

THE CROXLEY RESIDENT

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

No. 73

Editor—Mrs. D. HORWOOD, 47 Owens Way.

No. 3—August 1961

“TO BE OR NOT TO BE? That is the Question”

One thing can be said with certainty as a result of our efforts to find out what Croxley thinks about a Community Centre—THERE IS NO PUBLIC DEMAND AT ALL.

Readers will recall that the March issue of the Croxley Resident carried a brief history of the proposed Community Centre and a Questionnaire was inserted in each copy. (4,000 copies were distributed.) Residents were asked to express an opinion either for or against the project by filling up the Questionnaire and dropping the form in the letter box of the nearest Committee Member. Signatures were invited from anyone over the age of 16 years of age and the possible number could have been in the region of 20,000.

As answers were slow in coming in a reminder was inserted in the May issue of the CROXLEY RESIDENT.

In all only 73 forms were returned to the Association and these contained 148 signatures.

WE PUBLISH THE RESULT OF OUR POLL:—

50 signatures in favour of a hall

98 signatures against.

We thank those residents who returned their forms, but have to sum up the whole thing as a resounding victory for GENERAL APATHY, and feel we must pose the question.

Is the expenditure of approximately £30,000 to build a community centre in Croxley Green justified?

OPEN MEETING SEPTEMBER 21st THE GUILDHOUSE 8.30 p.m.

April 6th, 1961, will go down in the history of this Association as a day to be remembered. As a result of the Special General Meeting of the Croxley Green Residents' and Ratepayers' Association held on this day we were able to follow through the proposals to support a Residents' candidate in the Municipal Election, and with your help secured the election of our candidate, Mr. C. E. Arnson.

Much has happened since then and hardly a week passes now but we see mention of our Association somewhere in the Press. Interest in local affairs is (we are pleased to note) increasing and to cater for this interest my Committee have adopted the suggestion of “open” meetings in September, January and March each year, apart from the Annual General Meeting. On these occasions your Councillor will be present to discuss with you any item of local importance which you may raise.

It has always been the practice of the Association to hold meetings to which all members of the Association were invited, and from the subjects discussed your Committee can learn your views, because (let's face it) you are the local governors, yours is the voice which should be listened to by your Local Government in Basing House. Your voting right should be used to condition the way in which your money is spent in your district.

Too many Ratepayers appear content to let things drift but now and again it is noticeable that folks just cannot stand things any longer, as, for instance, the New Road trouble and the Scrap Metal problem. From

this it is surprising to find neighbours and residents of Croxley Green who do not know what is going on in their own locality. Our thanks go to the local Press for the very fair reports they make on local affairs; we do not feed them so we can regard their comments as unbiased.

One of the most consistent complaints from our members has been the omission of the Councillors representing the Croxley Wards to hold an open meeting when they could meet the electorate. We intend to rectify this as far as our Residents' Candidate is concerned. Note the date of our first open meeting at the foot of this column, note the date in your diary now, and come along. Remember that each subscription covers husband and wife, and thereby admits both of you to such meetings. Few of us are possessed of the time needed to stand for the Council but a very large number of us are vitally interested in local affairs. So even if you haven't anything to grumble about please accept this invitation now to come and hear what your Committee say and do. Remember, too, that the Committee of this Association meets regularly each month (not every six weeks like Rickmansworth U.D. Council) and the membership of our Committee is greater than the Council. Our Committee do not regard themselves as being clever—they are working folk like you—and as a Committee they need more support. If any of our readers feel that their knowledge and experience in other spheres could help the Committee would they please make themselves known to me.

HAROLD J. STEVENS.

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New Road Improvement. No Delay?

When commenting upon a letter from the Croxley Residents' and Ratepayers' Association, deploring the delay in carrying out full renovations to the road surface and footways in New Road, the Surveyor reported that he was satisfied that there had been no undue delay in the various stages of work. It had been necessary to carry out the work in stages to avoid closing the whole road, and thereby causing a great deal of inconvenience to residents in this vicinity and others.

(See letter from New Road Resident to Editor.)

Baldwins Lane Improvement Scheme.

The County Highways Committee have recommended the approval of the major improvement scheme for the widening of Baldwins Lane between the Recreation Ground and its junction with the Green, at an estimated cost of £4,700, which it is hoped will be completed during this financial year. Land will have to be acquired from the properties of 'Longways,' The Green, and Nos. 311-317 (Odd Nos. incl.) Baldwins Lane.

Road Maintenance

Beechcroft Avenue is to be resurfaced during the 1961-2 programme. Rochester Way will have to wait until next year as the Electricity Board intend laying cables along this road later in the year.

Malvern Way and Yorke Road Schools

"NO PARKING" signs are to be painted on the Carriageway at a short distance each side of the main entrances to these two schools. Parents waiting to meet children from school tend to park their cars along the frontage of the school gates and this obscures the visibility of both children and motorists.

Aquadrome

It is pleasing to record that the Chess Sailing Club (with several Croxley members) has succeeded in obtaining the use of the Aquadrome for Sailing on Sundays.

£800 is included in this year's estimates for the purchase of 10 new glass fibre dinghies with oars (approx. £57 13s. od. each) and a glass fibre motor boat with a 6 h.p. Perkins outboard motor. (approx. £236 ros. od.).

£650 has been provided in the estimates for the repairs of roads and paths.

Street Lighting Programme 1961-2: Baldwins Lane

The 40 existing 15 ft. Sodium Columns in Baldwins Lane are to be replaced by 56 Columns 25 ft. High. Cost: £37 9s. 6d. each column. Necessary connections and disconnections: £515 16s. od.

School Crossing Patrol—Baldwins Lane

The Ministry of Transport are to be asked to give approval to the provision of a pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of the shopping parade at the western end of Baldwins Lane.

Street Lighting—Scots Hill

One light in the vicinity of the bend in Scots Hill is to be kept alight from dusk to dawn.

Baldwins Lane Shop

Permission has been given for Messrs. Peter Webb Ltd. to assign the lease of their shop to Mr. A. V. Bryant of New Road.

Doctors' Surgery

Permission has been granted for the conversion of existing garage into a consulting room at 268A Baldwins Lane, Croxley, for Drs. Ferguson, Pitt and Hodgson, providing the whole of the land within the curtilage of the site, which is between the front of the building and Baldwins Lane shall be made available as a parking space for vehicles. This is to ensure that vehicles can be parked off the highway and so prevent obstruction to passing traffic.

Speeding in Watford Road

A special panel has been set up by the Council to enquire into the traffic conditions of Watford Road between All Saints Church and the Metropolitan Station. It is hoped the Panel will have regard to the further part of Watford Road in their deliberations, because conditions throughout are little different. Four accidents occurred in a 100 yard stretch of this road in a period of 10 days. The Residents' Counsellor, Mr. C. Armson, who lives in this vicinity is to serve on the panel, and residents in Watford Road who can offer any evidence towards the appraisal of statistics are invited to send a note to the Hon. Secretary.

The Calypso Café, Watford Road

It is understood that the police have investigated complaints of noise caused by clients of the Calypso Café, but are satisfied that the Café is one of the best controlled.

Scrap Metal Depot, Watford Road

An Inquiry has been ordered by the Minister of Housing and Local Government into the Planning Permission granted to the proprietor of the Scrap Metal Depot at the L.M.R. Sidings. A large number of complaints have been received by the Council from residents in the vicinity of this yard, for failure to keep the Scrap Metal to the restricted height referred to in the planning permission of 1959. The developer is appealing against this restriction and an enforcement order to adhere to it.

Council Meeting—Croxley Matters

Of the eight matters raised in discussion at the Rickmansworth Council meeting held in 11th July all but one of them directly concerned Ratepayers of Croxley Green. One of these concerned the future of the Territorial Army Huts adjacent to the Green. This Association upholds the opinion that this amenity after its release by the army, could serve a very useful purpose for the benefit of local associations, one of which is directly concerned; namely the British Red Cross Society.

Community Centre Site

The latest information gleaned from the Council Minutes of 11th July, 1961:—

The Community Centre's sub-committee resolved:—

1. That they favour a joint project for a youth centre and an old people's club in part of Barton Way Recreation Ground.
2. That the question of Barton Way Recreation Ground being made available for the purpose, to be referred to the Open Spaces Committee.
3. That the Surveyor take up with the County Planning Officer the question of planning approval for the use of part of the recreation ground for a Community Centre, and consider and report on the question of access from Barton Way, and whether any additional land would be required to improve this.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Madam,

Re New Road—Croxley Green

Up to about March, 1959, New Road, although in need of some repair and adjustment, was a reasonably tidy rural village road, and then the R.U.D.C. decided upon some 'improvements'. Like Pandora they 'opened the box' and released a hoarde of unpleasant events upon local residents.

First came the installation of the new lamp standards, accompanied with the usual digging of holes and tearing up of the paving stones, which were later dropped back at varying angles.

Many people, accepted the inconvenience of the uneven footways, etc., as being part of the inconvenience of the job, but more and worse was to come.

Late in 1960 the Eastern Gas Board commenced renewing the gas pipes throughout the length of the road so more hole digging started and the position ultimately deteriorated to the present conditions of dust, noise, sections without paving stones and, of course, holes, these latter the residents have now become quite adept at dodging.

Motor vehicles have become quite 'kangaroo-like' as one witnesses them hopping or bouncing along the road due to its uneven surface.

In this 20th Century with its modern machinery and appliances designed for carrying out such works, one wonders how such conditions developed and why the job has taken so long. The job has progressed in a far from usual manner, in fact it reminded one of a child with a jig-saw puzzle—put a piece here, take it away and put it somewhere else—result—a glorious muddle.

It is to be hoped that this thoroughfare will eventually be finished and come up to its name and in fact be a New Road.

I recall that many residents have been outspoken in their dislike of the lengthy upheaval, but I am also aware that it has been left to the few to make their views known on this subject both publicly and otherwise. The Croxley Green Resident and Ratepayers Association has, I know, done much in the interests of the community by placing the facts before the authorities concerned, in this particular enterprise, and we are grateful for the untiring efforts to achieve some measure of relief.

The Watchdog of Croxley is on duty, endeavouring to assist where and when it can as has been proved by the events of recent months.

I am Madam,

Yours faithfully,

A. NICHOLLS.

New Road,
Croxley Green.

SEATS ON THE GREEN

The Association has been pressing the Council for a long time to re-instate the Memorial Seat, with its presentation plaque, which was badly damaged a long time ago.

It is recalled that this seat was provided by the residents of Croxley Green soon after the last war and was sited in close proximity to the War Memorial. Realising that the Council were responsible for the Green, and more recently, accepted responsibility for the maintenance of the War Memorial, it is felt that the Council has failed in its duty to make the replacement as a matter of routine.

A recent survey of seats on the Green shows that there are four sited between Copthorne Road and Baldwins Lane yet only one between Copthorne Road and All Saints Church. The re-instatement of the Memorial Seat would increase the latter number to two.

The Open Spaces Committee recently considered the siting of two new seats on the Green, but as their proposals (when they became known) did not have regard for the Memorial Seat, the Association took up the matter with the Council and with the Croxley Green Society. Councillor Armson, was instrumental in having the

Open Spaces Committee's recommendation referred back at the Council Meeting in May, but when the Open Spaces Committee made a fresh recommendation it was "that one seat be provided near Stone's orchard and the other in a position to be agreed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman near the junction of Baldwins Lane." This is a surprising recommendation from a Committee which includes two Croxley Councillors, as it is reasonable to think that they should know what is best for a purely communal amenity. However, Councilor Armson, at the Council meeting on July 11th moved an amendment to the resolution to the effect that the second seat should be fixed to the existing concrete base and so re-instate the Memorial Seat (with its plaque). The Amendment was put to the vote, but was not carried.

This Association does not intend to allow its just demands to be flouted by the Council. We want a very small amount of the Council's income to be devoted to this item, and we want the work done now—not next year—sometime or never! If it is good enough for the Council to allocate £10,000 for a car park (did you know that?) in Rickmansworth, it's more than good enough for the Council to honour their responsibility to the tune of less than £20.

ENGLISH FOLK DANCING SOCIETY CROXLEY GREEN GROUP

Classes resume after summer holidays at Malvern Way School on Monday, September 11th, 1961, 7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. under the leadership of Mrs. L. Gardner.

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THE CIRCLE OF HELP

When we speak of needs for the Elderly, it is often thought of as entirely financial, but in fact various services are of equal importance.

The CIRCLE OF HELP frequently hear of these needs, and quite often find they are outside the scope of other organisations in the district. On discussing the problem in some detail, it was found that no one appeared to know how many people over 60 there were, let alone their needs, so it has been decided to hold a survey of the elderly and their needs in Croxley Green. It will be entirely voluntary, and it is hoped that the utmost co-operation will be given. No Names and Addresses will be taken and information will be confidential.

If, however, there is someone who has a problem they can give their name and address to the lady or gentleman calling, when an independent visit will be made by a Caseworker from the CIRCLE OF HELP.

(Mrs.) H. TOWNER.

107 Frankland Road,
Croxley Green.

FAREWELL TO FORMER CHAIRMAN

It is with great reluctance that we have to say farewell to Mr. R. H. Hutchinson and his family who are leaving the district to reside in Worthing. Mr. Hutchinson has been a main stay of the Resident Association for many years serving both as Chairman and Editor, and more recently when he was not able to hold office, because of the pressure of work, we were always pleased to have him at Committee Meetings. We wish him and his family Good Luck and Much Happiness in Worthing.

EDITOR.

To all Members and particularly the ELECTORS of CROXLEY GREEN SOUTH WARD

Will you please accept my thanks for the support given at the Local Election which ensured a RESIDENTS' Councillor would again sit in at "Basing House."

As a new boy and somewhat alone, it may not be an easy task: nevertheless, sure in the knowledge that the Committee of our Association will give me their unstinted support and with such a medium as the 'Croxley Resident' to keep you aware of local affairs, I feel that the wind of change which is slowly but surely beginning to make itself felt in Local Government will bring with it greater opportunities and, before long, all Councillors will realise they were elected to serve the people and to supervise the administration of local affairs for the good of all people whose future and well being they hold in trust.

In closing I would like to thank the Association for granting me space for this letter, adding the assurance that it is my intention to speak on your behalf in Committee or Open Council with the knowledge and information the Committee will regularly afford me.

Yours sincerely,

CHARLES E. ARMSON.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October 21st.

Annual Scouts Fair. Dickinson Guildhouse. To be opened by THE MAN FROM OUTER SPACE.

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