

# The Free Independent Republic of Frestonia



TRIBAL MESSENGER

JULY 17TH 1978

A few small bits of news to report:

(1) A letter about the Freston Road area sent to Patricia Allen of the Notting Dale Community Planning Group, 43 Saunders House, Edward Woods Estate (21st June 1978), from Mr C.J.Craig (tel 748 3020 ext 5147) of the Hammer-smith Council Development Planning:

"...The change of administration has necessarily resulted in delays while some reassessment is made of Plan policies and of the future programme (i.e. re Freston Road area) leading to its final adoption.

These will be reported to Planning Committee in September 1978. While no final dates have yet been agreed, it is likely that public consultations will take place in November/December 1978, and the Plan should go on deposit for the receipt of objections during April/May 1979. If a public inquiry proves necessary, this is likely to be held in the summer or early autumn of 1979..."

So it looks as if we could be here till autumn of 1979 if they don't try to move us until the future of the area has been decided.

(2) On the 14th of December last year, Mr Snowsill wrote to us that no more unwanted offers of tenancies would be made by the GLC to Freston Road area residents "pending the outcome of your application to lease certain properties" - (referring to our offer to lease Frestonia off the GLC for £20,800 a year).

We heard this offer or tender was now out of date, so on June 24th this year a group of us submitted a new tender to the GLC, offering £21,000 a year for developing the area as it is now, with an emphasis on home-based studios and craft workshops (since they want the area to be light industrial, and crafts are officially light industrial).

We have now had a reply from the GLC Valuation and Estates Department, (tel 633 8875) Mr B. Selwyn, dated July 12th 1978:

"Thank you for the letter of 24 June concerning the revised offer by you and some of your neighbours for land and premises in the area.

I am in consultation on the matter and will write to you again as soon as a decision is reached but would not wish to hold out too much longer.

We have also written to Mr Snowsill again (24th '78) complaining that the GLC is again starting to lure our residents away with unwanted offers of rehousing in far-away places although he had assured us offers would only be made to people who wanted to move right away until the GLC had decided whether or not to accept our tender. He has not replied to my letter so far.

(3) There's a nice article in the Evening News, of July 14th 1978, by Chris Watkins headlined 'New London Nation wins its first fight':

"..After rehousing a handful of Frestonians under the Squatters Amnesty, the GLC says its housing committee is to consider letting the rebel residents stay..

"One Frestonian says: 'Creating the state of Frestonia has certainly made them think twice'.

There is a great feeling of community and it could be very successful here if all the wasteland was cleared away.

If everyone knew they had some right of veto the place would be revolutionised and people would be prepared to do the place up.'...

A GLC spokesman said today: 'We are still considering the squatters' application. We are going to dispose of the area for industrial use but it will now be a decision for the housing committee'."

(4) Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Conservative British shadow chancellor, has suggested the Conservatives should create mini-Hong

within Britain, 'Free Enterprise Zones', where derelict areas of the inner cities could be made free of most rates and taxes and bureaucratic regulations in order to encourage businesses to move in.

I've written to suggest that Frestonia is such a zone already, though restricted to craft industries, and that the conservative GLC could recognise us immediately, that his suggestion doesn't have to wait for a conservative government at Westminster.

(5) In the Sunday Times yesterday, there's an article about the City of Kite, which declared UDI from the City of Cambridge, as the Cambridge council proposed to knock down old houses and shops to build roads, car parks and a major shopping area. They plan to issue their own passports, and their mayor is 76 year old Arthur Sutton, due to meet the mayor of Cambridge.

That's the third area of Britain to declare its independence: Hay on Wye is an independent monarchy state on the borders of England and Wales - it's been independent more than a year now. There's Frestonia - our first year's anniversary of independence is due on October 30th '78. And now Kite.

Frestonia seems to have about 2½ active Ministers at the moment. Ministerial roles are supposed to change every three months according to the constitution. Anyone interested in declaring themselves Minister of State of this or that, please feel free. I'm calling myself Minister of State for Industry at the moment, as I needed a good title for signing my letter about Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Geoff's repainted a sign to say Visa Office Frestonia, and anyone prepared to have this nailed on the front of their house, and to stamp Visas for Unlimited Entry into the passports of visitors, please come to 107 to get the stamp - you would then be Minister of State for Immigration and Emigration.

Frestonian stamps are still working OK on letters, but they seem to get through best when posted in central London. I've had replies from Denmark, Nova Scotia and West Germany. A sheet of stamps is 50p to Frestonians. You have to cut them out and glue them on, and then frank the stamp with the visa stamp.

Still have copies of Frestonia's application to the UN including map of country - 20p to Frestonians, 50p to tourists, £1 to press.

There's a fair amount of money come in from tourist nick-nacks. David Rappaport in London has £15 or so in cheques made out to Minister of State for Foreign Affairs etc which I'm having difficulty cashing. I've got £10 from Olivia and Antonia, the ex-chancellor, is due to come from Italy and I think she still has £6. Could we perhaps spend it on a big party for the first year anniversary of independence on October 30th?

Love to Olivia and Pierot and their new baby.

Nicholas, 107 Freston Road.

