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H & H Express

UNITED COUNCIL

THE REJECTION of Camden Council's plans for housing development in Tolmers Square, Euston, by the then Minister of Housing, Mr Peter Walker, has united both local political parties in protest.

Labour and Tory spokesmen rose at last week's council meeting to denounce the decision, which they say makes nonsense of their efforts to re-populate the southern sector of the borough, where business and academic institutions already heavily outweigh residential buildings.

Mr Walker turned down an application for powers to buy the land, on the grounds that council housing there would be too expensive, and he advised Camden to look for cheaper land in the borough.

"The terms of the Minister's refusal were horrifying," said the Labour leader, Alderman Mrs Millie Miller. "He was telling US we couldn't afford it, and telling US we must find cheaper sites."

"Of course we know that land there is expensive, but we must build in central London if we are not to create a wilderness there."

DEPUTATION

The Planning Committee chairman, Alderman Alan Greengross, assured the council that the deputation he has asked the Minister to receive to plead the council's case will be "tough and united."

He added: "Our application was turned down on the grounds that we can put up housing cheaper in some other part of the borough. We know this perfectly well, but it is not what we want to do."

"It is not a question of the cost. If the country wants housing for people in Central London then it must pay for it. It is a Metropolitan problem," he said.

Labour councillor Mrs Ruth Howe, just back from New York, said Americans regarded London as "a kind of El Dorado" where the air was clean and things were on a congenial, human scale.

"But this is what we are in danger of losing in the central area, because of a creeping deadness that started in the City and is now crossing Euston Road," she added. "NWA had better be warned." Luxury housing schemes

Joint protest over rejection of building plans

like the Barbican development in the City were not the answer, said Mrs Howe. "I have a deep fear that Covent Garden and Tolmers Square might both end up as little Barbicans if they are handed over to private developers. You might as well build offices."

The Tolmers Square issue is closely bound up with Camden's general fight against the fall in population forecast for central London as a whole, and for the borough in particular.

"The population of the southern part of the borough has been declining for years," says the committee's report. "In the former borough of

Holborn the population fell from 61,900 in 1901 to 22,000 in 1961.

"The population is still falling, as evidenced by the fall of 12 per cent in five years shown by the 1961 and 1966 census figures.

"Unless positive steps can be taken to provide more new homes in the southern part of the borough in the next few years, the population is likely to fall at an even greater rate."

Land costs in Tolmers Square are estimated at £375,000 an acre. The cost of other sites in the south of the borough are put by council officers as "probably much higher."

Plans go to GLC

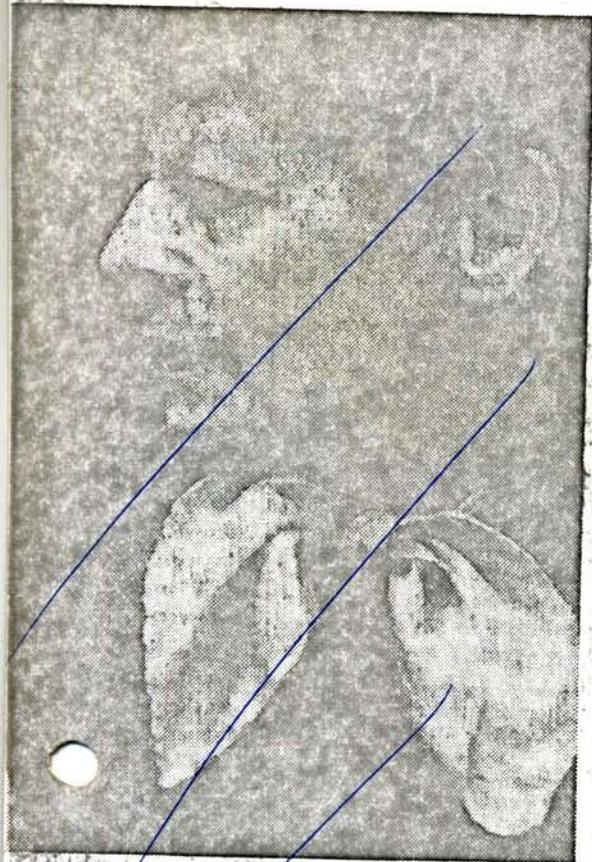
CAMDEN COUNCIL'S plans for the Belsize Village and Lady Somerset Road environmental areas are to go to the GLC for formal approval of experimental traffic orders.

And consultations with councillors and officers involved are to continue in an attempt to resolve various doubts.

Councillor Colin Hughes-Stanton congratulated the officers at last week's council meeting on their success in explaining the Lady Somerset Road scheme to local residents. "It is a very clever scheme for an extremely difficult area," he said.

The Planning and Communications Committee reported "deep concern" that the GLC had not yet made a decision on the Primrose Hill environmental area application, made a year ago.

The chairman, Alderman Alan Greengross, is to make a personal approach to his GLC counterpart to ask for a decision on the Primrose Hill and Camden Square environmental area schemes. He says they have been subject to "unwarrantable delays."



was among four works by Lady Greenwood that went on show this week at the latest. The show also includes four miniatures by Elburn, who lives in Greencroft Gardens, West

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abortion unit would be a new venture for the group. idea is to create a new possibly with its own

OBJECTIONS

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Corruption in the gambling clubs

GAMBLING CLUBS in London have "an atmosphere of corruption and illegality," an Old Bailey judge was told last week.

The statement came from Mr John Mathew, defending a club employee who pleaded guilty to conspiring to steal from his employers.

Mr Mathew said that "standards become eroded" at the clubs, and that "the plastic chips cause one to lose all sense of the value of money."

Roy Elliott Yantin, 22, of Leaside Crescent, Golders Green, was given a nine-month jail sentence, suspended for two years.

Judge Christmas Humphreys told him: "I am prepared to accept that young men in this atmosphere of illegality find it hard to resist, and fall."

Mr Duncan Macrae, prosecuting, said the offences took place at the Sportsman, Tottenham Court Road, over a four-month period.

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