

L.C.C. will reject offices plan for Tolmers Square

—REPORT TO TENANTS

A HINT that the L.C.C. are planning to include Tolmers' Square in a large residential development scheme for this part of St. Pancras was given by County Cllrs. Tom Braddock and Mrs. Leila Campbell at a meeting of the Tolmers Square Tenants' Association on Monday. They said the proposal to build offices in the square was almost certain to be rejected.

The Tenants' Association, under the leadership of Mrs. Rose Gavin, have taken a militant stand against the proposals to build offices in the square. Deputations have been sent to present the tenants' views to St. Pancras Borough Council and to Mr. Richard Edmonds, chairman of the L.C.C. planning committee. Mr. Geoffrey Johnson Smith, M.P. for Holborn and St. Pancras South, also visited the square at the invitation of the association.

The association, in opposing commercial redevelopment of the area, have urged the L.C.C. to take over the square and build a housing estate there.

Go on fighting

Opening the meeting, Mrs. Gavin gave a brief resumé of the events following the application in October for planning permission for commercial development of the area. She pointed out that as a result of a deputation to the borough council in November the council withdrew their approval of the application.

"Unfortunately, that was not the end of the matter by any means. At their meeting last week the borough council agreed to recommend approval of the commercial development proposal—provided the back land was developed residentially."

This change of attitude by the borough council seemed to indicate that the proposed commercial development had received the go-ahead.

"That may be so—I hope Mr. Braddock and Mrs. Campbell will be able to tell us just what the position is—but we cannot leave it there. We

must go on fighting for what we think is right."

Disturbed

Mr. Tom Braddock said he was very disturbed when he heard the borough council had given their approval to the development scheme.

"Mr. Edmonds gave an undertaking that he would keep the three L.C.C. members informed about this matter and it seemed to me that he had failed to do so."

He immediately wrote to Mr. Edmonds.

"In his reply Mr. Edmonds pointed out that the L.C.C. had to consult the borough council before reaching a decision, and that the borough council's recommendation was merely an opinion. He also said the L.C.C. officers' report on the application recommended that it be refused."

In view of the circumstances, and so that he could consult the local county councillors, Mr. Edmonds intended asking his committee to defer consideration of the matter for the present.

Quite clear

"It is quite clear that had it not been for the action taken by the Tenants' Association, the application would have gone through. The whole thing is back in the melting pot, but with this difference, the application for commercial development has been turned down," declared Mr. Braddock.

He said he was not able to divulge further information about development of the area. "I am authorised to tell you that the whole thing is being

reconsidered. I think I can tell you that, the commercial development having been turned down, there is only one alternative—and that is on the lines you have suggested."

Mrs. Leila Campbell told the meeting a large redevelopment scheme for the whole of the area was being considered by the L.C.C.

"This scheme might well cover the suggestions you have made about the development of the square. This may sound pretty hopeful, but I must warn you to watch that whatever you are offered is what you want, at rents you can afford."

The tenants of William Road and Stanhope Street had shown what could be done by people who were determined not to be hustled out of their homes.

"You have achieved a great deal so far by sticking together. Make sure that you continue to stick together."

Good news

Mr. David Goldhill, secretary of the Holborn and St. Pancras United Workers' and Tenants' Defence Committee, said: "We have heard some good news to-night. We want to go on hearing good news. The best way of making sure you will be rehoused in Tolmers Square at a rent you can afford is to keep pushing. Let the L.C.C. know that you don't intend to let yourselves be turned out to make way for office building."

He pointed out that empty office space in the vicinity occupied land which could have accommodated 500 houses.

"And there are more offices going up on the other side of Euston Road. Let us make sure that any building on this site is for housing."

QUEEN'S SCOUT

Kenneth Charles Morrell, a member of Union Chapel's Scout Group, has been presented with the Queen's Scout certificate by Islington District Commissioner, Mr. Charles Wetten.



Mr. J. M. R. Chapman, Islington's new borough treasurer, will take up his duties at the end of June when Mr. J. W. Hough retires. Mr. Chapman is 48 years old and a native of Sevenoaks, Kent. He relinquishes a similar post at Poplar.

Total immersion

Miss Dorothy Allen, aged 71, of Ainger Road, Chalk Farm, was among 21 new Jehovah's witnesses baptised by total immersion at Caledonian Road baths, on Sunday. Other included Mrs. Erine Nicolaou, a machinist, of Affleck Street, N.1, and Eric Taylor, of Witherington Road, Highbury. The ceremony was one of the highlights of a three-day conference at Islington Town Hall.

NOT THE KENTISH WE KNOW

Although John Sommerfield's new book, "North-West Five" (William Heinemann Limited) is set in Kentish Town, the author entirely fails to give any semblance of authenticity to the story's background. In short, the book, charming enough in its way, could, with the very minimum of change, have been set in almost any suburb or town.

Mr. Sommerfield has the irritating habit—to someone who knows the area—of referring to roads which just do not exist. He also brings in a non-existent station on the North London railway line—Kentish Town North.

The story itself is pleasant enough. It tells of a National

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