ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year our Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 19th April in the Maryfield Hall in Leysdown Road at 8 p.m. We hope that a large number of members will attend since we are devoting a longer time than usual to "Any Other Business" to enable as many people as possible to make their views known. Refreshments will be available during the latter part of the meeting. This is YOUR Association and we would like to share the evening with you.

MEETING YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

A "Great Success" was the verdict on the HRA organised evening which gave local residents an opportunity to meet their political representatives, held in the Maryfield Hall on November 2nd 1982.

We were fortunate indeed to have as guests the full line-up as advertised and this was matched by a large audience of over 100 Nottingham residents who crowded into the hall for the 8 p.m. start.

Besides our Chairman, Graham Jenkins, on the platform were our MEP Sir Brandon Rhys Williams, two MPs - Peter Bottomley and Roger Sims, and four local Councillors - Mrs. Vincent and Messrs. MacDonald, Richards and Richardson. As someone pointed out during the evening, Nottingham being a district split by an administrative boundary, we are blessed (if that is the right word) by a lot of representative. This, however, helped to produce an interesting evening with a wide range of views being expressed.

(Cover picture by kind permission of Bromley Library Service)
Graham Jenkins opened the formal part of the meeting by introducing our guests and thanking them for being able to give time to meet some of their constituents. The first speaker was our Member of the European Parliament, who represents us at the European Assembly in Strasbourg. In his address Sir Brandon explained the role of the Assembly in promoting European unity and also its influence on the stability of the West's currency. As one of the 78 MEP's from this country, our representative serves on the Economic and Monetary Committee and was thus well qualified to give a most interesting talk on the work of an organisation which is often criticised as being "just another talking shop".

After brief comments by our two MPs, the Chairman called for questions from the floor. A topical question on the use of nuclear weapons was put by the Reverend Chris Byers. Speakers from the platform advanced conflicting views about this question and left the audience with much to think about on this most difficult problem.

Questions to Sir Brandon, with particular relevance to European affairs, ranged over the insurance cover for drivers from the Continent brave enough to tackle the traffic on our UK roads, and from Tom Hodges, a question on the Common Market agricultural policy with its benefits to the farmers at the expense of industry.

Your Association has always been strictly non-political in its activities so it was with a certain feeling of skating over thin ice that a question on a hot current topic, namely the privatisation of British Telecom, was fired at the platform. This was answered fairly by Peter Bottomley.

Local issues were brought to the fore and the formal part of the evening completed with a question from Margaret Gardner concerning local rates and their impact on businesses. Here the platform displayed a degree of unanimity for a change - "Yes. Rates were too high and could be unfair, but nothing better had been found to replace them."
After thanking our guests, the Chairman announced the start of the informal part of the meeting, with the guests mingling with their constituents to talk over any matters which residents wished to raise. It was fortunate that this coincided with the opening of the bar and the serving of light refreshments, so the time passed very happily until about 10 p.m. when Sir Brandon drew the lucky numbers in a well-supported and very charmingly organised raffle for some excellent prizes.

Not forgetting our distinguished guests, our thanks are due to the organisers of this successful event. Mrs. Diane Kirk, our President, led the organising team and also provided the refreshments with the help of other lady members. We are also very grateful to Father Desmond and the Maryfield Club for allowing us the use of their hall and facilities.

***SNIPPETS***

**Nottingham Lane Traffic Protest**

Frustrated at the lack of action taken by the three local councils involved in this traffic problem, the combined forces of the Winn Road Action Committee and the Nottingham Lane Safety Committee decided that some drastic measure would have to be taken. It shows the strength of feeling aroused by the danger in this road that 40 law-abiding residents from both groups were prepared to take such direct action. The morning chosen for the protest was the 19th November at the height of the busy traffic period. The Police had been informed of the demonstration and came along to help redirect the traffic elsewhere. The majority of motorists accepted their detour with reasonable good humour but one or two were very irate at having to make a longer journey through roads more suited to the volume of traffic. Local residents are well aware that the answer cannot be to divert all the traffic onto other local roads but there must be something which can be done to see that the speed limit is adhered to and the dangerous character of the narrow, winding road more fully appreciated by people who use it as a quicker route to and from London.
HOUSING IMPROVEMENT GRANTS FROM BROMLEY COUNCIL

Do you know that you can get money from the Council to help with improvements and repairs to your property? In past years 929 grants, totalling just over £2.5 million, had been provided to update older property. To keep this momentum going the Housing Committee has agreed to include another £2.5 million in the capital programme for 1983-84 for repair and improvement grants. If you want to know whether you are eligible for a grant, contact the Housing Improvements Section at Station Road, Orpington or telephone Orpington (66) 27661.

GARDEN BONFIRES

Air pollution arising from garden bonfires is one of the most common complaints made to the Environmental Health Department. "There is no need to annoy neighbours if the correct advice is followed" says Bob Davis, Bromley's Chief Environmental Health Officer. All soft refuse, such as lawn mowings and leaves should be made into compost in a shady part of the garden. The process can be speeded up by using compost accelerators. Tree prunings and woody stems, which are not easily composted, can be kept until dry so that they will burn quickly with very little smoke. Bonfires should be sited as far away from houses as possible and the wind direction should be taken into account to avoid nuisance to neighbouring houseowners. There are three main points to bear in mind when making bonfires:

NEVER ALLOW A BONFIRE TO SHOULDER

MAKE SURE THE MATERIAL IS DRY

GIVE THE FIRE PLENTY OF AIR

Discarded furniture, carpets, etc. should not be put on a garden fire. These can be taken to a GLC Refuse Disposal Point where they will be disposed of free of charge. The 2 local points are:

**Churchfields Road, Beckenham** and **Waldo Road, Bromley**

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<td>7.30 a.m. - 6 p.m. (Mon - Fri)</td>
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William Barefoot Drive Mini Roundabout
It is very unfortunate that this long-awaited answer to the dangerous crossing place at the junction of William Barefoot Drive and Morttingham Road should have turned out to be as accident-prone as the original system. There have been many minor collisions between vehicles which have not understood the correct positioning for those turning left into Elmstead Lane and the traffic wishing to continue down the hill towards Morttingham. Those motorists who were unaware of the very existence of the roundabout were not properly warned before they found themselves actually driving over it. The siting of the roundabout sign was not suitable and the markings on the roadway itself caused confusion. A great deal of thought has been put into the improved positioning of signs and markings and it is hoped that the roundabout will soon become as useful as it was intended to be.

Morttingham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild
The Guild continues to meet in St. Andrew's Church Hall on the first Wednesday in every month at 1.45 p.m. The Guild has had another very successful year, with informative talks and many enjoyable outings. The programme for 1983 is varied and interesting and new members will be made very welcome. For more details please contact the Chairman - Mrs. Jill Smith (Tel. 837 1355).

Retirement of Miss Parkinson from Morttingham Library
Last Autumn saw the retirement of Miss Winifred Parkinson from her post as Librarian at Morttingham Library. Many residents gathered at a party to wish her well in her retirement and to present her with a gift to mark her years of hard work. She was always willing to help in any project which took place in the local community and we are delighted that she is still keeping in touch by undertaking the Chairmanship of Morttingham Week 1983.

Greenwich Councillors' Surgeries
For those residents who live in the Greenwich Council area your Councillors - Paul Richardson and Tom Carter - would like to remind you that any problems can be dealt with in their surgeries which are held in Coldharbour Library on the first and third Saturdays every month between 11 a.m. and 12.30 p.m.
Patients' Rights

The National Consumer Council has recently published a booklet about the rights and responsibilities of National Health Service patients. The facts given in the booklet, called "Patients' Rights", have been summarised in a leaflet which is obtainable free of charge from Bromley Community Health Council's office at 40B Masons Hill, Bromley BR2 9JG. The booklet is also available for the price of £1.50.

Nottingham Week 1983

Two years pass very quickly for the people involved in each Nottingham Week which comes round. This year we seem to be shorter than ever of volunteers prepared to try and make it a success for the local community. It has been decided that most events will be concentrated into the two weekends - 18th and 19th of June and the following weekend - with local schools and other organisations putting on events throughout the week. The Fete Committee is in need of more help in the way of suggestions for displays which cost very little to mount and also in physical help on the actual day for preparing the stalls' site and display area. Anyone who can offer any help of any sort will be greatly welcomed by the Chairman of the Fete Committee, Mrs. B. Powell on 857 7391. Most local people enjoy the hustle and gaiety of the Fete and we would like to provide an even more enjoyable day out this year, but it is very hard work when so few people have the responsibility of organising the whole event. We would like as many organisations as possible to take a stall for the afternoon and the Application Forms are available from Mrs. Powell at 9, Nottingham Gardens, London SE9 4RL.

London Borough of Bromley Social Services Department's Scheme for "Shared Care"

What is this "Shared Care"? It is a scheme which aims to keep in the community adults with varying disabilities and needs for care. Placing an individual with a certain measure of independence in the care of a normal household has proved successful in other areas of Britain.
Why care in a family home? Because for some people "family" care is better suited to their needs than care in an institution.

For how long will they need care? Some will need care for short periods, say up to three weeks. Others may need "phased" care, which means planned periods of short-term care. Yet others may need care for long periods, perhaps for as much as a year.

Why is it called "Shared Care"? Because the fundamental aspect of the scheme is that the care of more vulnerable people in the community will be shared. The individuals who need a home, their families, if any, and the carers who join the scheme, together with the social workers, will all be involved in the "shared care".

Who can be a carer? Individuals of either sex, couples or families who can be flexible and understanding. Some may have professional or personal experience of caring. This would be an asset, but the most important need is for a caring attitude and a caring home.

What do you get for shared care? The task will be very demanding but also rewarding. You will be paid a fee which recognises the importance of the care you are asked to provide. It can be as much as £60 per week. You will never be left without support in providing the care. "Shared Care" means that social work help and advice is built into the scheme, both for the person receiving care and those doing the caring.

How to find out more about Shared Care.

Either telephone the Family Placement Officer on 464 3333 extension 3125 or ask for a leaflet from Bromley Social Services department and fill in the slip on the back of the leaflet.

This is a well-worthwhile service to the community and it is hoped that it is well supported.
CHEAPER CAR PARKING IN BROMLEY TOWN CENTRE

Since 23rd October 1982 the maximum charge for using manned car parks in Bromley Town Centre on a Saturday is 75p. The Technical Services Committee is surprised that more people are not making use of the car park at the new Civic Centre which is open to the public on Saturdays only. It is easily accessible from Harwood Avenue and has room for 300 cars. There is also another car park which is available for public use between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily and can accommodate 60 cars. They are both within easy walking distance of the High Street.

YMCA PLANNING ENQUIRY

Appeal to the Secretary of State for the Environment by the London Central YMCA against the refusal of outline planning permission by the London Borough of Bromley for a sports pavilion, 30 detached houses and 2 staff flats, held at the Civic Centre in Bromley on January 11th - 17th.

Appearing for Mottingham Residents' Association
Barrister : Mr. Roger Bull
Witnesses : Mr. Graham Jenkins (Chairman MRA)
Mr. F. Winpenny (member of the MRA Executive)
Mr. P. Tidnam (resident of Grove Park Road)

Appearing for Bromley Borough Council
Barrister : Mr. N. Nardeschia
Witnesses : Mr. R. McQuillan (Assistant Planning Officer BBC)
Mr. P.R. Myatt (Senior Planner of the GLC)

Appearing for the YMCA
Barrister : Miss M. Viner
Witnesses : Mr. R.B. Cullum (Executive Director of YMCA responsible for sports, social and recreational facilities)
Mr. H.N. Strathon (FRICS)
Mr. G.D. Bellamy (Engineer)
Mr. N. Edwards (Chairman of the Board of Governors of Eltham College)
As reported in the Eltham Times, this was a marathon - five long days. The opening session was attended by more than 30 members of the Nottingham Residents' Association and 28 letters urging rejection of the appeal had been sent to the Secretary of State.

Miss Viner's opening speech lasted 2½ hours, her closing speech 1½ hours. The YMCA case, including cross examination and re-examination took up three of the five days. Masses of evidence was produced from the YMCA - 63 pages plus 55 pages of appendices. The evidence from Bromley Council, the MHA and the GLC took up 18 pages. Many columns of figures were produced, indicating, according to whichever side was giving evidence - both a local surplus and also a deficiency of playing fields, both a surplus of housing and a deficiency and so on ...... Mr. Bull (for the MHA) commented that Miss Viner was seeking to crush opposition "with a welter of minor facts culled from statistical data." Certainly the writer was reminded of Mark Twain's words "There are three sorts of lies: lies, damned lies and statistics".

It is impossible to report the enquiry fully within this newsletter. Here is only a brief summary of the respective cases.

The YMCA argued that this was no ordinary planning application. The YMCA is a charity and its aims should be supported. They contended that their financial condition, including a debt of £7 million on their London HQ, made it impossible to sustain any further loss on the Nottingham ground (£18,000 in 1981/2). They also said that the money gained from selling the land would enable them to provide squash courts, hard tennis courts, a bar and "recreational facilities". Mr. Cullum also stated that they intended to retain the site whatever the outcome of the appeal. They accepted that the site was included in the area of the Metropolitan Open Land Policy and also in the Green Chain Policy of local councils and the GLC, but argued that its loss would not affect these concepts. Mr. Selsum's evidence indicated that the increased traffic hazards were acceptable statistically. Mr. Edwards admitted that Eltham College would not have supported the application were it not for the arrangement whereby the College would receive about one and a third acres plus a cash adjustment from the YMCA in exchange for a
strip of about one third of an acre which made the proposed approach road visible. The presiding Inspector referred to this as a "ransom deal".

Nottingham Residents' witnesses testified on the loss of open aspect and of privacy plus the likely loss of property value. Mr. Tidnam supported his evidence of increased traffic hazards by producing photographs which showed the risks - despite what statistics said. Mr. Jenkins was particularly strong on the immorality of the YMCA's plan in seeking to profit from land which had been given as a dedicated gift. He emphasised the danger of any precedent which would take away any declared open land for development.

For Bromley Council Mr. McQuillan produced letters supporting rejection of the Appeal from Greenwich Council and the Sports Council and was joined by Mr. Myatt who represented the GLC in opposing the Appeal. He and Mr. McQuillan gave evidence showing conclusively that the proposed housing development would directly contravene the Metropolitan Open Land Policy and the Green Chain Policy.

In closing, Miss Viner again urged the Inspector to treat the application as a "special case", insofar as the YMCA is a charity and is very much in debt. Mr. Bull maintained that the YMCA's financial state, however parlous, was perhaps brought about by its own policy and certainly gave no reason for adversely affecting the lives of local residents. If an emotional case was proposed then the emotions of local people were an equally powerful reason for rejection. Certainly the YMCA debt should not give reason for breaking the Open Land Policy.

This point was also included in Mr. Nardecchia's closing speech. He also strongly opposed the YMCA case that the possible loss of six acres of open space was not serious. Any loss of prescribed open space was most serious. It could create a precedent which could be taken up by any owners of prescribed land, whatever their financial state. He wound up by saying that even if houses were built on part of the appeal site there was no guarantee, in view of the YMCA's financial state, that
the proposed new recreational facilities would be built. He asked the Inspector to make a ruling, should he find in favour of the application, that all these facilities should be built and completed before any houses were started. Finally, at 18.35 on Monday, January 17th, after sitting through a long 31 hours of evidence and debate, a very patient Inspector closed the enquiry.

On Monday, January 24th, he viewed the site and was shown how any housing development would seriously impair the privacy and the outlook from more than 36 houses, especially those in Hall View.

Our thanks are due generally to the residents of Grove Park Road and Hall View who contributed to a "Fighting Fund" totalling £500, which almost entirely paid Mr. Bull's fee of £517.50, and particularly to Mr. Alfred Segal of 7 Hall View. Mr. Segal, a Solicitor, not only gave his legal services free, he also gave great help in organising the Mottingham Residents' case.

MORE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

3 - 9 Mottingham Gardens

Permission has been granted for the erection of six detached houses, subject to conditions covering garage drives and height of any obstruction to visibility and the provision of acceptable sight-lines for the access to Mottingham Gardens. Since the indicated rear gardens of the plots are already minimal, the Council has stipulated that any further proposed development must be considered by the Planning Committee.

Lindenhurst

Following upon permitted outline planning permission for four pairs of semi-detached houses, a new application has been submitted by Ryden Homes Ltd. for the erection of eight detached houses on this site. Subject to the wishes of those residents directly affected, the Executive Committee decided to oppose the application on the grounds of reduced privacy to residents and the further loss of valued trees.
15 Court Farm Road

An application to build three houses in the garden of this bungalow was refused by Bromley Council following representations by the Residents' Association and individual residents on the grounds of loss of privacy and the lack of adequate access. The application was regarded as an unacceptable case of "back filling". The applicant appealed to the Secretary of State for the Environment, who decided to adjudge the matter by letters received. The Association has advised the Minister of its continued objections on the grounds already established. Residents affected have been advised to object individually.

Site Between Nos. 23 and 39 Court Farm Road

This is a further application which has caused concern. It is an area zoned for educational use, but it would seem that Bromley Borough Council have shelved their plans for a school and have offered the site on a five-year lease. The application is for use as a builder's yard and will involve the building of storage bunkers and sheds and the coming and going of vans and lorries. The residents are appalled at the prospect of the noise and dust spoiling the quiet and privacy of a residential area and they organised a petition for submission to Bromley Council. One disquieting aspect of the case is that the prospective landlord and the planning authority are one and the same. It is to be hoped that this does not imply that the application has the Council's blessing. The Association has opposed the development.

Road Representatives

Once again we make an appeal for more Road Representatives to help in the annual collection of subscriptions and the twice-yearly distribution of Nottingham News. This need only take up about two hours PER YEAR and is an excellent way of getting to know the friendly people who live in this area.