



The leisure guide that tells
you where it's all happening

INSIDE



FILMS MUSIC THEATRE FOOD COMPETITIONS INTERVIEWS... AND MUCH MORE

Theatre 'vision' brings traffic fears

CONCERNS have been raised that an influx of cars could choke Crouch End if Hornsey Town Hall was to house a cinema and theatre.

More than 600 people attended a public meeting to discuss the future use of the town hall which was held at Christ Church, Crouch End Hill.

Several local politicians argued that Crouch End could experience unwanted levels of traffic coming into the area to visit the town hall complex if the "vision" of a cultural and community centre, with theatre and cinema, put forward by the campaign group Crouch End for People, was approved.

Liberal Democrat Councillor Lynne Featherstone (Muswell Hill ward), who is chairwoman of transport on the London Assembly, said: "With a theatre and cinema, the numbers of people attracted to Crouch End would be huge. We don't want life stuffed up by 1,000 extra cars turning up into the area."

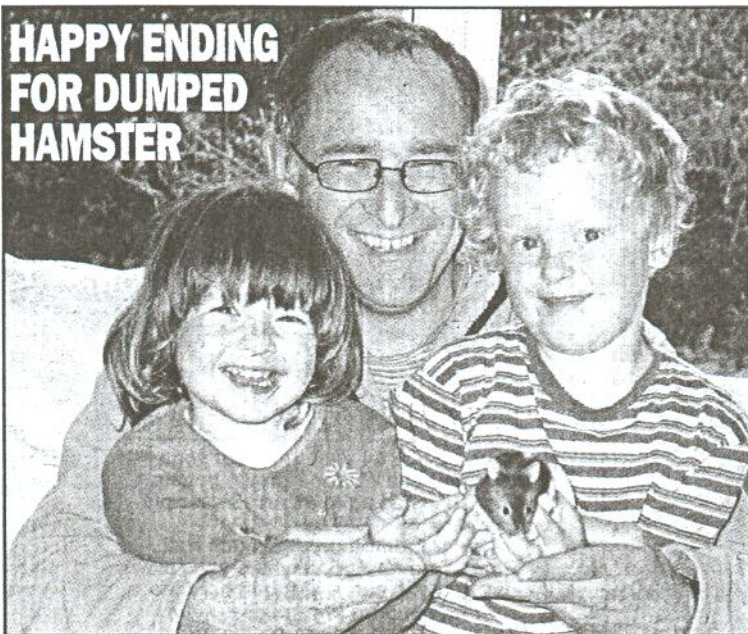
Jayne Forbes, of the Haringey Green Party, said: "A 900-seater theatre would attract lots of cars to the area. We should look at a smaller scale. It should be thought out a little bit more."

"If the council decided on this, we would be trying to fight it."

● **LET US HAVE OUR TOWN HALL BACK! - SEE PAGE 3.**

GET YOU SKATES

HAPPY ENDING FOR DUMPED HAMSTER



A HAMSTER abandoned in Finsbury Park is settling into its new home with Dave Allen and his children Amy, four, and Daniel, six.

The animal was found by park workers on Easter Sunday, after being dumped outside the park gates with a cage, fresh bedding and food.

The abandoned pet was named Gary after one of the park staff, and was quickly taken in by Mr Allen, a land-

scape architect working in the park. He said: "My daughter Amy had been really excited when she looked after the hamster from my son's school over the holidays. When I took it home her eyes lit up, she was just delighted."

But the pet had one final surprise in store for the Allen family. Mr Allen said: "We got a book on hamsters and when we sexed it we found out it was a female. Amy renamed it Chocolate."

A CAMPAIGN is underway to bring a kids' skate park to Crouch End.

Skate fans have been making most of Crouch End's empty spaces practising their sport outside Hornsey Town Hall and on any spare scrap of land.

But residents and councillors say

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LET US HAVE OUR TOWN HALL BACK!

By JANINE KIELSO

MORE than 600 people turned up to a vital public meeting where Crouch End residents pleaded with Haringey Council to "give us back Hornsey Town Hall."

The meeting, which took place at Christ Church, Crouch End Hill, last Thursday night, was organised by campaign group Crouch End for People.

The group wants the derelict Grade II listed building to be transformed into a cultural and community centre, with a theatre, a cinema and a European style piazza.

They also want the car park to be opened up to provide space for 100-120 cars.

Crouch End for People says Haringey Council should hand over the site to a charitable trust. The Hornsey Town Hall Trust, which will be made up of councillors, council officers and representatives from local groups.

Protect

Annie Aitken, from Crouch End for People, who spoke at the meeting, said: "We think that Haringey Council has had it for long enough and they have left us with a town hall to be ashamed of. There could be a one or two screen cinema, and we have already attracted three serious offers."

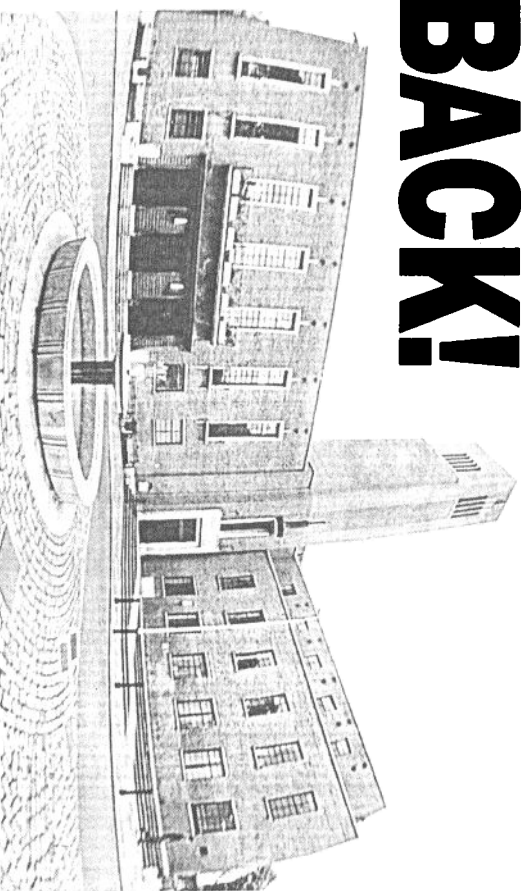
"An internationally acclaimed dance group has expressed interest and a local music school could make use of rehearsal space in the auditorium. Some of the space available could be leased to the community. This is our town hall and we want it back."

Ian Lush, of the architectural heritage fund, said: "Our organisation exists to fund trusts to restore historic buildings. All it needs is a strong level of community involvement and some local expertise which this area isn't lacking."

Councillor Judy Bax, executive member for education and lifelong learning at Haringey Council, and chairwoman of the

'Settle dispute' plea

TRADE Union groups are calling on Haringey Council's new leader to sort out the row with a team of press officers who were sacked in March.



■ HORNSEY Town Hall could become a community centre with theatre and cinema

WHAT THEY WANT

CROUCH END FOR PEOPLE'S PLANS FOR HORNSEY TOWN HALL

Hornsey Town Hall advisory panel, said: "I am concerned that the council seems to be painted in a very unfavourable light."

"I am hearing things about a trust, which needs lots of further discussion before we come to any conclusion. There are several things that restrict us. A conservation report said that we have to protect the interior and certain features."

She added: "The role of the panel is to advise the council. It's all about hearing the aspirations of the wider community. Lots of people in north London will be able to benefit from what we can create there."

Haringey councillor Charles Adje, executive member for finance, urged residents to attend a town hall open day on Saturday, May 8. He said: "You can submit your views and suggestions about the future of the town hall. It is important to us as a council that we do as much as we can to meet community suggestions. The council is considering all options. We haven't yet made a decision on the town hall. There are a number of possible uses."

The meeting voted unanimously in favour of turning the town hall into a cultural and community centre for the whole borough; operating the town hall car parks as a pay and display parking facility and reclaiming the town hall piazza.

Dispute over renovation cost

CAMPAIGN group Crouch End for People says the renovation of the town hall should cost no more than £6million. But Haringey Council say that the cost of improvements would add up to about £15million.

Crouch End for People has created a breakdown of costs, arguing for example, that the re-modelling of the piazza would cost £100,000 and the fitting out of a cinema would total £650,000.

When all added together, the campaign group estimate that the renovation costs should be £5,900,000.

Crouch End for People says the council should reveal its breakdown of costs.

Speaking out at the public meeting last Thursday night, Selma Gokcen, of Crouch End for People said: "The council is suggesting that the cost of fixing up the town hall is £15million, but it hasn't shown how they've arrived at that figure."

"They are assuming that this would require a subsidy from the taxpayer and that a trust is not a reliable way of funding the site."

Councillor Charles Adje, executive member for finance, said: "If the £15million figure is not yet broken down, I will make sure that it is."

Councillor Judy Bax, executive member for education and lifelong learning, said: "We have to find a way to pay for the town hall. The council has not got the money - whether it is £10million or £15million. We are looking for ways to manage the whole thing."

Writing on the road for speeding drivers

SPEEDING drivers will be warned to slow down by special road markings being painted on Denton Road, Crouch End.

Residents have raised concerns about cars racing down the street, which is home to Weston Park primary school.

Haringey Council said not enough cash was available for hi-tech traffic calming such as speed humps and road narrowing, but agreed to paint warning signs.

Liberal Democrat Stroud Green councillor Laura Edge said: "Progress has been made and I welcome the new measures planned by the council. This is just a start though, more substantial safety measures need to be implemented in the area to ensure that residents, pedestrians and considerate drivers are not endangered by a minority of dangerous motorists."

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