

The Croxley Green Resident

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF CROXLEY GREEN RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

No. 84

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

No.1 —February 1965

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

In this first issue of the "Croxley Green Resident" for 1965, I send sincere New Year's Greetings to every reader. The New Year conjours up visions of longer days, warmer days and the promise of Spring when Nature wakes up after the Winter.

The New Year turns your thoughts to money matters as well. Better watch out for the careless fellow who passes a cheque dated 1964, better still make a mental note not to do it yourself. These are small but irritating matters easily put right. But what about the larger issues concerning money to-day? With the present high rates of interest ruling now, all who use borrowed money are going to pay more for the privilege. It does not matter whether it is hire purchase for domestic goods or motor cars, mortgage money for house purchase or bank borrowing for business purposes. We must not forget that Local Authorities borrow considerable sums through the year to balance their books and we, the ratepayers, will have to foot this bill either at local or county level. This thought may well sober any ideas of a rosy time about next March or April. This is a national matter and there seems little the average citizen can do about it except grin and bear it and pay up. What we can do is strive continually to see we get the very best possible value for what is spent locally. Your elected representatives who make up the Rickmansworth Urban District Council have a large say in this, subject, of course, to the smaller number who make up the Finance Committee. The actions of our Councillors present a very varied picture. At one end of the scale a member resident in Croxley Green has presented a large number of motions to the Council and by standing orders these are at once referred to the Committee who deals with their subject matter. At the other end of the scale some members seem completely satisfied with what goes on at Basing House and hardly ever say a word.

And now to close with a personal observation from a recent Council meeting. A list of nine "minor" road improvements—some running into many thousands of pounds—were considered and I gained the impression some *might* be done *if* the County provided the money. It seems Rickmansworth gets rather less than its fair share having regard to the length of class "A" roads in the district. I hope the Chairman of the Council will lose no time in seeking redress at County Hall. If he does, then we stand a chance of the much-needed re-surfacing of the Watford Road, between the Met. Station and All Saints Church, taking place as this item became number three of the nine referred to.

Yours sincerely,

B. W. GARDNER,

Chairman.

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WE HEAR

A considerable improvement has been noticed in the new type of Refuse Vehicles: these no longer require the container to be tipped up on end periodically. This practice, which sometimes took place with the flap open, frequently caused an annoying dust nuisance.

Many residents who have for some time suspected that the Local Councils were half-hearted in their attempts to obtain action regarding the early construction of the North Orbital Road Extension have now confirmation of their suspicions in the recent 'news release' that the Watford Borough Engineer is preparing plans for a dual carriage-way from Peace Memorial Hospital to Cassio Bridge. Unless some concerted action is immediately forthcoming from residents in Watford and Rickmansworth, officialdom will win yet another victory at the expense of hundreds of homes and justify their action under the guise of 'progress'.

We learn that Councillor J. McGinn (North Ward) has departed from Croxley Green and would record our appreciation for all the work he put into his Council duties during nearly three years in office. We also understand that Councillor G. Penny (South Ward), who was elected in May last, has taken duties abroad, but definite information has not been given that he has tendered his resignation from the Council. Elections before May, 1965, are therefore possible . . . meanwhile Croxley Green is two Councillors short!

The Association has taken strenuous measures to secure the resurfacing of Watford Road between The Green and the Met Station. The Local Council declared they were not possessed of funds for this purpose and the County Council (it is a County Road) declared the R.U.D.C. had not asked in advance for funds for this purpose. The work has now been planned for 1965/6 and the Association was instrumental in having the priority placing raised nearer the top of the list. There is little doubt—in spite of skid tests which are understood to have been made—the road is treacherous and many residents will be shocked by the apathetic attitude shown by the Council. It will be surprising if some serious accidents do not occur during icy or rainy weather on this stretch of road. It is to be noted that Watford Council have renovated their part of the A.412 which was previously in a much better condition than that part within the R.U.D.C. area and, moreover, the work was done on Sundays.

The Association has been pressing for improved street lighting at the junction of New Road and The Green. The Council rejected the need for the improvement but, after further correspondence, the Engineer has been asked to report on costs of additional lighting or reflectors at the kerbside.

It is understood the Minister of Housing and Local Government has rejected the planning appeal by a builder to erect 36 flats and garages on Green Belt land adjacent to Nuttfield Lane. It took the Council a long time to identify 'Mill Lane' by a more rightful name.

At the Council Meeting on 8th December, 1964, tenders were accepted for the making up of Winton Drive and Winton Crescent. The Association has tried hard during several years to secure this move and we only hope the work will be finished as quickly as possible. It appears the cost will be less than at first envisaged by the Council, and as the frontagers will have to bear their individual costs, they will welcome this news.

AND OBSERVE

A proposal has been made by the Churches of Croxley Green for a Youth Centre which would have a paid Warden employed by the Local Education Authority. It appears the Council were impressed by the project and it seems likely that the Territorial Army buildings (adjacent The Green) will become available for at least the first three years.

We hope that the work will soon start on land in Barton Way at the junction of New Road for the new Library which is to include accommodation for the Croxley Green 'Welcome Club' (Old Folk).

Many residents have become used to noting the dates of Council Meetings publicised on the Official Notice Boards throughout the district but, for some reason, this practice has been discontinued and the absence of this general information has caused some concern. Readers are reminded that the Public are admitted to Council Meetings and several of the Committee Meetings held in 'Basing House' (Council Chambers.) Dates of future Meetings are given elsewhere in this Bulletin. Why don't you go along to hear how the Council conducts your civic business?

We would like to know when the bus shelter in New Road will be reinstated. It was damaged as the result of an accident 12 months ago. The Association will press this item—although such pressure should not really be necessary (L.T.E. please note!).

The Association are dismayed with the Council's attitude to our frequent requests for a nameplate indicating 'Croxley Green'—especially on the main road where there are frequent examples of motorists not knowing where they are. May we stress that such nameplates enhanced this locality before the War! In Watford, districts within the Borough are clearly named. Furthermore, we are dismayed that the Engineer and Surveyors Dept. takes so long to furnish roads with their names. Five nameplates in a small area are conspicuous by their absence . . . another was broken in May and still has not been replaced.

Rickmansworth Council is to subscribe £60 per annum to the London Philharmonic Orchestra to help provide Orchestral Concerts throughout East Anglia.

In future planning applications from individuals will be published on Official Notice Boards for three weeks prior to the applications coming before the Town Planning Committee. During the past six months this scheme has operated in the Public Libraries and the expansion of the scheme is to be welcomed.

An Assistant Solicitor has been appointed by the Council to assist with the work of the Clerk's Dept.

The Council are anxious that the outstanding qualities of Moor Park Mansion should be better known—particularly by local residents—and they should be aware they can visit the Mansion. In this way the Committee consider that the Council's expenditure on restoring the building will be better appreciated, especially as a substantial amount of restoration has now been completed. What do you think?

We learn that the frontagers in the older part of Sycamore Road are, understandably, concerned regarding the state of the roadway and lack of pavements. Recently representatives of the R.U.D.C. met some of the residents affected and apparently have a problem to solve more involved than that of Winton Drive and Winton Crescent. Before any progress can be made, Council's opinion is necessary.

Mr. J. W. Broome, of 114 Links Way (the Association's Hon. Treasurer) is to represent the Association on the R.U.D.C. Road Safety Committee.

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COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

We list the next meetings which are open to the public. Council and all Committee meetings start at 8 p.m. except Allotments, at 7.30 p.m., in front of Open Spaces Committee.

General Purposes	20/5/65	February 8th, 1965
Open Spaces	14/65	February 11th, 1965
Highways	5/4/65	February 15th, 1965
Finance	12/4/65	March 1st, 1965
Council	27/4/65	March 9th, 1965
Road Safety	28/4/65	March 10th, 1965

and thereafter at six weekly intervals, except Allotments at 7.30 p.m. and thereafter at 12 weekly intervals.

It should be explained that Committee meeting procedure is a lot less formal than meetings of the full Council and much more can be explored and debated in this informal atmosphere. The privilege to attend Committee meetings has been obtained so go along and use it, otherwise it may be withdrawn. Attend a Committee that interests you and see what your elected representatives say on behalf of Croxley Green.

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The minimum subscription is 2s. 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, 1965.

Mr. & Mrs. Amount.....

Address Date.....

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