

LADBROKE ASSOCIATION

**Minutes of 40th Annual General Meeting
Held at St Peter's Church Hall Portobello Road
on 7th July 2009**

Present (Committee) David Corsellis Chairman
Paul Bastick Treasurer
Anne Chorley Secretary
Peter Chapman
David Campion
Andrew Lamont
Sophia Lambert
David Marshall
Robina Rose

Present (members) Michael Cocks
David Mizen
Gill Mizen
Catherine Williams
John Campbell
Tony Croft

1. Apologies Alex Bell
Sandra Kamen
Peter Mishcon
Peggy Post
Maurice Fraser
Malcolm Pawley

2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. This was proposed by Paul Bastick and seconded by Anne Chorley.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming to the AGM. He also thanked all the members of the Ladbroke Committee for their enthusiastic support in the past year, in particular Paul Bastick for looking after our accounts, Anne Chorley for doing the minutes, Malcolm Pawley and David Marshall for their

work each month on the planning applications and Sophia Lambert and David Champion for producing the News Letters. The Chairman thought that members might be interested to know that our monthly meetings were held in committee members homes and were always extremely interesting and lively. The Committee as a whole has a deep knowledge and love for the area but it is also really forward looking and not as conservative as may be thought.

After the excitement of the photographic exhibition in the previous year, 2008/9 had been a steadier year except for the subterranean survey. The load of planning applications did not diminish and many are dealt with by the Planners very quickly, sometimes between our monthly meetings. There is considerable pressure on RBKC to speed up the planning process and this does raise problems for the association. Luckily most of the applications dealt with very quickly are relatively uncontroversial.

The present Chief Executive of the Planning Department, David Prout, is leaving in September to return to central government after a stay of only a couple of years with RBKC. We are said to see him go as we have found him to be extremely approachable, knowledgeable and pleasant and there is little doubt that he has improved his department's performance significantly. There is a proposal to set up a new post of Director of Enforcement which will be welcomed by the Association as this is an area which certainly requires considerable improvement.

Consultation is these days fashionable with government and other public bodies. With RBKC policy papers and documents the problem is how to participate meaningfully. The timescale for comment and the depth of knowledge required makes it a real challenge for us to comment properly. We do try to have an input into these papers. We are fortunate that the Kensington Society has members who do seem to have the time and expertise to submit serious input to these papers. There is also consultation on other matters of local interest. This year it has been the 228 and the 2 Bus Routes involving residents in Ladbrooke Grove, Ladbrooke Gardens and Elgin Crescent.

Regarding Estate Agents Boards, central government has still not made a decision on RBKC's application to ban all estate agents boards on non-commercial properties in Conservation Areas. This is a matter the association will continue to monitor closely.

Although outside our area the committee has devoted much time to the proposed large scale development by Land Securities and others of Notting Hill Gate which is ruled out for now on financial grounds. Notting Hill Gate has many substandard buildings and one day there needs to be an imaginative scheme to update the whole area. The proposal to build houses on the EDF site in Victoria Gardens has finally received planning permission. What has been agreed is reasonably unobtrusive for neighbours and the result provides a

good example of what can be achieved by local residents who have the resources, patience and stamina to oppose a proposal on the basis of facts and logic.

Last year the Chairman wrote to all members with the News Letter asking for all to try to recruit new members of the association. This produced about 10 new members and many who increased their annual subscription to the current rate of £15. He asked that all members should continue to try to recruit .

The past two News Letters have included articles on the 20th Century Theatre and the Rambert Theatre. These form part of our ongoing programme to produce over the years a history of every street within the Ladbroke Conservation area.

The Committee has been preparing a Survey of Subterranean Developments in the Borough as was mentioned in the Spring News Letter. The survey showed that the main concerns were Party Wall Agreements, nuisance caused by noise, hours of work, deliveries, dust and the length of time that the developments were taking to complete. There are things that the Council could do to improve its control of these projects and to lessen the impact of the works on neighbours. If the rules do not allow better control then the rules need to be changed. This is ultimately a matter for Councillors and Government to pursue.

5. Adoption of Annual Accounts

The Treasurer circulated the accounts. Membership subscriptions were down slightly as people move out of the area but the level remains at the 400 mark. We need to keep a healthy fund in reserve in case we are required to challenge a particularly controversial planning application. The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Anne Chorley and seconded by David Corsellis.

6. Election of Officers and Committee

Paul Bastick proposed and Anne Chorley seconded the election of David Corsellis as Chairman for the coming year. Paul Bastick was re-elected as Treasurer and Anne Chorley as Secretary, and all committee members willing to stand were re-elected.

7. Any Other Business

There was general discussion on the subject of subterranean developments and membership.