

Hollings



MOTTINGHAM NEWS

M. R. A. G O L D E N J U B I L E E

Your Chairman - Graham Jenkins
and his Executive Committee
Request the pleasure of your company
at the 50th Birthday Celebrations
of Mottingham Residents' Association
in 1982

The date has been fixed - Thursday, March 25th, 1982

The venue has been arranged - The Maryfield Hall in Leysdown Road (by very kind permission of Father Desmond and the Catholic Church).

The only thing not yet settled is the cost - which we will make as reasonable as we possibly can.

A small sub-committee has been formed to ensure that this social evening will be as enjoyable as possible. There will be a good meal and music to suit all age groups.

The Executive Committee was delighted with the large attendance at the Annual General Meeting and hopes that even more members will join them in this purely pleasurable evening.

The final details will be circulated when all arrangements are completed.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE

(The cover picture of Mottingham Library is by courtesy of Bromley Library Service)

SOME OF OUR SUCCESSES

Although our achievements can hardly be called earth-shattering we are able to improve the quality of local people's lives by continued assaults on local Councils or persons in authority by letter and through the staunch support of local Councillors. Any complaints are taken up and pursued until something has been done to remedy the situation. For instance:

Bourdillon Court: For months the tenants of Bourdillon Court had complained of gangs of youths congregating in their entrance hall and making life intolerable by their antisocial behaviour. Anyone trying to eject them risked abuse and on one occasion a brick was thrown through a window. Chislehurst Police were unable to patrol the area frequently enough to control the menace. Repeated requests from the Association for Bromley Council to fit a lock on the outside door were rejected because of "fire hazard". Eventually, when members of the Association had supplied instances of other local authority buildings which could be locked without breaking Fire Regulations, they agreed to fit locks for a trial period. So successfully has this controlled the nuisance that the tenants now live in peace and safety and there have been no difficulties to justify reversal of this policy.

The Prince of Wales Public House: Loud music, raised voices, car doors slamming and engines revving up at night - these were some of the complaints voiced by residents living in the vicinity of The Prince of Wales in Mottingham Road. When the pub applied for a licence for "Music and Dancing" for five evenings out of seven, up to 10.30 or 11 p.m. at County Hall, Mr. Pryke headed a deputation to put forward residents' fears. He and his supporters felt that they were given a very sympathetic hearing and although the licence was granted some very strict conditions were imposed. Some of these, such as double-glazing and soundproofing, will be very expensive to install, but should cut down the noise very considerably. The conditions also applied to private functions which had previously been exempt. Residents are asked to monitor the situation from time to time and so far there have been no further complaints.

Bus Shelters: The Highways and Works Committee has approved the provision of bus shelters in two Mottingham locations -

Mottingham Road - outside Nos. 257-259 and also outside No. 93. It is now up to the London Transport Advertising department to take the next step in their provision.

Mottingham Library Flats: The steepness of the steps to these flats was a problem for elderly residents and their visitors. The Association appeal for handrails to be fitted was acted upon quite quickly and they have proved a boon to the older tenants.

122, Mottingham Road: The derelict state of this house was mentioned in our last Newsletter and its complex problems have been vigorously pursued through different Council departments by Councillor MacDonald. Fortunately they have now been sorted out and the house is being restored to a decent standard of repair.

Action upon Bromley's Appraisal Report for Mottingham: This report, which forms part of the Plan for Bromley as a whole, is not intended as a programme of action but merely as a statement on this particular section of the Borough. The Plan covers all aspects of life in Mottingham, such as: population, housing, education etc. A special meeting of the Association Executive Committee was called to discuss each item of the Plan in detail to ensure that facts were accurate and to make comments on those matters which we felt were most important. Bromley Councillors raised the question of inaccuracies over the future of Dorset Road and Castlecombe J.M. Schools at the Education Meeting and it was agreed that paragraphs concerning the schools' closure would be amended with the proviso that their future would come up again for further review.

A Mini-roundabout for William Barefoot/Mottingham Road Junction: This is a danger spot which has long bothered our representatives who sit on Road Safety Committees. We hope that we have played a part in bringing about the future construction of this small roundabout. Many schemes have been suggested for making this junction safer and this has been chosen as the most suitable for this black spot.

Visits to Robin Day's TV Programme "Question Time": Two visits to the BBC TV studio for the filming of this programme have been paid by invited members of the Association. We are evidently regarded as representing a section of caring London residents. Our funds also benefit from the fee paid for our attendance.

APPLICATIONS GALORE

Pat Winpenny

Checking planning applications, and where appropriate, taking action, is an important part of the work of the Association. Executive Committee members Tom Hodges and Pat Winpenny are responsible for Bromley and Greenwich respectively and each week they receive printed lists of the planning applications which have been submitted to the two Councils.

A few examples of recently submitted applications showing the involvement of the Association may be of interest to members:-

1. 192 Court Road: At first sight the proposed change of use from Butcher's shop to a restaurant seemed unobjectionable. However, one of our members who lived close by, alerted us with the news that the restaurant was expected to have "take away" facilities and was likely to be open until the early hours, seven days a week. Our recent experience in Mottingham village was that such establishments can cause a considerable nuisance to local residents, due to noise from cars and the use of brightly illuminated signs. In view of this it was decided to lodge an objection to this proposal.

2. Middle Park Avenue - Golf Driving Range: This application is in respect of fields to the North side of Middle Park Avenue which happen to be within the boundary of the Eltham Palace Conservation Area. The plan is to provide all the usual Golf Range facilities including car parks and a shop as well as the covered bays from which to practise driving. It was thought that the installation of floodlighting, probably followed by a bar and canned music, would be very likely although no mention of these additions was included in the original application. The Association decided to support the residents of Woodmere and others most directly affected and to write to Greenwich objecting to the proposals. In addition, the local Greenwich Councillors who regularly attend our bi-monthly Executive meetings, were left in no doubt about the strength of local opposition.

Many residents may be aware of the existence of the "Eltham and Charlton Conservation Areas Advisory Committee" set up by the London Borough of Greenwich. Its function is to examine and advise the Council's officers concerning sensitive planning applications. Serving on this Committee are representatives from local residents and amenity groups, together with members nominated by professional institutions. Our active support of this Committee enables us to make sure that other members are aware of the implications of this proposed development and so record a strong objection in the Minutes which are always sent to the Borough Planning Officer.

3. The YMCA Sports Ground (Grove Park Road): Many people, particularly those living in Grove Park Road, will remember the Public Relations exercise carried out by the YMCA in April 1980 which explained their proposal for developing part of their sports ground. Residents were invited to inspect details of the scheme at Douglas Carlton's office in the village and to make comments and suggestions.

Eventually a planning application was submitted to Bromley Council early last September. The present scheme is broadly similar to that which was on view 18 months earlier and involves the construction of 30 houses and 2 staff flats with a service road joining Grove Park Road at the Eltham College bend.

Immediately the Association learned of the application a letter was sent to all affected residents setting out the basic details. They were urged to object on several grounds. Namely: loss of amenity etc., dangerous traffic problems at the new access from Grove Park Road and also on the wider issue of an open space which forms part of the "Green Chain" concept extending through the boroughs of Bromley and Greenwich.

A particularly regrettable feature of the present application is the changed attitude of the Eltham College authorities. Strong opposition to an earlier (1974) YMCA application has now changed to support, involving the transfer to the YMCA of a strip of land to improve access from Grove Park Road in exchange for a larger area of YMCA playing field. The Association has made a protest to Eltham College over this proposed deal which of course

is conditional on planning being granted.

Your Association is keeping a close watch on this application in conjunction with Councillor Alistair MacDonald, and is aware that if rejected by Bromley it may be the subject of an appeal to the Minister. A long fight may be in prospect.

Tom Hodges

BROMLEY

The year has brought a greater than usual number of planning applications, both for residential and commercial development, within our boundaries. Several were for schemes which could affect not only nearby residents, but the Mottingham area as a whole.

Some of these proposals are yet to be decided by Borough Planning Committees or the Ministry for the Environment. We have been able to claim success in the rejection of several developments which could have harmed the amenities and quality of our community life.

FAIRY HALL COTTAGE AND BARN: In October/November 1980 an application was submitted for change of use from commercial to residential and the building of a detached garage with a 20 foot access road to the site.

Your Committee regarded this proposal as a threat to both the cottage and the barn, which are of considerable local and historic interest. We understand that they are two of the oldest buildings extant in Mottingham today. Both are locally listed as being of historic interest. Objections were lodged by the Association and by neighbouring residents. Following representations to the Borough Planning Sub-Committee the application was referred back to the applicant for a more definite explanation of his intentions. To date this has not been forthcoming, but we understand that the property has since been sold and we shall keep a watching brief on any new proposals for the site.

LINDENHURST: The original appeal to the Department of the Environment was cancelled after the death of the applicant. A new appeal date has been set for 10th December at Bromley Town Hall and local objections will be well represented. This proposed development could alter the character of the Mottingham Lane area considerably.

55, NOTTINGHAM ROAD (CHINESE TAKE-AWAY): Planning applications and alleged infringements of development permission have caused our Hon. Secretary a great deal of work and correspondence. Some of the extra work was caused by the Applicant's solicitor being wrongly informed that "no Town Planning permission was required for the preparation and sale of hot food to take away." This resulted in the Applicant spending £15,000 in equipping the premises before the application had been properly investigated. When the Association objected to both Bromley and Greenwich Councils they were told that since the applicant had been misled the change of use would be granted, with trading hours limited to no later than 10 p.m. on any day. In July the Applicant asked the Planning Officer to re-submit the application for longer opening hours. The Association objected to this and also quoted reports from neighbouring residents that the shop already traded after the permitted time. The brightness of the shop sign also adversely affected people living opposite. After the rejection of the re-submitted application an appeal has been lodged with the Department of the Environment.

51, NOTTINGHAM ROAD (TRATTORIA): Planning permission was granted in February 1977 for use as a cafe with restriction on opening hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and no Sundays or Bank Holidays). In June 1978 an application for use as a cafe with opening hours from 12 noon to 10.30 p.m. was refused. Shortly afterwards the premises changed hands and started operating as a restaurant with evening opening hours. For reasons not stated by the Borough Council, subsequent appeals against non-compliance orders were allowed. However, this year an application was made for continued use without complying with the conditions imposed in 1977. The Borough Inspector submitted a report which could be considered to favour the application. The Association objected to the Inspector's report especially to his comments that local traders supported the application and that nearby residents would not be caused undue nuisance. The Planning Committee rejected the application on August 13th. Despite this the infringements of present restrictions continue. When our Secretary wrote to the Planning Officer to ask why no Enforcement Order had been issued she received no reply but we understand from Councillor MacDonald that action is being taken.

THE TELEPHONE EXCHANGE (GROVE PARK ROAD): The Association made objections to this application for a two-storey extension to the rear of the present Exchange on the following counts: 1. Loss of privacy to several houses in Grove Park Road and the Chinbrook Estate. 2. The so-called extension would be bigger than the existing building. 3. Machinery to be installed would create objectionable noise. 4. Increased traffic in an already busy road. Mr. C.E. Ward, a member of the Committee, supplied valuable material (including photographs) to back up our objections. The application has now been withdrawn.

MOTTINGHAM HALL - The S.E. Thames Regional Health Authority declared about 27 acres of open land near the junction of Winn Road and Mottingham Lane redundant and applied for permission to develop. 17 acres would be allocated to housing and the remainder would be public open space. The Residents' Association joined with other Associations and individual residents in objecting to the proposal, which was also opposed by the GLC and Greenwich and Lewisham Councils. The grounds for objection were: 1. Preservation of the Green Chain policy on open spaces. 2. Traffic hazards in an already dangerous lane. 3. Possible flooding hazards. This application was refused.

As you will see from this list of applications to both Councils our Association watchdogs have been kept very busy during the past year and will continue to oppose any schemes considered detrimental to Mottingham as a whole.

AN APPEAL FOR MORE ROAD REPRESENTATIVES

Our Road Representatives play a vital role in keeping the members up-to-date with all that goes on in the Mottingham area. The duties involved are very few and need take up no more than 4 HOURS A YEAR. A limited number of members has to be called on to pay their annual subscription, and two Newsletter deliveries to the same people are all that it entails. It is a good way of getting to know other local residents who share your concern and interest in local affairs. Brian Barker of 78, Grove Park Road will be delighted to enrol you on his list of willing helpers and can be contacted at his home address. (Telephone: 851 9209)

MISCELLANY

TRAFFIC PROBLEMS

The recent tragedy in Winn Road, where a young boy was killed while walking on the pavement, has highlighted yet again the crying need for measures to control traffic in this area. The anger and frustration of residents is understandable, but it is essential that individual roads are not treated in isolation. To banish cars from one road only throws a greater burden on adjacent roads and moves the problem elsewhere. Mottingham Lane residents have formed a pressure group to try and improve conditions in their narrow and twisting road, but can only hope to achieve any results through a scheme which will consider the whole area as one entity. This brings us back to the difficulty and frustration of trying to get three neighbouring boroughs - Greenwich, Bromley and Lewisham - to meet and agree on a traffic scheme which will be backed by all three authorities. There is little possibility of limiting the amount of traffic passing through the area, but a great deal could be done to ensure that what passes through does so more safely. Speed must be kept to the safety limits and there should be no overtaking or turning in blind spots. It will be a sorry thing if another fatality is necessary before the three boroughs decide to work together and do something positive about such a serious matter.

SUPPLEMENTARY RATES

At a public meeting in Mottingham recently the majority of people who attended felt that an increase in rates was justified to keep up the standard of existing services. But how many people feel as happy about the supplementary rate which has been levied to pay for reduced fares on London buses and Underground trains. In this area, which is only served by British Rail and a poor bus service, we seem to be justified in feeling unfairly treated. Why do we have to subsidise those who are better served by public transport and face increased fares on the only alternative to car driving which is available? There is a hollow ring to the jaunty "Fares Fare" advertisement in the South East area.

BROMLEY IN BLOOM COMPETITION

This year the Mottingham residents of Everest Court swept the board in the Window Box and Balcony displays, winning all 3 prizes.

MOTTINGHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION -
OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 1981/82

PRESIDENT: Mrs. D.V. Kirk: 10, Scotsdale Close,
Orpington, Kent 66 34834
VICE-PRESIDENT: Mr. H. Lynn: 24, Ashdale Road, SE12
CHAIRMAN: Mr. G.V. Jenkins: 61, Court Farm Road, SE9 857 8705
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Mr. G.D. Podmore: 32, Lavidge Road SE9 857 4111
HON. SECRETARY: Mrs. M.V. Gardner: 55, Leysdown Rd. SE9 857 6654
HON. TREASURER: Mr. C.R. Pryke: 76, West Hallowses, SE9 857 3005
HON. AUDITOR: Mr. E.C. Botell: 18, Highcombe Close SE9 857 1745

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mrs. M. Baldwin: 2, Royal Court, Court Road, SE9 857 1662
Mr. B.J. Barker: 78, Grove Park Road, SE9 851 9209
Mr. K. Callinan: 250, Court Road, SE9 851 4995
Mr. R.C. Cambridge: 7, Lavidge Road, SE9 857 1291
Mrs. J. Cater-Smith: 2, West Park, SE9 857 6239
Mr. J.L. Gold: 9, Lulworth Road, SE9 857 4475
Mr. T.W. Hodges: 42, Grove Park Road, SE9 857 6913
Mrs. K. Jones: 44B, Grove Park Road, SE9
Mr. J. Hollingum: 33, Devonshire Road, SE9 857 5856
Mrs. B. Mackway-Jones: 54A, Mottingham Road, SE9 857 4844
Mrs. B.M. Powell: 9, Mottingham Gardens, SE9 857 7391
Mr. L.H. Rickson: 203A, Mottingham Road, SE9 851 9622
Mr. C.E. Ward: 79, Grove Park Road, SE9 857 8518
Mr. F. Winpenny: 12, Grove Park Road, SE9 857 1251

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

BROMLEY: Cllr. A.H. MacDonald: 79, Oakdene Avenue,
Chislehurst, Kent 857 8219
Cllr. R.W. Huzzard: 37, Hollingsworth Road,
Petts Wood, Kent 467 5367
GREENWICH: Cllr. R.L. Martin: 11, Crouchcroft, SE9 857 3340
Cllr. D.M. Richards JP: 10, West Hallowses 857 5299
(Advisory): Cllr. Mrs. Wendy Mitchell JP: 2, Glenhouse
Road, Eltham, SE9 850 3591

SUB-COMMITTEES ETC.

New Roads: Mr. C.E. Ward

Bromley Residents' Federation: Mr. R.C. Cambridge

Road Safety Advisory Committee: Greenwich: Mrs. J. Cater-Smith

Road Safety Advisory Committee: Mrs. D.V. Kirk

Cllr. D.M. Richards JP

Membership Sub-Committee: Co-ordinator: Mr. B.J. Barker

Section Leaders: Messrs. B.J. Barker, R.C. Cambridge, J.L. Gold,
G.D. Podmore

Town Planning: Bromley: Mr. T.W. Hodges

Greenwich: Mr. F. Winpenny

Publicity Sub-Committee: Editor: Mrs. B.M. Powell

Advisory: Mr. J. Hollingum

with Mrs. Cater-Smith, Messrs. Cambridge, Pryke, Winpenny,
Mrs. Gardner and Mr. G. Jenkins ex officio.

Greenwich B.C. Committee: Planning and Environmental:
Mr. F. Winpenny

Tree Group: Mr. L.H.A. Rickson

Eltham Social Services (Area 5) Group: Mr. L.H.A. Rickson

MRA Golden Jubilee Sub-Committee: Chairman: Mrs. D.V. Kirk
with Mr. B.J. Barker, Mr. G.D. Podmore, Mrs. M.V. Gardner
and Mr. G.W. Jenkins

Road Representatives

Section Leader: Mr. B.J. Barker: 78, Grove Park Road

Carters Hill Close: Mr. Semrock: 14, Carters Hill Close

Cedar Mount: Mr. Foot: 7, Cedar Mount

College View: Mrs. H. Davis: 1, Cedar Mount

Colview Court: Mr. Searle: Studland, Mottingham Lane

Clarence Road: Mrs. K. Payton: 7, Clarence Road

Devonshire Road: Mrs. Hollingum: 33, Devonshire Road

Grove Park Road (odd): Mr. T. Hodges; 42, Grove Park Road

" " " (even): Mr. F. Winpenny: 12, Grove Park Road

Hall View: Mr. T. Hodges: 42, Grove Park Road

Lulworth Road: Mrs. K. Payton: 7, Clarence Road

Mottingham Gardens: Mrs. H. Davis: 1, Cedar Mount

Mottingham Lane: Mr. Searle: Studland, Mottingham Lane

Section Leader: Mr. R.C. Cambridge: 7, Lavidge Road

Birbetts Road: Mrs. Pass: 13, Birbetts Road

Bowmead: " " " " "

Bromhedge: Mr. Farrar: 9, Lavidge Road

Chapel Farm Road (East): Mr. Farrar: 9, Lavidge Road

" " " (West): Miss Hyde: 49, Crossmead

Crossmead: Miss Boteux: 59, Crossmead

Downleys Close: Mrs. Grace: 33, Lavidge Road

Hartsmead Road: Mr. Gardner: 38, Chapel Farm Road
Lavidge Road: Mr. Podmore: 32, Lavidge Road
Leysdown Road: Mrs. Grace: 33, Lavidge Road
Royal Court: Miss Boteux: 59, Crossmead
Sidcup Road (N/SE): Mr. Horsman: 9, Grove Park Road

Section Leader: Mr. G. Podmore: 32, Lavidge Road
Albert Road: Mrs. Baldwin: 2, Royal Court, Court Road, SE9
Avondale Road: Mr. Gardner: 38, Chapel Farm Road, SE9
Beaconsfield Road: Mrs. Keen: 56, Beaconsfield Road, SE9
Court Farm Road: Mr. G. Jenkins: 61, Court Farm, Road
Crossway: " " " " " " "
Dorset Road: Mr. O'Mahoney: 25, Devonshire Road
Elmhurst Road: Miss Barker: 80, Beaconsfield Road
Model Farm Close: Mr. G. Podmore: 32, Lavidge Road
Mottingham Road (100/154): Mrs. Baldwin: 2, Royal Court, SE9
" " (127/203): Mr. Bannister: 68, Leysdown Road
Porcupine Close: " " " " " "
Portland Crescent: Mr. O'Mahoney: 25, Devonshire Road
Portland Road: " " " " " "

Section Leader: Mr. J. Gold: 9, Lulworth Road
Court Road (West): " " " " "
Court Road (East): Mrs. Corrigan: 18, Lulworth Road
Evelyn Court: Mrs. Currie: 131, Mottingham Road
Highcombe Close: Mrs. Roberts: 4, Mottingham Road
Luxfield Road: Mrs. Forrester: 41, West Hallows
Mottingham Road (1 - 93a): Mrs. Currie: 131, Mottingham Road
" " (2 - 56a): -
Priory Leas: -
Sidcup Road (N/W): Mr. J. Gold: 9, Lulworth Road
" " (S/W): Mr. Wedderburn: 13, West Hallows
West Hallows: -
West Park: Mrs. K. Jones: 44B, Grove Park Road
Woodmere: Mrs. Cornish: 29, Lavidge Road

Members may be interested in a lecture being given to the Eltham Society by Mr. Ian Murdock on "Mottingham - The Growth of an Urban Village", which is being held on Thursday, February 4th, 1982 in the Drama Hall of Eltham Hill School at 7.30 p.m.
Non-Members welcome.