

# THE CROXLEY RESIDENT

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

No. 71

Editor—Mrs. D. HORWOOD, 47 Owens Way.

No. 1—March 1961

## Do you consider Croxley Green needs a Public Hall?

A time will always come when the spark of true enthusiasm can again kindle the idea of yesterday. Recently many people in Croxley Green have asked "What is being done to establish the URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CROXLEY GREEN?" Members of our Committee have also informed me that many residents have voiced their opinion that Croxley Green would fare better on its own and are wondering if the Association can pursue the matter of Urban District Status. The interesting point of these opinions is the feeling of dissatisfaction regarding the treatment of Croxley Green by the Urban District Council of Rickmansworth: this feeling is very strong amongst my Committee. It often takes several letters to the R.U.D.C. before we can see the 'wood for the trees.'

Amongst our most recent post we had a long letter from a resident who has written to many people (including the Prime Minister) about a matter he felt was being 'side-stepped' by the Local Authority: furthermore, his impression of the Local Authority was so bad he had even written to Watford asking (may I say 'begging') to be taken out of the hands of Rickmansworth. To sum up . . . this person like many, yes many, people in Croxley Green would prefer to govern their own local affairs and consequently the question arises "What is being done to establish the URBAN DISTRICT OF CROXLEY GREEN?" May I pass this question on? Do YOU think we should be independent—or do you believe we must stay a part of the Rickmansworth Urban District?

With other Delegates from your Association I had the pleasure to be present at a Meeting when it was stated that Croxley Green, while representing approximately 40% of the R.U.D.C., was compact and of importance: yet so far the idea of the Urban District Status has not been anything more than a constructive suggestion. A couple of years ago the total rate of Croxley Green was 18/8d. in the £ of which the County Council took as much as 12/4d. but, nevertheless, with our own present-day commitments what a compact 40% we could be: Remember it is the interest shown by residents which will govern the action of any Association. APATHY—the giant decay of this age—can lose you a lot of privileges and rights, and because of apathy we, in fact, frequently do. How often one hears the remark "If I had only known then what I know now": this really means "If I had only attempted to find out earlier I might not be troubled now."

Readers will recall my sincere hope that the Aquadrome expenditure would 'break even.' It was requested that each of us do all we can to help recover the £31,000 purchase price and the £1,900 per annum Loan Charges. It should be noted that, in addition, we are now asked to support a further expenditure of approximately £116,000 to 'lay-out' part of the Aquadrome!

The recent discussion at Basing House as to who should, and who should not, sail on the Aquadrome revealed many characteristic Council viewpoints. It is gratifying to note that at last enough Councillors realize that any Grant from the Hertfordshire County Council is in fact a Grant from our own Rates and Taxes, whilst a fee payable by a Sailing Club is a direct payment to

the relief of Rates and not an instance of 'Peter paying Paul.'

"AN 'ALL-IN' CENTRE FOR CROXLEY GREEN?" No doubt many of you read this article in the local press recently and, for those of you who would like further details, you will find on Page 2 of this issue a brief factual history of events leading up to the present position in order to enable the Croxley Green people to form an opinion which we hope will have conclusive results. You will observe that a Delegation from this Association met the Chairman of the R.U.D.C. and discussed with him certain relevant facts but it was made quite clear that the Association is not satisfied on the following points:—

- (1) Has the need for such a Hall been established?
- (2) Has the necessary continuous public support essential for financial stability been properly ascertained?

The Committee of this Association has an open mind on the subject but feels that you, the residents, should give very careful and serious thought to this question as it rests with YOU whether Croxley Green loses the opportunity of having a Public Hall (or Community Centre—call it what you will) or, alternatively, whether the Ratepayers of the Rickmansworth Urban District—and in particular the people of Croxley Green—become saddled with a "white elephant" they do not desire. If you sit back and just read this, then grumble about the spending of ratepayers' money without any action on your part, are you not failing in your duty to prevent what you believe to be WASTE? Or if you feel that the suggested Hall is a long needed want, are you not WRONG if you withhold your support and thereby prevent it being built? You alone can answer these questions and you have the freedom to do so if you wish, but failing to answer them is really allowing this freedom to slip from you. Meetings are so few and are seldom sponsored by those whom we elect; it appears the only way one's views can be made known today are by letter to your elected representative and how can a democracy work efficiently unless it knows how you, THE PUBLIC, think and feel on important matters such as this.

I can again write with pleasure that the Croxley Green Residents' Association continues to flourish. Each year we are reporting increased membership and I now wish to extend a welcome to Mr. B. W. Gardner of Repton Way who has accepted to serve on our Committee. Mr. Gardner is well known for his present activities in Croxley Green and we know his opinion and views will give strength to our Committee.

One of the finest products of the Croxley Green Residents' Association is the publication of THE CROXLEY RESIDENT. I know that copies are sent to, and requested by, many people in high office: whilst copies are sent by residents (after reading) to places abroad—Canada, Australia, U.S.A. and even to interested friends in Iraq and Cyprus, including the son of a Sheikh. In closing, if there is anything of interest to Croxley people please write to us . . . and especially those of you who may be abroad — WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

HAROLD J. STEVENS. Chairman

# PROPOSED PUBLIC HALL

## BRIEF HISTORY

In 1954 the R.U.D.C. purchased land in New Road for building, at some future date, a Public Hall.

In February 1959 the Clerk of the Council reported that the owner of 197/199 New Road (adjoining plot) had offered to sell to the Council, subject to existing Lease, and in June 1959 it was agreed to purchase this site. At the same Meeting instructions were issued to Council Officers to investigate the NEED for a Community Hall, COST of building, etc., and to report to the Council in 12 months time.

The Tenant of the property, however, had legal rights regarding the renewal of his expiring Lease and if the R.U.D.C. refused such renewal they had a legal obligation to provide evidence of intention to build and, on 30th June, 1960, the Clerk of the Council called the Council's attention to the necessity for a decision regarding the future of this land and suggested that the Croxley Green Society be consulted as to the need for a Public Hall. On 12th July the following resolutions were passed by the R.U.D.C. :-

1. That a Community Centre Sub-Committee be appointed and six Councillors were named :
2. That this Sub-Committee be instructed to discuss with the Croxley Green Society the NEED for a Public Hall and methods of FINANCING such a building if there was found to be a need.

When the monthly Committee Meeting of the Residents' Association took place on 21st July it was obvious that the question of a Public Hall would be a controversial one. Accordingly on 26th July we wrote to the Croxley Green Society suggesting a PUBLIC MEETING should be held to ascertain the views of the people : if this was not practicable then a Meeting of DELEGATES to the Society was suggested. On 9th August a reply from the Society informed us the contents of our letter had been NOTED!

To avoid any misunderstanding it should be made clear the Residents' Association Committee agree with the R.U.D.C. that the Croxley Green Society were the correct body to approach but we were still convinced that a Public Meeting was necessary, so on 29th August we wrote direct to the Chairman of the R.U.D.C. suggesting a Public Meeting to be held in Croxley Green and that he (Councillor Whiteside) be good enough to take the chair at that Meeting—the business to be concerned only with the need, or otherwise, of a Public Hall in Croxley Green.

On 14th September, a reply was received that the suggested Public Meeting had much to commend it, and Councillor Whiteside would be pleased to preside; but the policy of the Council was that the link between the Council and the people of Croxley Green should be the Croxley Green Society; also advising us to make our view known to that Society and promising complete support in the event of them calling a Meeting.

On 13th September we learned that the Croxley Green Society had met the Council Sub-Committee on 17th August and that the following Grants were available :—

- (1) If the proposed building is an approved Community Centre 30% of the Capital cost from the Minister of Education and 15% Capital cost from the Herts County Council :
- (2) If the proposed building is approved as a Youth Centre 50% of the Capital cost from the Minister of Education and 15% Capital cost from the Herts County Council :
- (3) The R.U.D.C. have power to assist towards building costs by Grant or Loan (or by both) :
- (4) The H.C.C. and R.U.D.C. have authority to make Grants towards running costs.

This Meeting decided the Croxley Society should approach all affiliated Organisations to obtain their views on the following points :—

- (a) The extent of the demand for a Community Centre in Croxley Green :
- (b) The cost of Hiring existing Halls and whether this would affect the issue :
- (c) The demand in Croxley Green for a Youth Club.

It was further decided that when this information had been obtained a further Meeting should take place between the Society and the R.U.D.C.

On 25th October Croxley Society Delegates met and were informed of the position. From accounts it appears that at this Meeting it was decided a Hall IS NEEDED to cater for the Old people and Young folk. Accordingly on 17th January, 1961, we note that, at a Meeting on 5th January between the Council Sub-Committee and the Society, the R.U.D.C. were informed there was need for two Halls, one for an Old People's Club and one for a Youth Club—Kitchens and the usual offices to be built between the two Halls. It was also stated there is a need for small rooms to be used as Committee Rooms. The Council Sub-Committee asked for assurance that responsibility for managing the Hall would be undertaken by the Croxley Society or some other body (we understand this means forming a body of Trustees and accepting supervision of day-to-day running of the Building, etc.). THIS ASSURANCE HAS BEEN GIVEN.

As a Residents' Association these are facts we feel you should know and, after careful consideration, respectfully suggest you fill in the Questionnaire on Page 3, returning it to any Officer or Committee Member whose name and address appears on the back page of this issue of the 'Croxley Resident.' We would stress that any person over the age of 16 who is resident in Croxley Green should be allowed to record on this Questionnaire, his or her views as to the need (or otherwise) of a Hall. Make this a FAMILY DISCUSSION—remember in the future such a Building will be theirs to use and support.

**Paths**

We are very pleased to see that the pathways opposite All Saints Church, especially the portion adjacent to the Bus Stop, has at last been made up.

Each year when the bad weather came, local residents had to paddle to the shops and buses, and the pot-holes in this vicinity have been the subject of many protests to the Council from this Association.

\* \* \*

**Road Crossings**

The condition of the Zebra Crossing in Watford Road is very bad, so we are pleased to report that upon a complaint from this Association, forwarded to the Road Safety Committee, we are assured that this crossing will be repaired shortly.

\* \* \*

**Prefab Estate**

Our members living on the prefab estate, Baldwins Lane, will be pleased to learn that the proposals for re-development of this site are at last to hand.

It is proposed to provide 122 dwellings made up as follows:—

4-Storey maisonettes	...	...	24
3-Storey flats	...	...	66
2-Storey houses	...	...	12
2-Storey flats	...	...	20

Provision for 77 garages is also to be made, which it is felt will be adequate, as 42 of the dwellings will be of a type suitable for aged persons.

\* \* \*

**Civil Defence**

The strength of the Civil Defence Corps in this district is 247. The Recruiting Drive held in September last year resulted in 34 new members being enrolled. It is hoped to stage another recruiting drive in May this year, to coincide with the opening of the New Civil Defence Training and Social Centre.

\* \* \*

**Aquadrome**

The Opening date for the season is 27th March, 1961.

\* \* \*

**Water Ski-ing**

The Ruislip Ski Club are to be permitted to use Batchworth Lake for water ski-ing for a trial period from 1st April, 1961.

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**Development of Aquadrome**

A provisional figure of £116,000 for part development of the Aquadrome, to be spread over a number of years

has been submitted to the County Treasurer, in order that any grants that can be claimed towards the cost can be assessed.

\* \* \*

**Paths**

Work along Barton Way, Sherbourne Way and Rugby Way is nearing completion. Decorative trees have been planted along these roads, and we hope that local residents will do all in their power to protect these young trees from malicious attacks by youngsters.

\* \* \*

**Bus Shelters**

The Surveyor has received a quotation of £62 18s. 0d. for hacking out and reglazing in ¼-in. wired cast, all broken panes of glass on the bus shelters provided by the Council throughout the District.

\* \* \*

**Cycling Proficiency Training**

Training classes are being carried out at Wm. Penn School and the Rickmansworth Grammar School by the Police. Total number of children trained in the district to date 1,570, of which a total of 1,329 passed the test. A team is to be entered from this district for the Cycling Proficiency Championship.

\* \* \*

**Land at Cassio Bridge**

A plan has been submitted by the Surveyor, and approved, showing a suggested layout of the land at Cassio Bridge, as a garden with trees, shrubs, flowers, with a footpath leading to a central focal point of flower beds and a Lily pond. The Estimate for carrying out the work is £2,500, or £4,000 if low stone walling is provided along the Watford Road Frontage.

\* \* \*

**Major Improvement Works — Baldwins Lane**

Number One on the priority list for major improvement works for 1961/62.

BALDWINS LANE. (From the recreation ground to the junction with the Green)—widening to provide new carriage way with footpaths and verges on both sides, including surface water drainage to soakaways.

\* \* \*

**War Memorial**

This Association has been distressed to see the neglect of the War Memorial on the Green, and the way cars entering the public house driveway, encroach upon the grass bordering the memorial. The Council have now advised us that they will assume responsibility for future maintenance.

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**PANTOMIME AT DURRANTS SCHOOL**

Congratulations to the pupils of Durrants School who took part in the pantomime "Aladdin" just before Christmas. The effort was an excellent one and deserved better support. Several teachers were involved with the production, although only the pupils took the stage. The pantomime was realistic and followed the traditional story, and the dresses and scenery were first-class. If you have never been to a Durrants stage-show, make an effort to do so next time, because the standards of their productions compares favourably with some professional entertainment.

## METRO LINE

All those who have to use the Metropolitan Line every day have recently suffered another increase in fares (doubtless without any corresponding advance in salary), and we who brave the shaking, the stops, the starts, and the candle-like lighting, must often wonder just how much longer the complexities of reconstruction will go on. Note, therefore, the words of the P.R.O. of L.T.E. "With regard to the new rolling stock for the Metropolitan Line, it is hoped to bring this into service in batches, commencing this year." The spokesman explains that "so far as the formation and track works for the four-tracking are concerned you should appreciate that these are to a large extent dependant on factors outside the Executive's control, in particular the weather, including the almost continuous rainfall of the past months and the possibility of a severe winter. Nevertheless, it is hoped to complete and open the four-tracking from Harrow to just beyond Northwood Hills later this year, and to finish the remainder of the four-tracking as far as Watford South Junction in 1962. The final pattern of service will be introduced on completion of the four-tracking in 1962."

I believed new trains would make their appearance from a very early time in 1961. I wonder how many other regular travellers share this same expectancy. It may be an idea for the Croxley Green Residents' Association to sponsor the formation of a Panel consisting of regular users who could keep the situation under constant review—especially if they travelled in the same train. The Hon. Secretary will be pleased to co-ordinate in this connection.

## LIST OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILLING TO ACCEPT YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE

*President*: Col. C. E. Rothery-Moss, 35 Watford Road.

### *Vice-Presidents*:

Mr. J. S. Robinson, 46 Warwick Way.

*Chairman*: Mr. H. J. Stevens, 20 Sycamore Road.

Mr. E. H. Page, 226 Watford Road.

*Vice-Chairman*: Mr. C. Armson, 14 Watford Road.

*Hon. Secretary*: Mr. F. N. Cherrill, 10 Bateman Road.

*Hon. Treasurer*: Mr. J. W. Broome, 114 Links Way.

### *Elected Members*:

Mr. R. E. J. Boardman, 16 Frankland Road.

Mr. B. W. Gardner, 8 Repton Way.

Mrs. D. Horwood, 47 Owens Way.

Mr. R. H. Hutchinson, 4 Rochester Way.

Mr. T. W. Millway, 3 All Saint's Lane.

Mr. G. Newton, 275 New Road.

Mrs. E. Pitkin, 36 Scots Hill.

Mr. F. A. Randall, 7 Bateman Road.

Mr. J. N. Steward, 31 Sycamore Road.

Mr. W. J. Wallwork, 44 Canterbury Way.

Mr. G. A. Wilcox, 92 New Road.

Mrs. G. Wilkins, 22 Warwick Way.

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