

BILLERICAY OBSERVER

Tuesday 24th April, 1962.

Number 110.



20



"BILLERICAY OBSERVER"

"THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN BILLERICAY."

MINISTER'S DECISION ON FLATS APPEAL

The Minister of Housing & Local Government has allowed an appeal from Mr.V.A.Phillips against the refusal of Basildon Council to allow him to erect 70 flats and 47 garages, the flats being in four or five story blocks, on land off Chapel Street, Billericay.

In his report, the Inspector, Mr.A.G.Harcourt M.T.P.I., A.R.I.C.S., who conducted a local inquiry into the matter in February, stated that the site lent itself to the type of development proposed by reason of its central position and its occupation of low lying land. The blocks could be sited to reduce overlooking other property, and no adverse effect on amenity would result.

The main basis of the County Council and local Council's objection to the scheme was that access to the site would interfere with a scheme to use Chapel Street as part of a Billericay relief road, which would involve widening it to 50 ft. in places. The Inspector agreed that the crux of the matter was access. He thought that the suggested alternative access via Chantry Way with its subsequent extension into High Street was problematical and might for years leave a tortuous roundabout approach to the site. He noted that the appellant was able to provide a sight line in the northward direction which satisfied the Council's requirement; as to the south side he thought the best solution would be, with the co-operation of the developers of the adjoining site (a flats scheme already approved) a joint access to Chapel Street, to serve both the appeal site and that adjoining.

The Minister agreed with the findings of the Inspector. He noted that the Council had approved development of and vehicular access to the land to the south, but that the Council and the developers of this land are prepared to consider a joint vehicular access to both sites, which he thinks would be highly desirable. In these circumstances he agrees that access to the site from Chapel Street should be permitted. In allowing the appeal the Minister made the site subject to conditions regarding the detailed siting, design, layout, and external appearance of the buildings, and to the provision of visibility splays for the means of access.

At the Public Inquiry Billericay Residents' Association withdrew their objection that the development was out of harmony with the surrounding area, but maintained objections that the fire-fighting provision was inadequate, and that the development would place further strain on the already strained public services. No mention of these questions is made by the Ministry.

OUTWOOD COMMON RESIDENTS TO PRESS FOR COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Following a meeting attended by over 40 people at Sunnymede School last Friday week Outwood Common Residents' & Community Association are to send a deputation to Walthamstow Borough Council to urge the provision of a Community Centre on the Estate, so that the Association will be able to hold social functions on the Estate, and not have to go to South Green Memorial Hall, one mile away. This will be supported by a petition, signatures for which have been collected for some weeks. Response is from 95 to 99%.

The meeting was opened by the Association's Chairman, Mr. G.A. Hannibal, who said that membership now stood at 300 families. Recalling the history of the proposed Community Centre Mr. Hannibal said that a site had been set aside for it on the Green. Those who had lived on the Estate from the beginning would remember a newsletter stating that a Community Centre was to be built. If a copy of this could be traced, then the Association would have a leg to stand on. Acting on advice they raised £125 and joined the National Federation of Community Associations before approaching Walthamstow Borough Council. Later they had been told to hold back because of the credit squeeze. Finally, they had got fed up, and had decided to organise the petition.

Also acting on advice they had approached Basildon Council, and asked if they could see the original plans of the Estate. This request had been refused, and no reason for the refusal had been given.

Comparing the Estate with one in Walthamstow Mr. Hannibal said it had been built with recreational facilities all around it, and it still had been given a Community Centre. Alleged Mr. Hannibal; "We were dumped out here with nothing".

Mr. Babbs suggested that complaints about children getting up to mischief could be linked with the lack of a proper meeting place. Attention was also drawn to complaints that children of all ages were playing on the green.

Continued In Next Column.

SHOULD SUNNYMEDE AND OUTWOOD COMMON BE ONE COMMUNITY?

In reply to questions about the service provided by the Outwood Common Youth Club it was stated that this merely a social club held once a week in Sunnymede School. In time it was going to be taken over by the Basildon Education Committee, and run as an Annexe to Billericay Youth Centre.

Mr. Babbs suggested that the fact that children under 14 were not allowed into the Club might explain why there were so many complaints from residents about their behaviour.

It was stated that the Youth Committee had tried to hire the Hall one night a week for a Club for children under the age of 14. Under education rules these children were not allowed in the Youth Club. They had not been successful.

It was decided to adopt the suggestion of Mr. W.E. Barnes that the Association tell members of existing Church young people's organisations in Billericay, and urge them to encourage their children to join. It was agreed that this should be done through the magazine.

Mr. Hannibal was asked if he thought that the Association should make one community of Sunnymede and Outwood Common. He felt that the question of inviting members from Sunnymede and other adjacent areas was one that should be considered. He was of the opinion that it should be put to the whole estate before any action was taken.

Mrs. I. Sutton, complaining about the state of the roads, said that they had only been swept on one occasion - when a party of Walthamstow Councillors had visited the Estate. One of the party had promised to raise the matter but nothing had been done!

Another member drew attention to the fact that drains on the Estate were clogged, and had never been cleared. It was decided to make representations to Walthamstow Borough Council, and to Basildon Council through Billericay Residents' Association.

Another member asked about the financial state of the Association. A full report of the finances of the Association was given.

M.P. SPEAKS ON PARTY POLITICS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

"During the year I have seen some of the most childish antics at the meetings of Basildon Council", said a member of Billericay Residents' Association, asking Mr. Edward Gardner Q.C., M.P. for Billericay whether he thought politics were essential in local government at a Public Meeting held by Billericay Conservative Association at the Archer Hall last Friday week.

Replied Mr. Gardner; "I have nothing against Independent M.Ps. or Councillors but if all M.Ps. and Councils were independent you would not get democracy; you will get an independent anarchy. I believe there would be some difficulty in doing away with them. However, if there is an issue which affects one's conscience then one must see that one's conscience overrides Party considerations. If views are expressed properly and democratically then there are no disadvantages in party politics".

Continued Mr. Gardner; "People often say 'Why don't the Government do something exciting?' In fact at this moment the Conservative government are making one of the most exhilarating and exciting endeavours that has ever been made by any British government in peace time. They are making an attempt to get membership for this country in the Common Market. I feel that we will be admitted on the terms we demand, and I think that if that does happen it will be an achievement that many generations of people will thank this Conservative Government for."

Mr. Gardner was of the opinion that the Commonwealth would also benefit. It was inevitable that some industries would suffer, but the long-term gains would outweigh the immediate disadvantages.

Asked if he thought there was any alternative to the Common Market, Mr. Gardner said he thought not. If the negotiations broke down they would have to build up the Commonwealth, but he thought that if this happened Britain's position in the World would suffer.

Politically Britain stood as a potential leader of Europe. This explained the reluctance of France to let us join, as they feared that once we joined we would dominate Europe politically and economically.

Continued In Next Column.

M.P.'s VIEWS ON THE BUDGET.

Concluding on the Common Market Mr. Gardner said; "Having got into the Common Market, then I believe we can look forward to a future and prosperity which will dim, by comparison, anything we know now."

Speaking on the Budget Mr. Gardner said that it was very pleasing, if not very exciting. He was pleased with the introduction of a speculative gains tax, as he felt there was an unfair distinction between the way income and capital gains had been treated.

Mr. Gardner was also very pleased by the removal next year of the "Schedule A" tax on owner-occupied houses. He thought that it was an "absurd tax". If the Chancellor had not abolished it next year, he would have voted against the Government. He was glad he did not have to take this step.

On the tax on sweets Mr. Gardner said that his children had told him that if they had a vote they would use it against the Conservative Party.

"As I understand it", said Mr. Gardner, "they will now only be able to buy five sweets for every six they were able to buy before. However, when they reach a more mature age, they will thank the Chancellor, for they will find that they will have six teeth for every five they would have had".

A novel suggestion put forward by Mr. Gardner was a tax on gains by gambling. "If you are going to impose a capital gains tax, then that tax should apply to gains from gambling on horses and on football pools, as well as from gambles on shares".

On the question of the Bomb Mr. Gardner said that if the Russians would end nuclear testing we would be only too willing to sign an agreement. He hoped that Russia would see the sanity of this suggestion. He concluded; "If they do not I cannot see the answer to this dilemma".

A questioner who said that nurses should be paid more received prolonged applause. Mr. Gardner said that he agreed that nurses deserved more pay. Asked what practical steps he had taken he said that he had put his name down on a motion asking the Minister of Health to re-consider the question of nurses' pay.

Editorial

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Phone:- Billericay 1927.

A New Project.

In the last issue I advised readers to watch this column for news of a new "Observer" project. Most readers will know the regular series of articles on local history published in each issue of the "Billericay Observer". Many readers have suggested that these be printed in booklet form. I have therefore decided to produce a series of low-priced, interesting booklets on various aspects of local history, to be called the Billericay History Series. Six specialised booklets, and a general history of Billericay are planned.

Research on the first booklet in the series has now been completed, and it is to be published next Tuesday (May 1st). This booklet - "Early Billericay" - will deal with the history of Billericay from its geological beginnings until the end of the Roman occupation, including a map of Roman Billericay. The price is 6d, and the booklet is obtainable from the Editor on his rounds or outside the Station, from the Editorial offices, or from local newsagents. Only 250 copies are being printed, so you are advised to order your copy now.

Research on the other booklets in the series is progressing well, and further details will be released in due course.

Work on the Billericay Reference Book is progressing very well. I would like all entries in by April 30th, if possible.

----- The Editor.

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STOP PRESS NEWS.

FOR THE OLD FOLK

Billericay O.A.P.

At the meeting on April 11th there was a fairly good attendance. All sick members were wished a speedy recovery. Mr. Hill was not quite so well, and Mrs. Newell had a bad toe. Mr. Shiner, Mrs. Rackham, Mrs. Walden, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Harrison, and Mrs. Taylor were all improving. Mrs. Vivash and Mrs. Shiner were welcomed back after being absent through sickness. Birthday honours were accorded Mrs. Walters. Entertainment was by the Fairfield Concert Party.

There was a good attendance on the 18th. With regard to sick members Mr. Hill was about the same, Mrs. Kitsell had Shingles, Mrs. Rackham was about the same, and Mrs. Riches was absent. Birthday honours were accorded Mrs. Gutteridge, who was now 85 years of age, and Mrs. Ransom. Several new members were welcomed. Entertainment was provided by the "Joy Bells" Concert Party.

Buttsbury Monday Club.

At the meeting held at Buttsbury School on Saturday April 7th the Chairman wished Mrs. Bond, Mrs. Duly, and Mrs. Bennitt, a speedy recovery from their illness. Mrs. Bond was still in Hospital. The club was entertained by members. Mr. Hawes was at the Piano, and Mrs. Sales, Mrs. Butcher, Mrs. Wilson, and Mr. Williams sang or recited. It was decided to hold the Club on Mondays during the Summer months.

On April 16th the Chairman welcomed Mr. Bond the Secretary back. Mrs. Bond is making progress after her operation, but Mrs. Duly and Mrs. Bennitt were still away ill. A new member was welcomed. Particulars were given of the outing to Lanford on June 4th and to Margate on May 16th. The members then played Bingo. Tea hostesses were Mrs. Wren and Mrs. Rutherford. The next meeting of the Club will be May 7th, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Sunnymede & Outwood Common Friday Club.

Last Friday week a grand evening with the best ever attendance was enjoyed. Tea was served by members and there was the usual Raffle and Bingo, followed by old time songs. Mrs. Mortlake was a little better, and she was wished a speedy recovery. Next meeting May 11th at Sunnymede School. New members welcome.

Old People's Concert:- The Concert Section of Romford Borough Drum & Trumpet Corps are to put on a concert for local old folk at W.I. Hall on Saturday afternoon May 5th. Organisation is being undertaken by Billericay Old Peoples' Welfare Committee, and costs are being met by the "Billericay Observer".

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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. AMT.1171 - Hey Baby (Bruce Channel) (3).
2. DB.4790 - Wonderful Land (The Shadows) (1).
3. HLU.9511 - Dream Baby (Roy Orbison) (-).
4. 7N.15421 - When My Little Girl Is Smiling (Jimmy Justice) (4).
5. HLX.9515 - Hey Little Girl (Del Shannon) (8).
6. DB.4782 - Tell Me What He Said (Helen Shapiro) (-).
7. R.20063 - Everybody's Twisting (Frank Sinatra) (-).
8. DB.4750 - Stranger On The Shore (Acker Bilk) (2).
9. 7N.15424 - The Party's Over (Lonnie Donegan) (-).
10. RCA.1277 - Twistin' The Night Away (Sam Cooke) (-).

MORE ENTRIES FOR CARNIVAL QUEEN CONTEST - I understand that entries for this year's Billericay Carnival Queen contest are now double last year's entries. Latest two entrants are Miss Christene Robinson (17) of Ganel's Road, Billericay and Miss Audrey Chadwick (16) of Hunts Mead, Billericay. Both work at the Beauty Box in the High Street. Entry is open to all over the age of 15, and all entrants are photographed free by John Kimber of Billericay, and there are various prizes for the Carnival Queen and her attendants. Selection takes place at the Carnival Queen Dance in May. So hurry girls, and get your entry forms from John Kimber in the High Street or most other local shops.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS RE-FORMED. - Billericay Young Socialists have been re-formed. Meetings are held every Sunday afternoon in the Co-op Hall in the High Street (entrance by the side of the Co-op shop) starting at 2.30 p.m. An interesting programme of activities has been arranged.

TUDOR & STUART BILLERICAY.

by the Editor.

The 1611 rental of Billericay shows two tenements in the High Street as belonging to "Christopher Martyn" (spelt in one case with a "y" and the other with an "i"). This was probably the Christopher Martin who sailed on the "Mayflower".

Billericay's associations with the "Mayflower" (our town sign) are well known. Six local men sailed on the "Mayflower" in order to gain freedom from religious persecution. Of these six we know the most about Christopher Martin, although facts about the other five are now coming to light.

Christopher Martin was responsible for the provision of the stores on the "Mayflower". He was constantly in trouble at the Quarter Sessions and Archdeacon's Court for his religious beliefs. However, after crossing the Atlantic, he was one of the first settlers to die in America.

Legend states that the Essex contingent for the "Mayflower" gathered at Billericay before going on to board the shipcat Leigh. Some versions go so far as to suggest that the meeting place was the "Old Chantry Cafe". Although it is quite likely that the pilgrims met in Billericay, there is no documentary proof to support this, and there is certainly no evidence to pinpoint the actual meeting place.

Of course, Tudor & Stuart Billericay had a strong Puritan tradition. During the Marian persecution a local draper Thomas Watts "Worthee Wattee" was burnt at the stake for his Nonconformist beliefs. His story is told in Foxe's Book of Martyrs.

It is not surprising therefore that later settlers named the Massachusetts manufacturing town of Billerica after their native town. Today Billerica has a population of about 18,000 - practically the same as that of the mother town. Each issue of the "Billericay Observer" is sent to the "Billerica News", who in return send a copy of their publication.

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CUBS IN DISTRESS!

On Friday 12th April the 4th Billericay Scout Group held their Annual General Meeting at the Catholic Hall. Mr. Benewith was in the Chair, assisted by the Secretary, Mr. Christian, the Group Scoutmaster, Mr. Gee, and the Scoutmaster, Mr. Jackson. Reports from all sections of the group were given, and the new Committee was elected. Mr. Benewith reported that the Group had had a fairly successful year. Mr. Gee, as Acting Treasurer, reported that finances for the year ending 31st March, 1962 were good taking everything into consideration, and that this would all help towards the proposed new Scout Headquarters.

Unfortunately, it was reported, the Cubs were gradually breaking up as they did not have a permanent Cub-Mistress. It was decided to appeal to anyone who is interested and has had some experience in looking after 8-11 year olds, to come forward, and get in touch with Mr. Gee (Billericay 869), before the Cubs had to be disbanded altogether.

Those present were reminded that the Group was the only troop in the district to have all sections represented, at present. It was felt, that in the above circumstances it would be a pity to have to close down the most junior section.

NO DENSITY RATIOS IN DISTRICT.

The Executive Committee of Billericay Residents' Association were disappointed at their meeting on Friday, when they were told by their Chairman, Mr. Hemms, that the Council had told him that there were no fixed density ratios per acre for development.

Said Mrs. Bird; "I think this is a pity. It would be means of checking out-of-place development in a particular area".

Mr. Hemms explained that there were ratios of a kind, but that they were very complicated and flexible.

It was decided to investigate the matter further.

It was stated that the Council had received a further application for the development of "Sylvan Tryst" in Stock Road (the subject of a recent Public Enquiry) which they had refused. It was decided to ask to be kept in touch regarding any further proposals.

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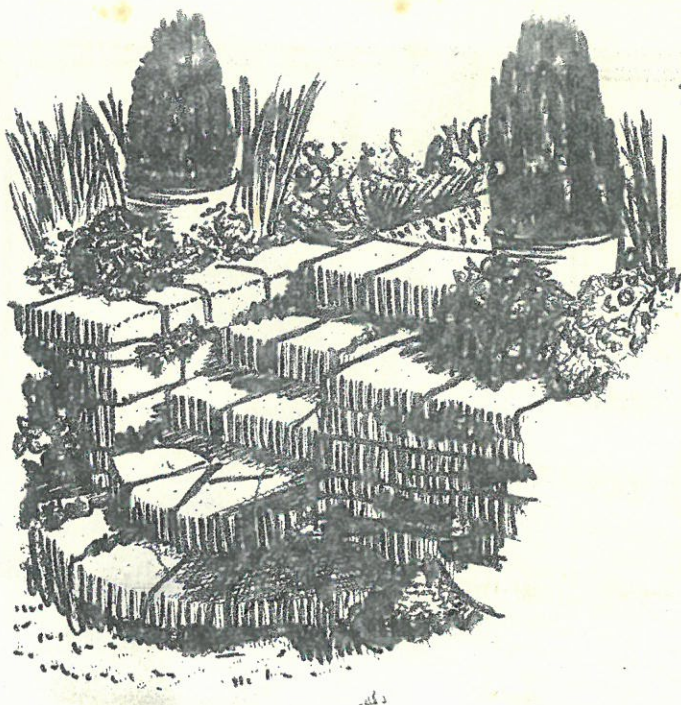
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MONS AVENUE DANGER - Billericay
Residents' Assn. have written to
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pushing up the path in Mons Ave.,
Sunnymede. It was felt this was
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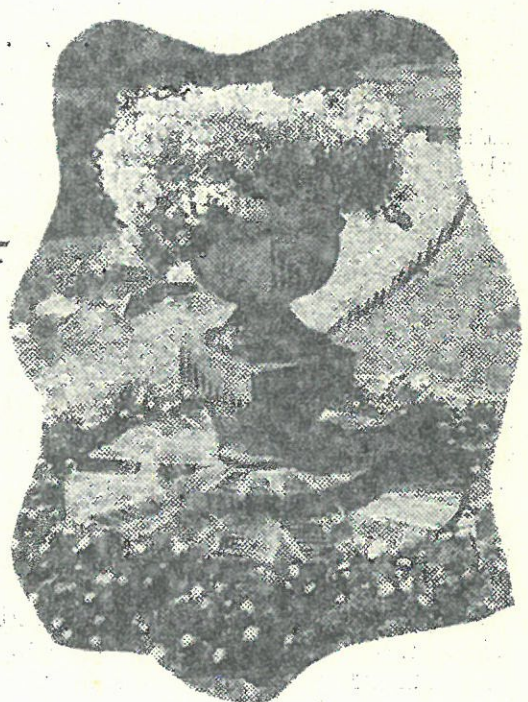
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Council Elections Preview News-Comment by the Editor.

On Saturday May 12th, in just over two week's time, the electors of Billericay will go to the polls to choose three local Councillors from the eleven candidates contesting Billericay Ward of Basildon Urban District Council. The two Councillors who receive the highest number of votes will serve three-year terms, and the Councillor receiving the lowest number of votes a one-year term. For many years Billericay Ward was considered the safest Conservative ward in the Urban District. Then in 1960 Billericay and Buttsbury Residents' Associations put up two Independent candidates who came within 250 votes of defeating the Conservatives. Last year the Independent Residents candidate Mr. H.E. Wilkins defeated the then Tory Council Chairman, Mr. W.H. Davies, by 595 votes. During the past year Cllr. Wilkins has been able to comment and ask questions on various matters affecting the district, but he has not been able to move motions. If the Residents are elected this year they will become a real force in the Council Chamber. And no doubt, their thoughts will stray to other Labour and Conservative wards, as has happened in Hornchurch, where they now have 9 seats. In addition many important policy issues are at stake, and I believe that the forthcoming Council Elections will be the most exciting and vital ever fought in Billericay.

The Conservative candidates are Dr. F.W.B. Rilstone, Capt. J.J.A. Tesoirere (A Councillor for three years), and Mr. A.F. Quirk, an Estate Agent, and a Councillor since 1957. Mr. Quirk had another year of his term to run, but resigned so that people could record a vote of confidence in him. The Residents candidates are Mr. W.J. Blair, Mr. K. Cook, and Mrs. Josephine Lunt, all active in various spheres of local affairs. The Labour vote has remained static for many years, and I expect it will do so again this year - Labour candidates are Mr. Stan Davey, Mr. Harry Hayden, and Mr. Frank Bowles. I understand that the Liberals are putting up only two candidates. Last year they came bottom of the poll with 367 votes, but I expect them to increase their share of the poll by a hundred or two votes this year. Page 10.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

WHAT ABOUT BUCKWYNS?

Dear Sir, ---- It's very nice reading about what the Council is doing here and there. But don't you think it's time they did something for us in Buckwyns? I have been here now for 20 years, and not a penny have they spent to help us. Now they have put my rates up to £25 a year - for what? We still have to walk to the Bus, that's about three miles. We still have NO street, only a lane that we are trying to make up by paying 5/- a week. We have NO sewage disposal, NO water only wells, NO refuse collection. We have no children at School, so we do not benefit from that. The only thing we have got plenty of is mud. As for the fire service, ask them what chance we would stand if there was a fire - they can't even get up here. If only they would only put water on for us, but they do nothing, just put our rates up. They talk about sending a man into space, they ought to send our Council up here to get our water out of our well, then they would offer to take his place - Mrs. Bell, Buckwyns, Billericay.

Editor's Note; Buckwyns is a large area of scrub and woodland interspersed with bungalows and smallholdings, reached through Queens Park or from Mountnessing Road near Buttsbury Ford.

LONG SERVICE IN THE W.V.S.

At a National Rally held recently at Bury St. Edmunds several Billericay people were presented with the Queen's Medal for 15 years' service in the W.V.S. by Lady Reading, W.V.S. Chairman. They were:- Mrs. M. Doming of Cavell Road; Mrs. E. Harris of Chapel Street; Mrs. C. Law of Noak Hill Road; Mrs. H. Knightbridge of Perry Street, and Miss M. Wood of "Foxburrow", Norsey Wood.

MEMBERSHIP INVITED.

Local residents are invited to seek membership of St. Johns Sports Association, which has its headquarters in Stock Road. Facilities for Cricket, Rugger, Hockey, Tennis (hard courts), and Table Tennis are provided, and there is a spacious club room with licensed bar and changing rooms and showers. Applications to Hon. Sec., 607, Rayleigh Road, Hutton.

ROUND AND ABOUT

by
"WANDERER".

In just over a fortnight's time the electors of Billericay will go to the polls. This election is vital. The Billericay of the next hundred years to come will be moulded by the Council in the next two or three years. It is therefore extremely important that anyone with a vote uses it. In the past two years approximately 1 in 2 of the people of Billericay entitled to vote have done so. This is the highest poll in the Urban District. But it is not high enough. So remember - if you have a vote use it.

One common misapprehension is that the Residents are against Flats in principle. This is not true. They are only concerned that Flats are properly sited and designed, and that ample publicity should be given.

However, they are worried (and I agree with them) about the unchecked expansion of the town, and its result on such services as the railways. We are now 3,000 past the 1971 population estimate, and if we are to keep to the 1981 estimate we must only build 75 houses a year. It is time we put the brakes on, and took a long look at the planning of the town, and let the amenities and services catch up with the development.

I have attended Council Meetings for four years now. I am sick and tired of the way party politics affect vital decisions, and of the block voting by both parties. This is wrong! How can party politics come into such matters as Sewerage, Planning, Private Street Works etc? I am fed up with "yes" men, and with the two groups following the line of the Central Office and Transport House respectively. Hornchurch and Chingford Councils have proved that Government without party politics does work.

The sooner we get rid of the "block" vote, and the sooner decisions are made on their individual merit, and not on whatever the party line is, the better for Billericay in this vital period of its history. Perhaps the forthcoming Council Elections in Billericay Ward will provide the opportunity

----- "Wanderer".