

The Croxley Green Resident

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

No. 81

Editor—Mrs. D. B. WHITFIELD, 242 New Road

No. 1—February 1964

Special General Meeting

in

Dickinsons Guildhouse

(*Science Room*)

Thursday, 27th February, 1964

at 8 p.m.

Notice is hereby given that a Special General Meeting of the Members of the Association will be held on Thursday, 27th February, 1964, at 8 p.m. in Dickinson's Guildhouse, New Road, Croxley Green.

The business of the meeting will be to consider the recommendations made by the Committee in pursuance of Rule 14(e) which empowers the Committee to convene a Meeting of Members for the purpose of adopting Candidates for election to the Rickmansworth Urban District Council.

After the formal item of business the meeting will be open for discussion of any topic, which should be previously notified to the Hon. Secretary.

10 Bateman Road,
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F. N. CHERRILL,
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Printed by G. Young & Son Ltd. (T.U.), 34 Yorke Road, Croxley Green. Tel. Rick. 2311.

Published by Croxley Green Residents' and Ratepayers' Association, 10 Bateman Road, Croxley Green.

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

A Happy New Year to all my readers. This may be the last time this greeting will be offered you in 1964, but it is none the less sincere for being a little late. It emphasises the fact that, although I am writing these words over the Christmas Holiday, the process of producing and distributing an issue of the Croxley Green Resident takes time. In this connection I extend a warm welcome to our new Editor, Mrs. D. B. Whitfield, of 242 New Road. As usual she will be pleased to receive articles, letters and notices of forthcoming events for publication in future editions of the Croxley Green Resident.

And now what has 1964 in store for Croxley Green residents? One thing is certain we shall have the opportunity of taking part in no less than three elections. A General Election must come before October and many shrewd observers think this may well be the first of the three in the early spring. About four voters out of five express an opinion on these occasions.

On April 11th the whole of the Hertfordshire County Council retires and a new County Council will be elected. Almost all of Croxley Green is in Rickmansworth East Ward for this purpose and three years ago only just over one voter in four used his vote. When the County Council rate estimates are published in the Spring they are "the pick of the un-pops" for a week or two as number one grouching point, generally because of the large amount more money to be extracted from the ratepayers. This year before you vote do ask the candidate of your choice what he is going to do about the ever-increasing County rate burden and make it clear what you think and let him know on what grounds you will vote for him or refuse to vote for him if you are not satisfied with his attitude to this problem.

Then, on May 9th, Croxley Green becomes the familiar North and South Wards for the elections to the Rickmansworth Urban District Council. Mr. C. E. Armonson will have completed his first three-year term of office as an Association's Councillor and after the clear vote given at the Association's Annual General Meeting we are going to contest both wards this year. A notice is given elsewhere in this issue of a Public Meeting when you,

the members of the Association, will have the opportunity to approve or otherwise the candidates we propose to sponsor. This bigger task of fighting both wards will require more helpers than in the last three years and I invite the members to come forward to do their share to return **two** "Residents" Councillors this May. Last year about half the electorate voted and if the other half can be persuaded to vote we can take another step towards ousting National Politics from local affairs.

After all that there is yet another election in which we cannot take part. Our position just outside London gives us a ring-side seat to observe the first elections under the revised plan for Local Government in the Greater London area following the creation of new authorities by merging them into larger units. This painful process has yet to come to Croxley Green but it will be with us when the Boundaries Commission gets round to our corner of South West Herts.

Yours sincerely,

B. W. GARDNER,
Chairman.

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' IN THE BEGINNING '

The idea of an 'Orbital' Road to surround London's Suburbs was conceived in 1911. For the next fifteen years the original concept was taken from the pigeon hole at intervals, dusted, amended or otherwise altered and carefully returned to its ministerial 'cote'. However, the idea of a North Orbital Road eventually caught on quicker than its proposed Southern counterpart as we learn that from 1926 to approximately 1936 discussions by the Authorities concerned proceeded continuously and by 1937 the portion between Uxbridge and Rickmansworth and that between Watford and Hatfield had actually been constructed; also that the route of the North Orbital Road had, in a large measure, been safeguarded and that in all cases the route was planned TO AVOID ALL EXISTING BUILT-UP AREAS.

Slow Flows Officialdom

The next important event was in 1945, the outcome of a very comprehensive Planning Survey on all aspects of Greater London including Highways and from these deliberations it finally emerged that all County Councils concerned (some nine in number) were agreed that the earliest possible priority should be given to the North and South Orbital Roads—a view with which the then Minister of Transport not only agreed but stated the proposed roads would receive the first priority. The Minister noted that the routes generally had been approved by all County Councils affected and would result in a complete encirclement of the Greater London area. The new road would cross the Thames at Egham to the west of London and join up at the Dartford/Purfleet Tunnel east of London. Advice was given to the County Councils concerned under which Acts of Parliament they were to proceed in acquiring the necessary land and a promise made that the Transport Ministry would arrange for decisions to be given as rapidly as possible.

East is East

and West is West but ne'er the twain shall meet (except they travel along the A.412) seems to be the attitude of the present 'Powers' that be and to obtain a clearer picture of how this Policy affects Croxley Green it is necessary to know the route of the A.412 which commences at St. Albans, follows a westerly direction to the Bath road (A.4) west of Slough and en route from East to West connects with the following roads:—

A.5 London to Holyhead At St. Albans
A.6 Sth. Mimms off A.1
to Carlisle At St. Albans

A.405 North Orbital Road At St. Stephen's and at Garston
A.41 London to Birkenhead At North Watford
A.40 Oxford Road At Denham — here it changes its name to North Orbital
A.4 Bath Road At Upton, Bucks.

The route of the A.412 between Garston and St. Stephen's (the St. Albans Road) is part of the North Orbital road and is accordingly numbered A.405; this road affords a direct connection with the M.1 and M.10 Motorways—also the A.1 London to Edinburgh road. Furthermore, a short extension of the A.412 will connect with the new South Wales Motorway (M.4).

Our Children's Future!

Readers will thus appreciate the amount of traffic which flows, or should one say speeds, along this road and passes right through the Urban District. In Croxley Green it severs large residential areas. It is obvious that any large scale road widenings will increase the danger to life and limb of a large number of people who reside in our area, particularly youngsters, as whichever route the children take to school many have to cross this road at least twice a day . . . from the Sycamore Road area to Malvern Way or Durrants Schools — from Frankland Road area to Yorke Road School — from the New Road, Dickinson Avenue and Dickinson Square area to Harvey Road School — not to mention the many hundreds who attend the Grammar School at the top of Scots Hill.

Illuminate the Facts

The alternative to the above is, of course, the early construction of that part of the North Orbital Road between Maple Cross and Hunton Bridge and it is incomprehensible that this should be delayed any longer: its route (approximately five miles long) has been reserved and a large part already purchased. The people of Croxley Green have a right to know what is preventing the immediate construction of this vital link in our road system. Could it be that neighbouring Authorities don't want this road? Or, as was the case with the 'Iron Road,' are the large landowners against it? Or do the Ministry now consider this vital road of so little import that it does not merit the priority agreed in 1945?

CHAS. E. ARMSON.

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New Committee Members

We welcome the following new Members of the Committee since our last issue:

E. Button, Esq., 33, Links Way.
Mrs. E. M. King, 29, Beechcroft Avenue.
J. E. Oliver, Esq., 24, Durrants Drive.

Mrs. Whitfield has now retired from her Grocery Business after 18½ years but is still willing "to serve" the community to the best of her ability.

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The St. Oswald Players will present "Basinful of the Briny" on 13th-14th March at 7.45 p.m. in the St. Oswalds Church Hall. Advance tickets (3/- including refreshments) from 32 Sherbourne Way, or at the door.

For New Residents

The Association's two Councillors are:
C. E. Armson, Esq. 14 Watford Road
L. V. Reason, Esq. 40 Repton Way
Croxley Green Society Secretary:
Miss D. Raggett, 20 Bateman Road

The Association thanks the Advertisers for their support and hopes all our readers will patronise them.

ARE YOU A MEMBER? IF NOT, THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN OR RE-JOIN. The minimum subscription is 2/- per year per family, and subscriptions above this amount are credited to a separate fund which is used in furtherance of the Association's policy to secure representation on the Rickmansworth Urban District Council.

To the Hon. Treasurer, at 114 Links Way (or to any member of the Committee)

Please enrol me as a member of the Croxley Green Residents' and Ratepayers' Association, for which I attach subscription for the year ending 30th September, 1964.

Mr. & Mrs. Amount.....

Address..... Date.....

(You will not be canvassed for the return of this form; your membership is entirely voluntary)