

# BILLERICAY OBSERVER

Tuesday 10th April, 1962.

Number 109.



2D

© "BILLERICAY OBSERVER"

"THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN BILLERICAY."

## BILLERICAY WILL RUN OUT OF LAND IN FIVE YEARS

### Warns Councillor

"If the present rate of expansion continues Billericay will run out of building land in five years. The teenagers of present-day Billericay will be marrying in five or ten years time, and will want homes near their parents, but there will be no room left for second generation housing", warned Cllr.A.T.Dove at a Labour election meeting at the Co-op Hall on Monday. Cllr.Dove, leader of the Labour Group on Basildon Council, was speaking on what Labour would do for Billericay if they re-gained control of the Council.

Cllr.Dove said that Labour treated all districts in the same way, although they realised that each district had its own problems. Although Billericay had suffered from poor services, these were now coming up to scratch. Billericay and Wickford had had it good in the past few years, for although two-thirds of the rates came from the New Town, most of the Council's money was spent on Billericay and Wickford. He agreed that this was right. He felt that high-density development was the order of the day, and Billericay people would have to accept flats, if proper use was to be made of the available land. (Cllr.Dove called Billericay "toffee-nosed" for refusing to accept Flats at the Council's recent Public Meeting on Development".

Cllr.Dove was interrupted by Mr.Ashley who said that it was wrong to say that Flats were a "dirty word" in Billericay. Local people were not against Flats in principle, but they were concerned about the design and positioning of Flats.

Cllr.Dove said that he was not aware that this was the feeling of local people. Looking ahead Cllr.Dove said he hoped to see an open-air swimming pool in Lake Meadows, a public relations bureau in the town, and open-air dancing for young people in Lake Meadows. He also hoped to see a Transport Panel set up, with representatives from local organisations co-opted on to it. He described transport services between Billericay, Wickford, and Basildon as "lousy".

Mr.Longdon said that the Industrial Estate had a messy appearance, and did little to help the overcrowding on the trains to London. It should never have had the support of the Socialist group on the Council.

In reply Cllr.Dove said that it had been zoned for industrial development for years, and there was little that could be done about it. After the main meeting Cllr.Dove gave a talk on Civics to Labour Party members.

More Council Elections news on Page 2. Page 1.



COUNCILLOR RESIGNATION SHOCK.  
- Council Elections -

Mr. Albert F. Quirk, an Estate Agent of Norsey Road, Billericay, resigned from Basildon Council on March 26th, but will stand again as a Conservative in the May elections. Cllr. Quirk was first elected to the Council in 1957, and was re-elected in 1960, when he had a majority of over 200 votes over his nearest rival. He had a further year of his present term to run. Cllr. Quirk has been Chairman of the Council's Development & Planning Committee and of the Further Education & Youth Sub-Committee.

The "Observer" understands that Cllr. Quirk resigned so that the electorate could have the opportunity of voting him a vote of confidence, following criticism levelled at him during the past year.

Following the announcement of Mr. Quirk's resignation the Joint Election Committee of Billericay and Buttsbury Residents' Associations announced that Mr. K. Cook of Mountnessing Road, Billericay will contest Mr. Quirk's seat. Mr. Cook has been actively associated with Buttsbury Residents' Association for some years, and is the present Secretary.

The other two Residents' candidates are Mr. Blair of Perry Street and Mrs. J. Lunt of Stock Road. Tory candidates for the other two seats are Dr. F. W. B. Rilstone and Cllr. J. J. A. Tesoirere (a local Councillor for three years). Labour candidates are Mr. Harry Hayden and Mr. Stan Davey. The Liberals, who have contested Billericay for several years, have not yet named any candidates.

NEW CHAIRMAN.

Mr. R. Hemms of South Green was elected as the new Chairman of Billericay Residents' Association at their Executive Committee meeting on Friday. Mr. Hemms is also Secretary of the South Green Area Committee of the Association, and the Press Secretary of the Election Committee of Billericay and Buttsbury Residents' Associations. Mr. J. E. Hillyard of Cromwell Avenue was elected Vice-Chairman. Mr. Hillyard is also the Minutes Secretary, and is a former Secretary of the Association.

PUBLIC MEETING CALLED ON SOCIAL AMENITIES.

Outwood Common Community & Residents' Association have called a Public Meeting for Sunnymede Primary School on Friday 13th April at 8.0 p.m., on the subject of social amenities and provision of a Community Centre at the Outwood Common estate of Walthamstow Borough Council.

During the past week members of the Association, which has a membership of 300 families, have been collecting signatures for a petition to send to Walthamstow Borough Council. So far they have met with an almost 100% response.

The petition reads; "We the undersigned having regard to the lack of social amenities in this area move that immediate steps be taken for the provision of suitable accommodation on this Estate where we as Residents may from time to time meet and arrange social functions for our entertainment".

During the past year the Association have run outings and dances, and started a magazine, youth club, and football team. At present they have to use South Green Memorial one mile away for social functions and Sunnymede Primary School for the Youth Club. This means that the Youth Club are subject to Basildon Education Committee restrictions, and that special transport has to be arranged between Outwood Common and South Green for social functions.

Latest social event run by the Association is a Gala Dance to be held at South Green Memorial Hall on Saturday 14th April, starting at 7.30 p.m. Tickets and further details:- Mr. Sexton, 11, Monoux Close, Outwood Common.

At their committee meeting on Friday Billericay Residents' Assn. decided to ask the Outwood Common association to change their title to the Outwood Common Community & Tenants' Association to avoid confusion. They also decided to seek closer co-operation between the two Associations, particularly through the newly-formed Sunnymede Area Committee of Billericay Residents' Association.



## TWO BIG ROAD IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES PROPOSED FOR SOUTH GREEN.

Two major road improvement schemes for South Green are proposed by Basildon Council.

The first is the widening of Hickstars Lane to a 18-ft. carriageway, with a 6 ft. footpath on one side, and proper surface drainage. Also included is a "B" lighting scheme, re-construction of the junction with Kennel Lane, and some works in Kennel Lane itself. Estimated cost of the scheme is £17,700. Approval from the Essex County Council and Ministry of Housing & Local Government is awaited.

The second scheme involves South Green's controversial Recreation Ground. The Council are to invite tenders for the re-alignment of the Grange Road/Southend Road junction, incorporating a 20 ft. carriageway and two 6 ft. paths. The redundant length of carriageway in Grange Road would be utilised as access to the new shops and car parking area. The realignment involves the use of part of South Green Recreation Ground, and the removal of the shelter thereon. It also involves the moving of the bus stop to a new site, where it is proposed to provide a new layby. The scheme awaits the approval of the Minister of Housing & Local Government for the transfer of the land to be used from parks to highway purposes.

The improvement came under discussion at Friday's committee meeting of Billericay Residents' Association. Commented one member; "This is what we had feared all along".

Speaking on the Recreation Ground Cllr. Wilkins said; "A large number of people feel very hurt about all this. We no longer have a Recreation Ground, but just a spare piece of land".

The South Green Committee of the Residents' Association are to meet the Parks Committee on the question of the Recreation Ground.

## PRIVATE STREET WORKS APPROVED.

At their meeting on Thursday Basildon Council approved a Private Street Works scheme for Cromwell Avenue, Billericay, and another for Lake Avenue, Billericay, subject to a meeting with the frontagers, which has now been held.

## SUNNYMEDE FIRE HAZARD.

Mr. J. Witney, Chairman of the Sunnymede Area Committee of Billericay Residents' Association protested at Friday's Executive Committee meeting about the fire hazard in the Westbourne Road/Fairway area of Sunnymede.

Said Mr. Witney; "It is very, very dangerous. There is one old lady of 92 who lives in a bungalow among 30 ft. high ash trees and brambles, which are as dry as tinder. If that lot caught light it would be impossible to get to her. We protested about this last year, and the Fire Prevention Officer was supposed to be coming down, but nothing more happened".

It was agreed to take the matter up again.

## COUNTY WON'T SELL LAND FOR CAR PARKING.

It was reported at Thursday's Council Meeting that the Essex County Council still refused to sell the land the Council wanted for a Car Park at the rear of "Foxcroft" in the High Street. It was decided that as the matter affected highways and planning in the centre of the town it should be discussed at the forthcoming meeting between the Council and the County Council on the question of the proposed Relief Road for Billericay.

It was also reported that negotiations were proceeding between the Church authorities and the Council on the conversion of the Archer Hall car park to a Car Park for approximately 60 cars, at a cost of approximately £1,000, the present surface being unsatisfactory for a public Car Park.

The Police held the opinion that the Car Park was too far from the centre of the town to attract motorists, and that action should be deferred until further experience had been gained from the two High Street car parks.

The Council hold the opinion that the Car Park will be useful for coaches and cars taking children to the nearby Billericay Primary School and Billericay Secondary School, in addition to its use for general parking.

## 88 SUBSCRIPTIONS.

It was reported at Friday's Committee meeting of Billericay Residents' Assn. that 88 subscriptions had been collected since the last meeting in March.



## Editorial

Editor:- Wynford P. Grant.

Editorial Offices:-

"Billericay Observer",  
143, Perry Street,  
Billericay,  
Essex.

Phone:- Billericay 1927.

This is the first issue of the "Billericay Observer" at the new price of 2d. Readers will note there are one or two minor improvements in the way of headings.

Secretaries of local organisations etc. are asked to send their entries for the Billericay Reference Book in by April 30th, if possible.

Readers are advised to watch the next issue for an announcement regarding a new "Billericay Observer" project.

----- The Editor.

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### STOP PRESS NEWS.



# FOR THE OLD FOLK

## Billericay O.A.P.

On the 28th March there was a very good attendance despite the fact that so many members were away sick. With regard to sick members Mrs.W.Speller was in hospital, and Mr.Hill was now out of hospital, but they were both very ill. Mrs.Train, Mrs.Hodges, Mrs.Collins, Mrs.Gould, Mrs.Plumridge, Mrs.Stewart, Mrs.Rackham, Mrs.Walden, Mrs.Harrison, and Mrs.Taylor were all improving. All sick members were wished a very speedy recovery. Mrs.Barton was welcomed back after her absence through illness. A new member, Mrs.C.Clark, was welcomed to the Branch. Birthday honours were accorded the Chairman, Mr.Joseph. Members entertained themselves. Those taking part were Mrs.Newell, Mrs.Horne, and Mrs.Elkington, Mr.Joseph, Mr.Riches, Mr.Lewis, Mr.Wiltshire, and Mr.Milburn with songs. The pianist was Mrs.H.Dawkins.

There was a fairly good attendance on 4th April. One minute's silence was observed for Mrs.W.Speller, a founder member of the Branch, who had recently passed away. There were still quite a number of members away sick, and all were wished a speedy recovery. Mr.Hill was a little better, Mrs.Vivash had met with an accident. Mrs.Train, Mrs.Hodges, Mrs.Collins, Mrs.Walden, Mrs.Rackham, Mrs.Harrison, and Mrs.Taylor were all improving. Mrs.Plumridge and Mrs.Candler were welcomed back after absence through illness. A new member, Mr.Watson, was welcomed to the Branch. Birthday honours were accorded Mr.Riches (Secretary) and Mrs.E.Dawkins. A cake was presented by Mrs.Byron to be raffled for Branch funds. It was an "open" meeting - members could put forward suggestions for the benefit of the club.

## South Green Thursday Club.

During the month the Chairman Mr.W.Anderson has visited many sick members, and all seem to be making progress. Mr.Hall, who has been staying at Chelmsford, hopes to return to Billericay soon. One new member has been enrolled, Mr.Foster. The Annual Party was held on the 17th when the Club were entertained by the Scottish dancers, Mrs.Lawler's Concert Party, a film show by the Gas Council, and coloured slides of Moscow given by Mrs.Mann. Mrs.Warner has now finished making 250 lbs of marmalade, profits for the club funds. A splendid effort! Tea hostesses are Mrs.Adley & Mrs.Batty.

## Buttsbury Monday Club.

On the 24th March the meeting opened with a Raffle. It was reported that Mrs.Bond was making good progress but was still in Hospital, and Mrs.Duly was still away ill. Both were wished a speedy recovery. The meeting was then given a talk on Gardening by Mr.Hawes, various questions being asked. Details were given of the visit to the Whitehall Theatre for April 26th, and to the water works on June 4th.

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### TEENAGERS' PAGE by W.P.G.

THIS TIME'S TOP TEN - Based on sales of records at Stanwood Radio Ltd., High Street, Billericay. Last time's positions in brackets.

- 1.DB.4790 - Wonderful Land (The Shadows) (1).
- 2.DB.4750 - Stranger On The Shore (Acker Bilk) (-).
- 3.AMT.1171 - Hey Baby (Bruce Channel) (3).
- 4.7N.15421 - When My Little Girl Is Smiling (Jimmy Justice) (-).
- 5.POP.995 - The Mairnet Theme (Joe Loss) (-).
- 6.R.4872 - Hole In The Ground (Bernard Cribbins) (5).
- 7.HLP.9524 - Young World (Rick Nelson) (-).
- 8.HLX.9515 - Hey Little Girl (Del Shannon) (2).
- 9.7N.35032 - Theme From Z Cars (Johnny Keating) (10).
- 10.DB.4761 - The Young Ones (Cliff Richard) (9).

THREE TEENAGERS ENTER CARNIVAL CONTEST - Billericay's teenagers are well represented in the Billericay Carnival Queen competition. During the past few weeks three teenagers have entered - Miss Freda Marguerite Staines, age 17, a clerk, of Stock Road, Billericay; Miss Marilyn June Stevenson, age 15½, a schoolgirl, of Lake Avenue, Billericay, and Miss Pauline Cutmore, age 16, a hairdresser of Trinity Road, South Green. Entry forms for the competition, which is open to all girls over the age of 15, are available in most local shops. All entrants are photographed free by John Kimber. The selection takes place at the Carnival Queen Dance in May.

COMPETITION WINNER - The winner of the competition in the last issue of the "Billericay Observer" for a Discussion Point in the Teenagers' Page was R.Harding of Daines Road, Chantry Estate, Billericay. He suggested the subject of whether teenagers had too much pocket money, and receives 5/-. After considering this question of a Discussion Point I have decided to declare the page open to any teenager who wishes to put a sensible point of view on any topic of national or local interest. For example, Pocket Money, the question of a local Swimming Pool, the Bomb, and the suggestion of Summer dancing in Lake Meadows for young people put forward by local Labour leader, Councillor Alf Dove. Start sending your views in!

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### TUDOR & STUART BILLERICAY.

by the Editor.

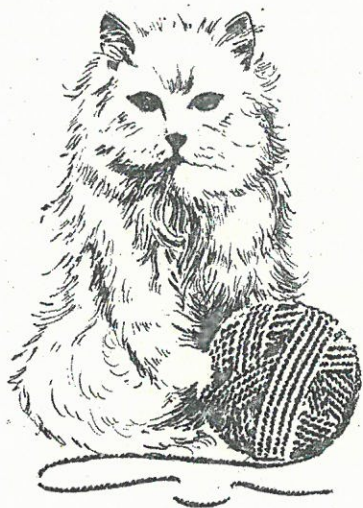
The 1611 rental of Billericay shows a property on both sides of the then "Chappel of Billerica", the predecessor of the present Parish Church. The Market House was also to the north of the Chapel in the middle of the road, so that the junction of High Street and Chapel Street must have presented a somewhat crowded appearance.

In my last article I stated that in my opinion Chapel Street was called Wellfield Lane at this time, and the showing on the 1593 map of Billericay, of Wellfield Lane as a track leading to the Chantry Estate an error due to a mistake in the original survey, or the copying of the original document. Another local historian has disputed this, stating that Chapel Street is shown on the 1681 plan of Billericay as "The Back Street of Billerica". I immediately checked my information, and found that Chapel Street is shown as "Wellfield Lane" in the Billericay rentals of 1611, 1706, 1718, 1738, 1765, 1818, and 1823, and also in seven quit rolls covering the period 1685 to 1747. In addition Chapel Street has no name on the 1593 map, and it seems incredible to me that an important street should acquire a name from a track in 18 years. As for the 1681 plan, this is not a detailed survey, and in any case "The Back Street of Billerica" is occasionally used as a secondary reference to Wellfield Lane. I therefore maintain my original statement.

One other possibility does present itself - in view of the close development in the area of the Chapel, it is possible that in 1593 Chantry Way and Chapel Street were one long road, entry from Chapel Street into the High Street being obtained near Chantry Way to one side of the Market House, somewhere near Bassom's. However, in view of the sharp bend this would cause in Chapel Street or Wellfield Lane, this seems hardly likely.



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## RESIDENTS WANT TO HOLD SIX GENERAL MEETINGS A YEAR.

"During the year we have held four general meetings. We are endeavouring to hold six because we feel they give all our members a chance to come along and exchange views", stated Mr.W.J.Blair presenting the Secretary's Report at the Annual Meeting of Buttsbury Residents' Association at Buttsbury School last Monday week. During the year the constitution had been revised, and a system of road representatives for each group of roads had been introduced, which had proved most satisfactory. A pamphlet about the Association had been used with some success in connection with a membership drive - there were now 350 members.

Speaking on the controversial topic of flats Mr.Blair said; "We do not oppose flat development as such. With the present shortage of building land it is inevitable that we should build upwards on occasions. However, we have pressed the point of publicity for out-of-the-ordinary applications on many occasions, and we think it is partly due to our efforts that the Council now advertise out-of-the-ordinary applications. Mr.Blair also referred to the efforts of the Association in the direction of tree preservation.

Numerous representations had been made to the Council on the state of Perry Street, and the Association had asked for a footpath to be provided at the northern end. It had been made clear that the Council intended to do very little about this until the new surface water drainage scheme was completed. Continued Column 2.

## BUTTSBURY RESIDENTS A.G.M.- RAIL FARES PROTEST.

From Column 1.

Also unsuccessful were attempts to make the Council repair the footpath from the Station to Gooseberry Green, and provide proper lighting. The state of Norsey View Drive had also been dealt with, and a petition asking for it to be made up, from all except three people living in the road, would be forwarded to the Council shortly.

British Railways had been asked to improve the rail services in the peak periods, but it had been stated that no relief could be expected until the Colchester line was electrified. This should be completed in two years' time.

Response to the proposed Buttsbury Community Centre from local organisations had been disappointing. However, once they knew the site of the centre, they would hand over to a proper Community Association, and it was hoped things would get under way.

A suggestion by Mr.Priestly that the Association write to British Railways protesting about the proposed fare increases was adopted. It was also decided to take up the question of the state of the Station - Gooseberry Green footpath again, and the laying of grit on icy mornings on the Perry Street - Station path.

Residents' candidates in the forthcoming elections - Mr.W.Blair and Mrs.Josephine Lunt were introduced to members, and gave a short talk. They also answered various questions. Members were reminded that last year Mr.Wilkins had been elected to the Council.

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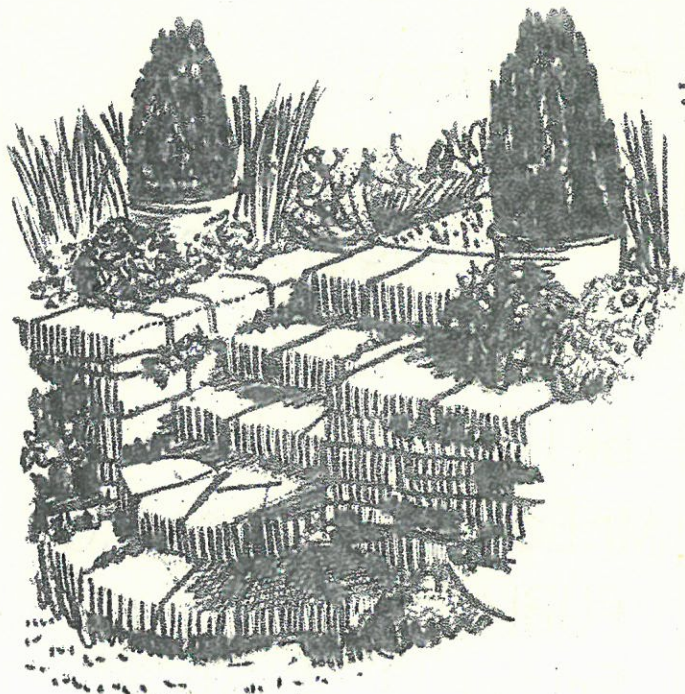
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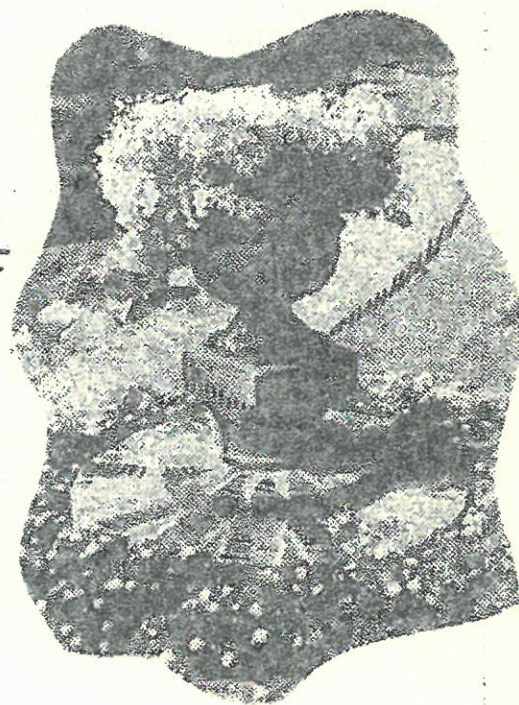
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir,----- The teenagers who have recently moved into the district are doing a terrible amount of damage on the highways breaking electric lights and smashing windows late at night. We the ratepayers who have lived here all our lives can't get anything done. There never was so much hooliganism in Billericay.  
----- "JACKSONS LANE RESIDENT".

Editor; In the 1961/2 financial year nearly £800 worth of damage was done to Council property in the district's parks alone. This situation worries the Council, and they do urgently ask ratepayers to report to the park keeper or Police anybody they see doing damage, so that court action may be taken, if necessary. After all it is YOUR money which is being wasted as a result of this wave of vandalism.

Billericay  
Conservative  
Association

HEAR

BILLERICAY'S M.P.

Mr. Edward Gardner Q.C.

PUBLIC MEETING on

Friday 13 April at

Archer Memorial

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In the preliminary round of the  
Stanley Shield Competition held at  
Chelmsford on Saturday last, a  
team consisting of Mr. C.B. Drury  
(leader) Mr. J. Stew, Mr. A. Russell,  
Mr. Francis Groom, and Mr. Don Wood  
(Reserve) members of the  
Billericay Detachment of the Red  
Cross (Commandant F.W.C. Riches)  
won the County Cup for First Aid.  
The team will represent Essex  
against five other counties in the  
next round of the competition.  
The Cup was last won by the  
Billericay Detachment in 1952.

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## COUNCIL'S ATTENTION DRAW TO RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF DISTRICT.

"The Council's attention is drawn to the exceptionally rapid growth of the Urban District", said Cllr. Mrs. C. J. Gadson J.P., Chairman of Basildon Council, presenting the annual review of the Council's work in the past year at Thursday's Council Meeting. She continued; "This has brought many problems which are, in the main, to keep pace with the necessities and amenities of a growing population and retain a reasonable outlook on the financial position".

During the year the Council had taken over Health and Education functions from the County Council.

In Billericay five roads had been made up - Hill House Drive, Station Road, Brightside (part), Horace Road, and Hillside Road. Highway improvement schemes were prepared for Western Road/High Street, Billericay, Potash Road, Billericay, and Kennel Lane, South Green.

Two new car parks had been provided off Billericay High Street. An approach had been made to the Minister of Transport to secure no-waiting and one-way traffic orders in the High Street area of Billericay. Group "A" lighting schemes had been completed in London Road and Southend Road, Billericay.

The Council's total expenditure for the year was approximately £3,420,000. The income came from Rates - £1,101,000 Loans - £450,000 - County payments for delegated functions - £1,420,000, Government grants - £202,000, and Rents - £175,000, miscellaneous income providing the balance. The rateable value of the district was £1,044,321.

## NEW OFFICERS.

New officers and committee elected at Monday week's Annual General Meeting of Buttsbury Residents' Association were:- Chairman, Mr. Drury; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Priestley; Secretary, Mr. Cook; Asst. Secretary, Mr. Mabey; Minutes Secretary, Mrs. Butcher; Treasurer, Mr. Clark; Committee, Mrs. Clark and Mrs. George, Mr. Longdon and Mr. Rolph. Full report of the meeting on Page 8.

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## ROUND AND ABOUT by "WANDERER".

Once again the phenomenal expansion of Billericay is brought home to us by two people - Conservative Council Chairman, Mrs. C. J. Gadson, and Labour Group Leader, Cllr. A. T. Dove. It is time the Council put the brakes on, and waited for the amenities to catch up, and the train service to be improved. As it is it is now almost impossible to get on a London train in the morning peak hour.

Mrs. Gadson includes Billericay Industrial Estate in her review of the work of the year. One must presume that the Council are proud of the Industrial Estate. But what has this Estate done for Billericay? Employed 177 people. I wonder how many of those came down with the factories. No more of this futile development should be permitted in the town.

Of course, all electors will have a chance to put their views in the vital Council Elections to be held in a month's time. I will devote all of my next article to this subject.

At Thursday's Council Meeting Mrs. Gadson urged that everybody should support the local Carnivals in every way possible. A few minutes later her Tory colleagues turned down a suggestion that the Council should enter a float in Billericay and Basildon Carnivals. No comment!

In 1961 I asked the Council to number Norsey Road and Stock Road, to aid visitors, police, and firemen, trying to find properties in these exceptionally long roads. I was told something would be done in due course. I know that this is a minor scheme, but it would help strangers, and might be vital if a fire occurred.

Whilst on the subject of fires I am pleased to see that the sale of land in Laindon Road for the new Fire Station is nearing completion. I hope that work starts as soon as is possible. I consider that a town of nearly 20,000 people should have its own regular Brigade, and not depend on Basildon for full-time assistance. I hope that the County Council will bear this in mind when planning the new Station.

----- "Wahderer".