

WHEN YOU ARE IN A HOLE STOP DIGGING!

A Presentation to the Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Committee

By the Save Ally Pally campaign | 24.10.07

We are a non-political rapidly growing group of individuals and organisations who have a keen desire *to ensure that* the charity properly fulfils its objectives for its beneficiaries, the people of London.

1. A sale of a 125-year lease to Firoka or anybody is not going to happen. For one thing, Firoka has clearly stated that if the recent court action by us were successful they would walk away. Mr Kassam told the Court that had he been required to disclose the details of the agreements (as the judgment established should have been done) he would never have entered into negotiations. Following our successful court case - where Mr Justice Sullivan said "**the trustees are the authors of their own misfortunes**" and awarded our costs against the trustees - we have been advised that we have several courses of legal action that would successfully block any sale. But most crucially if the public ever found out the price at which it was being sold, the trustees would soon be asked to attempt to justify **selling a palace for less than the price of a house in Dukes Avenue**.
2. Currently Firoka are running the palace with a second "General Manager": we do not yet know on what terms, but it is an unstable position for customers, staff and the public and needs urgent resolution.
3. One of our campaign's main aims is to replace the municipal trustees who have managed the palace over the last 27 years with a new board of trustees who are professional, competent and most importantly interested in the future of the palace and park. The new trustees would sever all financial links with the council. We suggest that Haringey Council passes on to the new trustees the £8,000,000 dowry it received in 1980, and participates fully in consultation over the future of the palace. They will be proud of the results of working cooperatively.
4. We are working with the appropriate authorities to ensure a peaceful handover and would hope to persuade the narrow majority of the trustees who currently oppose our proposals that we can work together to achieve a successful outcome for all.
5. We are currently reviewing the appropriate structure for an effective board of trustees and preparing job descriptions. The structure will be in accordance with best practice as set by the Charity Commission, and it is unfortunate that the current structure is so obviously not so.
6. We are committed to a transparent and fair process and are happy to discuss our proposals in more depth.

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Our Aims

:: Stop any grant of a long lease of the Palace that's not for charitable purposes. The 1900 Alexandra Park and Palace Act provided that both Palace and park be held on trust "for the free use and recreation of the public for ever"

:: Safeguard the original site of the world's first high-definition broadcasting and to preserve the outline of the original studios A and B

:: Reconstitute AP's Trustees back to representatives of the **whole** of London and of the nation, capable of and interested in maintaining the Palace and Park for public use under its trusts (e.g. various councils in North London, The GLA, English Heritage, BBC, The Arts Council; individuals who have experience in community, heritage and educational areas.

The Palace is a unique national public asset and should be cherished as such.