

Chairman: Mr P.Parker, 41 Lullington Garth

Vice-Chairman: Mr A.Currie, 7 Cissbury Ring South

Hon. Treasurer: Mr K.Buckwell, 151 Chanctonbury Way

Hon. Secretary: Mr W.Hampsher, 25 Cissbury Ring South

— * — ** — ***** — ** — *

ROAD SAFETY

The question of road safety throughout the district assumes an ever increasing degree of importance and concern. Hardly an Annual General Meeting goes by without a question being asked relative to this subject. The Association is at present in touch with the Borough Council on this matter raised at the last meeting and the Controller of Engineering Services has responded ".....I shall be undertaking a full investigation into the traffic conditions as soon as my staff resources permit."

Not the least of the dangers arises from the question of traffic density using the local roads. Barnet Borough Council (as Highway Authority) appear to have done nothing to solve the dilemma, if anything they may have, and are, making the problem worse. Or is the problem itself unsolvable?

However, the principle of road safety we are lead to believe is a comparatively simple proposition. To paraphrase one of the foremost road engineers of the post-war period, Sir Colin Buchanan, it is this:

- 1 all road widths and lay-outs should be adequate for the traffic that use them, and
- 2 separation of all highway users as necessary (i.e. pedestrians from vehicular traffic).

These principles are relative; neither is of more importance than the other.

Take the first proposition road widths and lay-outs. When the Woodside Park Estate was first developed 1933 to 1935, the width of the main thoroughfare Lullington Garth was considered adequate to contain the traffic within the estate and as a conceivable link road on an east/west axis (Finchley to Mill Hill). Surrounding roads leading into and from the estate were already known and had been laid out some fifty to eighty years previously, the width of all these roads were accordingly specified to contain such density of traffic likely to be called for within a foreseeable future.

What is the present position?

Take the stretch of road to the east of the Estate extending from Argyle Road northwards along Westbury and Holden Roads up to Lauriel View. On a superficial estimate, where formerly there existed some 60 houses and flats, these have been replaced by some 300 residential units i.e. a 500% increase in the density of dwellings.

The true effect of so great an increase in density cannot be dealt with in isolation. Like the stone cast into a pond the ripples are far reaching; the number of motor vehicles are greatly increased either proportionately or to a greater or lesser extent, apart from public services such as sewerage, water and other utility supplies etc. (the "infrastructure" they are so fond of referring to these days).

In this instance traffic has to get to and from the area of redevelopment and two of the most important routes leading thereto are Argyle Road and Lullington Garth to the south. Small wonder at the growing volume of traffic using Lullington Garth. Further and beyond this area you have the recently developed "Bittacy Industrial Estate" opposite Mill Hill East station and the seemingly never-ending multi-storey commercial office developments along Ballards Lane and the High Road, not a little of whose traffic filters through Woodside Park.

Yet within half a mile radius of Sussex Ring not a single pedestrian crossing nor traffic lights are provided for road safety purposes!

One could be more hopeful if the signs were for a decrease in proposed development. Not a bit of it. In the last four publications dealing with planning applications in the Totteridge Ward, nine houses are to be redeveloped into sixty mixed units of flats and sheltered housing accommodation i.e. over a 600% increase in density.

"Whom the Gods would destroy, they first make mad!"

Re ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The following matters were raised at the Annual General Meeting and as a result of correspondence with the Local Authority we have to report:

Play facilities in the park - this particular site is considered low on the Council's list of priorities, but is anticipated to be dealt with in their 1988-89 programme.

Road Safety - a full investigation into traffic conditions is to be made and we are to be informed in due course of what, if any, remedial measures are considered necessary.

Use of the footpath by cyclists - a letter was written drawing the Council's attention to this matter but no reply has to date been received.



IMPORTANT!



The annual CHEESE and WINE PARTY will be held on Wednesday evening 13th May next at 7.30pm at Frith Manor School. Invitations will be issued to the Crime Prevention Officers of Neighbourhood Watch and your local Councillors to attend. Tickets will be obtainable at the door or from members of the Committee, at £2. each. Refreshments and a glass of wine are included in the admission price.



WOODSIDE PARK RATEPAYERS and RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER, JUNE 1987.

Chairman: Mr P.Parker, 41 Lullington Garth.

Vice-Chairman: Mr A.Currie, 7 Cissbury Ring South.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr K.Buckwell, 151 Chanctonbury Way.

Hon. Secretary: Mr W.Hampsher, 25 Cissbury Ring South.

— * — ** — ***** — ** — * —

REMINISCING

It is just fifty years ago this year the concluding financial and legal transactions were completed to finalise the building of the "Woodside Park Garden Suburb". The actual physical construction had been going on for some three or four years prior to this, so we can say the "old lady" is fifty years old - perhaps not "old" just a matronly "old lady".

During her fifty years much has happened. Early in her career the matronly old lady suffered many shocks, she did not entirely escape the bombings in the last war. In the war years too the estate could well have been regarded as one vast army camp with thousands of soldiers swarming around, housed, not only in the Inglis Barracks, but having taken over for the duration the Finchley Golf Club. Also the navy were in occupation of Mill Hill School (WRNS training headquarters).

However, the estate survived and through all the post war years has remained a much sought after area to live in, and in the main true to the ideals of Mr Ingram the developer of the estate, a Sussex man if ever there was - hence the nomenclature of the street names within the area.

Through all these years also your Association has existed to serve and protect the interests of its members drawn from the occupiers within Woodside Park. Fifty years ago the then Ratepayers Association in their newsletter of December 1937 were fighting, as ratepayers of the then London Borough of Hendon, for the provision of a local school, construction of concrete roads to replace the then existing "estate roads", adequate policing of the area, libraries, provision of local transport, adequate maintenance of pleasure grounds etc.

Most of these aims have now been achieved, not least through the efforts of a vigilant Ratepayers Association.

To-day we still need support in other directions. The preservation of the green belt for instance. Only last March your Association submitted case papers to the Inspectorate of the Department of the Environment, together with the Local Authority, prior to appearing before a hearing objecting to the development of land within the green belt, opposite the Inglis Barracks in Frith Lane. This proposed development was subsequently withdrawn. However, fresh applications for development of this land are now in hand and to which we have objected. The fight still goes on for the preservation of this land

At present intense efforts are being made to provide means of road safety in the Lullington Garth/Argyll Road/Chanctonbury Way area consequent on the increasingly heavy burden of road traffic using these thoroughfares.

The physical condition of the roads is a matter that has been brought to the attention of the Local Authority on a number of occasions and it is gratifying to note action is being taken for their repair and renewal.

We appreciate the problem facing the Borough in times of fiscal stringency nevertheless the care and maintenance of our roads, as with safety in using them, must surely be of supreme importance.

A representative of this Association sought election to the Consumer Consultative Committee of the Thames Water Undertaking but failed to be elected. We believe that only by direct representation from such organisations as ours can users' welfare be safeguarded.

These are but a few of the activities that have taken place during the past few months. If we are to continue to perform the functions for which we were formed:

- (a) To safeguard and extend the amenities enjoyed by the residents in this district, and
- (b) To act as a medium of communication.....between members, authorities and statutory undertakings and of taking such action as may be deemed desirable,

then we need all the support we can get from those we seek to serve, socially, financially and morally.

ALLOTMENTS

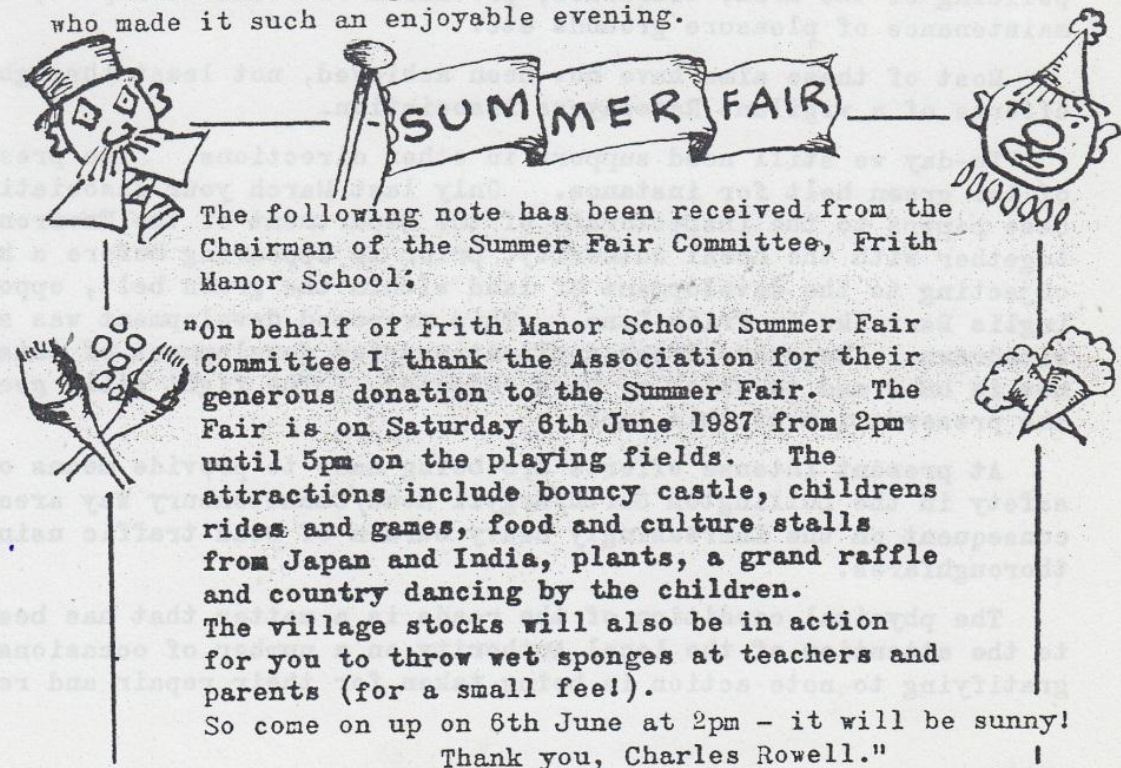
Why not rent an allotment? For just a few pounds a year you can join all the other wiseacres and become an expert on diptera, brassicas, senecio vulgaris or, better still, learn to grow some prize marrows or leeks

Unfortunately, at the moment, a number of the plots adjoining Frith Manor School are untenanted and unless these plots are utilised the Council might well have to put the land to other uses. Contact Ron Harrow (445-7287).

CHEESE and WINE PARTY

A very successful gathering was held at Frith Manor School on Wednesday 13th May. We had the pleasure in attendance of Cllr. Victor Lyon and Mrs Lyon and Cllr Joan Levinson. Also our old friends from the Crime Prevention Unit Officer Peter Hayward and WPCs Kate Nelson and Alison Johnson.

All voted it a great success and our thanks are extended to all who made it such an enjoyable evening.



The following note has been received from the Chairman of the Summer Fair Committee, Frith Manor School:

"On behalf of Frith Manor School Summer Fair Committee I thank the Association for their generous donation to the Summer Fair. The Fair is on Saturday 6th June 1987 from 2pm until 5pm on the playing fields. The attractions include bouncy castle, childrens rides and games, food and culture stalls from Japan and India, plants, a grand raffle and country dancing by the children. The village stocks will also be in action for you to throw wet sponges at teachers and parents (for a small fee!). So come on up on 6th June at 2pm - it will be sunny! Thank you, Charles Rowell."

WOODSIDE PARK RATEPAYERS and RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER, SEPTEMBER 1987

Chairman: Mr P.Parker, 41 Lullington Garth.

Vice-Chairman: Mr A.Currie, 7 Cissbury Ring South.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr K.Buckwell, 151 Chanctonbury Way.

Hon. Secretary: Mr W.Hampsher, 35 Cissbury Ring South.

*** ** *** ***** ** ** *

LEFT HAND - RIGHT HAND!

Lest you have forgotten, we held an election a month or two back, and as this news-letter is being written we are commanded with the direst consequences either in error or default to fill in the form to enable the Registration Officer to complete a new register of electors.

It is apposite at this time of writing therefore to enquire how well the one compares with the other; that is how well the electoral forms compare with the electoral register as finally produced. For instance an acquaintance of the writer moved from Woodside Park some four years ago, notwithstanding his name still appears on the electoral list published in 1987 and employed for the recent parliamentary election!

Now it should not be unreasonable to assume that there is some liaison between the rate collectors in the Borough and the Electoral Registration Officer (both are local authority officials, both reside at The Burroughs) whereby the former could notify the latter of any change of circumstances thereby causing the list to be amended or rectified once an occupier has moved from an address.

Then again, and after considerable pressure on the local authority, the pavements in one of the main thoroughfares of the estate were eventually repaved and the road surface relaid. It all looked perfect and brought forth adulatory comments in a recent news-letter.

We should have held our tongue, withheld our pen and kept quiet. Within a fortnight of the work being finished and on a Saturday morning no less, two men arrived with shovels, pickaxes and crowbars and commenced demolishing our freshly laid pavement and digging a trench some 50' to 60' in length. By noon on the following day, the Sunday, they had refilled the trench, laid back the stones (not as neatly nor anywhere near so) and disappeared.

The following week they reappeared once more, performing the same tasks but this time they commenced mixing concrete on our new lovely unspoilt road surface and after three days they disappeared once more leaving a newly constructed junction box, bordered by uneven and unsightly macadam, cracked, badly relaid paving stones and a spoilt besmirched road surface.

One has reason to ask why, if it was known a junction box had to be installed, was this not done at the time the road and pavement was repaired? Why was it necessary for one authority to undo all the good work another authority had so recently undertaken?? Why so very often do such tasks nowadays have to be carried out over week-ends or outside normal working hours???

These are but two examples at random in the world of officialdom where, presumably, the left hand does not know what the right hand is about. In these days as regards these instances, the parrot cry of "Value for money!" has a somewhat hollow ring as regards how public money is being spent.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

By the time this news-letter has been received it is hoped most of this years subscriptions will have been gathered in. By far the greater number of the services carried out by the Association are given free but other costs such as hire of halls for meetings, postage, stationery etc. all have to be met. Even the cost of the christmas tree and lights have all risen steadily over the years, together with, and not forgetting the insurance for same which is obligatory for the Association to take out.

Whilst talking of Christmas we would take this opportunity of thanking the Council for their promise to plant a christmas tree at the Ring thus saving us a further drain on our resources once this tree has reached maturity.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We have been asked by the Crime Prevention Officer Peter Hayward to remind members of the Neighbourhood Watch that if they would like further advice the C.P.O. would be prepared to attend a local residents home and give a talk to members and their immediate neighbours about the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, Property Marking, Personal Safety, Uninvited Callers and Home and Car Security. All you have to do is organise yourselves into small groups and agree on a meeting place. Contact the Crime Prevention Officer on telephone 200 2555 and arrange a convenient time, date and place. Meetings can be held either during the daytime or in the evenings. This service is free and most helpful in the cause of crime prevention

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at Frith Manor School on Thursday 15th October next at 7.45 for 8.00pm. Last year's meeting was a considerable improvement on those before and we are hoping for an even bigger attendance this year.

Invitations will be sent to Local Councillors for them to attend and your committee and officials will be up for election and to listen to any complaints and, possibly, receive any congratulations on what has proved to be an exceptionally busy year

Chairman: Mr. P. Parker, 41 Lullington Garth.
Vice-Chairman: Mr. A. Currie, 7 Cissbury Ring South.
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. K. Buckwell, 151 Chanctonbury Way.
Hon. Secretary: Mr. W. Hampsher, 25 Cissbury Ring South.

*—**—***—****—*****—*****—***—**—*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - and after.

This was held at Frith Manor School on Thursday 15th October last. Possibly and because of the inclement weather (we had the hurricane of the century during the following night) only eighteen people attended, apart from the officials and members of the committee of the Association.

The paucity of the attendance could have been because of the weather - or is it because of a general feeling of could'nt-care-less? Pity, because during the coming months it is likely that there will be some profound changes in our neighbourhood. We have always looked upon Woodside Park as a nice comfortable residential area immune from changes that tend to bring down the character of a neighbourhood.

Already an occupier has applied for and obtained permission from the Department of Employment to use his house as an "Employment Agency". Where one can go others may so easily follow!

One of the blessings of living in Woodside Park was the boast you were on the edge of the "Green Belt", and only a few yards landed you in open country. When, last May, your Councillors were elected to the Council, they stated in their manifesto:

".....Part of the Borough is designated as Green Belt or Open Space. We want to preserve this environment for the benefit of the community....."

It is highly likely you will, in the not too distant future, have to take a bus ride (when they run!) to enjoy the countryside. Our Councillors in their wisdom, have given consent for land fronting Frith Lane and Lovers Walk, and designated by the Council as ".....within the Metropolitan Green Belt....." to be developed for residential purposes. If you want to enjoy another stroll down Lovers Walk don't delay - it won't be there for very much longer!

The amount of backland development taking place and envisaged for the future could well equate Woodside Park to a residential density the former burgesses of Hendon could never have conceived possible, certainly not permitted, and make Mr Ingram the original developer of Woodside Park turn over in his grave.

Should we rely solely on those we elect to safeguard our interests as regards the amenity and welfare of the area in which we live? Since the beginning of this year planning applications in the Totteridge Ward have been lodged for the demolition of 61 houses and 1 hospital; in their place it is proposed to construct 375 flats, 46 houses, 3 hostels, and a hospice. These figures exclude the office blocks within the area. Most if not all of these applications will be passed but no consultations will be held with those who may have objected (even if they knew of the developments) and are most affected. Only a perfunctory letter ".....I have to inform you that your objection was considered by the Planning Committee and after careful consideration the Committee decided to approve the proposed development.....".

If you want to maintain those things that are good, or remedy those you deem to be evil you have to act communally and show interest. Eighteen people from the hundreds that reside on the estate, huddled together on a cold, rain swept night in a draughty school room cannot do much.

"WHEELIE BINS"

We are approximately one-third the way through the trial period of six months and by now opinions as to the new system of refuse collection are beginning to harden.

If any person feels strongly either on the abandonment or retention of the scheme, would they let the secretary have their views IN WRITING for him to pass on their views to the Council.

ROAD SAFETY

During the last week in October, and in response to this Association's request, Police undertook to make a traffic inspection in this area. Their findings are revealing!

In twelve hours spread over two days, it was necessary for them to give eighty-one verbal warnings to motorists for dangerous driving using Lullington Garth and Chanctonbury Way. Of these eighty-one motorists approximately 98% lived within a radius of 1/8th of a mile of Sussex Ring.

It would appear the remedy against dangerous driving and speeding within the area lies mainly in our own hands. Next time it may not be a verbal warning. Worse still it may be someone's life or result in their being maimed for life.

Our sincere thanks to the Police for their co-operation.

