

NLP

TOLMERS SQUARE TENANTS FIGHT THIRD OFFICES PLAN

A.T.C. GUARD AT CIVIC SERVICE

Members of Islington's 9F A.T.C. Squadron provided a guard of honour at the borough's traditional civic service at St. Mary's Parish Church, Upper Street, on Sunday morning.

The Lesson was read by the mayor, Cdr. Mrs. Agnes Seeley. With her at the service was her daughter, Mrs. Margaret Stables, as mayoress, and the deputy mayor, Ald. John Barnes.

Others present included Mr. Leslie Walker (deputy lieutenant), the town clerk (Mr. H. Dixon Clark), and members of the council. The service was conducted by the Rev. Maurice A. P. Wood, Vicar and Rural Dean of Islington.

LURED GIRL FROM PARK

Man is jailed

A 54-year-old Kentish Town man lured a seven-year-old girl from a park at Primrose Hill, Chalk Farm, and indecently assaulted her, it was stated at Clerkenwell on Monday.

John O'Donnell, kitchen porter, of Prince of Wales Road, N.W.5, pleaded guilty to indecently assaulting the girl on Saturday.

P.C. Bagwell said he was called to the park by a man who saw O'Donnell allegedly lure the girl outside and later put his hand under her dress.

Medical evidence was given that the girl had not been harmed.

O'Donnell was said to be living with his 84-year-old mother and to have served for some time in the Army.

The magistrate (Mr. Frank Powell) remanded him in custody till Tuesday, when he was sent to prison for one month.

PRESSURE for the redevelopment of Tolmers Square for commercial purposes is continuing despite the strong local opposition and the rejection of two development proposals by the L.C.C. Local residents are campaigning for the L.C.C. to take over the whole area for housing purposes.

The latest application for planning consent, by Messrs. Stone Toms and Partners, is for the building of shops, showrooms, offices and a car park on the site bounded by Euston Road, Hampstead Road, Gower Street and Tolmers Square. This is the south side of the square.

This application was received recently and is under consideration. The L.C.C. will not make any decision until they have received the recommendations of St. Pancras Borough Council. So far the matter has not been before the borough council's planning committee.

Two previous planning applications were refused recently by the L.C.C. One was for shops, offices and flats in the area bounded by Nos. 38 to 60, Hampstead Road, Nos. 141 to 163, Drummond Street, and Nos. 1 to 13, Tolmers Square. This is the area on the north side of Tolmers Square.

The other application, for shops, offices, showrooms and residential accommodation, covers the whole area bounded by Euston Street, Gower Street, Euston Road and Hampstead Road.

This application was recommended by St. Pancras Borough Council for approval but the L.C.C. planning committee, after hearing representations from the local tenants' association, decided to refuse approval.

Comments on the latest proposal were made this week by Mrs. Rose Gavin, secretary of the Tolmers Square Tenants' Association. She declared: "We are concerned to receive yet another notice of a proposal to pull down parts of Tolmers Square in order to build offices and showrooms." She pointed out that the

scheme would involve the destruction of some housing in Gower Street, which would not be replaced, but "The real significance of this proposal is that there would be the imposition of more unnecessary offices and traffic dumped piecemeal in an area which cries out to be planned and rebuilt as a whole—and rebuilt mainly for housing."

She emphasised that there was no lack of offices or showrooms in the area.

"There are, in fact, thousands of square feet of office space still empty within a few minutes of the square. A massive block with 240,000 square feet of office space is going up on the other side of Euston Road and a major office and showroom building proposal has been agreed for Seaton Place."

With the near completion of the Regent's Park Estate by St. Pancras Borough Council there are now virtually no other sites for housing in the whole area.

"We contend that the whole Tolmers Square site, with some adjoining streets, could be developed for flats—and even allowing for a shopping frontage along Euston Road, this would be of real help in remedying the terrible local housing shortage."

Mrs. Gavin pointed out that the association had made it quite clear to the L.C.C. that they felt the area should be taken over and redeveloped for residential accommodation by the council.

"We contend the area should be redeveloped for housing for the present tenants and for other local families — at rents we can afford."

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