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NEWS
AND
VIEWS of

WOODSIDE PARK

Woodside Park Ratepayers' and Residents' Association

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Treasurer:

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Secretary:

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J. W. Corbett, 101, Cissbury Ring South HIL 7230

C. R. W. Deacon, 55, Chanctonbury Way HIL 8925

Mrs. E. English, 7, Folkington Corner HIL 5507

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Rev. M. L. Plaskow, 12, Singleton Scarp HIL 2860

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News and Views

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE
WOODSIDE PARK RATEPAYERS' AND RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION

Volume XI

No. 4

March-April 1966

EDITORIAL

THE Elections are over and Sir Ian Orr-Ewing retained his seat with a majority of 600 votes and so we send him our congratulations and our commiserations to Mr. Wistrich and Mr. Cass who were unsuccessful.

Arrangements were made for a pre-election political meeting on Thursday, 24th March, at Frith Manor School at which all three candidates spoke and answered questions from the audience, quite a large one, of 170 people. Clearly, there is no apathy in Woodside Park.

One of the members of your Committee, Mr. A. Hare, kindly made an electronic timer which was set to provide equal time for the speakers, not only in their election addresses but also in answering questions.

The Borough Treasurer succeeded, with the help of the Chairmen of the various Committees of the Barnet London Borough Council, in reducing the estimates by £585,850 out of a total expenditure for the year of £11,955,045. No mean feat, which we trust can be repeated as occasion arises. The previous rate increase was about 20% and the present increase is 11%.

We had a bone to pick with the Borough over the mutilation of trees in Cissbury Ring South, which was carried out arbitrarily without reference to this Association. This, we believe, was due to bad publicity. This Association has been in existence for as long as the Estate and was formed to safeguard the "amenities" of the neighbourhood. The trees are sycamores, which tend to grow rather large, and are unsuitable for planting where they are at the edge of the footway. Nevertheless, we feel we should have been approached. Many residents have complained of the way the trees have been treated. The matter was referred to the Federation of Ratepayers' Associations of Barnet at their last meeting and the Secretary was instructed to write to the Town Clerk asking that, if in the future any similar complaints are received from residents about trees blocking out light or overhanging gardens, the local Ratepayers' Association might be contacted to discover whether the complaints accorded with the wishes of the majority of the residents in the locality.

(To page 5)

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London Borough of Barnet

A^T a meeting of the General Purposes Committee of 25th February and 9th March, it resolved to recommend:

- (1) That, at the present time, additional seating in the Public Gallery be not provided and
- (2) That the appropriate chief officers consult with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee in regard to the alternative suggestions made for the provision of the necessary additional seating for members in the Council Chamber and to report thereon to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for a decision under their urgent action powers.

This is in connection with the proposal to create a Council of 60 Councillors and 10 Aldermen. The estimated cost of the work was £10,400 but in addition new heating and ventilation would be necessary and two estimates of £2,850 and £10,800 were submitted.

The Re-Warding Proposals

At a special meeting of the London Borough of Barnet on 21st March, the following Resolution was recommended for approval by the Home Department:

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND—

- (1) That, on the basis of 20 three-member wards, giving a new Council of 60 Councillors and 10 Aldermen and 4 Electoral Divisions of 5 Wards each, the boundaries of the Wards, as shown on a plan entitled "Warding Proposals of the General Purposes Committee, March, 1966" attached to this report, be approved and adopted.
- (2) That the revised figures of the number of electors in each Ward and each Parliamentary Constituency be amended in accordance with the Register of Electors published on the 15th February, 1966, and with the foregoing amendments, as follows:—

LO	nows:—						
	Con. stituency	Ward Number	15th February, 1966		Con. stituency	Ward Number	15th February, 1966
1.	Barnet,	1	10,106	3.	Barnet,	11	11,123
	High	2	11,661		Hendon	12	11,695
	Barnet	3	11,208		South	13	11,909
		4	10,692			14	10,277
		5	11,742			15	12,043
			55,409				57,047
_	D (11 501	,	.	4.6	—
2.	Barnet,	6	11,591	4.	Barnet,	16	7,020
	Finchley	7	11,779		Hendon	17	10,420
		8	12,018		North	18	11,015
		9	12,154			19	11,070
		10	11,213			20	10,758
			58,755				50,283
							,

3

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(3) Th	nat the names of the Wards	be fixe	d as follows:—
No.	Name	Ward	Electorate
1	Arkley Ward	11	Garden Suburb Ward
2	Hadley Ward	12	Childs Hill Ward
3	East Barnet Ward	13	Golders Green Ward
4	Brunswick Park Ward	14	West Hendon Ward
5	Friern Barnet Ward	15	Hendon Ward
6	Totteridge Ward	16	Colindale Ward
7	Woodhouse Ward	17	Burnt Oak Ward
8	St. Paul's Ward	18	Mill Hill Ward
9	East Finchley Ward	19	Hale Ward
10	St. Mary's (Finchley)	20	Edgware Ward
	Ward		

- (4) That the Town Clerk be instructed to submit the Council's proposals on Warding to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, as a representation under Part III of Schedule 1 to the London Government Act, 1963.
- (5) That the Town Clerk be instructed to inform the Boundary Commission that the Council considers the name "Barnet, High Barnet" to be the most appropriate name for that Constituency.

Future Council Meetings:—

16th May, 23rd May (Annual Meeting), 18th July, 1966.

EDITORIAL (Continued from Page 1)

The Town Clerk has also been asked whether it is possible for the Agenda and Minutes for Council Meetings to be sent out at least a week before the Meeting. This would enable members to approach the Councillors regarding any aspect of the Agenda on which residents desired representations to be made at the Council Meeting.

Our copies of the Agenda always arrive after the Council Meeting has taken place and, even though copies are deposited in the Public Libraries on the Saturday before the Monday's sitting and even though copies are available to any member of the public attending the Meeting, there is clearly insufficient time even to read through the Agenda, let alone contact the Councillors for the Ward. FORAB considers that this would be a great step forward in stimulating interest in public affairs.

We are glad to hear that Mr. Linley, the caretaker at Frith Manor School, is well on the way to recovery after a long and serious illness. Our best wishes go to him for continuing better health. He has been greatly missed.

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Federation of Ratepayers' Associations of Barnet

MEETING AT NORTH FINCHLEY LIBRARY ON MONDAY, 28th MARCH, 1966

A POLOGIES for absence were received from Messrs. H. M. Pike, A. C. Dawson, C. MacDonald and N. Bradstreet.

MATTERS ARISING

Accommodation for Meetings. The Secretary read a letter from the Town Clerk agreeing to the request of the Federation that they might be provided with accommodation for meetings, without charge. It was agreed that a letter of appreciation be sent.

Future Usefulness of FORAB. In this connection, it was first regretted by the Meeting that there were no representatives present from some of the Ratepayers' Associations, and no apologies for absence. The Secretary was asked to write to the non-attending Associations pointing out that FORAB could have little influence without adequate support from all Associations. Members agreed with the suggestion that if possible each Association should be responsible for following the work of the various Council Committees and, where appropriate, reporting back to this Federation. Tentative offers were as follows:—

Civil Defence Bannet Mr. MacDonald Welfare Friern Barnet Mr. Atkins Highways Golders Green Estates Mrs. Kitchener Education Golders Green Mr. Rees Buildings & Town Planning To be allocated Northern Region Totteridge Mr. Jones

Central Region To be allocated Western Area Woodside Park Mr. Kerr

It was decided to compile a full list after the next Meeting.

London Ratepayers' Alliance. Mr. Kitchener regretted that owing to other commitments he would be unable to continue to represent the Federation, and asked that another representative be appointed. He had no report to make as the Annual General Meeting had been postponed until 29th March.

REPORTS FROM INDIVIDUAL ASSOCIATIONS

Barnet had asked the Town Clerk if their Association could give its views on the re-warding proposals, in the same way as the political party agents had been able to do. The Association had had no satisfaction. Mr. Stephens reported that at the Association's A.G.M. they had had an attendance of fifty out of a possible 1,400, and he regretted this apathy. Four Councillors had been invited to attend the Meeting as a "Forum". None had accepted, but Cr. Woodruff had answered questions on the vexed subject of the "differential rate".

Friern Barnet had nothing to report except that they were already in the habit of dividing and studying the Council Minutes in the way suggested for FORAB. They agreed with the regret at the apathy of the general public as expressed by Mr. Stephens of Barnet.

Edgware were asking the Council for measures to deal with the question of dogs fouling the footpaths, and they had also asked the London Transport Board for a second entrance to Edgware Station, which is at present being altered. This had been refused on the grounds of expense of construction and manpower to keep the entrance open. It was decided that FORAB should take the matter up on their behalf, as it was a matter of road safety. Mr. Harris agreed to send copies of the letter from the L.T.B. to the Secretary and Chairman.

Golders Green reported that Cr. Sharman had spoken to their meeting about the redevelopment of Golders Green. It appeared that, in common with similar schemes, by the time many of these plans were implemented they were already out of date, due to continual increases in the volume of traffic and population.

Woodside Park reported that trees on the footways in the suburb had been cruelly lopped and topped. Inquiry of the Council produced the reply that there had "been complaints".

Totteridge. Mr. Jones proposed that the Secretary should write to the Town Clerk asking that in the event of future similar complaints the appropriate local Ratepayers' Association might be contacted by the Council to ascertain whether the views of one or two complaining members were representative of the wishes of the whole district. This was agreed.

LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET, COUNCIL MINUTES

As no members appeared to have received the Minutes in time, it was not possible for this item to be included. Mr. Kerr pointed out that owing to so many Councillors wanting to speak on various items, two-thirds of the Agenda of a recent Council Meeting had had to be held over until the next Meeting. It was suggested that the Town Clerk be asked whether the Agenda for the Council Meeting could be sent at least a week before the date of the Meeting to enable Councillors to be contacted in time on points of interest as this would be a great step forward in stimulating interest in public affairs.

Press Report. In the absence of Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Adamson agreed to prepare a draft Press Report for approval by the FORAB officers.

Membership. The Secretary reported that she had sent copies of the Agenda together with invitations to attend the current meeting to five other Associations, only one of which had replied. It was agreed to send the Minutes of this meeting and a further invitation for the next meeting to the same five Associations.

The Meeting closed with a reminder of the date of the next Meeting, the 23rd of May, the same date as the Council Meeting.

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Squirrels

A CCORDING to a report in a national newspaper on March 10th, squirrels appear to be a pest in the towns of Walton and Weybridge in Surrey; your Committee felt at its last meeting that in our area at least, the squirrels are well-behaved and are charming to watch.

One member said that he has a fine oak tree in his garden where they live and he reckons that an apple a day off his apple trees is a small matter compared with the amusement he derives at watching the squirrels eat it.

In Walton, apparently, a deputation from the local Council went to the Ministry of Agriculture to ask that something should be done. A team of investigators toured the estate where the two of the Beatles live. It is reported that the squirrels open up groceries left on house porches and make a nonsense of that Council's efforts to introduce paper refuse sacks in the area. They are supposed to climb down chimneys and enter windows in search of food.

In response to our invitation in the last magazine issue for readers to express their views for or against squirrels, the Secretary received one letter only against them, which was read at the last meeting.

If ever they became a real nuisance of plague proportions, something drastic would have to be done but meanwhile, although a baby squirrel makes a charming pet with a great sense of humour, we suggest that they are better off out of doors.

Horticultural Hints

I HAVE previously mentioned the beautiful flowering shrubs which are available in such great variety and would remind you that there is still time in which to plant them. In another issue I will give the names of some shrubs particularly suitable for our heavy soil. Our lawns need special treatment as they are inevitably invaded by a multitude of weeds and to remove them by hand is an appalling job. Fortunately, the weeds can all be removed by chemical treatment. Moss can be eliminated by mercurised lawn sand and weeds and clover by other proprietary preparations watered in when the grass is beginning to grow.

Finally, a few words about salads which form a substantial proportion of our summer diet. A reasonable sized crop can be grown in a small area, especially lettuce, radish and onion. Apart from helping the budget it is always an advantage to have them fresh from the garden. They can all be sown in March provided, of course, that conditions are suitable. Lettuces in particular will make very rapid growth if raised under cloches. The following varieties are suggested: LETTUCE, 'Webb's Wonderful' and 'Continuity'. RADISH, 'Sparkler'. ONION, 'Bedfordshire Champion Improved'. TOMATO, 'Moneymaker' (usually obtained as plants).

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15th March, 1966.

Dear Sir,

TREES — CISSBURY RING SOUTH, N.12.

I thank you for your letter of the 22nd February. I have been informed by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor that complaints had been received from residents in Cissbury Ring South that some of the forest-type trees in the road were shutting out light from the windows of the houses and that branches were overhanging the gardens. In the circumstances, therefore, it was decided that all the forest-type trees in the road should be topped and lopped, but only light pruning was carried out to the remaining trees in the road.

Yours faithfully,

R. H. WILLIAMS, Town Clerk.

F. Kerr, Chairman, Woodside Park Ratepayers' and Residents' Association, 46 Cissbury Ring South, N.12.

Road Improvements

ARGYLE ROAD Railway Bridge will be widened to give a span of 50 feet. At present the carriageway is only 20 feet wide and the road gives a couple of nasty turns before it straightens itself out on each side. To a motorist coming down from Nether Street, there is a blind spot just before the bridge which makes it impossible for him to see another car travelling in the opposite direction and turning into Courthouse Road.

As a result of this there was an accident the other evening, although no one was hurt.

An extra cost of £70,000 will be incurred by widening the bridge instead of reconstructing it to its present dimensions. Negotiations are in hand on the basis that if the London Transport Board will meet the cost of reconstruction which would be incurred by having the bridge rebuilt to its existing dimensions, the Ministry of Transport would be asked to meet 50 per cent of the extra cost of widening and the Local Authority would presumably meet the remaining £35,000.

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France and Woodside Park

Mrs. C. F. Baxter has asked for publication of the following details in our magazine and certainly it is a very worthwhile cause and we hope she will have a good response.

RESIDENTS may have read in the local Press from time to time of Finchley's twinning with the French town of Le Raincy, near Paris, and of the link between Friern Barnet and Chaville, and dismissed the information as being relevant to Finchley and Friern Barnet only. We are now all BARNET and our interests must inevitably become united to some extent.

The idea that these two existing Associations should be brought closer together in a "twinning" with Barnet is now under consideration. This will include Woodside Park.

If any residents would like to join in this effort to increase friendships between ourselves and the French and, incidentally, by doing so, to broaden our own outlook, increase personal tolerance, and even improve our knowledge of the French language, I should be very glad to know whether you can:—

- 1. Offer hospitality, paid or unpaid, to French students, adults or schoolchildren.
- 2. Entertain French visitors to occasional meals or escort them around London.
- 3. Accept exchange visits with French schoolchildren from Le Raincy and your children.

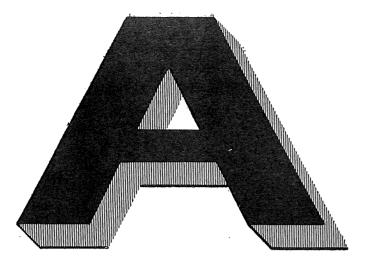
This year, children went from here to Le Raincy from 12th to 26th April and the French children will come here for the first two weeks of July. Further visits of adult groups are expected a little later

The building-up of this association could be a wonderful challenge to our TEENAGERS! Membership fee is five shillings.

C. F. BAXTER (Mrs.).

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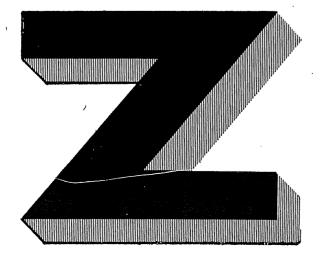




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