

THE HAMMERSMITH SOCIETY
an amenity group concerned with planning and
conservation in Hammersmith since 1962

Minutes of the 54th Annual General Meeting held on 9 June 2016
at the Dorsett Hotel, 58 Shepherds Bush Green, W128QE

Present: 78 Society members, friends and guests, including the Society's Patron, the Mayor of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Andy Slaughter MP, councillors, and representatives of local groups and Environment Award winners. Apologies received from Cllr Stephen Cowan, Cllr Michael Cartwright and some 30 members.

1 The Society's President, Professor Hans Haenlein MBE welcomed members, guests, and friends, The Society's Chair Tom Ryland was prevented by illness from attending and in his absence the meeting was chaired by Melanie Whitlock, Vice Chair.

2 The Annual Hammersmith Society Environment Awards were presented by the Mayor of Hammersmith & Fulham, Cllr Mercy Umeh, as follows:

- **Environment Award:** Dunnhumby Building at 184 Shepherds Bush Road, Architects Collado Collins
- **Nancye Goulden Award** for a smaller project: Bridget Joyce Square, Designers Robert Bray Associates and client LBHF
- **Conservation Award:** Barons Keep rooftop extension, Architect John McAslan
- **Jane Mercer Award** for collaboration and communication with the community: First Base developers and architects Pollard Thomas Edwards for engagement with the local community on 282-292 Goldhawk Road.

Wooden spoons for those who got it wrong:

- **Linden Homes'** apartment building on the corner of Goldhawk road and Greenside Road for its particularly inappropriate choice of brick;
- **Notting Hill Housing** on the corner of Hammersmith Grove and Goldhawk Road for generally lacking empathy with the site surroundings, particularly ill-fitting on Goldhawk Rd
- **Godolphin & Latymer School Sports Hall** Iffley Road for its squared-off building with an inappropriate choice of brick, ill fitting in its surrounding Victorian Gothic context.

3 Guest Speaker Peter Murray, Chairman of New London Architecture and Director of the London Festival of Architecture, gave a presentation on "The West London Powerhouse" in which he gave a convincing and persuasive case for planning height in London. The problems of delivering housing in London when 50,000 homes a year were needed and only half that number were delivered meant that planning policy had to decide between intensification around town centres only, or everywhere with good transport links; suburban renewal and densification had also to be considered. Height, controversial as it was, was nonetheless inevitable: 430 tall towers in London

had permission or were in the pipeline – if they were to be a fact of life then it was essential they be planned properly both in terms of the skyline and at ground level. Stresses in the planning system included call-ins and inquiries which swept local plans to one side, and developers who demanded a 30% profit on schemes. However, thoughtful planning could result in excellent townscapes such as Kings Cross.

4 Chairman’s Report: Melanie Whitlock introduced Chair Tom Ryland’s report, which can be found on the Society’s website, hammersmithsociety.org.uk, and which discussed the Flyunder project and TfL’s likely future ambitions to redevelop the Hammersmith Broadway island site; the Hammersmith Residents’ Town Centre Working Group; air quality; the imminent major developments at Old Oak; plus numerous shorter reports on planning matters in Hammersmith.

5 The Minutes of the 53rd AGM (Proposed by Annabelle May and seconded by Hans Haenlein) held at the Lyric Theatre Hammersmith were agreed as a correct record.

6 The Hon Treasurer’s Report and Accounts had been previously circulated and were accepted by the meeting. They are available on the website.

7 Election of Officers and Committee

The following were proposed by Roger Warry and seconded by Carlo Nero:

Hans Haenlein	President
Tom Ryland	Chair
Melanie Whitlock	Vice-Chair
Annabel Clarke.....	Secretary
Richard Tollemache	Treasurer

Committee members: Angela Clarke, Julian Hillman, Richard Jackson, Annabelle May, Rosemary Pettit, Richard Winterton, Derrick Wright

The committee was thanked for all their hard work over the year.

8 Any Other Business Melanie Whitlock thanked the Dorsett Hotel (winner of the 2015 Environment Award) for their welcome and hospitality.

Questions from the floor

Rosemary Pettit encouraged members and guests to take a membership form and newsletter to give to a neighbour who might like to be involved in the work of the Hammersmith Society.

Jilly Paver brought copies of her book on the history of St Peter’s Square, which was available for purchase

Peter Eversden asked Peter Murray if Londoners would get what was envisaged by the London Plan. Peter Murray said there needed to be a balance to planning and

the policies must be adhered to. The desires of local communities regularly took second place to the ambition of developers to make a 30% profit. Planners themselves had no powers to create a coherent city, but a powerful proposition such as at Kings Cross could result in a successful development.

Louanne Tranchell (Hammersmith Community Trust) was appalled at the scale of the proposed redevelopment of Hammersmith Town Centre but acknowledged there was a great need for the younger generation to be able to live and work in acceptable developments.

Melanie Whitlock asked if the London Plan was able to achieve this. Peter Murray responded that there were problems with the London Plan. Townscape and place making was being substituted for proper planning. There needed to be a coherent policy to plan for clusters of tall buildings rather than single towers (as proposed in Paddington).

Cllr Lucy Ivimy asked if people remembered the worst excesses of planning after WW2 and questioned why our planners did not learn from the lessons of the past: the Corbusian vision of the city does not work well in our society. She hoped there would be no repeat of the mistakes of 1960s tower blocks.

The meeting finished at 9.30pm