

Question time needed on Town Hall issues

CEFp's meeting two weeks ago got universal appreciation in letters in the local press, much of it deserved. We heard a professional presentation of a well worked scheme, but with no question time afterwards.

Why did such complex content not merit time for clarification?

For example, many of us would like a small independent cinema in Crouch End. Tony Jones, a prestigious leader at City Screen was brought in briefly to indicate that there could be three screens in the Town Hall.

Will English Heritage allow the balcony in the concert hall to be changed for two cinemas there?

Apparently this is not clear at all. I found this out by questioning the CEFp presenter at some length afterwards, but this discrepancy should be public knowledge. Multiple screens make the cinema more viable and the Hall will need the income stream, but who says we can do it?

Who told Tony Jones it was possible? The Advisory Committee had different advice. It's not helpful to present experts who may, or may not, be fully briefed on uncertainties and are not open to questions.

Secondly, why should CEFp cast the council as concealing information when at their April meeting two key councillors (Bax and Adje) made statements, heard questions but were not called to answer by the Chair.

Again, a representative from CEFp attends all Advisory Committee meetings but was not called to report back to us on what goes on.

Chair of the Advisory Committee (Judy Bax) was at CEFp's October meeting but was refused any chance to respond to criticism.

This is no way to deal with important community and cultural issues with serious consequences for us all.

Barbara Roche, our MP (and I say this as a friend) has leant her prestige as Chair to both these meetings, and must bear some responsibility for the organisational shortcomings.

Finally, the Hall we are all hoping to re-open is not Crouch End Town Hall (!) - we will all have to pay if CEFp fail.

ALAN RICHARDSON
(Ex-Board Member of the London Film & Video Agency -
now Film London)

Trust our 'dream team' to deliver

WE wish to thank you for your extensive coverage of Hornsey Town Hall (H&H Broadways November 11).

Without a doubt, there is overwhelming support for the Hornsey Town Hall Trust plan which you have well represented in your letters page. I particularly enjoyed your reference to our 'dream team' and indeed it is. I only wish I had thought of that phrase myself!

We agree fully with your editorial comment that Haringey Council fails to inspire public confidence through their secretive processes. Crouch End for People has always run an open and honest campaign. Though the council has now pledged to return the hall to the community, we remain suspi-

cious as to their intentions for the surrounding site, continuing to avoid committing to any other proposal than a sell-off to a developer for flats.

The Advisory Panel has voted in favour of a trust to run the Town Hall scheme. But we urge you to beware of counterfeit trusts. The Hornsey Town Hall Trust is the only trust that will deliver long term sustainability through the provision of a car park and is the only trust that affords a cinema as a viable part of the plan. Public opinion confirms that this is by far the most popular use for the hall yet it is something the council rejects.

SALLY KENDALL
Crouch End for People