

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.

CHAIRMAN

A. T. C. JONES
VICE-CHAIRMAN
H. BLANDFORD-BAKER

TREASURER
W. A. PAGE

SECRETARY

A. L. DRAGE,
4 Stainmore Close,
Chislehurst, Kent

No. 24

March, 1978

THE AGM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting will be held at THE VILLAGE HALL, CHURCH LANE, CHISLEHURST on WEDNESDAY, 26th APRIL, 1978, at 8.0 p.m. Only members may vote or take part in the proceedings.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting.
2. Matters arising.
3. Committee report for 1977.
4. Accounts for 1977.
5. Proposed alteration to Rule 4.
6. Election of Officers.
7. Election of Committee.
8. Appointment of Auditor.
9. Any other business.

PROPOSAL—AGENDA ITEM 5 ABOVE

The Committee propose "from 1st January, 1979, subscriptions be increased from 20p per member to 30p per member and from 40p per household to 50p per household, Old Age Pensioners' subscriptions unchanged".

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

With the approach of the AGM I feel very much aware of the especially busy year we have had since last April. Each meeting has been unusually lengthy and additional meetings have been called for detailed discussion on 'CHIS 77', the proposed High Street Development, etc. At all times my colleagues have been most concerned to give full treatment to a variety of problems, most important they have done so in an harmonious manner. They have been a great support to the Chair and I thank them for making my task a pleasure. The general membership and the Executive Committee will be aware of the key role our Secretary plays in our affairs. We are all very grateful for the tremendous effort he gives to his duties.

Speaking of effort, this prompts me to express disappointment with those of our members failing to return to our road stewards the questionnaires on the proposed Supermarket etc., in High Street. True, it was originally stated the plans would not be dis-

played in the Library but even when they were, the response was disappointing. If the Committee is to adequately reflect the views of the membership there must be a representative feed-back. Members will be pleased to hear that a Social is arranged at Graham Chiesman House, Wednesday, 31st May, the cost £1.25 per head. Tickets will be available through road stewards and at the AGM, but not after 24th May when firm numbers for catering must be known. Will road stewards please apply to me, the Chairman, for tickets. We look forward to a good attendance and new faces. It is our wish to hold social evenings more frequently. This would further burden our small Sub-Committee. We shall be pleased to receive names, to the Chairman, of members prepared to assist in various ways of organising social functions, stating what particular role they would undertake.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Thirteen ordinary meetings of the Executive Committee were held since last April. To one of these, the Inspector of Police, Chislehurst, was invited to discuss traffic, hooliganism, etc. To six of these a representative of the Floods Liaison Committee was invited. Additionally, two extraordinary meetings were held to consider in detail planning application for the Supermarket etc., Complex 73/87 High Street. To one of these the Chamber of Trade, the three Chislehurst Councillors and GLC Councillor Mrs Wykes were invited.

Our three Sub-Committees meet regularly to deal with details of their respective activities—(i) Rates and Council Expenditure, (ii) Planning, (iii) Social.

Officers and Committee Members continue as delegates to other organisations and as full members of the Borough Council's Conservation Advisory Committee and of their Road Safety Panel. Members attend the public gallery of the Council and its Committees when controversial matters affecting Chislehurst are considered. They also attend when appropriate, Public Inquiries, Licensing Courts etc., and recently a deputation to the Minister of Transport.

Under Rule 10 all the Officers retire and are eligible for re-election.

Under Rule 6 the following Committee Members retire and are eligible for re-election: Messrs Turner, Brown, Kinsella, Dunn, Young, Poole. Additionally Mr D. Cohen reluctantly retires due to other pressing demands on his time. In respecting his decision we thank him for his dedicated service as an all-round Committee man but particularly the time and expertise he contributed to the Rates Sub-Committee.

Any member may nominate another member to any of the offices of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and the above seven Committee positions. Seconded nominations, stating the nominees' willingness to serve, if elected, may be sent to the Secretary.

Members who have not paid their subscriptions for 1978 or earlier are asked to do so now, rather than await a call from their hard pressed road steward whose name and address is included in the March and November, 1977, issues of *The Cockpit*. Non members are welcome to the AGM if they wish to join.

LOOP ROAD/ASHFIELD LANE. Since the Department of Environment declined the requests of CRA, Bromley Council and the Commons Conservators to change the 'Give Way' signs to 'Stop', the Council proposed yet another palliative scheme (£7,100). This was to install central bollards necessitating road widening and surrender of common land which the Commons Conservators refused. No alternative arrangements exist. Meanwhile our Member of Parliament, Roger Sims, kindly offered to persuade the Minister to meet our deputation of five, on 28th February, and reconsider his officers' decision on the ineffective signs. The seriousness of the accident hazards and the actions of defaulting drivers was fully discussed. We await the Minister's decision.

73/87 HIGH STREET — DEVELOPMENT. We have successfully persuaded the Council to require the site to be fenced and partially cleared. Ownership has changed. Further to the existing approved planning application of 1976, another application 19/77/2948 has been lodged for a larger supermarket, more offices, larger car park and facilities for the elderly. Concurrent with meetings with Chamber of Trade, Borough Councillors etc., our members' opinions were sought through questionnaires, which when analysed showed an overwhelming vote against the application as proposed. A summary of the detailed objections recorded was sent to the Council, and the decision of their Development Committee on 14th March is awaited.

WIDTH RESTRICTION BARRIERS. The Association supports the principle that heavy through traffic should be banned from residential roads. The barrier at Watts Lane, to which CRA lodged no objection, is reported to have effectively prevented heavy vehicles doing the short cut between A208 at

Manor Park and A222 at Cricket Ground. Objection was lodged to the proposed siting of barriers at Old Hill and Logs Hill where both would provide escape routes which transfer the 'solved' problem of heavy vehicles on these roads to other residential roads, a feature contrary to the stated intention of the Authorities. Alternative sitings were suggested in the objection.

BUS TERMINUS—ADELAIDE ETC., ROADS. In spite of our request for an all-party meeting to consider proposals for solving this problem, the Authorities declined and continue to divide among themselves, resulting in no positive action to date. Pressure continues to be exerted.

FLOODING OF THE KYD BROOK. The Floods Liaison Committee of residents in the affected areas report regularly through their Chislehurst Chairman, Mr A. R. Turner, who attends our Executive Meetings. In spite of a money vote of £11 millions by GLC for flood relief work in Greater London, none has been allocated for the Kyd Brook. Nothing has been done or is planned to be done on preventive measures and pressure has been exerted by the Floods Liaison Committee, by Bromley Council and by CRA on those Authorities responsible.

RATES AND COUNCIL EXPENDITURE. The Rates Sub-Committee continue their vigilance in examining notable Council financial proposals and representing ways of economising and eliminating unnecessary and wasteful expenditure. It is gratifying to learn that Bromley Council now propose to peg the General Rate again for 1978/79. By the time this newsletter is printed it is hoped that the proposal will be fact.

PLANNING. No less vigilant is the Planning Sub-Committee who continue to examine the detail of Chislehurst planning applications likely to prove controversial. A reasonable proportion of success attends their work. We are very concerned about some weaknesses in Planning and Appeals Procedures practised by Bromley Council and by DoE itself. These appear to arise because of ill defined planning laws and circulars. We have enlisted the assistance of Roger Sims, our Member of Parliament, and Bromley Federation of Residents' Associations in these matters. We are also concerned about the action and inaction of Bromley Council's Conservation Committee, their Planning Committees on some Tree Preservation Orders and flood risk developments as well as the weakness of their Road Safety Panel. These matters are being pursued.

MAY QUEEN CEREMONY. We are asked to help publicise the crowning ceremonies on Chislehurst Common, 29th April, 1978. The Chislehurst May Queen Committee ask us to say they will be grateful for offers of assistance in selling programmes in the weeks leading up to the day. Those interested should contact Mrs J. Peacock, 5 Alexander Road, Chislehurst, who will also receive offers of help for a working party and stewarding on the day.