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● **EXCLUSIVE:** ROCK STARS IN BID TO SAVE DENMARK STREET

Plan to turn Tin Pan Alley back into music mecca

LONDON'S historic Tin Pan Alley of Denmark Street could be saved from development at the eleventh hour by a revolutionary rescue plan to make it the music version of The Stock Exchange.

Instead of closures of the guitar shops feared by the development, the street could have a boom future under a radical expansion programme hatched by the leader of the campaign to save the old Tin Pan Alley, by making it a new music zone.

Film-maker Henry Scott-Irvine (pictured) has devised a scheme for a Band Aid-style rescue with rock stars, record companies and music businesses moving in – and the developers like the sound of it.

Under Mr Scott-Irvine's plan the rock and pop her-

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itage site would not only keep all of its historic shops and features but it would expand to become even more of a music Mecca than it was in the Sixties.

His plan would turn what is now a tourist trap and guitarists' shrine into a thriving 'rock exchange', a London centre for the music industry in the same way that the Temple is the key district for the legal profession and The City is for banking.

Although the London music business is worth billions, the capital has long lacked a central hub for the industry that still creatively inspires the world.

More than 24,000 people have signed a petition and rock stars including The Who's Pete Townshend, Marc

Almond, Mick Avory of The Kinks and former Sex Pistol Glen Matlock are supporting Mr Scott-Irvine's campaign to save Denmark Street from development.

Now he is to approach them and other leading figures and businesses in the music industry to get them to invest in their belief by renting space in the planned new rock zone.

Consolidated Developments, who bought the area now worth £960 million in 1996 for £20 million, are warm to the idea.

In a statement, the developers said: 'We are committed to preserving and enhancing the rich musical heritage of Tin Pan Alley. The existing music traders are at the heart of the area and keeping them has always been central to our plans.'

Although councils have given the go ahead for demolition of some parts of the area, under Mr Scott-Irvine's plan the street would not only be saved but would become

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INSIDE THE CITY'S NEW WEEKLY



Why the Deputy Council Leader was riding an elephant through the City Streets - see pages 6 & 7

Skeletal nag next on Plinth



THE new commission for the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square – a 'nag and bones act' of the skeleton of a horse – will be unveiled in Trafalgar Square on March 5th.

Commissioned by the Mayor of London Boris Johnson as part of the Fourth Plinth Programme, Gift Horse will be the tenth sculpture to be unveiled.

A GLA spokesman said: "Gift Horse portrays a skeletal, riderless horse – a wry comment on the equestrian statue of William IV originally planned for the plinth.

"Tied to the horse's front leg is an electronic ribbon displaying live the ticker of the London Stock Exchange, completing the link between power, money and history. The horse is derived from an etching by George Stubbs; the famous English painter whose works are represented in the National Gallery at Trafalgar Square'.

Cologne-born Hans Haacke lives and works in New York. For the last four decades Haacke has been examining the relationships between

art, power and money, and has addressed issues of free expression and civic responsibilities in democratic societies in his work.

He works in many different mediums including painting, photography and written text. He has had recent solo exhibitions in at New York, Madrid, Cambridge, MA and Berlin. He shared a Golden Lion Award with Nam June Paik for the best pavilion at the 45th Venice Biennale and he has a permanent installation in the Reichstag, Berlin.

Mayor of London Boris Johnson said: "Hans Haacke has produced a singular take on the traditional equestrian statue, based on an etching by the quintessentially British artist George Stubbs.

"Gift Horse is the tenth statue to occupy the Fourth Plinth and encapsulates the dynamic mix of history and the contemporary that makes London such an exciting and dynamic cultural capital. I am sure it will get people talking, as they have about the other nine statues that have gone before."



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