

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. 45

February 1986

LBB ABANDONS THE PAY AND DISPLAY PARKING proposed for Chislehurst

On January 7th, the LBB's Technical Service Committee, under the Chairmanship of Councillor Crask abandoned the Pay and Display parking scheme proposed for Chislehurst.

This decision was welcomed by the CRA, who through consultation meetings and campaigning had presented the LBB with widely supported arguments opposing the scheme.

In the last edition of *The Cockpit* we detailed the LBB's proposals and we asked for your views. The Council's initial proposal report had been late in reaching the CRA via one of our Ward Councillors. Consequently evaluating opinion and taking whatever action was required, had to be given urgent attention. It quickly became apparent that residents believed Pay and Display parking would bring no advantages to Chislehurst and that for traffic and environmental reasons it was not acceptable.

The CRA Campaign

The CRA arranged to meet Councillor Mrs. Wykes in October, and expressed the views of Committee members. We published these views in our special leaflet and distributed copies to all our members and many non-members, asking them to make individual representations to the Council. In view of the serious nature of the proposals for Chislehurst, and the evident feeling they aroused, the Chairman of LBB's Technical Services Committee, Councillor Crask, and Councillors Mrs. Bryant, Mrs. Wykes, and Reeves, met the CRA Executive Committee in December. Arguments for and against the proposals were fully discussed with patience and understanding, and we were promised that our views, and those of all the Chislehurst people who had written or petitioned, would be carefully considered by the LBB.

Abandonment Announced

In his Press Release, issued on 8th January, Councillor Crask, who had recommended abandonment to his Committee, said 'I have carried out the consultation processes with the officers of the Chislehurst Residents' Association and the Council representatives for Chislehurst Ward, Councillors Mrs. J. Bryant, Mrs. J. K. Wykes and C. C. S. Reeves. As part of the consultation I have received a considerable quantity of individual letters of objection.'

'I am firmly of the opinion that, whilst the car parking situation in Chislehurst is far from perfect, the implementation of a 'Pay and Display' scheme would aggravate the position and not help at all.'

'It is necessary for the Council to review the parking policy to reflect changes in traffic flows and motoring and shopping habits. I am glad that, on this occasion, my Committee were able to agree to the representations made against change put forward by the Chislehurst Ward Members and the Residents' Association.'

Value of Personal Action

The CRA is extremely pleased that the LBB has dropped the proposed scheme, and that the full processes of consultation took place. Over 1,000 individual objections were made, by letter, and by petitions from the Chislehurst and Mottingham Chamber of Commerce, and local Shopkeepers. Individual representations in such matters are very important and most effective. We thank all those who supported our campaign, particularly as it indicates that there is a strength of feeling that exists to preserve and enhance the quality of our Chislehurst environment.

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

Vice-Chairman:
A. J. OSMOND

Editor:
P. A. TURNER

OUR NEXT AGM

29th April 1986

The CRA's Annual General Meeting will be held at 8.15 p.m. in the Methodist Church Hall, Prince Imperial Road, Chislehurst. The meetings are lively and useful, and give members the opportunity to raise local problems. We hope you will be able to attend.

MEMBERS' SOCIAL

20th June 1986

We are planning to hold the next Members' Social Evening, with a buffet and wine, in Graham Chieseaman House, on Friday 20th June 1986, from 8.00-10.00 p.m.

The last social was a tremendous success and we look forward to seeing you in June for another enjoyable evening. Do please let the Chairman know if you are thinking of coming — this would considerably help our planning, and enable us to set a realistic ticket price. Further details will be published in the next Cockpit prior to the AGM.

1986 SUBSCRIPTIONS

are now due

Your 1986 subscriptions are now due, and it would help our Road Stewards if you were able to pop your subscriptions or usual donation through their letter box (including your name and address).

Increasing costs of printing, hire of halls, stationery etc. have forced us to increase subscription rates. They now are

Members £1.00 per year

Households £1.50 per year

OAP's (single or double) 50p per year.

If you should move within the Chislehurst area please remember to inform the membership secretary, Andrew Robb, 467 6689.

ROAD STEWARDS

Members will be sorry to learn of the departure from Chislehurst of Mr. Ken Sedgwick, Vice-Chairman of the Association 1975-77, and Road Steward for a number of the roads adjacent to Watts Lane. We wish him and Norah, his wife, happiness in their new home in Tunbridge Wells, and thank them both for their most loyal support to the Association over so many years. Ken's duties will be taken over by Mr. and Mrs. E. Vine of Crown Lane, whom we thank for their readiness to serve the CRA.

We are also sorry to lose the services of Mrs. Green of Wilderness Road. In thanking her for her keen support we extend our best wishes for improved health in the near future. Mrs. J. Keller of Wilderness Road has kindly offered to assume Mrs. Green's duties as Road Steward, and we thank her for stepping into the breach.

Mrs. A. Hoskin of Elmlee Close has recently volunteered to act as Road Steward for Elmlee Close, which has not previously been covered. Many thanks to Mrs. Hoskin for coming forward to serve us.

MARLINGS PARK

increase in traffic

Residents in the Marlings Park area asked the CRA to take up the question of problems arising from increased traffic movements in the area, and especially from heavy lorries, not all connected with the A20 road works.

The matter has been raised with Councillor Mrs. Wykes and it is expected that she and the LBB's Chief Engineer will visit the site with the CRA to see at first hand the problems.

EMPRESS DRIVE

unadopted section

Over the last few years the CRA has tried to persuade the LBB to find a solution to the problem of making up the unadopted access road.

The LBB recently completed a consultation exercise, which involved the frontagers of the unadopted section, as well as other users. The LBB, who do not meet all the costs in these situations, sought to obtain contributions from the frontagers. Their proposals were not acceptable to the residents concerned, and there appears now to be stalemate, with no initiative forthcoming from either party. Unless someone gives, maybe only a little, nothing will be done, and the atrocious state of the road will get worse.

If a precedent can be found, where the local authority undertook all make-up work because of exceptional conditions, e.g. the road was also the only access to other properties, as well as a Council owned public area, then this could be an argument to pursue.

PARKING ON

FOOTPATHS

motorists prosecuted

Parking vehicles on footpaths is now illegal and offending motorists can face heavy fines. Unfortunately, legislation has not stopped this practice in Chislehurst, but we are pleased to report that the LBB have already made over 200 prosecutions for this offence. If such parking creates a hazard or inconvenience for you, do report it to the LBB's traffic inspectors on 464 3333 extension 4213 before 10.00 a.m. and after 4.00 p.m.

ROAD SAFETY

Mr. Malcolm Hammond, who is our representative on the Orpington and Chislehurst Area Road Safety Consultative Panel, was elected Vice-Chairman last Autumn.

Matters arising from residents or any other bodies, are discussed at the meeting, and recommendations made by the Panel are forwarded to the LBB for consideration and implementation. If any member wishes to raise a problem please contact our Chairman or Mr. Hammond, 10 Green Lane, Chislehurst on 01-467 2558.

ELMSTEAD LANE parking problems

Residents in the Elmstead Lane area have again asked for CRA help in combating parking problems. Our Chairman arranged for a meeting on site between local residents and Councillor Mrs. Wykes and we are now waiting to hear if the LBB can offer any solutions.

PRESERVING TREES need for another tree officer

The CRA devotes time and energy to protect and preserve trees in Chislehurst. There is much work to be done, and we enjoy admirable support from the LBB.

There are fortunately a growing number of Chislehurst residents alert to the unlawful activities of those who take chain saws to mature trees. The Chairman's phone is constantly ringing with people asking what can be done to stop felling or unsightly pollarding.

Our enlarged Conservation Area has created heavier demands on qualified people able to advise or to prevent illegal activity. The CRA has proposed to the LBB that it uses the service of an additional tree officer for the Borough, in order that the supervisory work can be carried out effectively. Finding extra staff these days may be a problem but undoubtedly the need is there.

NATIONAL TRUST new season's programme

New and existing members of the National Trust are cordially invited to join the local Orpington and Chislehurst Centre. The new season's programme is well under way and includes many interesting items such as talks on the Victorian Society and Thomas Hardy, visits to Windsor Castle and Paycock's and a Cavalcade of Costume. Opportunities exist to help with organising trips and other fund raising events or just to come along and enjoy a talk or outing in congenial company. Further details from Mrs. D. Saunders, 67 Broomhill Road, Orpington 34689.

1986 CHC MEETINGS

Bromley Community Health Council extend a welcome to any CRA members who wish to attend their meetings, which are also open to the general public.

The meetings will be held in the Lecture Room, School of Midwifery, 40 Masons Hill, Bromley, starting at 7.30 p.m. on the following dates:

Wednesday 26th February
Tuesday 25th March
Wednesday 23rd April
Thursday 22nd May (at Cane Hill Hospital)
Tuesday 24th June
Wednesday 23rd July
Tuesday 23rd September
Thursday 23rd October
Wednesday 26th November
Thursday 18th December

LOGS HILL footpath wanted

Residents in the CRA area have asked for our support to have a continuous footpath made in Logs Hill, for the safety of their children who have to use the road. The problem is not an easy one to solve. The LBB has promised to contact frontagers in Logs Hill to see if they would agree to the proposal.

BROMLEY IN BLOOM the 1986 Competition

The LBB's annual Bromley in Bloom Competition is a very popular and successful event. Details for the 1986 Competition are given below and the LBB are hoping to attract even more entries this year.

CRA members have won prizes before, so don't be afraid to have a go.

The garden show in Queens Gardens, Bromley (at the rear of Marks and Spencer's store), will again launch the 1986 Competition. It will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, 23rd and 24th April. The show will be open to the public from 10.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. on the 23rd, and from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. on the 24th. There will be an opportunity to make purchases at all of the exhibitors' stands. There will also be a refreshment marquee.

The Bromley in Bloom Competition will again have eight classes:

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| 1. The Cooling Nursery Cup. | For the best Front Garden. |
| 2. The Tollgate Garage Rose Bowl. | For Balcony and Window Box Displays. |
| 3. The Cramphorn Cup. | For Residents' and Tenants' Associations. |
| 4. The Housing Committee Trophy. | For Council Controlled Housing Areas and Estates. |
| 5. The Robbins Cup. | For Shops and Business Premises. |
| 6. The Joint Breweries Challenge Bowl. | For Public Houses and Hotels. |
| 7. The Forecourt Award. | For Garages, Filling Stations and Car Showrooms. |
| 8. The Eric Day Improvement Award. | For New or Improved entries from Garages, Filling Stations, or Car Showrooms. |

Please note it is permissible to enter for individual front gardens as well as being included in entries for the Cramphorn Cup or Housing Committee Trophy.

Your interest and participation will help to ensure that Bromley remains the floral borough of London.

'KNOW YOUR COUNCIL'

Your Ward Councillors and LBB Officers will be at Beaverwood School on Wednesday, 26th February, at 8.00 p.m. to meet local people and answer questions.

NEW TREES FOR THE HIGH STREET

We were delighted to be presented with six young trees by the LBB as part of their Clean and Green improvement scheme. The photographs show members of the CRA Executive Committee ably led by Lt. Col. Charles Weniger, our Tree sub-committee chairman, planting the trees on Sunday 12th June.

Two alders were planted in front of the Library and two by the adjacent shops. A chestnut was planted in front of Cooling's shop, and an acer by the telephone kiosk at the bottom of Red Hill.



We hope that this notable step to enhance our environment will be the first of many. Our High Street could benefit further from the attention of like minded people who care enough to plan for the future. We are working on the idea and will report developments if they appear promising.



Community Opportunities exist to help with organising tree and ground planting events or other community and other events. For more information contact the CRA Executive Committee at 1, The Arcade, Mansfield, Notts. Tel: 0533 750000.

1986 CHC MEETINGS

Bromley Community Health Council extend a welcome to any CRA members who wish to attend their meetings, which are open to the general public. The meetings will be held at the Leisure Centre, School of Music, 40 Mansfield Hill, Bromley, starting at 7.30pm on the following dates:

- Wednesday 20th February
- Tuesday 25th March
- Wednesday 23rd April
- Thursday 22nd May (at the Leisure Centre, Mansfield Hill)
- Monday 24th June
- Wednesday 2nd July
- Tuesday 23rd September
- Monday 22nd October
- Wednesday 26th November
- Tuesday 18th December