Plans for a small Community Centre to serve the Perry Street area are going ahead with the formation of a Steering Committee at the last Committee meeting of Battsbury Residents' Association.

In an interview with the "Observer", the Association's Secretary, Mr.W.J.Blair said: "Our Committee will perform three main functions. It will negotiate with the Urban District Council of Basildon and Essex Education Committee. It will contact local organisations and persons interested in the Centre, and invite them to send representatives to serve on the Committee. Last but not least it will organise fund raising activities".

Mr.Blair continued: "A good start has already been made. We have been in correspondence with the Urban District Council, Essex Education Committee, and several local organisations. Basildon Council have informed us that in the light of the anticipated increase in the population of the neighbourhood they have agreed that a site for a Community Centre in the Battsbury Area north of Billericay should be reserved in the 1962 review of the County Development Plan. The attention of the County Planning Adviser has been drawn to this decision so that consultations as to the location of the site may take place at the appropriate time. The Basildon Education Committee are aware of our needs. No final financial arrangements have been made, but voluntary contributions, supported by grants is the usual way. Guidance from the National Federation of Community Associations and the Essex Education Committee has been offered. It is well established that there is an urgent need for this centre, as there are no public halls in the area".

Mr.Blair added; "If any local organisations have not been advised but are interested in this project will they kindly contact Mrs.E.B.Clark, 293, Mountnessing Road, Billericay, Tel No.320, who is the Acting Secretary of the Committee or myself at 266, Perry Street, Billericay."
FLATS PLANS PASSED.

Basildon Council passed a plan for a block of flats at Radford Way, Billericay, at the recent Council meeting. Planning Chairman Cllr. A.F. Quirk commented; "Despite the outcry in the Press there have been only two objections".

The Council have insisted on certain conditions - that adequate off-street parking should be provided, that screen fences should be erected, and that a scheme of landscaping should be carried out.

A statement on flats issued by Billericay Residents' Association at their recent Committee meeting stated that the Association felt that the Council should not allow the erection of flats on any odd plot of land in the area. The statement continues; "The Billericay Residents' Association will oppose this kind of development with every means in their power. If flats are necessary in a country town they should be constructed as far away from the town as possible, and as a feature alone. They should be built with regard to visual amenities, with play areas for children, proper access for cars, and off-street parking, adequate drying areas, and the minimum loss of privacy to adjoining properties. In addition most stringent fire precautions should be enforced".

BAZAAR RAISES £260 FOR CHURCH.

The Annual Bazaar of Great Bursted Church at the South Green Memorial Hall last Saturday week raised £260 towards the Church Restoration Fund.

Commented the Vicar, the Rev. G.R. Holley; "We had no target, but we are very pleased with the result".

A most popular feature at the Bazaar was Father Christmas. A loudspeaker van toured the area during the day, advertising the Bazaar.

RESIDENTS HOLD BAZAAR.

Billericay Residents' Association held a successful Bazaar at the W.I. Hall on Saturday. A popular feature was Father Christmas. Stalls were manned by members of the Association.

NORSEY WOODS NOT OF REGIONAL INTEREST SAY COUNTY COUNCIL.

At the recent Council Meeting it was reported that the County Council were not prepared to purchase Norsey Woods as a Public Open Space, as they usually only purchased areas which were regarded as regional, as distinct from local, significance. Commented Cllr. Quirk; "We will press this further. I cannot think why the County Council say Norsey Woods is of only local significance. There is a Roman encampment there, and several burial mounds".

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE.

Buttsbury Residents' Assn., whose membership is at present 300, are to conduct a membership drive throughout the Winter. They hope to reach a target of 500 members. The Association operates in the Gooseberry Green/Perry Street area.

BAZAAR RAISES HALF OF MONEY NEEDED FOR NEW CHURCH.

The two-day Bazaar of Billericay Methodist Church last Thursday week and last Saturday week raised £750 towards the cost of the new Church. This means that only another £750 has to be raised towards the cost of the new Church, which will be built in front of the present one in Western Road. The present Church will become a Church Hall.

On Thursday the Bazaar was opened by Mrs. E.S. England of Clacton-on-Sea, and on Saturday by Mrs. A.W. Cate of Billericay. On Saturday evening a Concert was held in the Church.

NEW SPEED LIMIT FOR SOUTH GREEN.

Basildon Council have informed the Chief Constable that they think that the 30 m.p.h. speed limit along the Southend Road from Chapel Street to the "Duke of York" Public House should be retained. They have also asked the Chief Constable to impose a 30 m.p.h. speed limit from the Duke of York to Armstrong Whitworth's factory. This speed limit was recently requested by the South Green Committee of Billericay Residents' Association.
COUNCIL BUY LAND FOR CAR PARK.

Bashford Council are to purchase at a cost of £350 land for an access road from Radford Crescent (on the Industrial Estate) to the new Lake Meadows Car Park, which will be situated on land to the south-west of the lake. They are also paying £250 for the cost of fencing and gates. It was stated at the recent Council meeting that it was hoped that this Car Park would be ready for use by the Spring or early Summer.

The Clerk, Mr. A. Hatt, stated that Mr. Wise, the boatman at Lake Meadows, had reported a very definite decrease in take-ins since the closure of the Car Park. Mr. Wise also considered that once a Car Park was provided, it would be some time before the fact became generally known.

ONE-WAY SYSTEM FOR BILLERICAY?

At the recent Council meeting it was reported that the Engineer & Surveyor had told the Development & Planning Committee that because of the decision taken at the Council meeting not to adopt the proposed Billericay By-Pass Plan, the Council at present had no plan to deal with the build-up of traffic which would continue in the central part of the town. It was decided that the Engineer & Surveyor should submit to the next meeting of the Committee a full report of a scheme of one-way working which would permit northbound traffic to use the High Street, and southbound traffic to use Chapel Street. It was also decided to defer planning permissions for dwellings along the proposed relief road until January. These two decisions were approved by the Council.

NOAK HILL ROAD TENDERS OPENED.

Tenders have now been opened by the Council for the improvement of Noak Hill Road, Billericay, from Noak Bridge to Church Street.

BAZAAR HELPS NEW CHURCH.

A successful bazaar was held at Christ Church, Perry Street, last Saturday week. Over £50 was raised towards the New Church Building Fund for Perry Street. A Social was held in the evening.

COUNCIL CAN NOT HOUSE KEY WORKERS.

A firm who had recently moved from London to Billericay had approached the County Planning Adviser drawing attention to the difficulty experienced regarding the housing of key workers. In reply the County Planning Adviser had explained that the present policy as it related to Billericay and other similar towns in the County was to encourage local employment, preferably by the transfer of London industry, and thereby reduce the necessity imposed on many local residents to travel daily to London to work.

In informing the Council of this matter the County Planning Adviser had stated that he felt the planned transfer of factories and men to towns other than the New Towns ought to be examined in connection with the review of the development plan when and where extensions to industrial land were being considered, and had mentioned the advantage to be gained if the local housing authority could make available rented accommodation to at least key workers of a firm moving from London.

Members of the Development & Planning Committee were reminded that the Housing Committee had been unable to grant one application for accommodation from one key worker in Billericay, and they expressed the view that each industrialist who proposed to move to Billericay must be aware of the policy not to provide housing accommodation, in view of the over-riding need to provide employment for local residents and so far as key workers were concerned this need was being met satisfactorily by private estate development. It was decided to inform the County Planning Adviser that the Council considered that the present arrangements were satisfactory.

45 YEARS' ON RAILWAY AT STATION.

Presented with a Gold Watch by the Great Eastern Traffic Manager at Liverpool Street Station recently was Mr. Ernest Martin of Billericay. Mr. Martin, a porter, came to Billericay Station in 1906, and has worked there ever since.
EDITORIAL.

Editor:—Wynford P. Grant.

Editorial Offices:—
"Billericay Observer", 143, Perry Street,
Billericay, Essex.

Phone:—Billericay 1927.

In the 96th issue of the "Billericay Observer" I set a target of 1,000 copies for the 100th issue. I am very pleased to say that this target has been exceeded—circulation of this issue being 1,200 copies.

The history of the paper is fully dealt with in the 100th issue supplement, so I will not dwell on that here.

This issue is the first 14-page one ever to be published, and contains a page of features—a crossword and a Teenagers' Section—a small Children's Section is to be introduced later. This does not mean that I am deviating from the unique policy of concentration on local news. This I will never do, but I do not consider that a page of features is amiss.

In the last week the "Observer" has been featured in the "Daily Telegraph" and "Daily Express" (some editions only). I have also been invited to have lunch with the Editors of the "Sunday Express", and to meet Rex North of the "Daily Mirror". Letters of congratulation have been received from "The People", "Sunday Express", and Fleetway Organisation.

I trust that all readers—especially new ones—will enjoy this issue of the "Billericay Observer". I can assure all readers of many more years of service. Thank you for your help and encouragement.

--- The Editor.

The "Billericay Observer" is printed & published by Wynford P. Grant Ltd. at their Registered Offices at 143, Perry Street, Billericay, Essex. Wynford P. Grant Ltd.

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"Denwyn", Beaufort Road, Billericay.
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CALL, WRITE, OR PHONE.
Will fit if required.

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CHEAPER THAN SAUSAGES!
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Services:—Sundays at 9.30 a.m., 1st & 3rd Holy Communion, Other Sundays, Matins.

Young Wives Fellowship:—Tuesday December 12th, 8-9 p.m. at Christ Church.

ADVERTISING RATES from the Editor.

STOP PRESS NEWS

Page 4.
FOR THE OLD FOLK

Billerica O.A.P. - 22nd November Meeting.

There was a very good attendance. On sick members it was stated that Mrs. W. Speller, Mr. Gill, and Mrs. Candler were all improving, Mrs. August was now out of hospital, Mr. Emery was welcomed back after absence. The Secretary gave details of the Theatre outing and the week's holiday at Great Yarmouth. He also gave details of the Fartomine outing and the Christmas Party. Miss Lawson and her Scottish dancers entertained.

Billerica O.A.P. - 29th November Meeting.

There was a very good attendance. On sick members it appeared that Mrs. August, Mrs. Candler, Mrs. Horne, and Mr. Gill were all improving, Mrs. E. Speller and Mrs. W. Speller were welcomed back after their bereavements and illnesses.

Buctsbury Monday Club.

At last Saturday week's meeting an interesting and amusing talk was given on the lives of television personalities by Charles G. Prentice Esqre. After the talk members asked several questions. A successful Raffle was held, and the meeting concluded with a few games of Bingo.

South Green Thursday Club meetings.

On Thursday 23rd Mr. Anderson reported that all sick members were making good progress. Competitions run by Mr. Warnier and Mrs. Gelton were thoroughly enjoyed. On Thursday 30th Mr. Anderson reported that he had visited all sick members, and taken small gifts of fruits and sweets. If a member was unable to attend because of bad health, then the Club did not forget them. Mr. Moore announced that there were still a few vacancies for the week's holiday at Great Yarmouth. Billericay O.A.P. Concert Party entertained with songs, piano and mandolin solos.

Sunnymede & Outwood Common Friday Club.

At the meeting on the 17th of November Mr. Goodchild took the chair as Mrs. Brett had fallen and dislocated her shoulder, and was away with relatives. It was agreed to send flowers and wishes for a speedy recovery. Mr. & Mrs. Bartlett showed colour slides of the Passion Play at Oberamergau. Mrs. Edwards played the piano for the community singing. It was reported that the Thrift Club was going quite well. On the 24th there was a good attendance. Members enjoyed a puzzle game arranged by Mrs. Morrison, enjoyed a game of Bingo, and some old time songs. Mrs. Brett was back at the club, after her fall. New members welcome.

Any housebound pensioners who would like to attend the Old Peoples Welfare Committee's Party in February should get in touch with Mrs. Barr, 273, Mountnessing Road (Billerica 522).

WINTER SUNSHINE.

Regular Service from SOUTHAMPTON to MADEIRA, TENERIFE, LAS PALMAS and CASABLANCA (with occasional calls at LISBON and TANGIER).

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Advertisers' Announcement

QUAKERS AND THE QUEST FOR A LIVING FAITH.

Quakerism has always been an experimental religion; a quest for truth, and for a faith that is valid for living in the world. Religion, Quakers believe, starts with a response to the divine - including the divine within all men - as a result of which each man finds his own understanding of Christianity without needing to make a formal statement.

Because truth is a constantly unfolding revelation Quakers have always attached great importance to man's search for knowledge, and to education in its widest sense (many Quakers, for example, have been Scientists, from Lister and Edington onwards).

Every Quaker meeting is an experiment. Its worship is based on silence - not a passive silence, but a waiting on God, an endeavour to reach some small measure of unity with the divine. In the silence anyone may speak, man or woman, member or non-member. There is no priest, no pre-arranged service. Each of those present takes an active part in the meeting whether he speaks or remains silent.

From the belief of something of the divine within all men, and from this sense of personal responsibility in worship, springs the better known Quaker emphasis on relief work, international reconciliation, commercial integrity, and social justice. If you feel in sympathy with this approach to religion you may like to know more. We will gladly send literature, and if you wish it, put you in touch with your nearest Quaker meeting.


BOOKING NOW!
Christmas Young Cockersels. White Flesched. Cream of the Farm, 4/6d per lb. Prepared for the oven free. Limited number. 5/- deposit secures a bird.
Apply: "Kosbeank", Woodside Road, Perry Street, Billericay.

HAVING A PARTY? Why not have your catering done for you at moderate prices? Very moderate charges. Buffet or sit down dinner. At your home or at hall. Mrs. Bell, 20, Raven Lane, Perry Street.

THE "OBSERVER" CINEMA GUIDE.
Ritz, Chapel St., B'way.
Thursday December 7th: - Peter Ustinov in "ROMANOFF & JULIET" (U). Also "THE DIPLOMATIC CORPSE" (U).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.
Forecasting Events in Billericay:
Wednesday 6th December: - Basildon Council Finance Committee Meeting, Council Chamber, High Street, 6.50 p.m.
Saturday 9th December: - Billericay Girl Guides, Christmas Bazaar, W.I. Hall.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISES.

Only 6d per line.

28) EXPERT HAIR TRIMMING IN YOUR OWN HOME. Phone Billericay 228 for appointment.

36) FOR SALE Football Boots (Size 5) 10/-, Tap Dance or Ballet Shoes (Size 12) 5/- each. Apply 7, Upland Close.

37) FOR SALE, Cheap, 1 to 4 sets, of "Bayko", building bricks and instructions book, £3. Phone Billericay 265.

38) FOR SALE, model Zoo, wonderful sturdy animals of all types, turnstile etc. only 30/-.

39) FLAT AVAILABLE, 4 rooms etc. self contained, garden, for Woodmanchist experienced in using mortarier and tennor for quality joinery. Posters (Woodworkers) Ltd., Smarts Lane, Loughton. Essex.

40) Television FOR SALE, "Sobell" 14" (E.B.C. & I.T.V.) Recently overhauled and fitted with new tube. Can be seen any evening after 6 by appointment. Phone Billericay 647.

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Page 6.
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BILLERICAY IN 1706.

The Chantry Cape is mentioned in the 1706 rental as "John Tyrell Gent. for a tenement, orchard, and chancelane". John Tyrell is often referred to in old documents as living in Billericay, but until now his exact residence has not been known. The "chancelane" would have been a chase, probably leading to stables at the back. It has often been thought that there was a chaseway at the side of the Chantry, and this is proved by the evidence in the 1706 rental. However, Billericay's priest did not live in the Chantry at this time. In fact he lived in a house on the site of International Stores, which is mentioned as "Parson Harvey, for tenement and garden".

Before the coming of the railway, the town extended over to the other side of the railway bridge. One property mentioned in the rental - it must have stood where the railway cutting now is - is the local workhouse - "The Overseers of the Poor of Burstead for two tenements and a little yard". The Overseers of the Poor also owned premises in Great Burstead, so apparently they had no lack of customers.

In Wellfield Lane (Chapel Street) mention is made of cottages and land owned by the Weavers Company, for the benefit of poor weavers. These cottages existed on the site of the Ritz Cinema forecourt until the turn of the century. Also in Wellfield Lane Joseph Norris is shown as owning a Ginger Grove and sandpit, which are shown on the 1593 map of Billericay as on the site of Hilsdale Road.

Many other interesting little facts are revealed in this Rental. "Sheeredays" is shown as a tannhouse owned by one John Stevens. The rental shows what are now the North Thames Gas Board showrooms as belonging to "Samuel Finch", a Mr. Finch was there in 1689, and the first Dissenters meeting to be licensed was held there in 1693. The Rental gives a valuable comprehensive survey for local historians of Billericay in the time of Queen Anne - The End.

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CYPRUS WINES
Commandria St.John 9/9
Olympus 9/3 4/9
Cyprello 8/9 4/9
Cyprello Golden 7/9

Page 9,
LAKESIDE (one of the worst unmade roads in Billericay) TO BE RE-SURFACED - AT LAST. by Wynford Grant.

A notice has appeared at the end of Lakeside, Perry Street, Billericay stating that plans for the re-surfacing of the road are open for inspection at the engineers and surveyors department of the council at 108 High Street Billericay. It also states that people affected by this may appeal against.

FAIRFIELD RISE TO BE RE-SURFACED.
Fairfield Rise, Tye Common Road Billericay is to be re-surfaced. Plans for the re-surfacing of the road are on view at the engineers and surveyors dept of Basildon U.D.C. council at 108 High Street Billericay. People affected by the council's decision may appeal against according to section 7 of the Private Road Works Act 1892. The road is in a very poor state of repair.

--- INSIDE ---

Round and about by Wanderer.

Should cyclists be allowed on Perry St.-Station footpaths?

THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING INTERESTING IN THE 'BILLERICAY OBSERVER'!

FAIRFIELD RISE continued from preceding column. Act 1892. The road is in a very poor state of repair.
5th December, 1961 - Continued from last page.

HOW IT'S GROWN - Illustrating the circulation growth of the
"Billerica Observer" from February, 1958, to the present
day:-

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5th DECEMBER, 1961 = 1,000 COPIES.

MILESTONES IN THE HISTORY OF THE "BILLERICAY OBSERVER".
(Further information in the "Billerica Observer Story", a few
copies still available, price 6d).

February 27th 1958 - First issue of "Billerica Observer".
October 14th 1958 - Staples replaced sewing.
January 17th 1959 - First duplicated issue.
January 21st 1959 - "Billerica Observer" featured on B.B.C. T.V.
programme, "Children's Newsreel".
April 2nd 1959 - "Billerica Observer" featured on B.B.C. T.V.
programme "Tonight".
"Billerica Observer" granted same Press
Facilities as any other paper by Basildon Council, after Editor's
interview with the Clerk of the Council, Mr. A. Hatt.
April 4th 1959 - "Billerica Observer" featured on "Daily Express"
"Photonews" page.
April 28th 1959 - Non-typed headings used for first time.
June 9th 1959 - First 8-page issue.
August 4th 1959 - "Billerica Observer" first sold in newsagents.
December 22nd 1959 - 50th issue of "Billerica Observer" - Town
Crier emblazon introduced.
June 25th 1960 - "Billerica Observer" enters wheelbarrow, town
crier, and newsboy in Billericay Carnival.
October 25th 1960 - First full-page advert - Matthews, High Street.
December 6th 1960 - 75th issue - typewriter breaks down.
February 14th 1961 - First 10-page issue.
March 28th 1961 - Telephone installed (Bil. 1927).
April 14th 1961 - Cliff Richard, M.V, Woodgate judge "Billerica
Observer" competition.
April 25th 1961 - Lay-out revised.
June 24th 1961 - Float entered in Billericay Carnival.
October 10th 1961 - Gestetner 360 Electric duplicator purchased.
New headings introduced.
October 24th 1961 - First 12-page issue.
December 5th 1961 - 100th issue of the "Billerica Observer" - 14
pages including special Centenary Supplement.

For more news of the 100th issue of "The Only Newspaper Printed
and Published in Billericay" turn to Page 4 and read the Editor's
Message.

N.B.: The "Billerica Observer" was also featured on B.B.C. T.V.
"All Your Own" on February 19th, 1961.
SEE THE LATEST RANGE OF
TOYS
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Turning between County Cleaners
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BILLERICAY'S NEWEST
TOY SHOP

VISIT US FOR ALL YOUR
TOY REQUIREMENTS

COME AND VIEW
OUR STOCK

NO OBLIGATION TO PURCHASE

Page 12.
**CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO.1**

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Compiled by Barrie Hay (featured on B.B.C. "All Your Own").

Solution in next issue.

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**TEENAGERS' SECTION.**

by the Editor.

Every fortnight in the "Billericaay Observer" it is intended to include a section for teenagers (and the young at heart). This much-maligned section of the community has not got a section in any other local paper, and there appears to be a demand from a lively Teenagers' Section.

Each fortnight, from the next issue, the Teenagers' Section will be divided into two parts - a Discussion Column and an "Observer" Top Ten. The first discussion point will be "Should Billericay have a Coffee Bar?" I hope to start this off next time with the views of two famous "pop" singers, and one other well-known person interested in youth. After that the column will be thrown open to YOUR views, so start sending them in now! Any suggestions for other Discussion Points are also most welcome.

Secondly - the Top Ten. It is intended to base this on record sales at a local shop in Billericay. It is also hoped to include news of local youth organisations from time to time, and any other suggestions for features that you might have are most welcome - just send them along! ------- The Editor.

The Children's Page has been held over.

Page 13.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Congratulations

Dear Sir, ---- I should like to thank your newspaper for the many hours of interest and pleasure it has afforded the members of my family and numerous friends over the past four years.

Controversial property development and political upheavals in the Council Chamber have taken place during this time, and the local residents have had to rely mainly on the youthful Editor of this paper for the unbiased impartial facts.

Whilst it may be said that the residents should attend Council and local meetings, very few people are prepared to do this regularly, and I therefore have great admiration for this young man of only 14 years of age who attends these meetings in fair weather and foul, travelling many miles to faithfully record the news for our benefit and enjoyment.

The small newsheet which heralded the start of this paper and contained the occasional schoolboy spelling mistakes has now developed into an extremely well designed publication, and I shall look forward to receiving my usual copy for many years to come. Well done, Wyndford! A.J. Wootton, "Valerie", Lakeside, Billericay.

STAMPS THE WORLD OVER!

Sets --- Subjects --- Singles.

Will those empty spaces!

Christmas Packets. Order Now! World Packets, excellent value, 1/-, 2/6d, 5/-

Hundreds of first-class stamps for collectors of all ages. Call or write: "Highcroft", Western Road, Billericay. Bargains!

RESIDENTS WANT BUS BACK.

The South Green Committee of Billericay Residents' Association are pressing for the restoration of the special 294 service to and from the School playground. They feel this would contribute towards Road Safety, and would ease the burden on the normal services to and from South Green and Billericay.

ROUND AND ABOUT by "WANDERER"

How can Essex County Council possibly claim that Norsey Woods have no regional interest? These beautiful woods cannot be matched for miles around, and in addition they have a wealth of ancient remains. They should certainly be purchased!

I am pleased to see that arrangements which should be satisfactory to all concerned are being made for Car Parking for Lake Meadows.

Basildon Council are quite right to refuse to house workers who come down with firms on the Industrial Estate. The Council have always contested that this Estate will provide employment for local workers, and reduce the burden on the train services. Yet I doubt if more than twenty or thirty local people are employed on the new factories. Every night there is a stream of workers from the factories to the Station. This kind of development does not help local people in the least - and it does not improve the appearance of Billericay at all. If local employment is to be provided for most of the local residents, then office development is the only type of development which will help. It is about time the Council realised this.

I still maintain that Flats should not be erected on odd plots of land here and there. What we must consider now is the look of the town in twenty years time, and the problems of twenty years time. Development must be more comprehensive, and planning real "planning".

With so many matters of importance to the locality under discussion, I feel that the Council should hold a Press Conference within the next month or two.

The town is now built up in such a way that I do not consider that a By-Pass could be built without making a wide detour, and costing a lot of money. Far better to improve North Hill Road and Stock Road, and the High St., and introduce some system of one-way working as suggested. When are the buses going to stop turning round at the Church? ---- "Wanderer".

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