

CAN I make it absolutely clear that Haringey Council is committed to a sustainable future for Hornsey Town Hall and is well aware of the significance of this important building, for Crouch End and the borough as a whole.

All views and ideas are being considered, and the advisory panel, made up of representatives of local organisations, local councillors and residents, is one way of helping us forward. It is looking at the various uses proposed for the site, and ways to pay for them.

The points made in the Crouch End for People petition are also being considered, along with all the views expressed by visitors to the town hall open days. As with any large project, there will be many stages of consultation along the way, coupled with scrutiny by English Heritage and in accordance with the developing criteria of the planning brief.

The worst result would be to let the situation drift; I am convinced that everyone with an interest in the building can work together to stop that happening. The second open day is scheduled for July 10, 10.30am to 3pm, and I hope everyone who has not yet seen the building will take the opportunity to look around and give us their views.

CLLR JUDY BAX

Chair, Hornsey Town Hall Advisory Panel

IT was with interest that I read Cllr Charles Adje's article in the current issue of *People* and particularly his comments on Hornsey Town Hall and how he is anxious to avoid

Panel is considering a wide range of views

burdening the taxpayers of the borough.

For many years the town hall has been under the care of the council and the lack of maintenance and essential repairs has resulted in its reaching the dilapidated and unusable state it is now in.

Because previous councils have ignored these necessary repairs, the town hall and its immediate surroundings have become a run-down area with skateboarding and alcoholics occupying the space which should rightly be put to better use by the people. It could be a vibrant and interesting centre for the arts, street markets, fairs and events which generally enhance the appeal of the locality.

I have lived in Crouch End for over 40 years and I know that there is a great swell of public opinion against the easy option of selling off our town hall to a developer.

The 'Crouch End For People' scheme would not "burden the taxpayers" but give them the sort of community building which at one time was available to them.

FIRST, Haringey tries to flog the town hall without telling anyone (sorry 'seek a transfer of the Town Hall to a commercial developer') on a 125 year lease - Haringey's words, not mine.)

Then, only after intense pressure from Crouch End for People, they defer the decision and agree to an Open Day.

Next they try and ruin the Party in the Piazza we organised to celebrate the open day by refusing for months to give us the necessary licence. And when the party is in full swing, they try to lock everyone out at 3pm, though CEFPP persuaded them to at least keep the doors open for an extra hour.

Now that the Open Day has been hailed a great success, suddenly Haringey is out in print claiming it was their all their own work.

Haringey Council's shameful attempt to claim glory for themselves off the back of other people's hard earned success will be seen for the pathetic sham it is.

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