

THE LADBROKE ASSOCIATION

The seventeenth Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 25 June 1985 at 8.30 pm at St John's Parish Centre, 2 Lansdowne Crescent.

Chairman: Robert Meadows

Apologies for absence: Michael Cocks, Colin Cohen, Muriel Cosh, Linda Kelly, Jeremy Lever, Roy Scott, Michael Wolf.

1. MINUTES The Minutes of the last AGM were approved and signed.
2. MATTERS ARISING There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous AGM.
3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Perhaps the most important development in an eventful year was the amendment to current planning legislation which removed the '10% permitted development' so far as multi-housing was concerned. This change is particularly important because of its potential effect on the environment. The Association also supported the campaign against the 'visual pollution' caused by the proliferation of Estate Agents' boards. Closer links have been formed with the neighbouring conservation bodies for Pembridge and Norland, and a meeting between representatives of the three associations on matters of common interest was followed by a similar meeting with the Chairman of the Town Planning Committee and the Borough Planning Officer. It is hoped that such meetings will become an annual event. The long-awaited revised schedule of listed buildings prepared by the DOE was published during the year. The extended schedule is welcome so far as it goes, but it has been criticised for omitting many buildings which seem worthy of 'listing'.

There has been a lot of building activity during the past year, especially in the eastern part of our area, where many houses are being converted into 'up market' flats or maisonettes. This tends to increase the number of cars and exacerbate the parking problem. Pressure to build roof extensions continues, and a clear policy is needed on the propriety of permitting or refusing such extensions. 'Creeping commercialism' is a worry, as commercial uses tend to spread into our area from Holland Park Avenue and around Portobello Road. Constant vigilance is needed to ensure that the proper procedures are complied with. For example, the statutory requirement for consultation was ignored when the extra storey was added to the Ladbroke Grove Police Station. Where issues are sufficiently important, we look beyond our own boundaries. For instance, we expressed our anxiety lest the proposed widening of the north end of Ladbroke Grove, in conjunction with the building of the Sainsbury Hypermarket, should increase traffic at the south end of Ladbroke Grove.

There was an enjoyable members' evening at the Leger Galleries in the autumn to see an exhibition of English water colours, and we are grateful to our member, David Posnett, the director of the Galleries, for making this possible. Plans for the proposed Spring Meeting unfortunately could not be brought to fruition.

The twice yearly Newsletter edited by Peter Thorold is an essential link with all our members. Contributions from members would be welcome, as would suggestions for future meetings or events.

A recruitment drive is planned for the autumn, but the best way of increasing our membership is for each of us to persuade our friends or neighbours to join.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Hon. Treasurer, Peter Austerfield, presented the accounts for the year ended 31 March 1985. These showed that income had exceeded expenditure by some £300, and that there was over £2000 in the bank. The average subscription was about £1 (70%); 60% of subscriptions were paid by standing order, which was very helpful to the Treasurer, and over 25% were covenanted, bringing in about £100 interest. Donations included £80 from a film company working in the area. Newsletter expenditure was higher this year because copyright was payable on the map included in the Spring number. Expenditure on subscriptions and donations included £5 to CLASH (Campaign to Limit Agents Signs and Hoardings) and £100 to RAPS (Residents against Property Speculators). In reply to a question, the Treasurer said that there was nothing in the Association's constitution to prevent such contributions.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Ian Grant, seconded by David Marshall and carried by the meeting. The Chairman expressed the gratitude of the Association to the Hon. Treasurer and the Hon. Auditor for all their work during the year.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Chairman proposed the re-election of Peter Austerfield and Elizabeth Beaven as Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary respectively, and this was carried by the meeting.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the election of a new chairman would arise next year.

6. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

There were five vacancies. Four members were due to retire - Jeremy Lever, David Marshall, June Park, David Posnett - and Jeremy Lever and David Marshall had agreed to stand again. They were unanimously re-elected. Paul Bastick and Colin Cohen had been nominated and seconded, and were elected accordingly. There remained one vacancy, which could be filled by co-option if the Committee wished.

7. AOB

There was a discussion on various topics of concern to the Association, and the principal matters were the following:-

Matters outside the area of the Association

It was suggested that the work of the Association could be devalued if it made a practice of concerning itself with matters outside its own area. In reply, the Chairman said that the Association rarely moved outside its own area. There were, however, occasional developments elsewhere which could affect the Ladbroke area (eg the traffic at the south end of Ladbroke Grove) or matters of particular importance (eg responsibility for Holland Park after the demise of the GLC) on which we felt it appropriate to comment.

Library of stucco mouldings

In discussion it was suggested that the Association should consider holding a library of stucco mouldings for use by members. The general view was that this was primarily a matter for the Council, and that their work should not be duplicated by the Association, which did not have the necessary expertise. The matter should, however, be considered in more detail at a later date, in consultation with officers of the Council.

8. In closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked all those present for attending.