BILLERICAY OBSERVER
TUESDAY OCTOBER 13th.

EDITOR WYNFORD F. GRANT. EDITION NUMBER 45. PRICE 1d.

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE DISPUTE - COUNCIL HOLD EMERGENCY MEETING

Following the attendance of three Councillors at a meeting, organised by Billericay Residents' Association in their efforts to prevent the industrialisation of Billericay on October 5th, Basildon U.D. Council held an Emergency Meeting on October 6th, to discuss the Industrial Estate. The meeting will be discussed at the Council Meeting, in public, today (Tuesday).

The meeting, which was held at the Archer Hall, was attended by about 1,000 people. The meeting passed a resolution worded; This meeting is of the opinion that having regard to the development of Basildon New Town and the residential development of Billericay Industrial Development in Billericay should be restricted to the maximum extent that the present actual commitment allows. It calls for the co-operation of the Essex County Council and Basildon Council to this end and asks the Residents' Association to maintain contact with these councils and take such other steps to serve that end."

Mr P. R. Dalton, Chairman of Billericay Residents' Association, opened the meeting by stating that he was very pleased that Billericay residents would rise in such a body when their town was threatened with being spoilt. Mr Dalton went on to say that the Association had the support and well-wishes of most local organisations in their campaign. Lord Peter also wished them well.

Mr P. R. Dalton continued to say that the site had been originally suggested as an Industrial site when planning was in its infancy. The plan was not now acceptable and it was his opinion that the Council should have re-considered the position. The choice of the site completely disagreed with the much-referred-to Abercromby's Greater London Plan which stated that Billericay did not need any industry.

Millions of viewers watching B.B.C. and I.T.V. television saw the declaration of the poll for the General Election Billericay constituency at the Archer Hall at 9.52 p.m. on October 8th.

The Billericay result (which was the first to be declared, it beat Chelsea to be published by several minutes) was:

EDWARD GARDNER (Cons) - 29,634
RTA S. STACE (Labour) - 24,402
PETER SHELTON-WILLIAMS (Liberal) - 9,347

Conservative majority - 4,222
Majority in 1955 - 4,206, Increase in majority - 16.

In the last election the battle was a straight fight between Conservative and Labour. Also since then 20,000 new voters have arrived in the district, most of them in Basildon New Town.

The speedy declaration was a triumph for Mr A. Hatt, Deputy Returning Officer and Clerk of the Council and his workers. During the past weeks they have been practising delivery of the boxes by car to the Archer Hall. The result would have been declared earlier had it not been for a ballot box being left in a car causing an eight-minute delay.


C.A.P.'s CANNOT COPE WITH MEMBERSHIP

At the Annual Dinner of Billericay O.A.P.'s held at the W.I. Hall on October 5th attended by 135 members, the Secretary Mr W. A. Riches stated that the Association were having to turn members away because of lack of accommodation. The Association started over 12 years ago at the Co-op Hall and had then moved to the Rose Hall, (British Legion). The Association had made a yearly donation to the Legion's funds and were very grateful to them. Now they had to turn people away. Mr Riches said that in his opinion there was a strong case for a Community Hall in Billericay.

WORK ON PAGE THREE.
CINEMA DIARY

RITZ CINEMA, CHAPEL STREET,
BILLERICAY.

Monday October 12th. Three Days.

ERROL FLYNN, JUDETTE GREGO in "THE ROOFS OF HEAVEN" (A).
Also Geo. Saunders in "LADY", (A).

Tuesday October 13th. Three Days.

WILLIAM BENDIX, ANTHONY NEWLEY, "IDLE ON PARADE", (U).

When singing idol JEEP JACKSON is drafted into the army, Herbie is determined not to lose his lucrative ten per cent at the Induction Centre. Jeep is mistaken for the 200th volunteer and given a tremendous welcome. The error infuriates Sgt. Lush who, horrified at finding a rock 'n' roll idol in his crack regiment, sets out to break him, before long Herbie appears and smugly arranges Jeep out of camp in a fish van to appear at a concert. The show turns into a riot and Jeep is spotted by Bertie, his captain, who is escorting the C.O.'s daughter Caroline. Crazy about Jeep, she persuades Bertie to take no action. Nevertheless both Lush and the jealous Bertie continually 'gun' for Jeep, especially after he nearly blows them up at grenade practice. . . .

Also "THE YOUNG LAND", (U).

Sunday October 10th.

Ginger Rogers, "TIGHT SPOT", (A), "GUN THAT WENT THE WEST", (U).

Monday October 11th. Three Days.

FRANK SINATRA, DEAN MARTIN and SHIRLEY MACLAINE in "COME CAME RUNNING" (A). The story presents a cross-section of life in a typical American small town at the close of World War II and centres around a returned native son and his friendships with two widely contrasting girls.

Thursday October 22nd. Three Days.

Doris Day and Jack Lemmon in "IT HAPPENED TO JANE". (U)
Also Robert Knapp, June Javlin in "GUNNEM FROM LADRON", (U).

Sunday October 29th.

VAN HEFFIN in "COUNT THREE AND PRAY", (A). Also "IT CAME FROM BENEATH THE SIA".

FOR SALE

Double bargain offer. Hardly used, good condition, football boots, and white gym shoes, both size 4, both pairs for only 10/-. Apply "BILLERICAY OBSERVER" offices or write to box number 7.

The "BILLERICAY OBSERVER" is Printed & Published at 143, Perry Street, BILLERICAY, Essex, England.

ROUND AND ABOUT

by

"WANDERER".

In their fight against the industrialisation of Billericay, the Billericay Residents Association have a good chance of success provided there is no difficulty on two points.

The first is compensation, for it would be made clear that whilst the compensation per head would only amount to to the most 200 (probably £10 - £15) over a period of five years devaluation of property would amount to at least £100. Those who do not live in sight of the industrial site should remember that it is the first thing the prospective buyer would see and also that eventually no doubt, the industry would expand to other parts of Billericay.

The second difficulty is the people who say "It's too late now - I doubt whether much will come of it". I can assure you that if you support the Association there is a very good chance of the Association succeeding. The situation is far better than it appears on the surface, for there are many factors and events which cannot at the present be printed.

It appears that the only reason the few people who want the factorises could think of was "It was planned 15 years ago - and Billericay is an expanding town". Both these statements are quite true. But in the past 15 years the picture has changed completely - yes, Billericay is expanding but as a pleasant, dormitory town in the Essex countryside, apparently 90% of Billericay is against the development. To let it continue when a town is almost wholly against it is ridiculous.

Despite the Council's sudden helpfulness, in my opinion, it would be a good thing if resident candidates stood for the Council. Sewage, lighting, parks, traffic, and the many other subjects which a local council deals with should be handled by residents responsible to residents. I am amazed how party politics is brought into local affairs - but it is, unfortunately.
Mr Marsden Smythe, Ex-Mayor of Chelsea, Chairman of the Chelsea Society, representative of the Civic Trust at the meeting then spoke. He said that Billericay was a beautiful place well worth preserving to live in. He also said that he thought it was a very good thing that the residents of Billericay were so interested in local amenity.

Mr H. E. Wilkins, a member of the Executive Committee of the National Union of Ratepayer's and Resident's Association then put the case of the Association to the meeting. The development of Billericay as a residential area, and the proximity of Lake Meadows made the site out of date as regards sitting, Mr Wilkins went on to outline the history of the Industrial site. Mr Wilkins went on to speak of the Council's landscaping promises. Mr Wilkins quoted the example of Mountnessing Sewage Works. At a Public Enquiry the Council had promised to screen the works. This had not been carried out. This is one of many examples: "How can we have faith in a Council like this?"

The meeting was then opened to the comment of those attending. One speaker stated that he had seen buses loads of workers coming from Basildon to the factories. "Billericay is a pleasant dormitory town - this must cease immediately." There were loud cheers at this statement and other speakers supported his views.

In answer to a question regarding resident candidates, Mr. P. R. Dalton, the Chairman, replied that if the public wished and gave their full support the Association would put up candidates.

A man then rose and suggested that there was a need for industry in Billericay. He was shouted down amidst cries of "No, no!".

Councillor W. H. Davies J.P., Chairman of Basildon Council then spoke. He said: "We've never been approached (there were shouts of ridicule and general disorder). If we had been we would have answered your criticisms - we weren't even invited tonight. We've nothing against you." (loud cheers). Councillor Davies went on to say that the Council were only district representatives with little power - "The County Council are responsible," he said.

A mother then spoke of the number of three and four-year olds and babies in the Ferry St. area. She pointed out that Billericay School was full to overflowing point. In her opinion the provision of schools was more important than factories.

Councillor Quirk, Chairman of Basildon Council Development Committee then went to the Platform to speak. Before long he returned to his seat and there were shouts of "You've let him get away with it" and "He went right off the point".

Councillor J. P. Phelps then spoke. He too said that the Council had received no communication regarding the Industrial Estate. A man then got to his feet and shouted: "That's a lie" and shouted to the meeting that a letter from the Clerk of the Council to him regarding the Industrial Estate. In reply Councillor Phelps said that he was not responsible for and did not know about every single letter written by his servants.

A man then raised the question of compensation which he said would have to be paid to the developers for loss of profit.

Councillor Davies then again got to his feet. He stated that the Council would have to pay 25% of any compensation. He gave an assurance that if the residents presented the Council with a plan for the site they would do their best to force it through "the powers that be". Councillor Davies also gave an assurance that the Council would not give any more planning approval for the site.

The Billericay Residents' Association have written to the minister of Housing & Local Government conforming with the views of the Association and inculding a cutting from "The Times" concerning the meeting. The Association are in contact with Basildon U.D. Council who have been of great assistance.

PEND YOUR MONEY TO THE COUNCIL.

Basildon U.D. Council are prepared to accept loans for periods of from two to seven years in multiples of £100 at good rates of interest. Further information can be obtained from the Treasurer, 98a, High Street, Billericay.
EDITOR'S NOTES.

As from now, new advertisers will be charged more to advertise in the "Observer". This is to prevent 'ad overloading' and also modernise the out-of-date ad rates at the same time. The increase is, in general, 25%. New rates: 1/- e.g. (Christ Ch.) 1/3, 2/- becomes 2/6, 2/6 (e.g. Matthews) 3/- 4/- (Foly, 5/.-)

The 6d. small ad rate is not affected by these increases.

Our circulation target of 500 as target of a Circulation Drive we intend to reach this by Edition No. 50 at Christmas. This will mean an increase of at least 40 per edition copies sold. However, with the paper's local news record and the aim to produce a clear, concise local paper at a cheap price, a paper with "Billericae at its heart" we feel we can achieve this. ('We' is the editorial 'We'.)

Our campaign started last weekend with the distribution of nearly 300 leaflets on estates in the Western and London Road areas.

We are pleased of our achievement in, from a kitty of 6d., gradually increasing in prosperity until today with a good bank reserve and the possibility of photographs shortly being included. We are told that we are unbeatable for content. Our only point on which we do fall below newspaper standards is spelling, but this will improve, and is improving.

Our Town Crier emblem for the front will be ready for the next edition.

A Great EDITOR.

WATCH ON LAKE MEADOWS AFTER CLOSING TIME.

Bagaldon Council have for some time been perturbed at the way in which the byelaws relating to lake meadows park have been ignored, particularly in regard to the use of the park after closing hours. With a view to putting a stop to this practice a closer watch is being kept and as a result legal proceedings have already been instituted against one person who was apprehended whilst fishing in the lake after hours. Reports regarding the apprehension of three offenders in similar circumstances are being investigated.

JAMES REPORTING Copyright.

I want to report on my recent meeting with the Indian team of Test cricketers. The East India Association gave a reception in honour of the captain, His Highness the Maharaja of Baroda, and members of his team. All were optimistic that they would do better in their match against the Australians in India. I took a young boy to his Highness for his autograph and explained his difficulty in asking for it and that his would be an important one for a British boy. His eyes twinkled with mirth and he said "the British Press had not thought so highly of him". In asking some of the team what they thought of the Russians having made contact with the noon they replied that Indians would probably be the first cricket team to land there.

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**PERRY STREET BUS SERVICE BY THE END OF YEAR.**

At the meeting of Billericay O.A.P. Association on October 7th the Secretary when reading his correspondence stated he had heard from the Eastern National Bus Co. to the effect that they hoped to commence a bus service by the end of the year from Mountnessing Road and Perry Street to the High Street. 100 were present. The Branch's Concert Party entertained. Those taking part were Messrs. Plumridge and Sippitt, and Messrs. Joseph, Wilton, and Plumridge, and leader being Mr. H. Dawkins and Mrs. H. Dawkins the Pianist. It was announced that the Annual General Meeting would be held on October 28th, a fortnight after Nomination Day.

30th September.

100 were present. Reporting on sick members the Chairman stated that Mrs. Haynes was improving but was still very weak, also Mr. Shaw was now improving slowly and Mr. Wutton was out of hospital. Entertainment was given by the London "Good Companions" party. Tea hostesses were Messrs. Sarnon, Barlow, Crisp and Armstrong. Details were given of the Annual Dinner arrangements.

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**CHRIST CHURCH, PERRY ST.**


YOUNG WIVES FELLOWSHIP: Oct 1st to 3rd p.m., Oct 27th to 9th p.m. Speaker: Miss D. Hodges, Woman's Chief Police Inspector, Chelmsford. All meetings held at Christ Church.
CHAPTER 2 - SAXONS!
(Owing to non-arrival owing to posting difficulties the chapter about Biliericay and the Romans has been held over until the next edition).

Because of the troubled times in Italy, the Roman Garrisons in Britain were gradually withdrawn, (Biliericay being a Roman Garrison and fortified town), leaving the northern part of the country open to the Picts and Scots now that there was no one to guard the famous Hadrian's Wall against their attacks.

By 337 A.D. these invaders had reached as far south as London and Kent.

Taking advantage of this, the pirates from overseas began attacking the coastal areas and soon the people of Biliericay could see their sails in the estuary of the Crouch, then navigable as far as Wickford, and the smoke from burning homesteads along the heights between Rayleigh and Thorpe.

Without the Roman soldiers to whom they had left their problems of defence the Britons were helpless, and after a long struggle, they had to give in the Last Saxons forming a kingdom which included Essex and London.

It must have been some years after the destruction of Roman Biliericay that a new settlement was started to the south of the overgrown site of the town on the hill, and away from the ghosts of the two or three Roman cemeteries the Saxons building a defence on a piece of ground where is now Great Burstead Church. 'Burghstead' means 'Site of the Fort'.

In the seventh century Bebert, King of the Last Saxons is said to have lived at Burghstead, probably on the site of one of the manors introduced by these new inhabitants, and built the first wooden church on the site of the fort. He also founded the first church in London.

After his death his son went back to the old religion, remembered in the names of several local places like Thurrock and Thundersley, which include the name Thor and in the days of the week - Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. At last King Sleagaubern was baptised, and the Roman missionary Cedd was invited to England to preach the True Religion to the people.

The church at Great Burstead is said to stand near the site of a cross named after Cedd, as was the well and pond nearby, where these forefathers of ours were baptised. This is still officially called Cedd's or Cedd's Well, and many places in the county refer to this early missionary in their names.

Bishop Cedd's headquarters were at Tilbury and Maldon as well as Bradwell, the Roman Othona, so that Biliericay which began to grow again near its original site on the high ground must have been seen many of the comings and goings of these early Bishops and their followers. A road from Biliericay to Maldon, by way of Downham but long since lost, is mentioned in deeds of the 14th century.

Whilst the King was fighting in the West Country in 692 A.D. some new invaders arrived on the scene in the form of two Danish armies from the Continent. These established their headquarters at Shoebury and then forced their way through Essex and along the Thames towards the Severn, where they were defeated and retreated again to their old quarters on Mersea Island.

According to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle the Danes took their ships up the Thames, and the Lee, and they also had a fort at South Benfleet where they were attacked by the Saxons and their ships burned. In 93 tear it was not until about 991-3 that the famous Battle of Maldon occurred. In 1016 "all the nobility of the English race were destroyed" on the ground between the hill and the River Crouch at Ashington. Life still went on in these troubled times and we can imagine the surroundings of Biliericay which was now growing astride the old road from Tilbury with its group of dwellings near the Church and Manor House, with the fields under the Strip Cultivation of the time and large areas of woodland surrounding and separating one village from the other, and the open pieces of Common Ground most of which remained until the last century.