'Modification' of building plans
or how to pay £500,000 pa. in interest to merchant banks

Change this (Oct 74) to this (April 1st, 1976 [correct date don't forget!])

Minutes of last meeting
AGENDA for next
case heard in the office
and the Social
Service building

The above major change in the Council's plans for our area hilariously called
a modification indicates that the slogan 'the GREENING of Tolmers SQUARE' pointed
on a wall in the said gave or square has been taken literally.
Perhaps the office may make another slogan applicable 'the squaring of Tolmers Green',

200-300 HOUSING UNITS
HOSTEL
CINEMA
LIGHT INDUSTRY
EXTRA SHOPS EXCEPT
SUPERMARKET

The Levy has requested 250,000 square feet!
and this was said (by Council spokesmen) to be totally unacceptable.
Could it be that having cooked the Levy goose his sauce has now
been appropriated by the Council gander?

NEXT MEETING Wed 26 May In Social Services Building

Tolmers Lottery
First Prize £1,50
Second Prize £10
Third Prize £0.32
Tolmers Fund £20
To benefit a local charity
See back page for more details.
Plus ça change, plus le même chose

"We believe we can do the same with fewer offices and more homes than proposed by the developer, and gain the advantage of owning the property." — Frank Bottom, Evening Standard, 5 June 75.

The History of Tolmers Square: not so long ago the centre of debate in Camden and the national press has entered a new phase. Where previously every development was closely watched and publicized and seemed to reflect the truth of the Council's present intentions has been a great deal of publicity. The latest scheme by the Council's architects was passed by the full council on April 22 without even being debated, no doubt because it was claimed that the scheme was in accord with the proposals of 14 years ago.

"Considerable public consultation has already been held on the broad principles of the Tolmers Square development, from which the present proposals come. An oven is a perpetuation of the earlier proposals."

This is NOT TRUE — more specifically there will be 33% more office accommodation than in the Council's previous proposals, in fact, 2 92% more than that proposed by Sack Conversion, and there will be less housing.

Where Sack Conversion proposed 29,000 sq ft of offices, and the Council countered with 35,000, it is now estimated that more than 300,000 sq ft of offices will be necessary to finance the development. This means no less than a massive 9 storey office block taking up the whole of the Eastern Road frontage and wrapping round to the present entrance to Tolmers Square. It was present since Tolmers Square will not be completely demolished and replaced by the "traditional" Tolmers Estate.

Camden maintain that so much office space is necessary in order that the area pay for itself. Last year the Council paid £4 million for the site now owned by Sack Conversion and is now paying over £50,000 p.a. interest on the money borrowed to pay. Such a huge office development is, in its belief, the only way to cut its losses. To make way for the offices the following have been eroded:

- 300 homes for people of the long housing list
- 20,000 sq ft of public buildings
- all the new light industrial, workshop etc.
- a proposed cinema to replace the Tolmers
- and Tolmers Square will be demolished.

The whole scheme has been determined by the need to build a massive amount of office space to make money. — The Council has been forced into this most unpatriotic position because it has in the recent past faced such heavy pressure to cut public expenditure and has gone to great lengths to oppose similar developments by private firms.

What, one wonders, were the advantages of public ownership envisaged by Frank Bottom? They are of little unit and perhaps some value whilst the Council is forced to buy land at inflated prices, and borrow money from the private sector. Forced to do so it must either behave like a property speculator or else set the garden onto the rules of the national park.

If Tolmers Square is to be saved and suit more human environment than that proposed by the Council it must take the path. There are, after all, too many offices in London. Have the Council 6 of making more money from any? (Last) — there is a good reason why the truth is the basis of the plan has passed unnoticed by much of the Council itself. The planning committee report to the full council gave no hint of the 300,000 sq ft of office space envisaged — this was omitted. It seems that the word has been passed over the eyes of them who make the decisions. We make using effort to alert members of the Council to this "trick" behind the scheme that they have agreed to — to build more offices than ever.

Quotes for meditation —

"The heavens are the abode of the Gods and the earth belongs to man. A person who does not use his property therefore forfeits its use to someone who will ..." — A tender of Imperial Stone quoted in the Annals of Tacitus (118 CE).

"To a person of property: "You are not making a gift of your possessions to a poor person. You are handing over to him what is his, for what has been given in common for all you have constructed for yourself. The world is given for all not just for the rich ..." — Saint Ambrose.

quote by Pope Paul VI in popula progressio.
Well! Well! We are now, maybe, getting to see the true colours of the Council's plans. I mean, personally, it seems to me like they are a bit drastically. First of all they evict 8 houses full of people (did they actually evict anyone — I don't remember that!!!) then they take 5 months to knock down a house which should have taken more than 6 weeks (but there's no sign of any construction!) then they say — come on, right now! — you know — Everyday out: When you say you gotta jump, you gotta jump. The following people will jump: Mrs. Isobel, 113, 115, 117, 117, 117. (From a letter, 31st March 1973.)

They managed to get any sort of organizations that exist in the Village — without the help of a work of reshuffling or alternative homes! I got a notice that we would have to move out, but they haven't told us where to go. How does the Council justify this? I wonder, so many people are so worried!!

Are we gonna put all of those people whom they evict up on the town hall steps saying you can't gonna stay? Where the fuck does the council get the right to shunt people around however they like? These boys sitting at their desks in the Town Hall don't have their nice cardboard cut-outs though (the Council call them Planner's & Architects) don't even know that there is something more in this world (Village?) than cardboard cut-out people. I've never met any of them, have you? But yet with a flick of their wrist they are pushing out Tolmers Village for good. They've got to be joking! The cardboard cut-out has got a bit of life in him. Yet, is it only those with the cardboard who get evicted for all over the place? - kicked out of the Council, nothing to vote on? They are finding out — what is it? It turns out that Cameron was the idea of many after all. Town building (or propose to build) more office space than leisure. Now they called Joe a politician, a speculator — what does that make them? How can anyone be worse than a politician makes it or a council planner? Now you be it, we've done this before once, can we do it again? Yes, we can. People included, see you all and we, all together, young old, black, white, cream, brown, yellow, green, orange, rent paying, rent paying, rent paying, renting, selling, buying, and not too bad! — Squat! No. Yes, it's all right.

We need to know just how the Council reckons to do this. I think that they think that by evicting those who know about Tolmers House they can get rid of enough of us to clear them — well maybe they can — they seem to have totally jumped when they can jump. Because if you jump when the others don't jump they are second. Besides what the council say, Tolmers Village House London, 2.

Life in Tolmers Square

As dawn continues to flood the early hours and pigeons wheel in patterns of constellations one by one to land upon ledges in Tolmers Square. Peaceful calls ring across the rough soil; children run all around the newly planted welcoming trees.

A community checks its pace and lifts ladder to look around and opens up its ears as it enters into the square, a receptacle, a well of silence on the verge of chaos. — Tolmers Square, a chunk of Earth rescued from the sweeping power of Heathrow Water — David Durn

David lived in Tolmers Square for some time, and is now with his brother at a US base in Germany. We wish him a speedy return and all the best.

Tolmers Village is another of those houses about to fall down around our ears — so we can all jump Just as long, late, so we won't move. —powder in our nose, we gotta get it together before it's too late. Why not now? Tim Davies

Food Co-op

Food Co-op

This may soon begin a change for the better. I hope in the prices at the Food Co-op because I intend to have a look at Spitalfields market because at New Covent Garden prices of food and admission charges (at present 50p) seems to be going up. Our prices at the moment are about 1/2 lb spaghettis, 25p for tomatoes & 10p per 1/4 for mushrooms. Douglas Fry

Cauliflower — superb! Just cooked and served with butter and pepper.
Spinach — nice boiled, puréed and mixed with chopped bald-egg or scrambled egg.
Carrots — chopped and boiled and mashed with a brown onion sauce. Delicious! Fry a chopped onion in a little oil until lightly browned and then add a little water and tip onion, scald 3-4 tbsp flour with stock water, stir in, cooking until thick.
The Balance in March was accumulated over a period when the Council paid the salary and expenses of the Coordinator, Rachel. This income has now ceased and so it is necessary to find other sources. The petty cash has been spent on such things as envelopes.

A TVA Lottery has been set up to cope with part of our financial problems. Tickets are being sold continuously at 5p each. A draw for three prizes takes place in the Social Services building each Saturday at 13:00. The first prize is 50p of the takings for that week, the second is 25p and the third is 12.5p. The takings for each week is reserved for a bonus prize which will be drawn from all the tickets sold since the last bonus draw at the end of the monthly meeting (see p1).

The Council is to be approached for a grant to cover the publication of the Tolmers News and we propose to ask for at least £25 per month for this purpose.

The Jumble Sale held in the Social Services building on Saturday 1 May for the Campaign Against the Criminal Trespass Law realised £37. Many thanks to all who helped. Debbie.

Non Resident friends of Tolmers Village Association are urged to send donations by post and they will be entered as they specify for the lottery. For example, so you will receive 10 tickets, say 2 for five successive weeks or five for two successive weeks or ten for one week or one for ten successive weeks. Such donations will be acknowledged in the Tolmers News and any prizes sent immediately after the relevant draw, by post.

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Peoples News Service and Rising Free bookshop are moving in.
PNS provide information for alternative newspapers that might not appear in the standard news agencies with a left-wing, but non-sectarian slant. They produce a fortnightly bulletin with a home and international section which covers peoples struggles under such headings as womens rights, workers, trade, equality, liberation, women.
Rising Free is a non-profit making non-sectarian, left-wing bookshop and information centre, which makes available books and non-sectarian material, and non-sectarian materials are not generally found in shops like Smith's Bookshelves.
I Remember - if you approve of our activities tell others.
If not TELL US.

T.V.A. which RAF PNS continued success in S.S.