

THE COCKPIT

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHISLEHURST RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
FOUNDED 1934 REGISTERED WITH THE CIVIC TRUST

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

SECRETARY A. L. DRAGE

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VICE-CHAIRMAN H. BLANDFORD-BAKER

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TREASURER W. A. PAGE

No. 27

April, 1979

THE AGM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting will be held at THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL, PRINCE IMPERIAL ROAD, CHISLEHURST, on MONDAY, 30th APRIL, 1979, at 8.00 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 1978.
4. Accounts for 1978.
5. Election of Officers.
6. Election of Committee.
7. Appointment of Auditor.
8. Any other business.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

In the February issue our Editor stressed the need for vigilance on the part of the CRA in order to protect the interests of the locality. Looking through the Minutes of the past year's deliberations it occurred to me that tenacity is another vital quality we need to possess if we are to succeed in the defence of our amenities. There are several issues unresolved at this moment—issues which have engaged our attention for a considerable period and which have involved the Committee in more than the normal number of meetings.

We have given a great deal of time and thought to the flooding problem in the Kyd Brook valley, and in mentioning this we thank Mr. A. R. Turner, Chairman of the Flood Liaison Committee, for the vast amount of research he has covered on our behalf. We thank, too, all those members, many not affected by this problem, who gave such excellent support at the Cromlix appeal held at the Town Hall on 22nd February. The Inspector, we gather, was impressed by the attendance, and this factor plays an important part in such a hearing.

Other examples of long-standing problems which have engaged our attention have been the need for improvement in planning procedures in the Borough, the enlargement and protection of the Conservation Area, and the Loop Road/Ashfield Lane Junction where accidents continue to mount in number.

The Planning Sub-Committee has been heavily engaged over the past two years, and the Association owes its members a debt of gratitude for the vigilance they show. None, however, has been more

vigilant and tenacious in the execution of his duties than our Secretary, Alex Drage. We owe him so much; in fact we owe it to him to find an Assistant Secretary to take some of the burden from his shoulders. There must be among all the professionally-trained members of the Association people who are capable of doing this. What has happened to the public spiritedness which was so evident in Chislehurst at one time? There is a dire need for younger people to come forward to serve in different capacities. Let us hear from you.

I thank my Vice-Chairman, Howard Blandford-Baker, fellow officers and committee members for their loyalty, support and hard work over the year. A special mention for Peter Turner, our Editor, who in his kindly and enthusiastic way is doing a first-class job of work.

CHAIRMAN'S TAIL-PIECE

How many of our members plodded their way through the carpet of snow which covered the National Trust Land on New Year's Day? Which of you paused on the hill of Botany Bay Farm, turned to look across to the west where the huge, red ball of the sun hung behind the charcoal-thin branches before sinking out of the clear, pale blue sky? And how many of you thought, as you drank in the muffled silence, 'Yes, all this is worth fighting for and preserving?'

COMMITTEE REPORT

Twelve ordinary monthly meetings of The Executive Committee have been held since April 1978, one of which was adjourned to a second session due to the volume of business. Additionally, three special meetings were convened on 5th May, 6th November, and 26th January. The latter two were with the Chislehurst Councillors to discuss the unusual procedures adopted by The Council and its Officers regarding the planning application 19/77/2948 for development at 73/87 High Street. Also discussed were the Adelaide Road bus terminus, width restriction barriers, CRA submissions to remedy the unacceptable planning and development in Chislehurst generally, the unsatisfactory administration of the Chislehurst Conservation Area and the inordinate delay in flood alleviation works.

In addition to those meetings our sub-committees on Rates/Council Expenditure, on Planning, and Socials, attended to the details of their respective responsibilities. Our delegates to The Council and to other organisations represented us well and continue to sustain communications in both directions.

Two more sub-committees were set up. The first to deal with Highways/Road Safety, the second, Publicity, and it was decided to open membership of those and the existing sub-committees to road stewards and other members. This notification, therefore, is to ask that any member desirous of co-opting to any sub-committee should please notify the Secretary or Chairman as soon as possible.

The unreliability of the local newspaper has urged the Committee to arrange communication to the Association's 3,400 members by more frequent issues of 'The Cockpit'. This will create greater demands on our finances and the good offices of our road stewards in delivering. The first can be met by members paying their subscriptions promptly. The second by recruiting more road stewards to join those who continue to serve the Association so well.

Under Rule 10 all the officers retire and are eligible for re-election. Under Rule 6 the following Committee Members retire by rotation: Messrs. Coles, Payne, Weniger, Snocken. The three first named are eligible for re-election but Mr. Snocken has resigned. Any member may nominate or second another member to any of the offices of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer or the four Committee posts vacated. Seconded nominations may be sent to The Secretary before the 30th April or handed to him at the meeting. All seconded nominations must include the candidates' willingness to serve if elected.

Members who have not paid their subscriptions for 1979 or earlier are asked to do so now rather than await a call from their hard-pressed road steward whose name and address appears on the list enclosed with the September 1978 'Cockpit'. A membership form for this purpose is supplied with this issue.

CROMLIX INQUIRY

At the time of writing, the outcome of the Public Inquiry, held at Bromley Town Hall on 22nd February, is not known. We will comment more fully in the next issue of 'The Cockpit'.

The Council's policy is not to permit further development in the Kyd Brook catchment area until major flood alleviation work is completed (probably 5 to 8 years away).

Wates, who wish to build 22 houses on the Cromlix site, at the top of Summer Hill, were appealing against the Council's deferment of their detailed planning application.

Chislehurst residents turned out in force to show their concern over the flood risks they currently face, and their presence was commented on by the Inspector.

The appeal centred on an argument by Counsel for the respective parties over the legality of the Council's action. The Council have no objection in principle to development of the Cromlix site, providing that flood prevention measures on site would be undertaken by the developer. Wates were unwilling to commit themselves to this course of action even though their estimated cost for such work was only £12,000 to £20,000.

The CRA made a very strong submission at the Inquiry in support of residents fearing increased flood risks, and in support of the Council's deferment action.

If Wates's appeal is allowed, then they would surely not be able to ignore the weight of public opinion by

refusing to take on-site precautions to prevent exacerbation of the flood problems in the Kyd Brook area.

A.20/A.222

The GLC has recently announced major improvement works for the A.20, and in general we welcome these. We are, however, very concerned that the proposed new intersection and roundabout at the junction of the A.20 and A.222 (Perry Street) will bring no benefit to Chislehurst residents. We fear it is designed to carry more traffic from, and to, the A.20 through Chislehurst. This can only be to the detriment of our rural character, especially if road widening on the Commons is the inevitable result.

The CRA will therefore support those residents immediately affected by the enlargement of the junction, in a letter of objection to the Department of Transport. We shall also object because of the longer term effects in the Green Belt that this development threatens.

MEMBERS' SOCIAL

The Members' Social will be held at Graham Chiesman House on Monday, 4th June, at 8 p.m. Tickets will be available through road stewards and at the AGM, but not after 28th May when firm numbers for catering must be known. Will members please apply to the Chairman for tickets.

BROMLEY FEDERATION OF RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Federation Council which represents thirty-six Residents' Associations and which deals with vital matters concerning the Borough of Bromley, is in desperate need of a Secretary. Here is an interesting challenge to a person who has concern regarding problems which affect not only the Borough but the whole of the south-east.

CHISLEHURST MAY QUEEN

This year's crowning ceremonies on Chislehurst Common will be held on Saturday, 28th April. The May Queen Committee will be grateful for offers of assistance in selling programmes in the weeks leading up to the day or in helping the working party and stewarding on the day. Those interested should contact the Secretary, Mrs. J. Peacock, 5 Alexander Road, Chislehurst. There are a few vacancies on the waiting list for the May Queen's retinue. Parents of children aged five and upwards should contact Mrs. Peacock for details.

HELP!

THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR A MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY TO RELIEVE THE TREASURER AND SECRETARY OF WORK IN CONSOLIDATING RECORDS OF EXISTING MEMBERS, AND RECRUITING MORE, IN CO-OPERATION WITH ROAD STEWARDS.

PLEASE CONTACT—

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or

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or

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