

Jonathan Marciano

Love of hall runs in family

Architect's daughter joins Hornsey campaign

THE granddaughter of the architect behind Hornsey Town Hall has backed the campaign to restore his building.

Anna Tonks' grandfather Reginald Uren from New Zealand designed the listed building in 1933. And she signed up for the campaign to restore the hall to its former glory during a visit to England from Australia.

She said: "My grandfather was a wonderful and dedicated architect with a passion for community life. Hornsey Town Hall and its surround truly reflects all that he believed in.

"It was a terrible, terrible shock to see how it had been so neglected by those charged with its care."

Haringey Council has suggested it will cost £15million to repair the dilapidated Grade II-listed prize-winning building.

But its future is uncertain.

Last night the final public meeting in a month-long consultation was due to be held at Christchurch, Crescent Road, Crouch End.

And on Tuesday an advisory panel set up by the council revealed some of the proposals to be put to the authority on December 21.

Richard Barrett, head of property at the council, said: "One of the things that has emerged is that proposals for a cinema cannot be afforded within the scheme."

Hampstead's Everyman Cinema Club and its owner Daniel Broch had been approached by campaigners during the consultation.

Council head of finance Andrew Travers said: "We are

Anna Tonks (above) is supporting plans to restore Hornsey Town Hall, designed by her grandfather, Reginald Uren (inset).

looking to generate some value from the site though we do not know what financial amount we will need. Our goal has been to redevelop a public hall. Other things like keeping the car park are not deal breakers."

Council leader Charles Adje vowed the public hall would

remain in the community.

He said: "If we wanted to flog the site for flats we would have gone ahead and marketed it and sold it. But it is a public building for the people."

Ideas discussed during the consultation have ranged from a public square to a performance

space and skateboard parks.

Council bosses have said the town hall will not be mothballed when officers move out in January and could provide a temporary base for the nearby Citizens Advice Bureau.

broadway@hamhigh.co.uk

