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Tolmers Square

Ham & High Expon 1 March 74

goes on show

FOLLOWING the withdrawal of Camden's controversial scheme for the redevelopment of the Tolmers Square area last October, the Tolmers Village Association has put together an exhibition of their own ideas and hopes for the future of their community.

The exhibition, at the TVA's headquarters shop at 102 Drummond Street, Euston, will be open for the next two weeks, and the organisers hope that people, especially Tolmers Village residents, will come along and add to the fund of ideas.

It provides factual information about the area, with charts showing the breakdown of ownership of the properties, and the backgrounds of the people who live there.

The exhibition also puts forward a number of broad new proposals for the area, including the setting-up of a locally-controlled Housing Association, the renovation and restoration of existing properties, as well as new street facilities, traffic management schemes and open spaces.

The TVA sees the exhibition as the first stage in a programme of alternative proposals, designed to show that an area can be revitalised by methods other than wholesale demolition and

destruction, and that it can be done largely in accordance with the residents' wishes and needs.

"We have been trying to work out a way in which the local community can play more part in running their affairs, rather than being at the mercy of people who want to make profit," said Mr Gavin Brown, the assistant treasurer of the association.

Cllr Frank Dobson, the leader of Camden Council, who visited the exhibition last week, told the Ham and High that he had found it interesting and one which highlighted the good intentions of both Camden and the association.

But he was more wary about suggestions for local control through a housing association.

"We must pursue a consistent policy. Camden should run this housing in the way it generally runs housing, and I don't think we should put new tenants in a privileged position over old ones," he said.

But with much depending on a highly unpredictable election yesterday, no-one was prepared to comment this week on the financial practicalities and realities of the various proposals.

"Once we know who we are up against we will have a better idea about what is practical and feasible," a spokesman for the association said.

ANOTHER VOICE IN TOLMERS SQUARE!

Tolmers Square is in the news again with the announcement by the Tolmers Village Association that they plan to open an exhibition at 142 Drummond-street, Euston, NW1 from February 18 until February 23 showing what they would like to see done in the Tolmers Square re-development area.

The Association comprises residents and workers who will mainly be affected by the re-development.

Said their spokesman, Mr. Nicholas Wates this week: "We have seen what Joe Levy wants to do to Tolmers Square. We have also seen what Camden Council want to do. Now the people who actually live and work in Tolmers Square are putting forward some of their own ideas.

The Tolmers Village Association have put together an exhibition as a first step in producing a community-based redevelopment scheme.

The exhibition does not present a comprehensive redevelopment proposal. Instead it explains what the area is really like: who lives here, why, for how long, what sort of community exists, what do people need and want. It shows how the buildings are falling and/or are empty, how the area has been allowed to decay for 10 years, and why. It then puts forward some proposals for action.