

WOODSIDE PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER - WINTER 1992

The question is sometimes asked -- "What does the Association do?".

Since its inception some decades ago, no dramatic changes have taken place in the character or appearance of the Woodside Park Garden Suburb. That is its achievement.

Although the Association has sought and brought about some change, its main purpose is to preserve the area as it is; to keep it as a pleasant and safe place to live. Even the Phillistines among us will appreciate that house values largely depend upon the kind of ambience in which they are situated.

The official objects of the Association - as set out in 1959 - are:

- * To safeguard and extend the amenities enjoyed by the residents in this district.

- * To act as a medium of communication on all matters of interest to members between them and the various Authorities and Statutory Undertakings exercising jurisdiction over the Woodside Park and adjacent areas and to take such co-operative action as may be deemed desirable.

Anyone living in the area can ask the Association for advice or help on matters of general interest or concern. Some of the recent endeavours have been:

PARKING REGULATIONS

Some time ago, in response to residents' requests, we were instrumental in having the roundabout introduced at Sussex Ring; this has made driving over the junction safer and the four islands enable easier crossing for pedestrians. It then became necessary to impose parking restrictions near the islands between 8.30 am and 6.30 pm.

Unfortunately, after 6.30 pm some drivers consider it to be 'legal' to park on the yellow line, often causing a hazard and sometimes making it impossible for vehicles - particularly buses and lorries - to pass. We wrote on this matter to Barnet Council and they have replied. The letter to the Council asked them to consider replacing the single yellow line with a double line; the reply did not relate to the request and it has been necessary to write again.

WEED CONTROL

During the summer the weeds in the gutters and on the pavements grew unabated. We wrote to the Council and they replied, explaining that whereas, previously, they had used an effective weedkiller, it had met criticism from the 'green' lobby. Accordingly they had switched to a more environmentally friendly chemical; unfortunately, this had considerably less efficacy. They were then cajoled for inefficiency and, consequently, changed back to the effective but less 'green' weedkiller. "Those at the back cried 'forward' and those at the front cried 'back'". Currently, they are trying to find a solution.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Neighbourhood Watch at Lullington Garth has been discontinued by the Police owing to lack of support.

STREET NAME SIGNS

For some time now, confusion has been caused to those not familiar with the area who are seeking one of the four roads emanating from Sussex Ring. At this junction the road signs show only 'Sussex Ring' and do not indicate the names of the roads radiating from it. We have asked the Council to eliminate the problem and to consider placing 'leading to' street signs for the four roads -- or at least the two side roads.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Association receives details of planning applications and continually watches proposed development.

OFFICERS

We appealed, at the AGM in September, for additional committee members without success. Although we manage, it would be helpful if the work could be spread. If there is anyone who could spare a few hours each month he or she would be most welcome. If at some time in the future the Association were to 'fold' (to use modern parlance) it would almost certainly join the four things mentioned by Omar Ibn (not a resident but a Caliph of the 7th Century):

"Four things come not back:
The spoken word; the sped arrow
Time past; the neglected opportunity"

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Some subscriptions were collected a few weeks ago but most roads will be called upon in March, when the nights are lighter.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

As in previous years, we are having Christmas Carols at Sussex Ring. This will be on DECEMBER 19th - SATURDAY - AT 4.30. The Association provides the Christmas tree, free hot drinks and mince-pies. Song sheets will be available. Mr. Ashton Painter will play the organ and we hope that you will provide the voices. Blakes, the dry cleaners, are donating the electricity for the tree lights; these remain on over the Christmas period. Blakes one of those shops which are an asset to the neighbourhood. The customers will know that this is a shop with old-fashioned cour and a standard of work that is unsurpassed. It may not be know that they also arrange shoe repairs.

We look forward to seeing you on December 19th.
A peaceful Christmas and a Happy New year to all.

