

LADBROKE ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the 50th Annual General Meeting
held on Tuesday 16th July 2019
at St Peter's Church Kensington Park Road

Present Sophia Lambert
 Sir Angus Stirling
 Paul Bastick
 Anne Chorley
 David Marshall
 Peter Mishcon
 Kay Broadbent
 Catherine Faulks
 Michael Becket
 Dori Schmetterling
 Martin and Evelyn Jacomb
 Carole Conrad
 Billie Lee
 Jennifer Barlow
 Michael and Charmian Wheldon
 Robina Rose
 Catherine Williams
 Wendy Hyde
 Nigel Pullman
 Geoffrey Roome
 Felicity Buchan
 Niall McMahon
 Andrew Jamieson
 William and Karen Clark
 Rosemarie Breitenstein
 Rita Darlow
 Graham Child
 Peter Hodges
 Joanna Gardner
 Carla Petschek
 Fiona Fleming-Brown

Apologies	Malcolm Pawley	Sandra Kamen
	Peter Chapman	Peggy Post
	Jane Martineau	Tom Croft

1. **The Minutes** of the last meeting were approved.
2. There were no **matters arising** from the minutes
3. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman recorded that most of the time of the committee is spent on looking at planning applications and deciding whether to object or support. There have continued to be a steady stream, mostly for minor works, and a few small basements.

The applications which raise most concern are those for external alterations, and in particular extensions to the backs of houses and extra floors or dormer windows on roofs. There was a particular problem with unsuitable windows, particularly large plate glass ones out of keeping with our Victorian architecture. Where these are out of sight we do not see a problem. For instance dormers are often hidden behind a parapet and a large window on lower ground floor back extension often is not visible from the public realm. Where they are visible for example from a communal garden we do think it is important that they should suit the building and we continue to be concerned about light pollution.

Being a conservation society our concern is with the character of the area. We would not normally object if the design is suitable but if there is a problem of overlooking or loss of privacy this is really a matter for neighbours. However where we think there may be a problem, or neighbours have objected we make a point of emphasizing to the planning officers that they need to take this into account

The Association, along with others like the Kensington Society, has been concerned for some time at the fact that Council officers give pre-application advice to applicants without any consultation with the neighbours, despite the fact that the latter might well have information of value. One of the Council's Scrutiny Committees has recently taken this matter up, and we hope that there may now be moves towards consultation at least for the larger schemes.

Our area takes in a large part of Portobello Road and the area around Ladbroke Grove tube station. Here shopfronts and pubs tend to be our main concern. Fortunately the council has good shopfront guidelines and we have objected successfully to particularly garish shopfronts. The look of the building above shops is also important and we are very keen to see that front fascias do not protrude above the first floor window cills.

We are keen to see that pubs remain pubs and are not turned into yet more estate agents offices, and that as much as possible of the Victorian character is preserved. We were concerned about KPH on Ladbroke Grove but this has turned out to be a good refurbishment. The same cannot be said of Portobello Gold and its garish mural but we did see off an attempt by the Duke of Wellington to put up bright yellow tiles.

On big projects such as Newcombe House, the Marks and Spencer block and the proposed Holland Park cycleway we collaborate with the Kensington Society. We have also made sure we are consulted by the Council on such things as cycle hangars and the placing of street benches.

The Chairman concluded by encouraging more members to sign up to our email alert system, so that we could inform them about Council consultations and other matters of local interest.

4 Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts.

The Treasurer circulated the accounts to the meeting and presented a report on the main individual items of income and expenditure. It was noted that we claim Gift Aid on a two yearly basis. The subscription remained at £15 and we had attracted a number of new members but there were also a number leaving the area or dying, so membership remained fairly constant. Our reserves remain substantial which is considered prudent as we may have to seek some specialist or legal advice at any time. Sophia Lambert proposed the adoption of the accounts and this was seconded by Anne Chorley.

5 Election of Officers

Paul Bastick and Anne Chorley had agreed to stand again as Treasurer and Secretary; and Sophia Lambert had agreed to stand again as Chairman. The appointment of Paul Bastick was proposed by Catherine Faulks and seconded by Dori Schmetterling. The appointment of Anne Chorley was proposed by Fiona Fleming Brown and Seconded by Kay Broadbent. The appointment of Sophia Lambert was proposed by Rita Darlow and seconded by Peter Mishcon.

6 Any Other Business

Tfl cycleway plans for the Notting Hill Gate and Holland Park Avenue.

Because of the huge number of people objecting to the proposal the Council at a meeting organised by the Kensington Society came out in opposition to the scheme. The timing of their announcement was not ideal as the consultation on the scheme still had a few days to run. Alternative cycle routes are now being looked at by various groups.

Portobello Market Signage

Councillor Faulks assured the meeting that the Council were working on this as they were very much aware that this was a problem.

Post-Grenfell toxic waste

Robina Rose was concerned about the toxic waste which might have fallen on the garden squares following the Grenfell Tower fire. It was noted that it would be up to individual garden square committees to decide whether a test was necessary, but the general feeling of the meeting that this should not be necessary in view of the tree canopy in most of the garden squares.

St Peter's Church

Fiona Fleming Brown advised the meeting that the Church would be scaffolded shortly so that the restoration work could begin. There were plans to re-gild the weather vane and the face of the clock. It is very much hoped that this work will ensure that the clock is working again.

Newsletter

Sir Angus Sterling proposed a vote of thanks to Sophia Lambert for producing such interesting News Letters and this was warmly agreed by the meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.