

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.

No. 44

September 1985

PAY and DISPLAY PARKING proposed for Chislehurst

The LBB's Technical Service Committee resolved at their meeting on the 25th June 1985 'to proceed with a policy of charging subject to consultation with Ward Councillors prior to formal consultation with the motoring organisations etc.'

The CRA subsequently received a copy of the Report from Councillor Reeves, but before it could be discussed by our Executive Committee, the LBB had already ratified it as policy for implementation.

We have therefore informed the Chief Executive of the LBB that in our opinion their decision is invalid because it did not allow full and proper consultation to take place.

Summary of the Report

The Landlords of the Hornbrook House Car Park (adjacent to the Red Cross premises) have advised the LBB that they would require a substantial increase in rent (from the existing £10.50 a year) for renewal of the lease.

In view of the very large increase facing the LBB a study was undertaken. This shows that currently the shopping and commercial area in Chislehurst is served by three Council car parks providing 252 free spaces. (An additional 46 spaces exist in front of the shops by the Police Station).

Hornbrook House car park has 74 spaces.

The High Street park opposite Sainsbury's has 140. Red Hill (Library) has 38 spaces, with evidence that it is used by some supermarket shoppers.

In the Report the proposals for charging in car parks contains the following items:

The construction of the large supermarket has attracted shoppers from the surrounding area and, whilst the supermarket has provided 80 usable parking spaces on its premises to give free parking for its customers up to a maximum of 2 hours, demand often exceeds supply of available spaces. It would therefore seem an appropriate time to consider the introduction of charges within the 3 public car parks.

In view of the fact that the fuller use of the car parks in Chislehurst has been relatively recent and that there is

at present considerable uncontrolled free parking in the area it is proposed that charges be implemented initially at the same level as High Street, West Wickham, as

Up to 3 hours — 10p Over 3 hours — 20p
¼ Season (5 day) — £10

Four Pay and Display machines will be required for the three car parks.

High Street Parking — proposed charging

It is also proposed to deploy Pay and Display machines to control parking in front of the High Street shops. In view of the close proximity to the shops the proposed charges for these spaces should be the same as car parks in Beckenham, Hayes and part of West Wickham: 0 - 1 hour — 10p 1 - 2 hours — 20p 2 - 4 hours — 30p 4 - 6 hours — 40p 6+ hours — 60p

In this case application has to be made to the GLC, and the proposal could not be implemented until 1986/87.

The Report's conclusions are:

1. The introduction of 'Pay and Display' management in the three public car parks will provide additional parking revenue for a full year and is in accordance with current policy.

2. In addition it will be possible to charge for parking in the spaces in front of the shops from 1986/87 after the appropriate Order has been obtained from the GLC.

In its Recommendations, the Report says: 'Pay and Display' car park management be introduced in all three Chislehurst public car parks as soon as possible, **subject to the normal consultative process.**

What are your Views?

The CRA would like to have your views on these LBB proposals, so that our observations to the Directorate of Technical Services at Bromley Civic Centre will take account of as many opinions and arguments as possible. If you wish to comment please write to the CRA Chairman, 10 Thistlemead, as quickly as possible.

Chairman:
A. T. C. JONES
(01-467 2796)

Vice-Chairman:
A. J. OSMOND

Editor:
P. A. TURNER

THE AGM

Chairman's Report

Although attendance at this year's Annual General Meeting was not quite as high as usual, interest was as keen as ever. The presence of our three Ward Councillors, Mrs. Joan Bryant, Mr. Christopher Reeves, Mrs. Joan Wykes, was most welcome. Later in the proceedings they were able to perform the useful task of responding to matters raised by CRA members. Unfortunately, Mr. Roger Sims, our M.P. was unable to be present, due to pressure of business at Westminster.

PARKING AND TRAFFIC

Yet again parking and traffic problems were the foremost topics of complaint and discussion, the traffic situation at the junction of Willow Grove with the High Street being the really 'hot potato'. Never before have we received so many complaints regarding one problem. There are times, particularly towards the end of the week, when the situation becomes chaotic. The meeting was informed that the Executive Committee had written to the Director of Technical Services, asking that this problem be given urgent attention and that a detailed survey be carried out with a view to relieving the congestion. Unfortunately, interposed in a subsequent report on the AGM which appeared in the 'Chislehurst Times' was a suggestion made by a non-member that Willow Grove should be made a one-way system as far as Walden Road. A week later, to add to the annoyance of your Chairman, who had already been besieged over the telephone by irate Walden Road residents, the suggestion of the one-way system appeared again, this time firmly attributed to the CRA. Following some heated words to the Editor of the 'Chislehurst Times' a correction appeared in the third week. We are wary of recommending one-way systems because they tend to throw unfair burdens of traffic on certain sections of the community.

OLD HILL AND LEESONS HILL

Continuing with problems of traffic, we are pleased to report that Councillor Mrs. Wykes promised to take on board the difficulties facing residents on Old Hill and in the Leesons Hill area. Already she has been in communication with the LBB and the GLC. Having been chairman of the GLC South Area Planning Committee, it was no accident that she found herself becoming a member of the LBB Technical Services and Recreation Committees following her election as a local Councillor.

SCADBURY

It made a pleasant change, when dealing with the various items of business, to be able to report to the meeting that Scadbury was, at last, to be officially opened to the public on 30th April. We are modestly proud of our initiative in suggesting to the LBB that this historic and attractive area should be purchased for the benefit of the public, and we are grateful to all those members who supported our initiative. We congratulate Bromley Councillors on heeding the wishes of so many of their conservation-minded electors. The numbers of

visitors to Scadbury Park since the official opening will have re-assured members of the Council that their decision was wise and far-sighted.

CRA CONSTITUTION

The proposed amendments to the rules and constitution were readily accepted by the AGM, as were the recommended increases in subscription rates to operate from January 1986. Increasing costs of printing, stationery, hiring of halls, etc. have forced us to make an adjustment, the last one having been made four years ago. The new subscriptions will be

Members £1.00 per year
Households £1.50 per year
OAP's (single or double) 50p per year.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The following Officers and Committee Members were elected for the year 1985/6:

Chairman	A. T. C. Jones
Vice-Chairman	A. J. Osmond
Secretary	T. Turner
Treasurer	C. P. Miscampbell
Committee	M. Hammond, L. G. Holt, Miss P. L. Howley, Mrs. S. Moncho, G. W. Payne, Mrs. L. Pullar, A. Robb, P. A. Turner

in addition to those already serving:

Co-opted	H. T. G. Brown, C. M. Dunn, A. R. Turner, Lt. Col. C. B. Weniger K. Catchpole, D. Howard, Miss N. Comport W. A. Page
Auditor	
Editor of	
'The Cockpit'	P. A. Turner

SUB-COMMITTEES 1985/6

Planning	T. Turner, H. T. G. Brown, L. Holt, G. W. Payne, Lt. Col. C. B. Weniger
Trees/Green Belt	Lt. Col. C. B. Weniger, Miss N. Comport, T. Turner
Publicity	P. A. Turner, Miss N. Comport, M. Hammond, A. R. Turner
Social	Mrs. K. Osmond, Miss P. Howley, Miss N. Comport, Mrs. S. Moncho.
Flooding	A. R. Turner chairs the Chislehurst co-opted section of the Kyd Brook Flood Liaison Committee.

DELEGATES

LBB Conservation	
Advisory Panel	C. M. Dunn, T. Turner.
BFRA	A. T. C. Jones, A. R. Turner, T. Turner.
Orpington &	
Chislehurst Road	
Safety Panel	M. Hammond
London Green	
Belt Council	A. J. Osmond

NEW MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

A newcomer to the Committee is Allan Robb, a young accountant who, with his wife, has recently settled in Chislehurst. Allan has kindly undertaken the duties of Membership Secretary which should be of considerable assistance to us. Due to a mental aberration on the part of your Chairman it was not indicated at the AGM that Keith Catchpole and David Howard had been prepared to become co-opted members of the committee in view of their inability to guarantee regular attendance as a result of business pressures. The Committee are glad to have the continued benefit of their advice and thank them for this gesture which enables other members to join the Committee. Nicolette Comport, as usual, wished to remain a co-opted member for the same reason, and we are grateful to her.

In concluding this brief report I should like to thank those who were unable to be present at the AGM, for their continued support and words of appreciation. Such goodwill sustains us in our endeavours.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME

In Edgebury

A number of Residents in Edgebury have expressed their interest in joining the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to combat burglary in the area.

To put the plan into operation a co-ordinator is required and someone to assist him/her. A member of Orpington Police force will come to explain how the scheme works and what is involved.

If it is then thought to be a feasible proposition leaflets will be delivered to householders to find out how many people are interested. Subject to a satisfactory outcome to the idea the Orpington Police will hire a hall and a meeting will be arranged to give a talk to the residents.

If you live in Edgebury and can spare a little of your free time to become a co-ordinator for this scheme, or can assist in any way please contact your road steward — Mrs. J. Moseley 95 Edgebury. Tel: 467 3050.

If people in other areas are interested in such a scheme, they too should inform Mrs. Moseley, so they can either sit in at the first explanatory meeting, or arrange one for themselves.

CRA'S NEW LEAFLET objectives, activities, successes

The CRA produced a new 4 page leaflet for use at the Chamber of Commerce Charity Fair held on Centre Common in June.

Our small stand again attracted visitors, and many new members joined the Association.

The leaflet sets out the objectives of the Association and the ways it can benefit people who live in Chislehurst. It also lists some of our recent achievements relating to Scadbury, the Conservation Area, Green Belt, and Development.

Copies are readily available.

YOUR PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

the inside story

Readers of 'The Cockpit' will have seen references in the past to the CRA Planning Sub-Committee so a brief outline of its functions may be of interest.

The Planning Sub-Committee is composed of five members of the Association, reporting to the Executive Committee. The Chairman is Mr. T. Turner, Secretary is Mr. H. T. G. Brown.

The Secretary monitors the weekly lists of planning applications issued by LBB, extracts details of all those which are relevant to Chislehurst and informs Road Stewards by circular of those which are of their concern, thus enabling them to alert members affected.

At monthly intervals, there is a meeting of the Sub-Committee at the LBB Civic Centre, when every planning application in the Chislehurst area received in the past month is subjected to detailed examination. Usually, no fewer than 20 such applications are involved. A comprehensive report is prepared in respect of those applications where observations or objections by the Association are considered to be necessary, due consideration being given to members' views, when available.

After endorsement of the report by the Executive Committee, letters detailing the agreed CRA objections or observations are sent to Chief Architect/Planner, LBB, by the Planning Sub-Committee Secretary. Sometimes, additional information is received subsequently about a particular planning application and further elaboration is considered to be necessary. In such a case the Planning Sub-Committee Chairman prepares a supplementary letter, addressed to Chief Architect/Planner and in addition, sends a copy to every Councillor serving on the LBB Committee responsible for dealing with the application concerned. This action ensures that the latest views of CRA are available to Committee members before the planning application is considered. The amount of work involved in preparing well reasoned objections is considerable and may involve site visits and discussions with interested parties. Moreover, success at local level sometimes requires further representations in the event of an appeal to the Secretary of State for the Environment.

CRA views respected

There is no doubt that LBB takes considerable note of the Association's views on planning applications. One Councillor, on learning our opinion on a particular application was heard to say, 'CRA is right, as usual'.

If you object to a planning application, you should write immediately to:

Chief Architect/Planner,
London Borough of Bromley, Civic Centre,
Rochester Avenue, Bromley BR1 3UH.

Planning applications may be examined there, upon request. Don't forget to send the CRA Chairman a copy of your letter, if you want support from the Association. If we agree with your objections, representations will be made on your behalf. NOTE: the Chairman's telephone number is at the foot of page 1 of 'The Cockpit'.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

It has sometimes been stated the 'CRA objects to everything'. Statistics prove this to be incorrect. Of a total of 221 planning applications examined during the year ending April, 1985, the Planning Sub-Committee recommended that immediate objections be made to 43, i.e. approximately 1 in 5 planning applications relating to Chislehurst. This is hardly surprising, as a large part of Chislehurst is designated as a Conservation Area (of which a large proportion also falls within the Green Belt) and which the CRA will continue to defend vigorously against undesirable developments.

SCADBURY PARK FARM visitors bring problems

In spite of the incredibly wet Spring, major tidying up was one of the first tasks to be faced and our mowers and hedgecutters made visible improvement. However, the clearing brought to light the sad state of the fences, some of them maliciously cut by visitors — perhaps the same as those who take delight in ignoring signs and staring through the windows of the cottages!

About six acres of grass have been ploughed up ready for reseeded, and plans for the fields include spraying with liquid seaweed and, later, dungspreeding with the produce of our fifty head of beef cattle, who were imported — protesting vociferously — from our Ruxley Farm by lorry, and who now live in cattle Paradise under the great sheltering trees.

The cottage is coming to life slowly, but the 'garden' is sad evidence of the pressure of the farm work, and patiently awaits its share of affection in green, weedy despair.

We desperately need other relief, not with our work, but from the people who interfere with it by parading themselves and worse, their rampaging dogs, through the fields, ignoring the footpaths and the Country Code of 'dogs on leads on farmland', and hurling abuse when asked politely to control their pets and keep to the footpaths. The Law allows us to shoot any dog worrying the animals, but we should hate to be forced to contemplate such a move!

We're praying for some warm sun for our haymaking and for an end to the unnecessary problems mentioned.

This report from the tenant farmers.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EDGEBURY Bromley in Bloom Award

Congratulations to the Edgebury members of the CRA on winning the second prize in the CRAMPORN CUP (Residents' Association Section), for the best garden.

The organiser of the Edgebury section entry is Mr. C. H. BREEDS of 48 Edgebury. The award was presented by the Deputy Mayor of Bromley at the Civic Centre on the 13th September.

BROMLEY CLEAN AND GREEN CAMPAIGN

LBB's major new campaign

We are pleased to report the splendid initiative of the LBB in launching its new campaign (1st July) to protect and enhance the Borough's Green and Clean image. Many projects have been planned to appeal to everyone who lives and works in Bromley and the surrounding area.

The LBB intend to implement a comprehensive programme of improvement schemes throughout the Borough. Untidy sites that have become eye-sores will be landscaped and planted, residents' associations will be offered trees to plant in their areas and some of the more prominent locations will be planted with spring bulbs.

Competitions and events are being organised by the LBB to encourage residents to join in with the spirit of the campaign. Competitions include art and photography, litter abatement and the 'best kept Council estate' or block. Special projects for schools are also proposed as well as a video competition, a planning project, an environmental surveys project and a poetry competition. It is hoped that local business and organisations will support the campaign and carry out enhancement schemes to their own sites and frontages.

Address and telephone number to contact for information is given at the end of the next section.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Details of the Painting and Photographic competitions have been published by the LBB. The closing date for entries is 1st November 1985, and there are good prizes to be won, along with a chance of excellent publicity for entrants.

Full details can be obtained by writing to:
Bromley Clean and Green Co-ordinator,
London Borough of Bromley,
Rochester Avenue, Bromley BR1 3UH
or by telephone from Press Office 01-464 3333 ext. 3268.

MEMBERS' SOCIAL

We had intended to have a Members' buffet and wine social this Autumn but were unable to find a suitable venue on the dates we proposed. We shall therefore make arrangements to hold this event as soon as the lighter evenings are with us next year.

PROBUS CLUB OF CHISLEHURST

welcomes new members

This Club, founded in 1973, provides a regular meeting point at the Bull's Head, Chislehurst, for retired professional and business people.

Mr. W. Stewart, the Hon. Secretary, will be pleased to give anyone interested more information about membership. Telephone 467 4490.

OLD WATER TOWER

a reminder of 1961

This photograph taken by Mr. Roy Hopper, our Librarian, shows a bus just getting through the arch of the old Water Tower. The Tower was taken down (not without resistance from local residents) because of the volume of traffic using Summer Hill. The shield-shaped stone crest, above the small right hand arch, is now set into the brick memorial, which can be seen a few yards away from its original site at the top of the hill.



Photographs like this bring back memories, or they can show us a face of Chislehurst we admire or try to improve.

If you have an interesting black/white print we can publish, with a suitable caption or story, please contact the editor, Peter Turner, Telephone 467 9538.

THE NATIONAL TRUST

Petts Wood needs your support

As residents of Chislehurst there are few of us who have not enjoyed the peace and tranquillity of a walk in the Petts Woods. These woods are administered by a Committee of Management, while the practical husbandry is under the supervision of a Warden.

The Committee depends upon subscriptions and voluntary donations to pay for the ever increasing cost of maintaining the woods. It is therefore essential that the local membership should be kept up and if possible increased. Chislehurst Residents' Association makes an annual donation but individual membership is even more important. You can help by joining the National Trust at our shop in the Royal Parade, or through the local Membership Secretaries. Your subscription directly benefits Petts Wood.

Membership costs £12.50 a year.

The Membership Secretaries are:

Mr. and Mrs. G. Long,

38 Ashfield Lane,

Chislehurst. (Tel: 01-467 3562)

They will be delighted to hear from you, either to receive your enrolment or to give you further details if you need them.

This report from

Bernard Earl, Publicity Officer,

Petts Wood Management Committee,

National Trust.

MISSING BOUNDARY

STONE

can you help to trace it?

The National Trust Petts Wood Management Committee would be most interested to find and to replace a missing boundary stone mentioned in the late Clifford L. Platt's book, 'In Trust for Chislehurst'.

The paragraph containing the reference reads: 'About 200 yards south of the Cottage (opposite Marlings Park) . . . there used to stand a stone on which were marked the initials of the four parishes which meet at this point — St. Paul's Cray, Orpington, St. Mary Cray and Chislehurst. It was moved during the invasion threat of 1940 . . . Enquiries in municipal stoneyards failed to find it after the war'.

The Committee would appreciate hearing from anybody who has information concerning the present whereabouts of this interesting link with the past.

If you can offer any suggestions or information, please contact:

Bernard Earl,
91 Westhurst Drive,
Chislehurst, Kent.

OBITUARY

Jim Bentley and Percy Young

It is with great regret that we have to announce the passing of two long-standing members of the Association.

Mr. Jim Bentley of 19 Adelaide Road had served the Association as a Road Steward for Adelaide Road, Alexandra Road, Edward Road and Woodside Avenue for many years, and he was, invariably, the first to make his returns to the Treasurer each year. Conscientious, meticulous and most dependable, his enthusiasm for supporting the CRA never wavered until illness struck him a year-and-a-half ago, when he was forced to hand over his duties to his wife. Despite suffering over a considerable period Jim was always cheerful and fought his illness courageously. His sense of service to the community — he was also involved with other local organisations such as Scouting — and his keen concern over the protection of our local heritage are qualities we can ill afford to lose.

Mr. Percy Young of 19 Woodside Avenue had been a member of the CRA Executive Committee for a number of years and had latterly represented the Association on the Orpington and Chislehurst Road Safety Panel.

Illness had forced him to resign from membership of the Committee prior to our Annual General Meeting. Despite his eighty-eight years Percy had been, up to recent months, very active and forthright in his views and attitudes. He was a very popular member, his comments and reports were always spiced with good humour. Percy worked very hard for the well being of Chislehurst and its residents — we shall all miss him.

We have written to both Mrs. Bentley and Mrs. Young expressing not only the appreciation and sympathy of the Executive Committee but also of the general membership of the Association.
