

# THE COCKPIT

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHISLEHURST RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1934

*The Cockpit, on Chislehurst Common, has been the traditional meeting place for Chislehurst people on all great occasions from time immemorial.*

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4 Stainmore Close,  
Chislehurst, Kent

No. 21

DECEMBER, 1976

## THE RATES AND COUNCIL EXPENDITURE

Members will recall the Association's condemnation of the Council imposing a 55% rate increase for 1975/6, and the public meeting, and our efforts to persuade the Council to peg the rate for 1976/7. Details of the Council's finances were obtained from their reports, minutes etc., from which we were able to suggest yet more ways of economising in their use of public funds. It is gratifying that many suggestions were adopted and in the result, in spite of their "experts'" predicted rate increase of upwards of 11% for 1976/7, it was limited to an increase of 3% (domestic) and 2% (others). Of course it can never be known whether those economies would have been effected and to what extent the rate would have increased had not the Association intervened. It can be left to the public to reach their own conclusions.

Our Rates Sub Committee, who did the research and steered the representations then, continued to meet and examine and recommend economies in the Council's finances. Recently public announcements claim that the reduced Rate Support Grant threatened by the Government can be suffered by the Council only by reducing services to the public and by a further rate increase for 1977/8. To combat these predictions we are seeking more detailed information from the Council on which we can suggest yet further economies in their expenditure. Any member who feels able to provide information which may assist our Rates Sub Committee in their mission is asked to write with details to the Secretary.

On 4th November, in common with other Residents' Associations and Chambers of Trade in the Borough, we were invited to send representatives to a public meeting convened by Councillor S. Randall, Leader of the Council, who explained the present financial situation and the Government's intention about reduced public spending, 1977/8. A one hour question and answer period was used to the full during which the six CRA delegates posed five prepared

questions, three of which received factual answers, two are being investigated. These together with answers to some questions raised by others will be helpful to us in our current exercise to persuade the Council to economise yet further.

The paramount feature exposed by the meeting is that, in spite of the Council's build up of reserve money from previous and current economies—approximately £7½ million, equivalent to more than a 14p rate—it may still be insufficient to wholly cushion the loss of income caused by the Government's threatened reduced Rate Support Grant to Local Authorities for 1977/8. The Council fear that there may still have to be rate increases next year with yet more reduced services. Your Committee have already submitted to the Council that before services are reduced all wasteful, fruitless and misdirected or mis-managed expenditure should first be eliminated.

### IS IT

Bulk buying groups, Chimney sweeps, Cosmetics, Dog training facilities, Freezer food centres, Laundries, Lawn mower repairs

OR ANYTHING ELSE you wish to know about? If so, join the Bromley & District Consumers Group and get all the answers. Write or phone:

Miss M. Phillips,  
33 Rochester Avenue, Bromley, BR1 3DN  
Telephone 01-460 1816

In any case, phone her if you have a problem. Annual subscription £1.50 per member or £2 for two in the same household.

**Have you paid your 1976 subscription? If in doubt why not turn to page 4 and use the counterfoil.**

### Chislehurst Water Supply

CHISLEHURST gets most of its water from the Thames above Teddington Lock. It reaches us via Shortlands Pumping Station and Farnborough Reservoir which is fed from Shortlands via a 24in main. A number of mains from Farnborough feed the Chislehurst area, including the Bickley Reservoir at the top of Logs Hill where there are two booster pumps augmenting the supply to Chislehurst. Normally one of these pumps is quite adequate for demand most of the time and it is the regular practice for them to be taken out of service in turn during the winter for overhaul in readiness for the peak demand in summer.

As bad luck would have it, one of these pumps quite unaccountably suffered a major breakdown at the beginning of the drought in June this year and was out of commission for a week or so. Those of us who live in the higher parts of the area suffered the consequences, were completely without water on some occasions, and had to keep a careful check on our water tanks before venturing to take a bath. Our friends who live down nearer the railway line will appreciate how infuriating it was to see them sprinkling their gardens and hosing down their cars! This experience brought home to us the extent to which we were taking our water supply for granted, until the incredibly dry summer forcibly brought the matter to everyone's attention.

The Water Authority keeps the ever increasing demand for water under continual review, in accordance with its statutory obligations. This may involve minor modifications to mains (e.g., a cross-connection at the junction of St. Paul's Cray Road and Manor Park Road will increase the pressure in the Manor Park Road area), or be a major project such as the scheme to lay a new 18in main from the 24in Shortlands-Farnborough main to the Chislehurst locality. Any project such as this, or the construction of a new reservoir, must of course depend on the capital required being made available.

**Bleats About Barking, Blocking, Building, etc.** In recent months some members have sought advice on how to redress their grievance about nuisances, etc., in their neighbourhood. These comprise barking and howling dogs which also wander over and foul neighbouring gardens, verges and public footways; indiscriminate car and van parking, causing traffic hazards and sometimes blocking entrances to properties; erecting fences, walls, etc., of excessive height, building obtrusive extensions, garages, abutting boundaries of adjoining properties. There are other examples.

There is sometimes a remedy in law or by regulation. But we prefer to rely on the personal approach by the aggrieved to the offending neighbour—at least in the first instance, when, we hope, that tolerance and good neighbourliness by all parties will solve the difficulties, and we so advise. We hope that few, if any of our members will doubt the wisdom of that course of action, but of course in the event of that approach failing we will interest ourselves in members' complaints if asked. We hope members will agree that success is more likely if the personal approach is made early and before grievances ferment.

**Litter.** As a result of reduced services Bromley Coun-

cil resolved on 27th September 1976 to appeal to all residents and Chambers of Trade in the Borough to become more litter conscious and to reduce the amount of litter deposited on the highway and public places which, they say, would be greatly improved with co-operation and community self-help. Little need be added to that expression except to say that it is hoped that our members and Chislehurst people generally will play a full part in keeping our part of the Borough tidy.

**Old Hill.** Bromley Council have considered the representations made to close Old Hill to through traffic but have confirmed their decision not to do so until the effects of a seven foot width restriction barrier at Chislehurst Road/Logs Hill junction have been assessed, six months after its installation. The principle and the money provision for that barrier and the barriers at Sundridge Avenue and at Yester Road have been agreed by G.L.C. and Bromley Borough Council. The orders are issued and work on them is imminent. The seven foot barrier at Watts Lane and the closure of Crown Lane have not yet been agreed in principle and Bromley Council are stated to be considering further objections to that measure after which they notify G.L.C.

**Water Tower Memorial Seat.** Bromley Council have confirmed that they have now taken into their ownership the Water Tower Memorial Seat.

**Summer Hill Footbridge.** Recent enquiries reveal that the work on this project, due to start this autumn, has again been delayed due to Government financial restrictions on Greater London Council for such projects. If as G.L.C. Transport Department hope, the Government release sufficient funds in their grant in middle December 1976, the work could start about March, but no undertaking can be given that it will. Once started the work is expected to take about ten months.

**Planning.** At their September meeting the Executive Committee approved a slight change in their procedure in considering planning applications with Chislehurst addresses. While we have no difficulty in deciding whether or not to oppose applications which affect Chislehurst as a whole, those for small developments such as garages, rooms over, side, front and rear extensions to houses, shops, etc., can best be assessed by residents adjoining and local to the sites where such applications arise. That is why the Committee await objections from members affected before formally objecting to the Council. When we are asked to support local objections by members we do so but we are rarely asked. Unfortunately there have been cases of small developments to which the committee have not objected because neighbours who are members have not done so nor asked the Committee to do so, and then later after Council have given planning consent members have asked the Committee to support their grievances which should have been lodged at the application stage. That is too late.

The Committee repeat yet again that at least one person in each road ought to inspect weekly planning lists in Chislehurst Library, and if objections are considered appropriate by neighbours, the application and plans should be inspected at Beckenham Town Hall and letters of objection sent by each neighbour aggrieved. If asked the Committee will lodge objections in the name of the Association.

Recognising that some members cannot and others do not examine the planning lists nor visit Beckenham Town Hall to examine plans, the Committee decided to assist members by alerting road stewards of the existence of planning applications in their areas as they arise. Road stewards are asked in turn to alert the neighbours who are members. If objections are proposed by neighbours, road stewards should urge them to send their written objections to the Borough Planning Officer at Beckenham Town Hall in the stipulated time and send copies to the Secretary of CRA who will act on any request.

**Age Action Year 1976.** The Committee set up in the Borough of Bromley has as its aim "to improve the quality of life for our old people". Some of the projects proposed are: Pop-in Parlours at Chislehurst, Biggin Hill, Hayes, St. Paul's Cray and Penge, and Abbeyfield and Glebe Housing Association buildings in Orpington, Beckenham and West Wickham respectively. The total objective is £250,000 to be raised with the support of all the residents throughout the Borough, and the Committee's President is the Mayor of Bromley with 16 committee members and patrons comprising many distinguished personalities in the Borough including the four Members of Parliament.

An appeal for money and for help in voluntary work has been launched and CRA has been asked to play its part. Knowing the popular demand by Chislehurst people for a Pop-in Parlour your Committee made a token donation of £5 and promised to commend Age Action Year Appeal to all its members through this Newsletter asking them to donate as generously as they are able to The Treasurer, Age Action Year, 2 Palace Grove, Bromley, Kent, from whom informative leaflets can be requested.

**Road Stewards.** No apology is made for again acknowledging the valuable work of the road stewards without whose help the officers and committee members tasks would be so much more difficult. Over the years attempts have been made to appoint a co-ordinator to link their work one with another and all with the Committee. Success attended our efforts in June when Mr. F. Snocken, a committee member, of 18 Westhurst Drive volunteered to undertake this key work. Although noticeable results may be slow to appear, we see in this the prospect of further advancement of the Association's achievements with greater ease. Thank you, Mr. Snocken.

## 'CHIS 77'—

*This entry is contributed by the CHIS 77 Committee.*

### **Campaign for High Street Improvement Scheme**

MOST readers will have read in the local Press of "Chis 77", but may well be wondering just what it is, and why there has not been more publicity. The Committee for "Chis 77" are grateful to the CRA for making available to them space in *The Cockpit* to explain the scheme and acquaint readers with progress to date.

The idea of landscaping by paving and planting the verge—that "no-man's land" between the road and the pavement—grew out of the concern felt by the Residents' Association and the Chamber of Trade over the gradual decline of the High Street from a village which, being in a designated Conservation Area, is supposed to be preserved and enhanced, to

an ugly suburbia where the motor vehicle predominates, the pedestrian takes second place and shoppers and traders conduct their business with difficulty and little pleasure.

Roger Poole, who is a local architect, was asked to prepare a feasibility study in February 1976 to show what might be done to improve the appearance of the High Street, and so make it safer and more enjoyable for shopping.

This study was circulated to 43 traders in the High Street, of whom to date 17 have replied supporting the scheme, four are against and four are neutral. Most of the remainder have relied upon the Chamber of Trade to put forward their views, and the Chamber have contributed some useful comments which have been incorporated in the project, which has their support.

The Residents' Association were approached by the Civic Trust on 24th March and Bromley Council on 3rd May 1976 to put forward their proposals for celebrating the Queen's Silver Jubilee next year, the former inviting application for a grant towards the cost, in addition to a grant under a National Fund for improving Conservation Areas. The opportunity was seized to submit the landscaping scheme as a permanent celebration, and "CHIS 77" was formed, headed by Lord Willis, and including as further patrons Lord Mais, Sir Lindsay Ring, Baroness Patricia Hornsby-Smith, Roger Sims, J.P., M.P., Mrs. Francesca Hall, S. R. Green and Henry Cooper. Its management is in the hands of the "CHIS 77" Committee, and the local organisations represented include the Chislehurst Residents' Association, the Chislehurst Chamber of Trade, Probuss, Age Concern and Chislehurst Evening and Afternoon Townswomen's Guilds. The Chairman is Ken Sedgwick, the Acting Secretary is Alex Drage, and the Treasurer is Eric Dalton. Our publicity adviser is Les Bateman.

Application for the Civic Trust grant can only be made when planning approval has been obtained and so the scheme was submitted informally to the London Borough of Bromley in the summer to ascertain their views prior to lodging a formal application, and it was hoped that their comments could have been incorporated in the final scheme which would then have been displayed publicly for examination and comment by the residents, following which the fund-raising campaign could have been launched in September.

However, as no response had been forthcoming from the Local Authority to our submission, a formal planning application was lodged with them in an endeavour to expedite the scheme, and we now await their approval. Until this is obtained and, through the local authority, that of the G.L.C., who are also involved since the High Street is classified as a Metropolitan road, it would be premature to put the proposals before the residents of Chislehurst, let alone set about raising funds to meet the calculated cost of £35,000. This explains the lack of general publicity to date.

Depending upon the views of the local authority, which may involve alterations to the landscaping proposals, and the speed with which these views are formed and passed to us, we hope that the proposals for "CHIS 77" will soon be seen as a worthwhile contribution to mark the year of the Queen's Jubilee,

and that by the enthusiastic financial support of all in Chislehurst its implementation will give back to Chislehurst a High Street to be proud of and a valuable amenity for shoppers and traders alike.

**ROAD STEWARDS**

- Mr. F. W. Baker*, 1 The Chestnuts, St. Pauls Cray Road (responsible for Royal Parade).
- Mrs. J. Barker*, 24 Hatton Court, Lubbock Road (Hatton Court—Lubbock Road).
- Mrs. P. Barrett*, 11 Oakleigh Park Avenue (Summer Hill and roads off, except Ravenshill, Isleworth Close and Cricket Ground Road).
- Mrs. D. H. Bell*, 7 Lubbock Road (Camden Park Road).
- Mr. J. Bentley*, 19 Adelaide Road (Edward, Alexander and Adelaide Roads, Woodside Avenue).
- Mrs. H. T. G. Brown*, 30 Grove Vale (Grove Vale).
- Mr. B. J. Bull*, 36 Walden Road (Walden Road—west of Grove Vale—Clifford Avenue).
- Mr. W. C. Carpenter*, Sherbrooke, Heathfield Lane (Ashfield and Heathfield Lanes).
- Mr. A. W. Coles*, 3 Beaverwood Road (Perry Street and roads off, except Homewood Crescent).
- Mrs. A. C. C. Cutcher*, 5 Ravenshill (Ravenshill, Isleworth Close).
- Mr. and Mrs. E. Davis*, 36 Marlings Park Avenue (Marlings Park Avenue).
- Mr. A. V. De Vote*, 9 Inglewood, Kemnal Road (Kemnal Road and roads off).
- Mrs. P. J. C. Douglas*, 7 Chesil House, St. Pauls Cray Road (Manor Park).
- Mr. A. Drage*, 4 Stainmore Close, Holbrook Lane (Bull Lane, Hollybrake Close, Church Row, Shepherds Green, Walnut Tree Close).
- Mr. V. Dunleavy*, 21 Sandy Ridge (Sandy Ridge, The Weald).
- Mrs. M. Grundy*, 27 Lubbock Road (lower half Lubbock Road).
- Mr. T. Grimwood*, 7 Farmland Walk (Farmland Walk, Hill Close).
- Mrs. U. Hawkins*, Fircroft, Oakwood Close (Oakwood Close, Yester Road).
- Miss K. Humphreys*, 25 Downs Avenue (Downs Avenue, Fosters Close, Hallam Close, Melanda Close).
- Miss D. J. Heaward*, 3 Maxwell House, Prince Imperial Road (Prince Imperial Road).
- Mr. L. B. Cross*, Chestnut Cottage, The Meadow (Heathfield and roads off).
- Mr. A. T. C. Jones*, 10 Thislemead, Heatherbank (Thislemead).

- Mrs. A. T. C. Jones*, 10 Thislemead (Cricket Ground Road and roads off).
- Mr. J. Kinsella*, Crayside, Rectory Meadow, Manor Park Road (St. Pauls Cray Road).
- Mr. and Mrs. G. Lemmens*, 2 Hurstmead, Bull Lane (Bromley Lane, Sturges Field, Beechcroft).
- Mr. S. W. Mack*, Little Maxby's, Raggleswood (Raggleswood).
- Mr. E. L. May*, 52 Greenway (Greenway).
- Mr. A. W. McKenzie*, 5 Lubbock Road (upper end Lubbock Road, Yester Park).
- Mr. R. W. Oblath*, 36 Lower Camden (Lower Camden).
- Mr. R. E. Munday*, 43 Highfield Road (Leasons Residents Association).
- Mrs. G. W. Payne*, 13 The Glebe (The Glebe, Bishops Walk, Manor Park Road).
- Mrs. R. J. Philo*, 12 Ingleby Way (Ingleby Way, Red Hill).
- Mrs. R. Poole*, Manor Court, Manor Park Road (Manor House complex, Prince Consort Drive).
- Mrs. S. H. Price*, 6 Ivybridge Court, Old Hill (Old Hill, Chislehurst Road).
- Mr. A. H. Proud*, 10a Wilderness Road (Wilderness Road).
- Mr. A. J. Ramsay*, 19 Homewood Crescent (Homewood Crescent).
- Mr. K. H. Sedgwick*, "Nant Gwyn", Hawkwood Lane (Crown Lane, Camden Close, Morley Road, Hawkwood Lane, School Road).
- Mr. A. Sharpe*, 8 Willow Vale (Willow Vale, Empress Drive, Willow Grove from Willow Vale to High Street).
- Mr. F. Smith*, 3 Ross Court, Lubbock Road (Ross Court—Lubbock Road).
- Mr. F. Snocken*, 18 Westhurst Drive (Westhurst Drive).
- Mr. A. H. Strutt*, "Barnoon", Camden Way, Camden Park Road (Camden Way).
- Mr. T. L. Twigg*, 23 Poyntell Crescent (Poyntell Crescent, Holbrook Lane).
- Mr. J. L. Williams*, 23 Berens Way (Berens Way).
- Mrs. C. M. Willmott*, Mead Cottage, Mead Road (Mead Road).

From the above it will be seen that there are some roads right in the heart of Chislehurst not covered by a road steward. Examples are:

- High Street and Park Road. Green Lane and Albany, Townshend, Belmont and Degema Roads. Belmont Lane, Laneside and Edgebury and Holmdale Road.
- There are others.

Will someone please offer to be a road steward for one of these roads? If so please notify Mr. R. Oblath, 36 Lower Camden or Mr. F. Snocken, 18 Westhurst Drive.

**CHISLEHURST RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

To ..... (member of the committee/road steward)  
 or  
 To the Manager, Barclays Bank Ltd., 7 High Street, Chislehurst. A/C numbered 60254290

Please receive ..... subscriptions to the above Association (household 40p, individual member 20p, O.A.P. 10p)

Name ..... If a new member, please tick:.....

Address .....

Subscriptions may also be sent direct to the Hon. Treasurer at 36 Lower Camden, Chislehurst.