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NEWS
AND
VIEWS OF

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PARK

GARDEN
SUBURB

**Woodside Park
Ratepayers' and Residents' Association**

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News and Views

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

Vol. XIV

No. 1

September-October 1968

EDITORIAL

TIME passes very quickly and the end of the year will soon arrive with the attendant Christmas festivities. A Christmas Tree will be erected on the green at Sussex Ring on Saturday, 14th December and we shall be most grateful to collect each evening from the bin provided at the foot of the tree your gifts to be distributed on Christmas Day to those who in the opinion of the Committee are in need of your thoughts at this time.

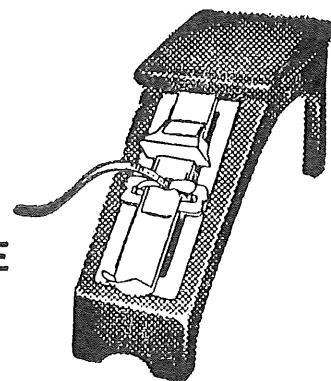
We would like to welcome Mrs. Risdon of 23, Offham Slope and Mr. F. E. Hills of 21, Cissbury Ring North, who, in response to our appeal offered themselves for election to your Committee at our Annual General Meeting. This was well attended and we all enjoyed Mr. Small's colour film of the district.

Mr. Leonard Claydon, the Hon. Secretary has said that he would like to retire at the end of this current year, ending with our Annual General Meeting in September, 1969 and we shall be writing about this in our next issue. Mr. Peter Mellors has offered to take his place as Secretary. We are grateful to Mr. Claydon for the length of notice and to Mr. Mellors for his generous offer.

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Red Cross Flag Day

We very much regret the printer's error which appeared in our last issue. Mrs. G. M. Royer's name was misspelt and we send her our apology. Mrs. K. Birks wrote us a letter correcting the impression we gave that she was one of the organisers of the Estate Collection. She wishes us to state that the part she played was very minor and that Mrs. Royer was in fact the organiser.

Annual General Meeting

19th September, 1968

THE FOLLOWING MOTION was put to the meeting:—

Proposed by: Mr. Alan Tew.

Seconded by: Mr. Albert Hare.

THAT Consideration should be given to the nomination of independent candidates sponsored by the Ratepayers Associations at the next Borough Council Elections.

Comments were invited either for or against but as none were forthcoming, it was resolved to repeat the motion in the Journal and to invite members to communicate with the Secretary. Councillor J. P. Fitzgibbon thought that it would be a costly venture for individuals not backed by Party funds.

Your comments would be welcomed by the Secretary, Mr. L. Claydon.

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Local Notes

Miss Joyce Wooding

To show appreciation of the nineteen years service which Miss Wooding has given to the Primary Sunday School at St. Barnabas and especially for the last ten years during which she has been in charge of the children, parents of children, past and present, and the children themselves were invited to a Thank You party held on Saturday, October 26th at the Friends' Meeting House, Alexandra Grove. A presentation was made to Miss Wooding and children received prizes for attendance.

The Argyle Road Railway Bridge

We understand that the negotiations for the purchase of the necessary land has now been completed and that the widening of the road will now proceed as the bridge has already been widened.

We are indebted to Mr. Hugh Pike for arranging for Mr. C. F. Bonnett, the Bridges and Structures Engineer of London Transport to write the article, New Bridges for Old, which will appear in the next issue. We have had to hold this over for lack of space.

Pigeons—Fursby Avenue Allotments

A complaint was received about damage by pigeons. We have heard that red bottles on sticks keep pigeons away but we hope to obtain some further advice from the Pest Control Officer.

Roads and Pavements and Snow

The Borough Engineer's staff have been engaged in filling pot-holes in roads and re-aligning paving slabs. We would still like to see a sand/salt bin near the Southover/Chanctonbury Way junction as a very bad winter is forecast.

Mr. W. D. Lingley

We shall shortly be losing one of Woodside Park's best-known and respected residents when Mr. Lingley retires from his position as caretaker of Frith Manor School.

Mr. Lingley came to Frith Manor in 1939, even before the builders had moved out, and has rendered sterling service ever since.

In addition to the many hundreds of local children who have passed through the school, almost every present and past resident has had reason to notice the splendid care taken of the school. In our time most of us have taken evening classes, or attended various meetings, or cast our votes at Frith Manor, but few of us can have stopped to consider how many hours of unstinting work Mr. Langley has done in connection with these activities. We are pleased now to register our thanks to Mr. Lingley and to draw our members' attention to the opportunity to express appreciation in a tangible way.

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It is proposed that on the evening of December 18th, a cheque will be presented to Mr. Lingley on behalf of past pupils, present and past parents and other residents. Parents will receive details from the Parent/Teachers Association; residents who are not members of the P.T.A. are invited to address cash contributions either to Miss B. M. Wilson at Frith Manor School or to Mr. N. W. Bradstreet at 8, Cissbury Ring South.

Vietnam Demonstrations

On the 27th October the Metropolitan Police earned the respect and acclamation of public and press for their handling of the Vietnam demonstration. The police officer commanding "A" Division in which the demonstration took place (as did many others of various kinds during the summer) is Chief Superintendent H. Hodgson who lives in Cissbury Ring South.

We would like to add our own appreciation and congratulations to the many which Mr. Hodgson and his officers have received.

Refuse Collection

You will have read in the local press about a strike among the Council's Refuse Collectors, and that it was reported that there was a lack of adequate washing facilities and other amenities, which have become regarded by most people as a civilised essential in the treatment of employees engaged in dirty, obnoxious and noisome work. The Shops, Offices and Railway Premises Act and the Factories Act require minimum standards in such matters.

Without a full knowledge of all the facts, although we are aware that re-organisation of refuse collection and disposal is under way, we do think that the Council should spend some money now on plans, if they are not already afoot, for improving sanitary facilities and providing other amenities for dustmen employed by our Borough to keep pace with the housing programme.

By 1950, 18 years ago, the Metropolitan Borough of St. Marylebone had recognised this need and they built the "Dustman's Paradise" in North Wharfe Road, Paddington. Hot showers, changing rooms, lockers, a games room and a properly equipped kitchen and canteen were provided.

There is also available a mechanical leaf collector which would help the Parks Superintendent along Riverside Walk.

London Transport Bus Services

The Town Clerk reported to the Public Works Committee Meeting of 30th September that a joint meeting of the three Totteridge Ward Councillors and Woodside Park Ratepayers' and Residents' Association had suggested that the Council should support the introduction of one-man operated single-decker buses for the 221 and 125 services and request the London Transport Board to provide an improved service on the 221 route between Tally Ho Corner and Cissbury Ring, N.12.

London Borough of Barnet Council

First and Second Class Mail

The Town Clerk reported to the General Purposes Committee on 24th September that he had given instructions that all mail should be despatched second class unless there was an adequate reason for using the first class service. After considering information that the operation of the new first and second class postal services had caused inconvenience both to members and officers, the Committee, in accordance with paragraph 1(d) of Appendix A to the Council's Standing Orders, resolved to recommend to the Council that the Town Clerk be instructed to make representations to the Postmaster General and the Association of Municipal Corporations objecting to the operation of the new postal arrangements.

Hendon Aerodrome—Grahame Park

Whereas the Council's Chief Officers had endeavoured to arrange with the Ministry of Defence either the acquisition of the land piecemeal so as to spread the purchase over the financial years 1968/69/70 or for the Council to be allowed entry on to parts of the site before completion and without payment of interest charges on the entire purchase price of £4,150,000. The Ministry of Defence were not prepared to agree to either of these courses and were adamant in their requirement that, if the Council wished to have entry to any part of the land before completion of the purchase, interest must be paid on the whole of the purchase price of £4,150,000 from the date of entry to any part.

Comment. This was discussed at the meeting of the Federation of Ratepayers' and Residents' Association of the London Borough of Barnet on 21st October and a resolution was passed supporting the Council in deploring the refusal of the Ministry of Defence to accept proposals which would have had the effect of minimising the impact of the purchase cost and interest thereon on the ratepayers of the Borough.

The Town Clerk is to request the Ministry to reconsider their decision.

Considering the need for housing and the fact that Hendon Aerodrome has lain fallow for years and years, without any material profit whatever to the Ministry of Defence, it is fantastic that the Ministry of Defence should suddenly accumulate to itself a sum amounting, we understand, to £2,000 per week from Barnet Ratepayers alone, with another £4,000 coming from the Greater London Council and other Boroughs.

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We publish the following correspondence between one of our Ward Councillors, Councillor F. D. Gibson and the Chief Officers of the Borough.

14th August, 1968

Dear Mr. Williams,

Following an informal meeting between the three Totteridge Ward Councillors and the Woodside Park Ratepayers' and Residents' Association in July, the following points were raised:

- (a) That the Council should support the provision of one-man operated single-decker buses for the No. 221 and No. 125 routes, with the Transport Authority and that an improved service for these routes should be asked for—particularly the Tally Ho/Cissbury Ring No. 221 service which is the only one operating on Saturday.

(In connection with this perhaps all Members of the Council could be asked if they have any particular bus service in their area for which they especially want to ask for improvement—so that a collective request can be sent on to the Transport Authority and the General Purposes Committee.)

- (b) Is it possible to rent a shop for a local library? (In lieu of the present travelling Library service.)
- (c) In connection with (b) the Councillors and Association would like to see in the shopping area a comprehensive scheme for a purpose built centre (in phases if necessary) for a Library, Health Centre or Clinic with Public Toilets. Possibly the best way to start the investigation of such a comprehensive scheme would be an informal meeting with Officers, Ward Councillors and Association Officers, and a few of their members to discuss on site the principles of the proposition.

Yours sincerely,
F. D. Gibson.

Mr. R. H. Williams,
Town Clerk,
Town Hall, N.W.4.

13th September, 1968

Dear Councillor Gibson,

Woodside Park

In reply to your letter of the 14th August last and dealing with each of your points in turn:—

- (a) I propose to submit your proposal concerning the operation of single-decker buses and improved services to the next meeting of the Public Works Committee for consideration.

- (b) The question of renting a shop for a local library at Woodside Park has already received the consideration of the Libraries and Arts Committee, who in March last received a report that the possibility of using a shop for this purpose had been investigated but that there were no vacant shop premises at the present time and in the foreseeable future. The Committee instructed the Borough Librarian and the Borough Estates Officer to keep the matter under review with a view to obtaining the use of a shop in this area if one became available.

- (c) The Health Committee have made provision in their three year programme of capital works for the provision of a clinic at Woodside Park in 1970/71, although no site has yet been determined for this purpose. The Borough Engineer and Surveyor also has in mind the provision of public convenience facilities in the area when financial circumstances permit. In these circumstances it would not appear that a meeting such as you suggest would serve any useful purpose at the present time.

Yours sincerely,

R. H. Williams,
Town Clerk.

Councillor F. D. Gibson,
43 Chandos Avenue,
Totteridge,
N.20.

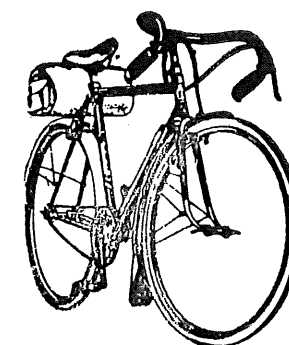
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14th August, 1968

Dear Mr. Pentecost,

Following an informal meeting between the three Totteridge Ward Councillors and the Woodside Park Residents' and Ratepayers' Association in July, the following points were raised:

- (a) Complaints about the poor road surface and flooding of under the bridge at the Mill Hill and of Frith Lane.
- (b) Replacement or additions needed of white lines in roads off Lullington Garth.
- (c) In particular, need for white centre line at top of Lullington Garth turning towards Frith Manor School.
- (d) Correction needed for wrong camber on bend of Lullington Garth at the end of the built-up area.
- (e) Travelling west to east by the Express Dairy Home along the road there is a need for red reflectors on posts and the kerb to be out-lined in black and white paint.
- (f) Excessive flooding across Lullington Garth from Partingdale Lane. Very dangerous when freezing.
- (g) When is the road to be widened under the new bridge in Argyle Road?

Yours sincerely,

F. D. Gibson.

Mr. G. Pentecost,
Borough Engineer and Surveyor,
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16th August, 1968

Dear Councillor Gibson,

I refer to your letter of the 14th August and my observations on the several points you have raised are as follows:

(a) Whilst the road surface under the viaduct across Frith Lane is not by any means perfect it is not really in a bad condition and such flooding as does occur is only of a minimal nature.

This section of the road will be kept under observation and as soon as an opportunity occurs any essential resurfacing will be carried out.

(b) I would not have thought there were any roads off Lullington Garth that justified white lines, other than those at Sussex Ring, where they are already in existence.

These will receive any necessary attention and the other minor roads will be examined.

(c) I will look into this request and if a centre white line seems to be justified at this stop I will take the necessary action.

(d) This section of Lullington Garth is super-elevated and is the correct camber for the curvature. Any increase in camber would tend to induce higher speeds and this, surely, is something that should be avoided. If the super-elevation were taken out and the road given a normal two-way camber there would be an adverse camber in the direction west to east and this, also, might induce accidents.

(e) The speed of vehicles on this section of the road should not be such to require special marking but, nevertheless, I will look into the desirability of fixing red reflectors.

(f) Water from Partingdale Lane does flow across Lullington Garth when rainfall is heavy, and this is due entirely to the fact that there is no form of s.w. sewerage in this part of the Borough.

Proposals have been included in the draft rate estimates on a number of occasions for providing a surface water sewer in Frith Lane, but it has always been deleted, as has, also, the provision for the reconstruction of the road.

(g) For the widening of the road under the new bridge at Argyle Road it is necessary to acquire small parts of private property. Those on the south side have been acquired and the accommodation works completed. The Statutory Companies are now carrying out alterations to their mains and services and as soon as they finish the widening on this side of the road will be put in hand.

There will be a delay in completing the northern side as there has been some difficulty in acquiring the land required for widening.

Yours sincerely,

G. A. Pentecost,
Borough Engineer and Surveyor.

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