NOTE FROM THE "CHAIR":

It is an inescapable fact that government, whether national or local, is to a large extent dominated by political principles, with the result that communities are divided.

Not so very long ago a more independent atmosphere prevailed, when local people were elected to serve the community as a whole - flexibility and an ability to appreciate the other man's point of view being the keynote.

Your Association is comprised of members holding widely differing political views, and for this reason we have endeavoured to be politic rather than political; but it becomes increasingly difficult to maintain a "non-political" approach when faced with politically-motivated measures aimed at destroying amenities and standards hitherto enjoyed.

Bulldozing should be confined to building sites. We will do everything possible to prevent bulldozing by legislation.

We have unfortunately lost a Chairman after a short period, and hope that his difficulties may be soon resolved. During his short term of office, Denis Fitzgerald volunteered to serve on a number of local Committees, and we thank him for his work and interest.

We welcome Mr. Graham Jenkins as Vice-Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN.
OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & DELEGATES: 1974/75

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT: Mr. D.L. Porter: 23, Grove Park Road
CHAIRMAN: Mr. F.D. Cater-Smith: 2, West Park
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Mr. G. Jenkins: 61, Court Farm Road
HON. SECRETARY: Mrs. M.V. Gardner: 55, Leysdown Road
HON. TREASURER: Mr. P. Osborne: 43, Beaconsfield Road

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Mr. L. Bannister: 68, Leysdown Road
Mrs. M.A. Browning: 28, Leysdown Road
Mr. L.S. Byrne: 23, Crossmead
Mr. R.C. Cambridge: 7, Lavidge Road
Mrs. J.L. Clarke: 580, Sidcup Road
Mrs. M.E. Davies: 1, Cedar Mount

Mr. C.A. Durell: 54, Jevington Way
Mr. C. Gillard: 44, Lavidge Road
Mr. J. Jeffery: 25, Westdean Avenue
Mrs. T.G. Kirk: 10, Scottsdale Close, Orpington.

Mr. K.B. Moncur: 234, Court Road
Mrs. N.I. Moncur: 234, Court Road
Mrs. R.M. Robinson: 32, West Park
Mr. H.F. South: "Littleholme", Nottingham Lane

Mrs. E. Thompson: 14, Porcupine Close

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Mr. R.C. Cambridge
BROMLEY RESIDENTS' FEDERATION: Delegate: Mrs. M.A. Browning
NEW ROADS SUB-COMMITTEE: Chairman: Mr. S. Byrne, with
Road/Home Safety Advisory Committee: Mrs. Browning and
Bromley: Mrs. T.G. Kirk.
Greenwich: Mrs. M.E. Davies.
(Deputy: Mrs. N.I. Moncur)
TOWN PLANNING APPLICATIONS: Mr. G. Jenkins.
PUBLICITY SUB-COMMITTEE: Chairman: Mr. P.D. Cater-Smith, with Messrs. Porter & Gillard, Mendames Browning & Robinson; Mrs. M.V. Gardner ex officio.
GREENWICH BOROUGH COUNCIL: Planning & Environmental Group: Mr. R.C. Cambridge.
Liaison Group: Mr. P.D. Cater-Smith
OXFORD HOUSE COMMITTEE: Liaison Member: Mrs. N.I. Moncur.

Borough Councillors:

Bromley: Councillor A.H. Macdonald: 79, Oakdene Avenue, Chislehurst.
Councillor R.W. Huzzard: 37, Hollingsworth Road, Petts Wood.

Road Representatives:

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<td>Woodmere</td>
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<td>Mr. Downs: 613 Sidcup Road</td>
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MEMBERSHIP:

We are very happy to report that membership increased by 22 last year. This may not sound a terrific achievement, but when the majority of Associations are reporting a fall in membership, it is an achievement to "hold" one's figures. We hope to exceed the 1600 mark this year.

The efforts of our Road Representatives, under the "guiding hand" of Reg Cambridge have resulted in this splendid result. At the A.G.M. it was decided to maintain the membership subscription at 15p.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Committee meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of alternate months; the next bi-monthly meeting will be on September 25th, 1974. Sub-Committee meetings are held as and when occasion warrants.

Our sincere thanks go to the three Councillors who attended regularly our committee meetings and were ever ready to give advice and information.

As this Newsletter will indicate, we do not always approve of Council recommendations, but certainly our local Councillors are most helpful.
NEW ROADS COMPLEX:

Despite victory in 1973 against motorways in general, the question of roads has been revived by two reports.

One comes from the Department of the Environment, proposing to double the A20, the London to Maidstone route, between the end of the Swanley Bypass and Kentish Corner, the start of the dual carriageway of Sidcup Road, obviously to provide more road capacity for the Channel Ports, which will undoubtedly produce more traffic, particularly should the Channel Tunnel be constructed.

The other, entitled: "A Study of South East London Traffic and Environmental Problems" (S.E.L.T.E.P. for short), has been compiled by a group of officers from the London Boroughs of Barking, Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Lewisham, Newham and the Greater London Council, is very difficult to follow and understand. A firm of consultants was engaged to publicise it and organise a travelling exhibition; but owing to strike action in the press, it lacked publicity. Consequently, the demonstration caravan parked a very short time at Crossmead was poorly attended.

This report (S.E.L.T.E.P.) suggests new road construction and management of traffic, to obviate excessive use of subsidiary roads. It sets out its recommendations, in order of priority, as follows:

1. A NEW ROAD: a two-lane dual carriageway from Falconwood to the beginning of the Blackwall Tunnel approach, following approximately the line of the railway.

2. A NEW ROAD from Kidbrooke to St. Johns across Blackheat and on to the Marquis of Granby at New Cross. This road the report proposes to "safeguard", which is another term for "blight", but it does not state what would be the effect of a double carriageway stretching continuously from Faversham.

Further recommendations for study in this report are three other new road proposals:

(a) Falconwood to Thamesmead: pointless unless another tunnel were constructed under the Thames at that point.
(b) Kidbrooke to the Dutch House: the idea obviously being that increased traffic from the Channel Tunnel, if constructed, travelling along the A20 could turn right to the Blackwall Tunnel.

c) The Dutch House to Whitefoot Lane, which with the above recommendation for study, is a rehash of Ringway 2, and useless unless Whitefoot Lane were to be developed into an alternative South Circular route, which affects our members in Jevington Way and Westdean Avenue.

To this proposal we have strongly objected.

The Borough Councils concerned tried to canvass public opinion before producing detailed plans; but the response to a request for questionnaires to be completed and returned produced few (it is reported 1,285 only), representing a minute proportion of the residents of Greenwich, mostly being (it is assumed) those who would be directly affected by the schemes. Most were in favour of early construction of the Dover Radial route from Falconwood to the Blackwall Tunnel approach.

New road construction, the report estimates, would require from three to five years if compulsory purchase were not involved.

We shall watch the interests of the residents of Nottingham continuously, and take appropriate action where they are threatened.

L. STEPHEN BYRNE,
Chairman,
Roads Sub-Committee

TOWN PLANNING:

For a number of years all local Town-Planning applications have been carefully vetted by Mr. Recknell, who notified all members affected by the Application and invited their comments.

This personal contact is necessary because it is not, as yet, a statutory obligation upon Local Authorities to advise residents of planning applications.
A Private Member's Bill is now before Parliament to close this planning loophole.

Regrettably, we have lost the services of Mr. Recknell who has moved from Nottingham. We thank him most sincerely for his efforts and wish him well in the future.

Our recently elected Vice-Chairman, Mr. Graham Jenkins, has agreed to "step into the breech" and will without doubt maintain as careful a watch on local planning applications as did his predecessor.

TT ALL HAPPENS IN NOTTINGHAM!

Top-class wrestling in the village? It couldn't possibly happen. But it did.

The B and DLALLT - don't try to solve it - persuaded six leading wrestlers to put on a show for charity at "The Porcupine" (P.H.) on Tuesday, the 9th July.

The "grunt and groan" boys (and we use the expression in the nicest possible way) really turned it on and 250 people thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

The "inner man" was well catered for with Mousse-tasting, shell fish, hot dogs, hamburgers, etc. Ticket sales and raffles resulted in £165 being available for distribution to:

The Mayor's Parlour
The Spastics Workshop
Cancer Relief and Research

The solution: for B and DLALLT, read Bromley and District Ladies Auxiliary League of the Licensed Trade.

Congratulations, ladies, on a very fine effort.

HOMES AT RISK:

We are very concerned at the possible implications of recent recommendations by the Greenwich Borough Council; and the following letter was sent to the "Eltham & Kentish Times" for publication:
Local Authority Housing Programmes

The Department of the Environment recently issued Circular 70/74 - Local Authority Housing Programmes - in which five categories of property are listed to which priority for acquisition should be given by Local Authorities.

We understand that the information is generally in line with that contained in previously issued circulars on the same subject, but is now issued to stimulate the efforts of Local Authorities to acquire privately-owned property in an attempt to increase the percentage of Council-controlled housing stock.

It would be reasonable to suppose that the Department of the Environment had given serious consideration to the guidelines for acquisition and were satisfied that their recommendations were adequate.

Greenwich Borough Council, however, decided that the recommended guidelines merely "scratched the surface" of the problem and have approved an additional thirteen categories under which they might acquire private property.

We consider it important that house-owners should have knowledge of decisions taken by the Greenwich Borough Council and we quote from the Council Minutes of a Housing Committee meeting on May 23rd:

"Categories of properties now approved for acquisition by this Council are as follows:--

(A) Houses under-occupied by elderly owner/occupiers.
(B) Under-occupied houses tenanted or owned by the owners who are not elderly.
(C) Individually unfit houses provided they are capable of improvement to the full standard and which could be the subject of statutory notices.
(D) Houses the owners of which appear incapable or reluctant to proceed with works of improvement and which could be the subject of statutory notices.
(E) Houses in an unsatisfactory condition, the occupiers of which are being rehoused by the Council as normal housing applicants.
(F) Large houses in Eltham area suitable for conversion into one bedroom flats.
(G) Large family houses with gardens."
(H) Houses the use of which in the past has been changed from residential to commercial, office or other non-residential use.

(I) Houses to be purchased to ensure that the best use is made of the borough's housing stock or to avoid the creation or continuation of poor housing conditions.

(J) Properties that have remained empty for a considerable period of time.

(K) 2-bedroom houses with gardens.

(L) Flats and maisonettes in blocks (to be investigated and reported to the Housing Committee).

(M) Furnished dwellings (to be let unfurnished)"

Having grossly exceeded the recommendations of the Department of the Environment, the Greenwich Borough Council now recommend that: "representations be made to the Department of the Environment for a widening of the approved categories in Circular 70/74 to include all of those in the Greenwich scheme, having regard to the number of unsatisfactory dwellings in the borough, the number of families on the housing waiting list, and the urgent need to balance deficiencies in the Council's own housing stock and to relieve under-occupation in the private sector". It was also recommended that "the London Boroughs Association be asked to support the Council's representations to the Department of the Environment".

The word "compulsory" has been studiously avoided, but it requires no more than average intelligence to read between the lines. Neither does it require great intelligence to appreciate that the environmental deterioration caused by housing problem families in good-class residential areas, the "market-blight" resulting from a declaration of intent to re-develop an area, and the use of statutory notices involving prohibitive cost to the owner are but three examples of "gently influencing" a private owner into selling; and under these conditions the only likely purchaser would be your local Council.

Local Authorities would not dare to implement these policies? They have already done so and intend to increase the rate of acquisition.

Power to compulsorily acquire already exists, and I quote a Labour Councillor: - "Compulsory purchase orders will be made in pursuance of Part V of the Housing Act 1957 .... " ?
We quote from a letter by Mr. P. Crowder, Q.C., M.P., published recently in the National press:

"It is the practice of the London Borough of Hillingdon in making grossly excessive use of the compulsory purchase order procedure to pursue an intensive policy of council house building.

I am very strongly opposed to the policy of Hillingdon Council in acquiring compulsorily the existing homes of owner-occupiers and then demolishing these perfectly good homes in order to carry out their municipal housing programme".

\[\)\] Wandleworth Borough Councillors have publicly stated on a number of occasions that it is their intention to use all available means to increase the Council housing stock.

The Greenwich Borough Council Housing Committee recommend the compulsory purchase of a large number of properties in Eltham Road (opposite the Courtlands Estate): **no consultation as yet with the owners of the property!**

Are you convinced? These are facts - not scaremongering, as will undoubtedly be claimed in certain quarters.

There are very few properties in Greenwich that could not be acquired under one or more of the categories recommended.

Council-controlled property in the Borough already stands at 42%, and this Association is of the opinion that the ratio between private and Council housing should not be worsened if only for the reason that every property acquired by the Council results in an increase of the amount paid in rent subsidy, which in turn "pudl result in higher rates.

Property-grabbing - "the progressive extension of social ownership" if you prefer - would appear to be the only acceptable solution to politically-motivated Councillors. Is it acceptable to the majority of residents in the Borough?

We contend that it is a gross misuse of power to impose politically-inspired measures upon any section of a community, and we urge all members of this Association to support only those Councillors, whatever their political persuasion, who understand the true meaning of democracy."
We challenge the Chairman of the Housing/Management Committee:

(1) to deny that compulsory powers will be extensively used to acquire private property under the categories listed;

(2) to deny that in March of this year, 160 Council-owned houses had been standing empty for more than one month - 45 of that number for more than six months;

(3) to deny that his definition of "under-occupied" is a property having one room in excess of requirements;

(4) to give the number of Council-owned houses at present under-occupied in accordance with the "one-room" definition. A figure to the nearest hundred would be acceptable!

The Chairman,
Nottingham Residents' Association

AN EXTRACT FROM "THE DENTAL NEWS" (We apologise for that!)
For more than twenty-five years, Mr. Folkes has painlessly taken very good care of our dental needs and the brilliant "close-up-zone" smile of many a Nottinghamian is, in part, due to his skill and advice.

He understood that patients had not "dropped in for a chat" but wanted to sit in the chair for as brief a time as possible.

We hope that Mr. Folkes will enjoy many pleasant years in Bickley.

HORTICULTURAL "OUTGOINGS":
This year the Society has introduced a series of social outings at approximately monthly intervals. The first of these events covered the house and gardens at Polesden Lacey and the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Wisley. On the 1st June a small but gallant party of intrepid souls ventured forth to
the uncharted depths of Surrey. The party survived the rigours of the blazing sun, the cream tea at Wisley and a rather excited poodle who took a dislike to the gathering, to return bloody but unbowed to the heart of Nottingham.

Greenwich Park is a rather hazardous place, and a party from the Society on the 11th July was confronted by wild deer and guard dogs from the dog training centre there. Once again, we survived.

The pioneer spirit was really tested when on the 25th August we were subjected to the equatorial vegetation and climate of the nurseries at Avery Hill Park.

If there is anyone who thinks that the spirit of adventure is dead, then let him join one of our safaris. Future events will be publicised at the Trading Shed at 22, Devonshire Road.

If you are not a member of the Nottingham Horticultural Society, have a word with the Secretary, Mrs. R. Jenkins, on 857 8705. We might be able to fit you in.

The Chairman,
Nottingham Horticultural Society

P.S. For the faint-hearted, we have a film and lecture evening on the 21st November. Once again, the Secretary can

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DOES ANYBODY WANT A PROBATION HOSTEL?

In March of this year the residents of Nottingham were very perturbed to discover that planning application had been made by the Receiver for the Metropolitan Police District on behalf of the Home Office to use No. 39 West Park as a Probation Hostel for 12 adult male offenders.

Objections were made to the Council by the immediate neighbours to this proposed change of use. Letters were written to the local Press; the Home Office, Probation Service and the Home Secretary protesting that this was a totally unsuitable location for a social experiment of this nature. A petition was organised asking the Council to refuse permission, and this was signed by 97% of the residents of West Park and West Hallowes. Due to the
imminence of the Council meeting at which this matter would be discussed, the petition was limited to the immediate areas affected by the proposal, although feeling was running fairly high throughout Nottingham as a whole.

The Rev. C. Byers felt that it would be advantageous to hold a meeting at which the people of Nottingham could discuss this proposal with the Probation Service; and a meeting was held at St. Andrew's Church Hall on the 2nd April. Two matters affecting the community were discussed; the proposed Probation Hostel and the proposed development of the Y.M.C.A. sports ground. Mr. Byers chaired the meeting which was attended by Mr. R. Edom, Senior Probation Officer for the Inner London Probation and After-Care Service; and by a member of the Bromley Council Planning Department. It was generally felt that as these were very dissimilar proposals, it was not really practical to discuss them both at the same meeting. However, it did give local people an opportunity to air their views.

As was only to be expected, the meeting developed into one of protest. It seemed to the majority criminal, in itself, to deliberately introduce convicted criminals into an area already "enjoying" more than its fair share of petty crime. Residents wanted to know what type of criminal would be accommodated at the hostel. Mr. Edom was not in a position to reply to this, but endeavoured to reassure residents that they were unlikely to be inconvenienced in any way by the existence of the hostel. The meeting could fairly be said to have been a good exercise in communication, but it was generally felt that more heat than light had been generated!

Greenwich Borough Council have approved the planning application despite the virtually unanimous opposition from residents.

At the time of going to press, it is understood that negotiations for the sale of 39, West Park are still not finalised. We, therefore, keep our fingers hopefully crossed.

(Mrs.) R. Robinson
OUR LIBRARY:

The glowing "patch of colour" outside the Library is a testimonial to the persistance of our very helpful librarian - Miss Parkinson, and equally the Bromley Parks Department are to be congratulated.

The tree presented by your Association last year to commemorate "plant-a-tree" year does not exactly "take the eye" at the moment, but maybe next year will be flourishing.

We hope that the recently installed seat will serve as a welcome halfway rest for weary shoppers. A commemorative plaque is in hand.

Could we suggest that Miss Parkinson again approaches the Parks Department for similar treatment of the opposite plot which, by comparison with the flower bed, looks a trifle neglected? We are reasonably certain that her customary tactful approach will succeed.

Y.M.C.A. SPORTS GROUND:

We are delighted to be able to report that planning permission to develop the sports ground has been refused by Bromley Council on three counts. In brief, these reflect the Council's concern to preserve a pleasant recreational area in Nottingham. On this point, your Association is with the Council all the way.

FURTHER NEWS ITEMS:

Fencing in Nottingham Lane: Residents will be glad to hear that the Grove Park Hospital authorities plan to repair the fencing bordering Carters Hill, at an estimated cost of some £2,000. In the meantime, both the Hospital and Bromley Borough are doing everything possible to prevent "fly-tipping" by lorries.

Application by the Board of Governors, Eltham College, to build two mobile three-bedroom house units in their grounds adjoining houses in Nottingham Lane. We supported the objection lodged by the members affected by the proposed development. The Application has been refused by Bromley Council.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Association warmly supports the work of THE FRIENDS OF TASK FORCE in the Greenwich area, and invites the support of members for the forthcoming events:-

Mayor's Michaelmas Market: Saturday, 5th October, 1974: The Friends of Task Force will once again have a stall at this event, which will be a "10p" Parcel Stall. Gifts or donations will be gratefully received. Help needed with selling tickets @ 3p each.

Cheese & Wine Party: Friday, the 18th October, 1974, in the Committee Room Suite at the Town Hall, Woolwich, at 8 p.m. Tickets are available from the Town Clerk @ £1 each, inclusive of refreshments.

Fund-Raising Ball at THE YORKSHIRE GREY on Friday, January 3rd, 1975. Further details available from the Town Clerk. (Note from Editor: Your support for any or all of the above events would be greatly appreciated).

MEMORIAL SERVICE: We are pleased to announce that the Memorial Service will be held at the War Memorial, Nottingham, on Sunday, November 10th, 1974, at 10.45 a.m. We understand that the order of service will be as last year, and we invite all to attend.

NOTTINGHAM FLORAL ARRANGEMENT SOCIETY: Members meet on the THIRD WEDNESDAY of each month from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at St. Andrew's Church Hall, Court Road, for lectures and demonstrations by qualified demonstrators. Further information available from the Secretary: Mrs. J. Chadwick, 11 Court Farm Road, S.E. 9.

NOTTINGHAM AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD: The Guild welcomes new members to their meetings held on the FIRST WEDNESDAY of each month at St. Andrew's Church Hall, Court Road. Further particulars available from the Secretary: Mrs. A. Reeves, 10 Hovercroft, S.E. 9.

If you have any announcements about a local activity that you would like included in the next Newsletter, please contact your nearest Officer or Committee member.

All other correspondence should be addressed to:-
The Hon. Secretary, Nottingham Residents' Association, 55, Leysdown Road, Nottingham, S.E.9 3ND.