

Town hall school would have playground on roof

HORNSEY Town Hall will NOT be used to ease the area's primary school crisis.

Councillor Judy Bax, who heads the Hornsey Town Hall advisory panel, says the idea of turning the building into a new school is out of the question.

The proposal had been put forward by some parents, but Councillor Bax says the town hall is not big enough and the council will have to find alternative sites.

She said: "It's too small for a school. There was a feasibility study done and we would have to have a playground on the roof! We're not going to have something like that in Crouch End."

Haringey Council has said some of the site will have to be developed to cover costs of reworking the rest for community use.

But campaign group Crouch End for People says the centre could be run as a trust and wants land preserved for a car park. It has slated Haringey Council for not listening to people and criticised the advisory panel.

Councillor Bax said: "I'm a bit disconcerted by the hostility of some people."

People member quits

CROUCH End for People member Sheila Kavanagh has stepped down from the group which claims to represent 3,000 Crouch Enders.

Ms Kavanagh was a member of the group which is campaigning to save the town hall from major development and build a car park for Crouch End.

She represented the group on the town hall advisory panel, set up by Haringey Council to discuss the future of the listed building. But Ms Kavanagh is now no longer a member of the group, and a new representative is expected to be appointed to the panel.

By SALLY LOWE

There's not actually much difference in what everyone wants. We want it to be open for community activities and cultural groups. The difference is about how we do it.

"I think in the end we'll get the best solution if we work together but I'm not sure if we will be able to. I find it hard to understand."

The advisory panel is still thrashing out possible uses for the town hall - ranging from restoring the theatre to reworking the piazza and offering space to community groups. Then the panel will explore ways to fund the work, which is likely to include using part of the site for housing development.

Councillor Bax said: "There is a big need for housing in Crouch End and we need to bear that in mind. There is going to be more controversy when we look at the financial side. The council has to make sure it doesn't turn it into a white elephant."

We would like any scheme to be self-financing so it will be inevitable that parts are developed."

Community groups help decide town hall's future

THE advisory panel set up to explore the future of Hornsey Town Hall is made up of representatives from a host of different community groups.

The panel, which will report back to Haringey Council's ruling executive committee in October, is looking at possible uses for the town hall and methods of funding any development. Members of the panel include

'Impractical' plan ruled out as council looks at uses for Hornsey Town Hall site

■ COUNCILLOR Judy Bax says she is "disconcerted" at the hostility of some people as the row over Hornsey Town Hall (below) simmers on



Haringey councillors from both political parties on the council as well as a host of community groups.

The panel includes representatives from: Crouch End Conservation Area Advisory Committee, Crouch End Festival Chorus, Crouch End for People, Collage Arts, Mountview Theatre School, Hornsey Historical Society and English Heritage.