s UDP to provide the Planning Department with the ability, over the last 40 years, to exercise sufficient control over the mixed uses in Notting Hill Gate, and has resulted in an excess of estate agents, coffee shops and bureaux de change to the detriment of the development of a good local shopping centre”. It is to be hoped that a strengthened enforcement policy will facilitate the achievement of rate-payers aspirations.

- J. ARTICLE 4 DIRECTIONS. It was unanimously agreed these should be used more.
a) To control uses in Kensington Church St and Portobello Road and achieve fewer otiose uses and a good occupier mix.
b) Prevent destruction of front gardens and parking thereon.
Loss of baluster walls.
c) Loss of quality shop fronts & fascias.

R.R. complained that officers and Councillors often overlooked properties already protected by Article 4 Direction.

K. LONDON UNDERGROUND – NOTTING HILL GATE STATION – RENEWAL PLANS. The meeting was aghast to hear that after 15 years of discussion with L.U.L. there were no extensive plans to incorporate an appropriate “Art Scheme” in the project for which a contract has been signed to start in March 09 and completion in 2010. The incorporation of an unspecified sized (?2’x2’) tile scheme on the 4 walkways down from the pavements was discussed & considered grossly inadequate.

There was also a vague discussion on something for the circular domed alcoves on the Circle Line platform.

Overall there was a dominating demand for a vast area and number of advertising panels – to support finances. There was no room for the wonderful tile schemes ordained by Frank Pick and executed by Harold Stabler on Poole tiles in the 30's. Nor indeed the excellent Sir Eduardo Palozzi murals in Tottenham Court Road Station in 2000.

N.H.I.G. had offered £10,000 to support a worthy & quality scheme. It was resolved to ask Cllr Moylan to help with this paltry effort for such a world renowned station which will disgust our discerning public and greatly disappoint the millions of tourists who pass through the station.

5. ACCOUNTS. These were displayed and circulated. It was reported and the meeting thanked The Curry Boys for £1,000 & Tom Reeves film £330 for their donations to N.H.I.G. £3,250-95 was spent on 55 images by Peter Blake for T.N.s' Art Project which is to be repaid first from sales. A copy of such accounts accompanies these minutes.

6. A warm vote of many thanks was given to Maria Vlotides for her excellent Coal Hole Plaques which have enriched the whole area. Nick Morris had sponsored the first one outside the Coronet Cinema.

7. There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.40pm.

Distribution:-

Petra Brown	Christopher Buckmaster	David Campion	Kim Finer (Portobello Road)	Nathaniel Gee%
Elizabeth Lindsay	David Marshall	David McHugh	Robert Meadows	Peter Mishcon
Lucy Morris	Toni Newman	Dez O'Neil	Andrew Pilkington	Robin Price
Geoffrey Roome	Robina Rose	John Scott	Amin Taha	
Maria Vlotides	Iain Wilcock	Willoughby Wynne		

Observers:- Stefan Peter Mark Irizarry (New York City).
Nick Morris