

HULME

PUBLIC INFORMATION GAZETTE

Fallen Eagle!



After four months of City Challenge in Hulme there are people who are asking, "Would we have been better off if we had lost?" The P.I.G. has reported the disquiet at the Moss Side District Centre over the treatment of shopkeepers and traders, now we hear that things are just as bad elsewhere.

The Eagle public house is situated right in the middle of the Crescents and is scheduled for demolition as part of the redevelopment process. Joyce and Steve have been running the pub for nine years as tenant landlords and Joyce took out a new 20 year lease from Belhaven brewery in 1990. Part of this deal meant that she had to pay for the refurbishment of the pub from her own pocket.

In April of this year Joyce and Steve were visited by a senior officer from the Planning Department and a representative from the Hulme Project Office, they were reassured to learn that they were entitled to be rehoused in a new house in the redeveloped Hulme - with all removal costs paid - and would be compensated for the loss of their



home and business.

However, the next thing they heard was that, as Belhaven had not applied for a new site in Hulme, they would receive no compensation for the loss of their pub and that no removal fees would be paid by the City Council. When they asked about the furniture in the pub, Joyce was told by a Mr Smethurst from the Planning Department to "have a pub sale".

Worse was to follow. Although Joyce and Steve had specified in their application for rehousing that they wished to be temporarily rehoused in Hulme, the only offer they have

ever had is of a flat in Collyhurst.

After much complaining, a surveyor was brought in to value the remaining 18 years of their lease and to work out how much compensation would actually be paid. The Council has decided to work out this valuation on pub sales from mid 1989 to mid 1992 - a period when the Council was systematically emptying the Crescents by refusing any new lettings. Sales during this period dropped dramatically as compared with 1985-87 when the Crescents were two thirds full - and whatever the findings, it has

been made clear that the surveyors costs will come out of any compensation offered.

As Joyce says, "We've struggled to run a decent pub for nearly ten years. All our friends are around here and we want to stay - not be shunted off to Collyhurst and be ripped off for our compensation. It's a disgrace the way that we have been treated."

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Is the story of the Eagle an isolated example? Unfortunately it would appear not. The owners of Spendwell, the grocery store on Clopton Walk, are equally upset about their

treatment by the City Council. They have no idea about how long they have left before they have to move out and have had no real information for months.

They have, however been informally approached with an offer of a temporary premises for their shop - a unit on Woodcock Square! Someone needs to point out to the Council that Woodcock Square is itself due for demolition - probably at the same time as Clopton, and already has a grocery store. Ah well at least they have been offered somewhere in Hulme!

Hulme('s) S.I.C.

You may recall that the City Challenge was supposed to deal with all kinds of problems facing Hulme people - not just houses and shops, but services for children, education, helping people cope with the problems the City Challenge itself created for them - well that was the idea anyway.

At the time of writing Social Issues Committee has had two meetings. It had already taken much longer

to set up than Hulme Community Homes or the Economic Forum, but at least it had begun to meet. It

was also willing to discuss some very serious issues. For example, it talked about the future of Birley. It came to the simple conclusions that the people of Hulme, and the users of Birley in particular, should be asked to give their views on the matter, and that the Social Issues Committee should be allowed to see

the report before it went to the Hulme Sub-Committee for a decision. So the council decided to ignore all this and demolish Birley.

Then there was the STAR project. STAR is short for Supporting Tenants Around Rehousing, and was thought up by community workers in the area. The general idea was to give on the spot help to vulnerable people (e.g. elderly people, people with

mental health problems and so on) in Hulme when they were forced to move, and to be able to link into all the existing services to make the process as easy as possible.

Sounds like a good idea? Well, the council certainly thought so last year. They thought it was such a good idea that they said they would find some money from their own council budgets to get it started in

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If it's August, it must be time for another P.I.G. We hope you find something of interest in its 12 pages - if not, why don't you put that right by submitting something for the next issue.

We must apologise to Mr Jackman and Sue Edwards for not printing their contributions

- in the first case this was through lack of space and, in the second, it is because the coordinator has lost the stuff! We will try to put it right in the next issue.

Speaking of which, the deadline for P.I.G.14 is 5:00pm on Friday 4th September. Contributions to the Project Office (1, Otterburn Close) or give us a ring on 226 7840. In this issue we have the first two winners of our 'get something, anything!', funny in the P.I.G.'

Thanks to Lemn Sissay for the poem and Carl Peploe for the cartoons - the unique flying P.I.G. t-shirts are on their way.

Think you can do better? Well lets see it!

Until the next time - have a good one!

The Slurred World

Mikey Sivori's The Slurred Word Spectaculum

Fortnightly on Tuesdays at the Marble Arch pub on Rochdale Road

I arrive shortly before Helen Lagoe goes on for the second time. "Crash Land" is met with murmurs of appreciation but many mutterings of "Joni Mitchell rip-off" - quite apart from a fluidity and a clarity of voice which almost invites such comparisons, this is not surprising - it was actually written as such for the Hell of it, to see if it could be done, and only later insinuated itself into the set.

She plunged into "Dive" and onto "I Hold The Head" and "Urban Lullaby", a song about trying to get to sleep in cities which annoys the fuck out of me for its poppy obviousness. This is something which attracts a lot of people to it, "Some people really like that particular song and can't stand others, other people say they really like those and so I've decided that, all in all, I must have quite a few good songs", she said - a

conclusion I could live with. "If I went to America, this is the sort of thing I'd write when I got back", she said about "Big Blue American Sky". In that case, please don't go! Or, if you go, please don't come back.... She makes up for this with the lovely "High", gently melancholy and soaring all over the place. Vocals still darting left, right and centre, she brings the set to an end to ye olde rapturous applause.



Helen Lagoe - starring at the Slurred Word

At some point an anonymous (sorry my notes went to Glastonbury and not all of them came back) woman makes a valiant but futile attempt to recreate two House tracks without accompaniment. My God, but she did try! Next on is Fish, just over from Chicago, with a bunch of very silly poems delivered in a deliciously quirky manner, waywardly deadpan and... well, what can I say about a man who can write a poem beginning with the line "I was in the middle of a painful coughing fit when I saw you coming down the street", or produce such a poignant elegy as this: "The Presi-

dent's dead, His clothes are all red, And they'll never find his fucking head" Mikey Sivori himself stepped in to further plunge things into sublime daftness with a rousing rendition of "Go Grey, Grow Old and Die" with which almost everyone succumbed to joining in. Truly silly. People are laughing at Mike Nolan's (darling of Hulme 4) poetry before he has read any. He explains that the next one is about why his mother left his father, entitled "My mum wants a Man". Everybody falls about. The subjects of his poetry range from

men having heart attacks on sunny days, being told how to eat an orange when you'd rather have a tangerine, trying to get to sleep on Otterburn Close, to the dear old Poll Tax: "I don't live here, it's not my name" - which is the best poem I've heard all year. Mike of Hulme 4, every home should have one. After a short break, we are treated to the wonderful Trudy Blake, proclaiming "Oh Lord It's Hard To be Humble", and I believe it is heartfelt. I first saw her as part of the Commonword presentation at the Nia Centre's First Birthday Celebrations and her song which pantomimes the range of things she could be doing in the early hours with a jockey, a joiner, a taxidermist and half a dozen others before staggering, somewhat bow-legged back to her jockey, went down here even better than it did at the Nia. This woman has nerve, I tell you! She paused in this busy schedule to sell a few copies of her self-produced booklet "Poems" - these deal with slightly more sober subjects (unlike every one else in the pub) like roots and identity, change, relationships and positivity. I don't have a quid so she gives me one as a present. Someone who, to give him the benefit of the doubt, possibly did an eminently logical and clever set be-

fore I arrived, walked to the microphone and uttered, inexplicably, "Ladies and Gentlemen - please don't drink and drive" over and over until I raise my fingers (it's alright - they are not loaded) and shoot him loudly - and I get a bigger laugh.... Bish seizes an opportunity to take the stage (or the carpet at any rate - or should that be irate?) for an impromptu performance. His choice of titles is enough to describe Bish's inimitable, erm, style: "Pisshead", "Farthead" and, as he reminds us, one Pisshead plus one Farthead equals one "Shithead. After four 'last ones', "Shagbag" (which he 'never' recites) only serves to relieve us of the Drinking and Driving announcement - but not for long. AND THEN Mikey, fresh from the bar, says quietly, "Only philosophy can save us now", before he is 'announced' again, but within moments has recovered sufficiently to reclaim the mike and state confidently, "God is a see-through picture frame around an invisible picture", twice, "I AM Orville". Thunderous applause and it's all over bar the drinking. In fact there's drink all over the bar and it's way past Trudy's bedtime....

Next Slurred word is on 11th August



Mike Nolan - Otterburn Close's most famous son

She woz only a Boatman's Slaughter!

'Slaughter High, Undead at the Boatman's Home, City Road East ("live" crossed out) - speed metal. June 30th (P.I.G. up to date as ever!). Check. It. Out.

The 'Boaties' has been an extremely busy pub venue of late under the congenial landlordship of Rob. However, hardly any punters have turned up and, at the time of going to press, Rob has moved to the greener fields of Stockport(?) to recoup his losses.

June 30th was no exception numbers wise. But hey, summat different. Slaughter High, unsurprisingly, are a cheery load of chappies from the Wirral who can wag a wig with the best of them and know the right names to check. Bar a few originals, the set consisted of 'good 'uns' from Motorhead, Metallica, Megadeath, Slayer,

and, er, Sex Pistols. Things were a bit stilted and tame with your P.I.G. trotter dying to get his gammon goin' to some serious chung-changin'. It seems the humour of the occasion was all too evident and the bass player in particular could hardly stop grinning throughout. That's just not how it's done, is it? Grimace lads, grimace!!!



Slaughter High - guess the musical influences!

HULME P.I.G. Converts!

As some of you may know we're about to get a proper base for tenants and the Participation Project in Otterburn Close. What is under the debate is how much space we should go for.

As you'll by now realise, we are all squashed into No. 9. The flat next door, No 11, has been in the past the Hulme 4 TA flat - used as a delivery base for the Distribution Group, but apart from this, not as well used as it could be. The flat next door to that, No. 13 is also empty, and the council may be prepared for us to use all three, depending on what local people think a Tenant Resource Centre would need. So here are two sets of drawings showing possible ways we might use either two flats

or three. The reason for the debate is that Hulme 4 in which these flats sit is the only deck access housing that people from places like the District Centre and the Crescents can get into and they're queuing up to get in. So should we be taking the extra flat and therefore a possible home? What do you think we should do? Please have a look at these drawings, and then come to the meeting (details in box)

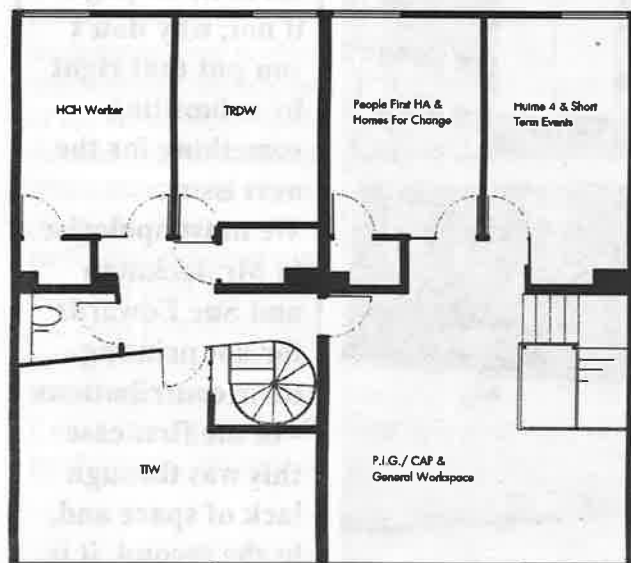
and tell us your view.

Both options contain the same facilities only one is more generously spread out than the other. They have not been costed up yet so they are only ideas - there are lots of different ways of planning out the options but these looked the best.

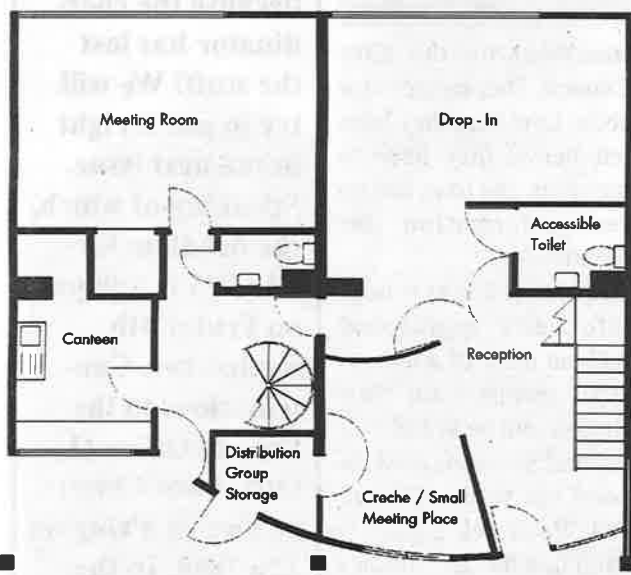
They both aim at providing the following:

A large meeting room, a new drop-in, a creche/small meeting space, a flexible reception area, accessible toilet, offices for the HTPP workers, PeopleFirst HA, Homes for Change, Hulme 4 TA, and another for use by people like the festival organisers or others when they need it; a workspace for the PIG, the Community Architecture Project and all the associated computer and drawing equipment that goes with those two.

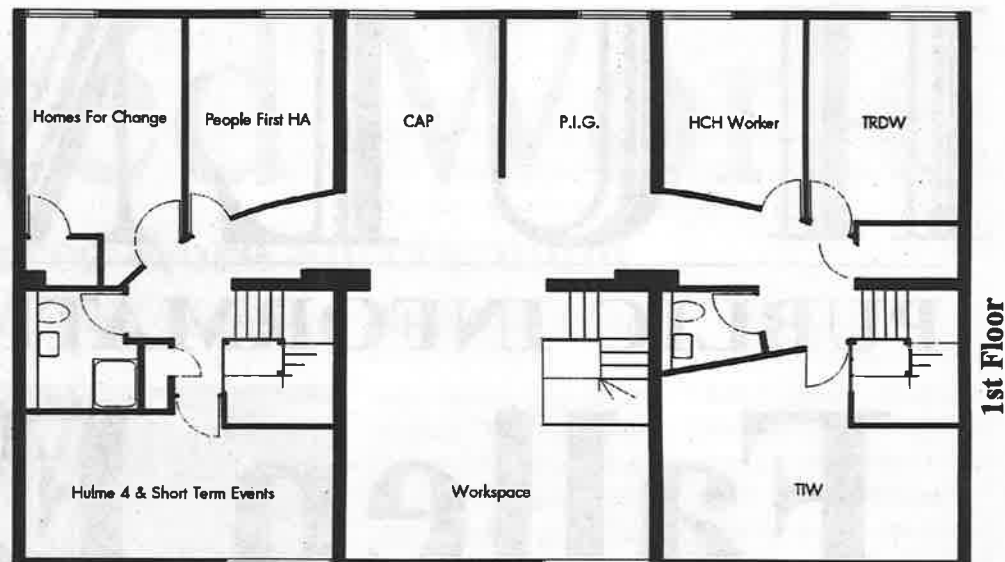
There is a meeting in Hulme Library on 11 August at 6pm for people to have these plans explained in more detail so that we can make a decision and people can express their views one way or t'other on which option we pursue.



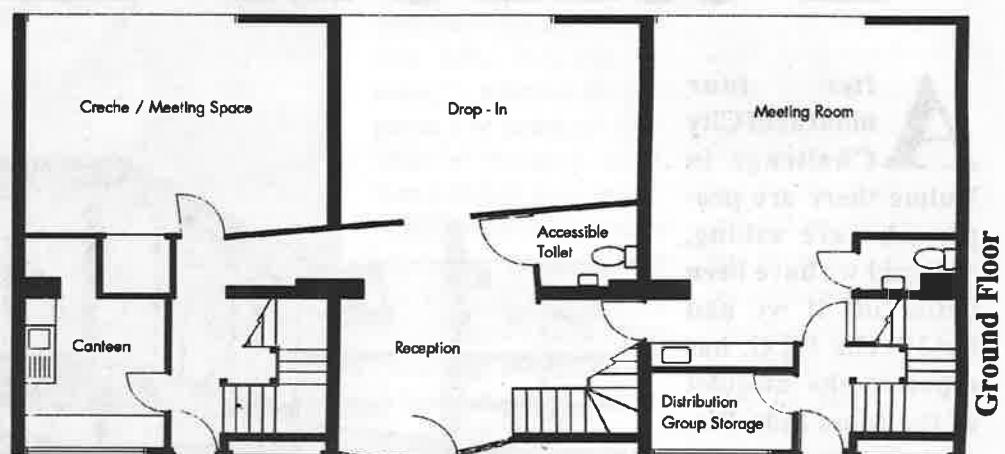
1st Floor



Ground Floor



1st Floor



Ground Floor

No 9

No 11

No 13

Community Service

Irene Roberts on her leaving day (28th July) after having been a Citizens Advice Bureau manager in Hulme for the last 17 years.

Irene told the P.I.G. that, over the years, there had been an enormous increase in the number of debt problems local people faced - particularly with the Poll tax and water rates.

She added that the pressure of work at the Hulme CAB was growing and more volunteers were needed.

She feels that now is a good time to bow out before the old Hulme goes, but that she would certainly miss the great warmth and friendliness of both Hulme's CAB staff and clients.

She has no immediate plans, but is looking forward to doing some more gardening and perhaps, after a break, some more voluntary work.



pic: Dan Arts

Irene Roberts - Retiring after 17 years of community service

P.I.G. Editorial

**Every Monday 4.30
at The Project Office
1, Otterburn Close
Tel: 061 - 226 7840**



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THE TIWs WANT TO HELP YOU

The Tenant Involvement Workers now have an appointment system. We're here to make sure that tenants of deck-access properties (or people who have already moved) have a say in the future of their new homes and their area.

Confused about what's happening in Hulme? We have the answers to your questions.

Want to know how you can become more involved in what's going on?

Perhaps you'd like to join your local tenants association/design group - we'll show you how.

If you live in Hulme Decks (including Moss Side District and the Crescents) and want one of us to visit you at home, phone our office on 226 1987 or drop in at 9 Otterburn Close, (the old Hulme Study Office) next to the Hulme Project Office, just off Bonsall St. We look forward to hearing from you.