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Tolmer truth

YOUR story about the Tolmer is misleading. It was not opened in 1944 as a cinema. The opening date was May, 1924. I worked there in 1928 to 1929. The first owner was Smart. The church was not 19th century — the founding stone stated it was opened in 1776 which was 18th century as your first story stated. You can still see the date both church and school were opened if you go to the school which still stands in Drummond Street. In 1928 the cinema still had its spires and tower. Also, as a church the Tolmer was known as TapLady Church. — W. J. Piggitt, 33 Wyersdale House, Woodberry Down, London, N.4.

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Light industry for Tolmers Square

THERE is another aspect of the proposal to develop Tolmers Square which has been forgotten. It contains a pocket of light industry which for people like myself, who have occasional need to get a gadget machined or fabricated, etc, will be sorely missed.

I have talked to the proprietor of the small business to whom I have taken my odd bits of work, and am told there is no prospect of setting up again anywhere in London because of the handicaps of high rents and the disruption. This is an example of a social malady of which I have known too many instances already, both personally and in the course of my vocation.

If this area must be redeveloped (as a result of the desert left by demolition for the Euston Road underpass) then the reality should be faced that this locality is more suitable for light industry than housing, being bounded by a road system that is likely increasingly to make life hell for mothers and children.

Light industry is the ideal use; no more offices are needed in Camden while Centre Point stays empty.

If it makes sense to subsidise housing rents, it also makes sense to subsidise small business rents — both workshops and retailers; we need housing where people now live, and small businesses where they are useful to employees and customers alike, not miles away on the outskirts (assuming such business has survived the move).

Why cannot Camden include low-rent small business premises in its developments, a scaled-down version of what the GLC has done at Thamesmead?

— NAT BROWN,
46 South Hill Park, NW3.