NEW FLATS SCHEME APPEAL

An application for planning permission for the erection of flats and houses off Stock Road Billericay, is the subject of a Town Planning Appeal to be held at the Old Council Chamber, Billericay, on Friday (November 23rd).

Messrs. S. Budge & Co. are appealing against the failure of Basildon Council, acting on behalf of Essex County Council, to give a decision within the statutory period on an application to permit the erection of an estate of houses and flats on land forming the sites of "Sylvan Trys" and "The Spinney", Stock Road. S. Budge & Co. are also appealing against the confirmation of a Tree Preservation Order on "Sylvan Trys". (The Council recently decided to apply for a Tree Preservation Order for "The Spinney" in addition, in view of the circumstances relating to the development).

The reasons given by the Council for refusing the application are: - the access road would create dangerous traffic conditions on Stock Road; some of the development would result in loss of privacy; inadequate carriageway widths; lack of provision for off-street parking; the layout would result in a loss of trees which would be harmful to the area; and the development would prejudice the proposed Billericay High Street Relief Road. The "Observer" understands that the section of this road from Norsey Road to Stock Road will make a roundabout junction with Stock Road near the site.

The Inquiry will be conducted by Mr. V. L. Nash F.R.I.B.A., M.F.P.I. and will commence at 10.30 a.m.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS ROW - COUNCIL DEFER DECISION.

The row over the impending demolition of 122/124 High Street, included on the statutory list of historic buildings, was taken a stage further at the recent meeting of Basildon Council's Development Planning Committee's. Although members decided to grant outline permission for a new building to replace the present one on the site, they decided that before doing so account should be taken of the effect on the adjoining building. Accordingly, consideration of the application was deferred to enable the Engineer & Surveyor to consider that aspect. Members were told that the Minister did not wish to make any further comment on the Council's application to remove the building from the statutory list of historic buildings.

At the last Council Meeting, Councillors were informed that although the building dated back to the 17th century, so many alterations had taken place that it would no longer be recognisable in its original form. It would also be uneconomical to repair the building, and the best solution was demolition. Some Billericay members of the Council expressed dismay at the Council's decision to demolish this historic building.
"DON'T LET YOUR CHRISTMAS BE SPOILT" WARN POLICE.

"From now until Christmas there will be more cash and property readily available for thieves. Don't let your Christmas be spoilt through the greed of others," warn the Crime Prevention Branch of the Essex Constabulary in a statement issued this week.

The statement continues: "Large sums of money are being withdrawn from loan club pay-outs, heavy demands are made upon savings accounts, stocks in shops are greatly augmented, clubs and licensed premises are having extra deliveries, and the value of poultry prices as the season approaches. It can be said that most businesses, and most homes, can be a temptation to the thief this time in the year. Increase your own defences, take extra precautions, don't be one of this year's victims.

The Crime Prevention Branch of the Essex Constabulary again appeals to all readers to take special care of their property. You can help the Police to help you to prevent crime. Will you please assist?

To farmers and small holders, a special appeal is made to prevent thefts of poultry. Please see that your poultry houses are secure, and make frequent visits to them at irregular hours.

Will you please report, without delay, to the Police if you see any suspicious occurrence. Dial '999' or use the other emergency phone systems. Ask for POLICE, and remember to give the full address to which you desire the Police to attend. Also, please make a note of the index number of any motor vehicles you see under what you think may be suspicious circumstances. Your action may prevent a crime being committed.

The Police desire to help you to have a Happy Christmas this year - and if you need advice about security, why not telephone the County Crime Prevention Branch before it is too late!"

ZEPPELIN DEAD ARE EXHUMED.

The twenty-two Germans who were killed when a Zeppelin airship crashed near Jackson's Lane, Billericay, in September 1916, were exhumed from their graves in Great Burstead Churchyard on Wednesday. The Zeppelin was one of the two to crash in England, and a memorial was erected over the dead men's graves.

The "Observer" understands that the bodies have been taken to the central German war graves in Staffordshire.

M.P. AND CONTROL OF NEW DRUGS.

The thalidomide babies were a serious shock to all of us, declared Mr. Edward Gardner M.P., last Friday evening. "It was right to take precautions against the recurrence of such a tragedy, but the precautions must not be so severe as to slow down the introduction of beneficial drugs."

Mr. Gardner was talking to Councillor Mrs. Clare Gibbs and a delegation from Billericay Local Labour Party, who called to see him in the Council Chamber, High Street.

He apologised for being unaware of the report of Lord Cohen's committee on drug testing and agreed to inform the Minister of Health of the delegation's insistence on the need for some central body to survey all new drugs during the first two years of use, with power to ban drugs that seemed to cause harmful effects. The body should co-operate with the World Health Organisation, so that control can be international.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY.

The scientific development since the First World War had caused man to reach the stage where the very instrument he had created would bring about his own destruction, warned Billericay's Vicar, the Rev. D.R. Greaves, at the Remembrance Sunday service in the Congregational Church. Those who had died in the last two World Wars had not died in vain if mankind realised that the only peace was what God could give.

The service was presided over by the minister, the Rev. J.S. Wilkinson, and prayers were led by Rev. B.G. Holland. After the service a procession marched to the War memorial, where wreaths were laid by representatives of many local organisations.

SORRY, NO WATER!

Basildon Council's Health Committee have refused a request from the owner of "Neapham", Buckwyns, to extend the water main to provide a piped water supply to seven properties. However, the Committee will re-consider the matter when a comprehensive report of properties without water supply in the Urban District is available.
TREE REPLACEMENT SCHEME.

To compensate for the 39 trees which would have to be removed from Lake meadows Recreation Ground consequent upon the proposed works on the dam, and for a number of other trees which needed to be removed on account of projects elsewhere in the Park, members of Basildon Council's Parks Committee considered a suggested programme of new and supplementary planting at their recent meeting.

The suggestions for replanting aimed, as far as possible, at screening the southern part of the park from the industrial estate, although it was considered inadvisable to plant new trees on the top or base of the dam to replace those being taken down. It was, however, possible to plant trees between the top of the dam and the public footpath, except for a narrow 150 foot strip of land. It was suggested that suitable shrubs could be planted to relieve the barrenness of the new dam, but in order to prevent excessive root growth these would have to be of a type that would not grow higher than four feet.

Questioned as to whether there were any trees which could be safely grown on the top of the dam, the Engineer & Surveyor orally reaffirmed his opinion that the danger to the dam would be too great.

PUBLIC HOUSE OBSERVATIONS.

At their recent meeting the Development & Planning Committee of Basildon Council agreed to consider objections raised by Billericay Residents' Association concerning a proposal by Walthamstow Borough Council to erect a community centre or public house in the Outwood Road area, when an application for planning permission had been received. The "Observer" understands that the Residents had objected to the proposal on the grounds of annoyance to residents living in private houses nearby.

COUNCIL TO MAINTAIN ALL CHURCHYARDS.

Basildon Council are to make application to the Minister of Housing & Local Government to assume the functions of the Parish Council, in order to grant financial assistance towards the upkeep of all church burial grounds in the Urban District, following an approach by St. Mary Magdalene of Great Burstead Church Council.

NEW RECREATION GROUND FOR SOUTH GREEN? COUNCIL ARE TO CONSIDER.

At their recent meeting the Parks Committee of Basildon Council were reminded that the Council had referred back for consideration a minute in which the Committee had decided that South Green Recreation Ground should be left as it was with no fencing. Members were informed that the Billericay Residents' Association still desired some type of fencing or shrubbery to be erected at the ground to be placed twenty feet from the road, to give ample vision to motorists, and at the same time offering an element of safety to children. The Engineer & Surveyor emphasised that this would mean a reduction in the playing space and that proposals were already in hand for improvements to the highway at South Green which would also reduce the playing space. If another site for children's playground was required in addition to that sited at Bell Hill, it would seem more appropriate for it to be sited in the southern part of South Green, and in this connection the Engineer & Surveyor suggested three possible sites that could be acquired; although each of these sites was smaller than the South Green Recreation Ground, they were large enough to contain children's playground equipment.

It was decided that the Development & Planning Committee be asked to consider the three sites suggested by the Engineer & Surveyor, and to indicate whether they would be prepared to approve the use of any of them for playground purposes.

It was also decided that the Engineer & Surveyor should submit proposals for the landscaping, layout, and furnishing of South Green Recreation Ground as an amenity open space.

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE NOISE - DEFERRED.

At the recent meeting of Basildon Health Committee it was once again decided to defer the consideration of action regarding noise nuisances from Billericay Industrial Estate. Although the Committee considered a further report on the noises, and the measures carried out or proposed to be carried out to reduce or eliminate them, it was decided to wait until the next meeting to consider yet a further report on the results of work carried out to reduce or eliminate the nuisance.
EDITORIAL

Editor: - Wynford P. Grant.

Editorial Offices:
"Billerica Observer",
443, Perry Street,
Billerica, Essex.

Phone: - Billerica 1927.

New History Booklet!

The 3rd booklet in the popular Billerica History Series is to be published within the next few weeks. This new booklet is a 2-in-1 volume entitled "Billerica and the Mayflower; and The Place Names of Billerica." The first section deals with the general history of Puritanism in Billerica up to the end of the 17th century; of Billerica's associations with the "Mayflower"; and of Billerica in America. The second section deals with the origin of the name of 'Billerica', and tells the story of some of the street and place names of Billerica. Already over 500 copies have been ordered. The price is 6d, postage 3d.

W.H. Smith & Son have decided to sell the Billerica History Series on their bookstalls at Billerica and Shenfield Stations. The first two booklets in the Series are still selling strongly. The first booklet, "Early Billerica", has now sold 780 copies, and a 9th impression is to be issued shortly. The second booklet, "The Mills of Billerica", has sold 670 copies, and a 4th impression is to be issued shortly. The total sale of all booklets is thus 1,450 copies. Both booklets are obtainable from the above address, price 6d (Postage 3d).

If any reader has a copy of Issue No.108 (March 27th, 1962) I would like a copy for my files.

In the next issue (No.125) an announcement of great importance regarding the future of the "Billerica Observer" will be made.

----- The Editor.

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News Items should be in by 7 p.m. Friday (Stop Press, 9 a.m. Sunday). Advertisements should be in by 7 p.m. Friday at the latest, by 7 p.m. Wednesday if possible.

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Young Wives Fellowship: - Meetings at Christ Church on alternate Tuesdays 8-9 p.m. Details from Mrs. Stott, 10, Uplands Close.

ADVERTISMENT RATES from the Editor.

Page 4.
FOR THE OLD FOLK

BILLERICAY C.A.F.

At the meeting held on November 7th Mr. H. Spencer presided. Sick members were wished a speedy recovery. Mrs. Pierce had fallen downstairs, but was improving; Mrs. Joseph was improving; Mrs. E. Gill was absent with Bronchitis. All sick members were wished a speedy recovery. Birthday honours were accorded Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Johnson (who was 61 years of age) and Mr. Wiltshire. A new member was welcomed to the Branch - Mrs. Woodage. The Secretary gave details of Prescription charges. He announced that the future meeting place for outings would be the Rose Hall, and not outside the Mayflower Hall. This meant that if it was wet or cold members going on outings would be able to wait in the hall. The Secretary stated that this arrangement had been made possible by the British Legion Officials and Committee, and they all wished to extend their grateful thanks to the British Legion for adhering to the Secretary's request. Entertainment was by the Branch's own Concert Party. Those taking part were Mesdames Plumridge, Horne, and Clark and Messrs. Wiltshire and Plumridge with Mrs. Dawkins with Songs, a Banjo and Mandolin Duet by Mrs. Dawkins and Mr. Wiltshire, Mrs. Dawkins with a Trumpet Solo, Duet by Mrs. Horne and Mr. Wiltshire, Mr. Dawkins (Comparè) and Mrs. Dawkins (Pianist).

At the meeting on November 14th Mr. H. Spencer presided. With regard to sick members it appeared that Mrs. Pierce was now out of Hospital, Mrs. E. Gill was improving, Mrs. Joseph and Mrs. Train were welcomed back after their absence through sickness. A welcome was also given to a sister of a member who had come from Australia on holiday. Birthday honours were accorded Mrs. Vivash and Mrs. Wakerling. The Secretary then read letters from Mr. C. W. Haynes, former Treasurer, who had left the district, and from Mrs. E. Gill's daughter on behalf of Mrs. Gill. All sick members were wished a speedy recovery. The entertainment was provided by Mrs. Johnson of Wickford (Soprano) and Community Singing with Mrs. Dawkins at the Piano.

BUTTERSBOURD MONDAY CLUB.

On the 3rd November members were entertained by Mr. Smith, who brought along his Projector and showed pictures of Scotland and Austria. After the show a successful Raffle was held. On the 10th November a game of Bingo and a Raffle were held. Mrs. Bond was still very ill, and a spray of flowers was sent to her from the Club. Mrs. Bennett has also been away ill, and all sick members are wished a speedy recovery. Tea was served by Mrs. Wren and Mrs. Kedgell.

BILLERICAY TOP TEN - Supplied by Stanwood Radio Ltd., Billericay.

Last time's positions are shown in brackets.

1. EF 4974 - Lovesick Blues (Frank Ifield) (2).
2. P.11498 - Telstar (The Tornados) (1).
3. HLU.9996 - Let's Dance (Chris Montez) (4).
4. 78.18266 - Venus In Blue Jeans (Mark Wynter) (9).
5. BF.24254 - Bobby's Girl (Susan Waughen) (7).
6. HL.9851 - Loco-Motion (Little Eva) (10).
7. AAG.114 - Devil Woman (Ketty Robbins) (6).
8. DB.4896 - I Remember You (Frank Ifield) (-).
9. DB.4888 - Sun Arise (Rolfe Harris) (-).
10. HLX.9609 - Swiss Maid (Del Shannon) (5).

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Brightside Brook - "Council Gave Every Consideration".

Dear Sir, --- We read with interest a letter from Mr. G. J. James of Upland Road, Billericay, in which he sets forth his complaint against Basildon Council ("Letters to the Editor", last issue).

Let us be fair, some decisions made by the Council over the past few years have been somewhat staggering to us; but with regard to the piping of Brightside Brook we personally give three hearty cheers for the Council.

Mr. James states that the Council have taken twice the agreed amount of working space to lay a 54" diameter pipe - we can only reply that he was mainly responsible for this. He insisted that the oak trees at the bottom of his garden remain untouched. It is our opinion that the Council gave him every consideration in this matter, for as a result of his insistence it was necessary to re-route the course of the pipe. This is the reason why the diesel pump is nearer his property. If Mr. James wanted to personally supervise the clearance of his garden before work commenced, we can only suggest that he should have postponed his holiday. He, like everyone else, was notified that the work would start on June 4th.

The next complaint of Mr. James is that the bulldozers have removed 2' to 3' of top soil from his garden. We can only say that if this is the case he must have the most fertile soil in Essex! We, unfortunately, have only six inches of topsoil. We hear that he further insists that the rear end of his garden be restored to its original state. Goodness knows where he thinks the contractors can conjure up such a handsome crop of weeds and stinging nettles.

As to his remarks about satisfactory drainage prior to the commencement of the work, we wish that he had seen the misery of his neighbours in the Autumn of 1958, when their homes were flooded. Just aware a thought for these people Mr. James, they very nearly lost everything. We can only suggest you count your blessings. Also please bear in mind that many of your neighbours have been flooded more than on this one occasion. With reference to the noise of a diesel pump 40 ft from your bed we can assure you that it's much worse when its only 20 ft away; especially when, as a result, one's children develop the unfortunate habit of waking up at all hours of the night. We also have a hard days work to do, but we are prepared to accept the inconvenience of a diesel pump for a few weeks for the welfare and protection of others. If the noise is so intolerable we suggest that you go away on another holiday - we will gladly drop you a line and let you know when it is safe to return. --- "The Greater Inconvenienced"

(Names and addresses of three persons supplied).

Local problems are NATIONAL problems.

Dear Sir, --- Transport muddles are common experience among industrialised countries. In western Europe the rail networks are decaying while traffic floods on to the roads, and accident rates soar. In North America many city authorities have given up trying to build sufficient urban roads to relieve congestion, and are opening new, subsidised "commuter" rail services. In Britain the problem is intensified by a large population, and the migration of job-seeking people to south-eastern areas. Not only transport, but the provision of adequate housing, schools, hospitals etc. becomes increasingly difficult.

We in Billericay are well aware of this, and the Residents and the "Observer" raise the cry "Consolidate! Don't let anyone else in". Really, though, these are national problems and can only be tackled on a national basis. At present, the Ministries of Transport, Trade, Housing & Local Government pursue separate policies in almost total disregard of each other. What we need is an integrated programme for transport AND housing AND employment location. Regional authorities (counties are too small) must have power to decide which of the many claimants shall have the limited amount of land available. This is the only way to ensure that any tolerably civilised life will be possible here in twenty years time.

John Allard, "Lilac", Jacksons Lane, Billericay.

(See "Wanderer" for comments).
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Primary School Hall, Berry Street,
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FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP at "Green
Pastures" at 37, Stock Road, 8 p.m.

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to be held on
SATURDAY 24TH NOVEMBER
in the
SOUTH GREEN MEMORIAL HALL
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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING PAYS!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

MEETINGS
Basildon Council
Meeting, Thursday November 22nd,
Old Council Chamber, High Street,
Billericay at 6.50 p.m.
Labour Party Members, Co-op Hall,
High St., on Mon. 3rd Dec. at 8 p.m.
Agenda includes report by
Constituency Delegate, Mrs. Jo
Parker on National Conference.

BAZAARS
... Christ Church Sale
of Work, 2.30 p.m., Christ Church,
Saturday 24th November, in aid of
New Church Fund.
... Billericay
Congregational Church Gift Day &
Bazaar, Saturday 24th November
at 3 p.m., Mayflower Hall, Chapel
Street, Concert in the evening,
admission 2/-.
... South Green War
Memorial Hall Xmas Bazaar on
Saturday 24th November in the Hall
at 2.45 p.m.; Dancing to records
in the evening, admission 2/-.

Phone your "Dates" to Bil. 1927.

BILLERICAY CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH.

GIFT DAY & BAZAAR.
Saturday 24th November, 3 p.m.
Mayflower Hall, Chapel Street.

Concert & Variety Evening at
7.30 p.m. Admission 2/- by
programme.

WHAT'S ON

in the South Green Memorial Hall
BACH WEEK.
Sunday Morning: South Green Chapel
Sunday School (Covenaners) Boys
11 a.m.
Monday; Keep Fit Class 7.30 -
9.30 p.m. 1/6d.
Tuesday afternoon; Child Welfare
Clinic, 2-4 p.m., 2nd & 4th week.
Tuesday evenings; Bingo, 8 p.m.
Admission 2/6d.
Wednesday; Whist Drive, 7.45 p.m.
Admission 1/6d.
Friday; Keep Fit Class 7.30 to
9.30 p.m., 1/6d.
Saturday; Bookings apply the
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OTHER GIFTS TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION ------- COME AND SEE!
RESIDENTS FORM NEW AREA COMMITTEE.

At a meeting in the Recreation Rooms on Friday a new Area Committee of Billericay Residents' Association was formed for the Central Area of Billericay. Mr. Simpson was elected Chairman, Mr. Grimwood was elected Secretary, and Mr. Ashley was elected as Treasurer. The new Committee will serve the High Street, Western Road, and Chantry Estate areas.

After the meeting Mr. R. Hems, Executive Committee Chairman, explained: "We already have area committees at Yee Common, South Green, Sunnymede, and North Area. With the formation of the Central Area Committee we have achieved our aim of an Area Committee for each part of Billericay, except for the Puttsbury area. We are not forming any Area Committees here, as a virile organisation already exists - Puttsbury Residents Association. We have the best of relations with this Association, indeed many of their committee members are members of our Executive Committee. In future this will consist of representatives of each Area Committee, plus representatives from Puttsbury. This will act as a sort of clearing house, and will also deal with problems affecting all Billericay."

RATES COLLECTING OFFICES TO GO.

At their meeting last Tuesday Basildon Council's Finance Committee were informed that there had been much reduction in past months in the number of rate payments made at sub-offices. Members also referred to the high cost of the present limited decentralised arrangements for collecting rates.

Having regard to these circumstances the Committee decided that as from the end of the present financial year arrangements for the collection of rates at sub-offices throughout the Urban District be discontinued. It was also decided that, in view of the further mechanisation of accounting procedures, the Treasurer should make the necessary arrangements for the introduction of the bank credit transfer system, and the payment of rates by instalments by bankers order.

This means that Billericay will lose its rates sub-office at Burghstead Lodge, opened after protests about the removal of rate collection facilities to Basildon.

ROUND AND ABOUT
by "WANDERER."

A correspondent in this week's "Observer", referring to my recent articles on local planning, states that planning should be done at a national not a local level, if a tolerably civilised life is to be possible in twenty years' time. I too believe in the re-creation of the Ministry of Planning. Planning is one of the most vital home issues that faces this country, and a satisfactory solution to the many problems will never be found by the system of the three Ministries which handles planning at the moment. It would be the job of the Ministry of Planning to draw up a national plan, to arbitrate between developers and local authorities, and to control New Towns. At the same time I feel that some authority should be given in planning matters to local Councils, for their members are the people that know the district best.

Interest in the High Street is once again aroused by the impending demolition of one of its historic buildings. A few years ago a Consultative Panel was appointed by the Council to advise the Planning Committee on the development of the High Street.

Let's face the facts. The Council and the Panel have made one big mess of the High Street. What we have is neither a first-class shopping centre or a street of charm and beauty. We have a revolting mixture of plate glass monstrosities with equally revolting mock Georgian tops; of a few isolated Tudor buildings that look out of place; of a few charming Georgian buildings still spared the hammer; and of an unsightly type of building altered so many times, that it cannot be placed into any architectural category.

Worst of all the Council refused a Civic Trust application to give Billericay a "face lift" scheme. This scheme has boosted trade and improved amenity in many towns like Billericay, and now we hear that Chelmsford is to have a similar scheme.

It's high time we woke up and realised what a mess is being made of our High Street, although it is probably too late. However, with a comprehensive scheme no doubt something could be salvaged from the rubbish which has been thrust upon us.

--- "Wanderer".