

Pathetic sham

FIRST they try and 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 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.

Now the open day has been hailed a success, suddenly Haringey is in print claiming it was 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.

– Stephen Morpurgo,
Crouch End for People.

Town hall voters

ON my way to vote at last Thursday's elections in a local primary school, I was feeling angered and frustrated that children were forced to take the day off school and many parents the day off work (to look after them). And then it came to me. What more perfect place for a polling station than in the heart and soul of our community – Hornsey Town Hall. Maybe next time...

– A N Arda, Tivoli Road, N8.

Hard problem.

THERE is probably not a single person who does not want Hornsey Town Hall to be used for the community. Over the years there has never been a shortage of ideas – but there has been a drought of solutions. The problem is to find £15million capital and £3million recurrent funding. No council in London would get such sums together.

It is also completely untrue that the council would have sold off the town hall but for Crouch End for People. I was on the council for eight years and never came across a proposal to sell the hall. Crouch End for People needs to seriously consider the damage done to its credibility by continually repeating something which is not true.

This is simply a hard problem to solve and we have to find a way to unite as a community to have any chance of success.

– Charlie Sharp, Elmfield Avenue, N8.

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'Don't turn trades union building into more posh flats'

CAMPAIGN is underway to make sure Crouch End's much-loved TUC building is not sold off to developers.

The Trades Union Congress has con-

By SALLY LOWE

firmed it is looking to sell off its lease on the site on Crouch End Hill in a bid to save money.

Handing the site over to property developers could net the TUC a fortune, but residents are determined to see the building saved for community use.

Residents say the TUC should be used for a much-needed new school or kept as a community centre.

And they are determined to block any attempt to turn it into another luxury housing development – which they say will leave Crouch End full to bursting.

The Haslemere Road Residents' Association is leading the campaign to persuade the TUC to put Crouch Enders first.

Sue Hessel, chairwoman of the association, has written to TUC bosses asking them to consider community

needs when they make a decision on the future of the centre in July. Mrs Hessel said: "There is no need with-in Crouch End for yet more luxury flats. We do not have the social infrastructure – school places, GP places, even parking places – to accommodate the existing population, let alone yet another development cashing in on Crouch End.

"Crouch End is a caring and committed community. There are many young families here. Crouch End requires a new school before any more flats are built."

The freehold of the site is owned by Haringey Council, meaning town hall planning chiefs should have a say in any future use.

A spokeswoman for Haringey Council said: "We are in discussions with the TUC about the lease, but the TUC does have quite a lot of leeway with regards to the