

The quality weekly for Muswell Hill, Crouch End and Hornsey

EDDIE IS READY TO HIT OUR SCREEN



Jonathan Marciano

THE future of Hornsey Town Hall has finally been agreed after a fiery debate on Tuesday.

Haringey council chiefs approved a solution for the use of the Grade II listed building – the management will be shared between a community trust, a developer and the council.

A rival bid from Crouch End for People (CEFP), which claims 6,000 supporters, was thrown out.

Tony Westbrook of Glasslyn Road, Crouch End, who presented the CEFP vision to the meeting, told Broadway afterwards: "The decision is terribly disappointing."

"They have not agreed to look at our proposals and seem to be supporting a developer without taking into account the wishes of the local community."

The pressure group had set up its own trust to manage the town hall. It also recruited a dream team of Crouch End experts, from designers to architects, to realise its plan for a cinema, car park and piazza.

The highly charged debate took an unprecedented political turn when Hornsey and Wood Green MP Barbara Roche gave evidence.

The Labour MP and former minister spoke out at an executive meeting for the first time in her career, attacking the position of the Labour-run council, in favour of CEFP.

Campaigners lose battle for town hall

Council throws out community trust plan during heated debate

Ms Roche said: "It has a model that has worked in Shoreditch and the difference with it is that it is community-led."

"The council would be getting a tremendous amount of top quality experts on the cheap."

"I would not be putting my credibility on the line as a member of parliament if I did not believe in it."

Councillor Judy Bax, who presented the successful plan after a nine-month consultation, said Ms Roche's actions were "counter-productive".

She told Broadway: "She has not suffered the stresses and strains which the advisory panel have felt."

"In the end we have to work together. If CEFP now wants to be involved it will have to go through a commercial process."

Several speakers were heckled and shouted down in the meeting forcing deputy leader Denis

Lauren Coldwell, 13, from Crouch Hill drums up support outside the civic centre for Crouch End for People's plan.



Dillon to attack the lack of courtesy shown in the chamber.

In his summing up of the decision, leader of Haringey Council Charles Adje said: "It is often the case in a democratic process that

it is not possible to find a solution that meets the needs and aspirations of everyone."

However, the outcome of the process is that the town hall should be kept for public use.

"The council cannot hand the town hall over to a selected few, however admirable their aspirations."

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Our scheme can save the town hall...

WE WRITE in response to the letter from members of Haringey's Advisory Panel, which we find most illuminating.

We are very pleased that they concur with our view that there is no need for a developer to be brought at the start of the process, and that a trust is the best way of bringing about the transformation of Hornsey Town Hall.

Hornsey Town Hall Trust will be presenting its vision of a community arts and cultural centre, together with a professionally produced sustainability study, without involving any unnecessary over-development of the site, on 21 December, to the Executive Group of Haringey Council.

We sincerely hope Councillor Bax will be in support of the vision at this meeting.

This is a landmark 20th century building of national importance. It is essential that a community preservation trust, with specialist skills, should take on this project. It must not be left to a politically appointed panel or a council-appointed trust (such as Alexandra Palace) to manage this important scheme.

The vision is entirely consistent with a short term interim management scheme (run by the council whilst they still own and are responsible for the building), but this must not be allowed to influence the long-term rejuvenation of this fine building for the benefit of local people. This can only progress once an independent trust takes over the site.

Hornsey Town Hall Trust has the support of The Architectural Heritage Fund and Save Britain's Heritage.

ANDY KINLOCH,

Panel representative,

Crouch End for People

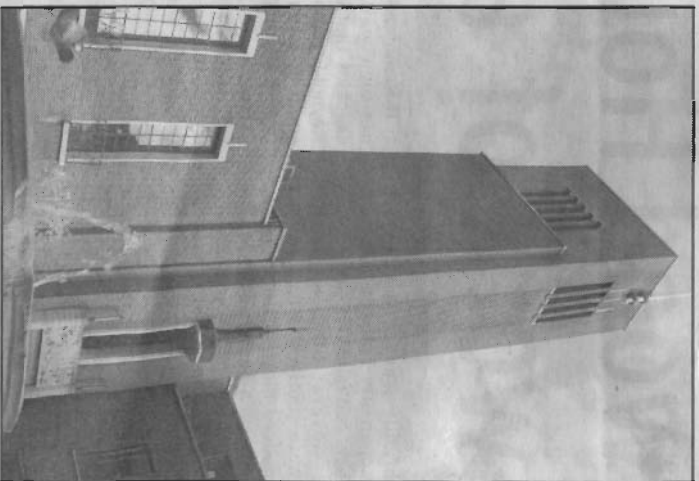
JACOB O'CALLAGHAN

Conservation Officer,

Hornsey Historical Society

NIR WEGRZYN

Chair, Crouch End for People



Hornsey Town Hall.

...but don't forget Alexandra Palace

JACOB O'Callaghan is absolutely correct when he states that if as many people had put their effort into changing the fortunes of Alexandra Palace as they have in fighting for Hornsey Town Hall, the palace would not be in such a dire state.

The Palace Victorian theatre and the old TV studios also need public support, and in my opinion they are as important historically as the town hall.

Good luck to the town hall preservationists, but remember that there are other historic buildings in the borough which also need enthusiastic support if they are to be saved.

COLIN RICHELL

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