

viewpoints

We're on the public's side

We are writing to correct some misinformation about us that was presented by Crouch End For People at its public meeting.

We are all members of the advisory panel set up by Haringey Council to consider the future of Hornsey Town Hall. According to Crouch End For People, we are supposed to be representing the Friends of Hornsey Town Hall and therefore this organisation is over-represented on the panel.

For the information of your readers and Crouch End For People, we are members of the advisory panel as local residents, with the exception of Kevin Pinnock who represents the Hornsey Town Hall Project (sponsors of a previous cultural development proposal for Hornsey Town Hall).

The advisory panel offers a great opportunity for the wider community to contribute to ideas about how to get Hornsey Town Hall back into public use. — *Sally Billot, Richard Reidy, Chris Warburton, Kevin Pinnock, addresses supplied.*

School choice

COUNCILLOR Charles Adje — now leader of Haringey Council — follows a fine New Labour tradition of "Do as I say, not as I do."

He joins prominent politicians such as Diane Abbott, Trevor Phillips, and Tony Blair in choosing a selective school for his child, outside the borough he represents.

If Haringey's schools are improving, why did Councillor Adje make this choice? The answer is that most residents do not agree that schools are improving and to suggest that they have a choice is hypocritical. — *Carole Tucker, Hillside Gardens N6*

Community must come before cash

A HORNSEY Town Hall advisory panel has been established to advise on the future of a building which is a building with breathtaking interiors and whose public spaces the council have allowed to fall into disrepair.

We have been asked to nominate a representative for the panel. We are more than willing to put our expertise at their disposal, but our 500 members require that the latter be regarded as both credible and independent.

The undersigned believe that the council and the panel should respond to the strong disquiet expressed at the public meeting which our committee shares.

We do not regard our role as rubber stamping a pre-ordained policy to sell the site rather than of transferring custody of the building to an independent charitable trust whose object is to let the building serve the community.

Haringey must learn that its gambit of agreeing to set up advisory bodies and then packing them with allies is not acceptable.

We call upon Councillor Bax to retire as chairwoman in favour of one elected by the committee and who is not a politician.

More representatives from Crouch End For The People should be there, as well as representatives from bodies such as the Twentieth Century Society and English Heritage. We call on all councillors who have the interests of the community at heart to support us. — *Peter Barber, Vice President, Hornsey Historical Society; Keith Fawkes Underwood, Chairman, Hornsey Historical Society; Jacob O'Callaghan, Conservation Officer, Hornsey Historical Society; The Old Schoolhouse, Tottenham Lane, N8.*

Exploding town hall myths

I AM writing to make clear the intentions of Haringey Council in relation to Hornsey Town Hall and to clarify any misunderstandings.

I am sure you will agree that Hornsey Town Hall needs refurbishment to become once again a thriving centre of activity. The council is listening to the community and will make sure their views shape the plans.

The council has set up an advisory panel, which includes representatives of community groups to look at the options and to act as a channel for community interest and concern.

In summary, the council has taken the following action:

In February the council deferred any decisions about the Town Hall for six months in order to listen to the views of the community.

There are not and have never been any proposals to sell the Town Hall. There has never been a particular scheme approved by the council, only viability studies showing the types of uses that would be broadly accept-

able in planning terms. It is now up to the council to decide as landowner what can be done. That is why we are now consulting with the public and we have always been committed to by published resolutions of the council long before recent publicity.

The council is committed to restoring both the town hall for the community.

The conservation plan (available at Hornsey Library) gives details of the most important aspects of the buildings which must be respected in any proposals.

The council is working loosely with English Heritage to ensure the architectural quality and historic value are preserved.

The council will shortly be formulating a specific planning policy for the complex and this will involve further statutory consultation.

I want to assure you that Haringey Council is listening and will organise more events to keep you up to date. — *Councillor George Meehan, Civic Centre, High Road N22.*