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THE CROXLEY RESIDENT

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

No. 67

Editor—Mrs. G. WILKINS, 22 Warwick Way.

No. 3—October 1959

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

On 29th October, 1959, the Annual General Meeting of this Association will be held in the Dickinson Guildhouse at 8 p.m. All Croxley Green people will be welcome and there is much we want to learn of your views—so resist the tempting thought of an evening by the fireside, let the television set have a night off and come along.

Many of you seem content to let things drift and suddenly wake up to find something is happening within the area where you have made your home: all too often that "something" costs ratepayers' money and it is worth noting that the rates for 1959-60 under the new higher rateable value (19/2d.) is within a few pence of the 1949-50 rate (19/8d.) under the old rateable values—and when one considers that the new Rating Valuation which took place just three years ago increased the rateable value of the Urban District by 97%, it is surprising that people do not enquire more deeply into local Council affairs to ascertain if they are getting value for their money!

The average housewife today is a discriminating shopper and most breadwinners have a sound financial appreciation of their economic worth in hard cash, but when it comes to local Council affairs, it is true to say that you—THE PEOPLE MOST CONCERNED WITH PROVIDING THE COUNCIL'S INCOME—appear to show less interest. Often this Association tries to make you aware of your Council's expenditure through the columns of this Bulletin and that brings me again to my point . . . as YOU are the RATE PAYER, why not come to our A.G.M. and—if you have any questions or queries—we will do our best to answer them: I repeat, ALL CROXLEY RESIDENTS will be welcome.

I should add, however, that any non-resident who cares to attend will also be welcome but I would remind

them that, as this Association is for the people of Croxley Green (it is financed by Croxley people) it must be understood that questions from such visitors could only be dealt with at the expense of leaving unanswered questions from those whose interests the Association tries to serve.

It may be of some satisfaction to members to learn that the "Residents' Association" still continues to flourish and it is with much pleasure that I am able to report an increased membership—our 1959-60 strength being over 2,200—which is, I am told, a record.

By the time you read this letter the General Election will be over and we shall know who is our Member of Parliament: readers may like to know that, at their Public Meetings, each prospective candidate promised that—if elected—he will be readily available to all who reside within the South West Herts constituency should they desire to discuss with him any matter in which they feel he could be of assistance.

The Association will endeavour to ascertain what arrangements the successful Candidate intends making to implement this promise and will publish such information in the next edition of the Bulletin in order that the residents of Croxley Green will be aware of the facilities afforded them.

As my term of office will close at the Annual General Meeting, I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the whole Committee for the wonderful support and co-operation they have afforded me. From the President to the newest member, I have received the finest tribute any Chairman could hope for—their complete trust. I sincerely hope that they, in turn, feel that trust has not been misplaced or in any way abused during the past two years.

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Road Safety

The Organiser of the Rickmansworth Urban District Council requests the Association to publicise the cycling proficiency scheme which has been arranged to train children resident within the Urban District: it is considered that more children would be trained if this scheme were brought to the notice of parents. Another point which needs emphasis is that often children who reside in the Urban District but attend school elsewhere may not be aware that such schemes are in being: any parent or child who is interested in such a training should contact the R.U.D.C. Road Safety Officer at the Council Offices, Rickmansworth (Tel.: Rick. 3136).

Train Service—Metropolitan Line

Members have approached the Association regarding the effect the Amersham electrification and widening scheme will have on the future train service for this district and we give brief details quoted from the Transport Executive's correspondence with the Association:

1. Croxley Green will be served by eight trains per hour throughout both peak periods and, as an example, the evening "rush hour" traffic will be—

From Aldgate, stopping at Finchley Road, North Harrow and all stations beyond—4 trains per hour.

From Baker Street, stopping at Finchley Road, Wembley Park and stations beyond—4 trains per hour.

2. The eight trains per hour mentioned will each have a capacity of 448 seats.
3. Outside peak hours the trains will be at regular 15 minute intervals, each train having a capacity of 224 seats.

The Public Relations Officer of the London Transport Executive admits there will be a reduction in the number of seats available to Croxley Green and Watford but the official view is that many passengers to intermediate stations between Harrow and Moor Park will be carried in additional trains between London and Chesham. He also points out that the new service is designed to meet the increasing demand from stations beyond Rickmansworth where residential districts are developing.

N.B.—A slight "warning note" creeps into his letter that traffic on the Watford line has fallen by 22% since 1950.

Coffin Land

This piece of land, which the R.U.D.C. hoped to acquire for about £300, was recently the cause of an enquiry at the Lands Tribunal. The Council lost the case (with costs) so for 2.1 acres of land the ratepayers may have to find some £7,800 and an application has been made to the Minister of Local Government for his sanction to borrow the money to acquire yet another Open Space.

PHILIP MORRIS

M.R.S.H. A.V.I.

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Aquadrome

News that the R.U.D.C. are to purchase the Aquadrome will no doubt get a mixed reception: whilst some may consider Mr. Butlin would make a better show if a Lido is envisaged, others may feel that a Nature Reserve financed by the Government would be more suitable! One thing that will interest the ratepayers, however, is that the price of the proposed purchase will necessitate a Loan (approximately £31,000) and this will cost the Urban District £1,930 per year in Loan charges for the next 60 years—a total of some £115,800!

**Royal Commission on Local Government in
Greater London**

According to the recently published Evidence of the R.U.D.C. Croxley Green's future was discussed at some length. Residents may like to know that Councillor R. Payne was the only Croxley Green representative who attended to give evidence: it is somewhat surprising that any of our Councillors were allowed to go, particularly in view of the fact that not one Croxley Green member had served on the Sub-Committee which has been dealing with this matter.

N.U.R.A. News**RATES:**

The return of Rates, published annually by the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants, reveals that the average rates levied for 1959-60 are as follows:

County Boroughs ...	19/11d.
Non-County Boroughs ...	20/3d.
Urban Districts ...	20/2d.
Rural Districts ...	17/11d.

In the County Boroughs no less than six Authorities have reduced their rates; 25 have kept the rate unchanged whilst 52 show an increase. Of the 224 non-County Boroughs selected in the review, 16 show a decrease, 26 no change whilst 182 had an increased levy.

THE HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING BILL:

This Act, which is designed to assist owners of older-type property in providing their homes with reasonable amenities, allows the owner to claim up to £155 as of right if he wishes to modernise a dwelling place by putting in a bath, washbasin, hot water system, W.C. or Larder. The Minister expressed the hope that there would be a big demand for these new Grants as soon as the Act comes into operation.

Obituary

It is with regret we report the passing of Mrs. Whitaker of Watford Road. Mrs. Whitaker was well known for her good work in Croxley Green and our sympathy is extended to Mr. Whitaker in his sad loss.

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YORKE ROAD/WATFORD ROAD "FLATS" ISSUE

The Association held a Protest Meeting which, considering the short time we had to make the necessary preparations, was very well attended. Towards the close of the Meeting a Petition was prepared — which subsequently gathered over 1,000 signatures—for submission to the Minister of Housing and Local Government by Mr. Gilbert Longden. We have now heard that, although the Minister sent an Inspector to view the site, he (the Minister) declines to hold an Enquiry.

Because we believe a vital democratic principle is involved the Association consider that you—the people of Croxley Green—should be made aware of all the facts leading up to this Protest Meeting and its outcome so that you can appreciate the shape of "things to come"! The details, although dated, are set out in the order in which they were made public at Open Council Meetings, etc.

1959

- Mar. 17 Town Planning Committee: Application for 12 Flats in one block, three storeys high. Permission refused as unsuitable for this site.
- April 7 Open Council Meeting: Above decision approved and a further decision approved removing delegated powers from all Council Committees regarding the proposed development of this land. (The Council debate gave rise to the impression that this Town Planning refusal, although ratified by the Council, might not in fact be a "refusal").
- With this point in mind the Association wrote to the Clerk of the Council as to the public's rights to object to a decision which might be the opposite to that ratified in Open Council. A prompt reply from the Clerk informed the Association that the public had "no right of objection" to a planning decision: that "right" belonged to the Councillors we had elected and we should make our views known to our elected representatives.
- April 17 This the Association did by a letter to the R.U.D.C. and on
- May 14 The Minister of Local Government was contacted by the co-operation of Mr. Gilbert Longden.
- June 2 The Open Council Meeting revealed the following facts:
- (a) The Town Planning Committee Meeting on 2nd April, 1959, considered a letter from the Developer's Architects calling attention to the fact that they had originally intended to build two-storey Maisonettes but the Divisional Planning Officer and the Council Surveyor had persuaded the Developer to build three-storey Maisonettes: the Town Planning Committee thereupon decided to give permission for the building of three-storey Maisonettes but agreed not to use delegated powers on this decision;
 - (b) The Town Planning Committee Meeting on 21st April decided they should have more information and instructed the Surveyor to measure the height of all surrounding buildings, also the distance from existing buildings;

(c) The Town Planning Committee Meeting on 14th May had before them all the details requested at their previous Meeting which, we are informed by the Council Minutes, were RECEIVED.

The Council debate which ensued on 2nd June was heard by some 20 or more Croxley Green people and, although seven Croxley Councillors and one Rickmansworth Town Councillor voted AGAINST THE APPROVAL (Councillor Payne abstained from voting), they were outvoted by the combined Councillors from other areas, i.e. Moor Park 2, Rickmansworth Town 3, Mill End 4 (one of whom is a Croxley Green resident) and West Hyde 1 . . . and we saw the unusual spectacle of "we on this side of the table" voting with "you on that side of the table." Many Croxley people will long remember this debate: one member (an ex-Chairman of the Council) spoke of the poor quality houses in HARVEY ROAD and said the Flats would improve the neighbourhood; another suggested it was foolish to object to something one had not seen—but forgot to add that when one has seen the opportunity to "object" has been lost!

Unfortunately, although the Minister of Housing and Local Government was written to on 14th May and was informed that the Council Meeting would take place on 2nd June, it was not until 4th June that the Association received from him a letter which outlined the duties of a Councillor in dealing with Town Planning applications which, for the information of our readers, are as under:

"The Council are the body responsible for considering the public interest in these matters, and it is the public interest only to which they can properly have regard in determining them."

Croxley people will now realize that the Councillors they elected were thus prevented from representing the known wishes of the many affected people in Croxley South who desired a Public Enquiry into the proposed development. To those who remember the "Shops" issue and similar instances, it is just another case of the domination of Croxley Green by the R.U.D.C. It is strange how quickly the barrier between the two political parties in the Council Chamber can be brushed aside to outvote Croxley's Councillors! Perhaps, however, the crowning insult to Croxley people was when Councillor J. Whiteside, at the Town Planning Committee Meeting on 16th June, obtained that Committee's agreement on what amounts to a vote of criticism—almost of censure—on Croxley's Councillors for attending our Protest Meeting and failing to defend a decision of the R.U.D.C. which they, our Croxley Councillors, believed wrong and had—in fact—voted against!

From the foregoing it will be obvious to everyone that the Association spared no effort to obtain what they considered to be elementary justice by asking for a Public Enquiry which—in cases of Town Planning that are obviously controversial—is the only means available for the Public to state their objections legally to an independent person appointed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Croxley Green Welcome Club are holding a SALE OF WORK in the Dickinson Guildhouse on Saturday, 24th October, at 2.30 p.m. The proceeds will be for the Christmas Party and Teas will be served at moderate prices during the afternoon.

The 1st Croxley Green Scout Group Parents' & Friends' Association are holding their AUTUMN FAIR on Saturday, 31st October in the Dickinson Guildhouse at 3 p.m. There will be Side Shows and various Stalls displaying goods for sale. There will be a Social and Dance in the evening.

F. J. THOMPSON

B.Sc., A.R.I.C.S., A.A.I.

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**Croxley Green Residents' & Ratepayers' Association
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

1959

To all Members,

The Annual General Meeting of the Croxley Green Residents' & Ratepayers' Association will be held in the Science Room of the Dickinson Guildhouse, Croxley Green, on Thursday, 29th October, 1959, at 8 p.m.

All members are earnestly requested to attend.

A. THOMPSON,
Hon. Secretary.

"Ashleigh Cottage,"
4 Little Green,
Croxley Green.

20th October, 1959.

A G E N D A :

1. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting.
2. Matters arising from Minutes.
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Hon. Secretary's Report.
5. Hon. Treasurer's Financial Report and Statement of Accounts for the Year ended 30th June, 1959.
6. Election of President and Vice-Presidents.
7. Election of Officers and Committee for ensuing Year.
8. Election of Auditors.
9. Any other business.

N.B.—Nominations for Officers and/or Committee duly proposed and seconded may be submitted to the Hon. Secretary prior to the A.G.M. Any resident in the Croxley Green district is eligible for membership, the annual subscription being 2/-.. New members will be welcome and can join prior to the Meeting.

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