

viewpoints

WRITE TO: The Editor,
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ply a postal address as well. The Editor re-
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Give council a chance

PEOPLE who compared the present controversy over Hornsey Town Hall with that over Alexandra Palace are mistaken. The big change is in the way the council is doing it this time.

The decision for Haringey Council to buy Alexandra Palace was taken at a single meeting of the ruling Labour group which had had no notice that it was to be discussed. This time, the council seems to be making genuine efforts to listen. The panel it has set up to report on the Town Hall has been criticised for being over large (61 members?) short of Crouch End residents (one?) and with too many councillors. But that doesn't necessarily make them deaf to argument.

I think that at the very least, councillors should be given a chance to change their minds. And some help too.

— **Terry O'Sullivan, Montenorotte Road, N8.**

Panel must be independent

A HORNSEY Town Hall advisory panel has been established to advise on the future of a building which, as many have now seen for themselves, is a building with truly breathtaking Art Deco interiors and detailing, and whose public spaces the council has deliberately allowed to fall into disrepair and disuse.

We learned we have been asked to nominate a representative for the panel. But although we are more than willing to put our historical expertise at the disposal of the committee, our 500 members will require that the latter be regarded by the local community as both credible and independent.

The undersigned believe that Haringey and the advisory panel should respond to the very strong disquiet expressed at our public meeting, which our

WAS one of the 600 who attended the meeting which voted unanimously in favour of the latest proposals for Hornsey Town Hall.

You gave front page coverage to the only two dissenting voices, two local politicians expressing fears over traffic. Neither of them said how the Grade II* listed public hall should be used, the option to do nothing has existed for too long, and no one wants to see it altered or

Car park must go

MANY of the proposals for Hornsey Town Hall by Crouch End For People look exciting and would lead to an improvement of arts facilities for local people. However, I question the reliance on using cars as the main means of transport and keeping the large parking space that goes with the council buildings.

The parking space may well be needed for some modest development to help contribute to costs, but there should be plenty left over for green open space or maybe some of it could be used for the new school that is so desperately needed in the area.

— **Jayne Forbes, Green Party GLA candidate for Haringey and Enfield.**

Re-opened station perfect partner for revamped town hall

knocked about. Given that this building has always generated traffic throughout its 70-year history (much of it quite splendid – the rock band Queen played their first gig there), would not their efforts be better directed at promoting solutions to improving public transport?

The bus services are already at full stretch during rush hours and I cannot see the wisdom of the council/advisory board's proposals of putting high density housing on the car park – this will create more commuter chaos (at least the hall and cinemas will be used mainly in the evenings when traffic is

lightest). The only constructive suggestion I have heard recently on this is bringing Crouch End station and its disused railway line back into use, which would provide much needed links to Finsbury Park and the south, Highgate and the north and the Tube network as a whole. CEFP stated at the meeting that they wished to keep costs as low as possible and minimise the amount of new development required, particularly by attracting community and arts grant funding. This approach has much to recommend it.

— **Anthony Charnley, architect, Mount View Road, N4.**