

BILLERICAY OBSERVER

TUESDAY OCTOBER 13th.

EDITOR WYNFORD P. GRANT. EDITION NUMBER 45. PRICE 14d.

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 Petre also wished them well.

Mr P. R. Dalton continued by saying 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.

MORE ON PAGE THREE.

CONSERVATIVE MAJORITY UP IN THREE-CORNERED BATTLE.

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 9.58 p.m. on October 8th.

The Billericay result (which was the first to be declared, it beat Cheltenham by several minutes) was:
EDWARD GARDNER (Con) - 29,224
RITA S. MYTHE (Labour) - 24,402
PETER SHELDON-

WILLIAMS (Liberal) - 9,347
Conservative majority - 4,422.
Majority in 1955 - 4,206. Increase in majority - 216.

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.

In an election run on the lines of the General Election with posters, meetings etc. Billericay Secondary School voted: Conservative 277, Labour, 208, Liberal, 29, Communist 17, and Independent 9.

O.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 133 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.

CINEMA DIARY,
RITZ CINEMA, CHAPEL STREET,
BILLERICAY.

Monday October 12th, Three Days.

ERROL FLYNN, Juliette
Greco in "THE ROOTS OF HEAVEN", (A).
Also Geo. Saunders in "LAURA", (A).
Thursday October 15th, Three Days.

William Bendix, Anthony
Newley, "IDLE ON PARADE", (U).

When singing idol Jeep
Jackson is drafted into the army his
agent, 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 in finding a rock 'n' roll
idol in his crack regiment, sets out
to break him. Before long Herbie
appears and smuggles 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 18th.

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

Monday October 19th, Three Days.

Frank Sinatra, Dean
Martin, and Shirley MacLaine in
"SOME 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, Jana Davi in
"GUNMEN FROM LAREDO", (U).

Sunday October 25th.

Van Heflin in "COUNT
THREE AND PRAY", (A). Also "IT CAME
FROM BENEATH THE SEA".

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Double bargain offer. Hardly used, good
condition, fooyball boots, and white
gym shoes, both size 4, both pairs for
only 10/. Apply "Billericay Observer"
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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. Let
it be made clear that whilst the
compensation per head would only
amount to at the most £20 (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 face, 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
factories 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.

To assure worried readers
the construction and removal of
earth at present in progress near
Lake Meadows is for a car park
and level playing fields - not
factories! This was stated in the
"Observer" of August 4th.

---- "wanderer".

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
PROTEST MEETING.
From Page I.

Mr Marsden Smythely, 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 Buttsbury as a residential area, and the proximity of Lake Meadows made the site out-of-date as regards siting. 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 bus 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 amid 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 ridiculous, 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

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
PROTEST MEETING.

A mother then spoke of the number of three and four-year olds and babies in the Perry St. area. She pointed out that Buttsbury 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 A.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 showed to the meeting 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 the views of the Association and including a cutting from "The Times" concerning the meeting. The Association are in contact with Basildon U.D. Council who have been of great assistance.

LEND 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.

STOP PRESS.

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/- (Poly), 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 "Billerica" 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 Od., 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.

Ad Groat EDITOR.

WATCH ON LAKE MEADOWS AFTER CLOSING TIME.

Basildon 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.

"JANUS 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 the boy's diffidence 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 moon 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 Mesdames Plumridge and Sippitt, and Messers. Joseph, Wiltshire, 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 26th, 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. Hutton was out of hospital. Entertainment was given by the Romford "Good Companions" party. Tea hostesses were Mesdames Sammon, Degarno, Crisp and Armstrong. Details were given of the Annual Dinner arrangements.

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CHRIST CHURCH, PERRY ST.

CHURCH SERVICES: Communion; 1st. Sunday in month. Evensong; 3.30 p.m. except 1st. Sunday in month.
YOUNG WIVES FELLOWSHIP: Oct 13th 2 to 3 p.m. Oct 27th, 8 to 9 p.m.
Speaker: Miss D. Hodges, Woman's Chief Police Inspector, Chelmsford. All meetings held at Christ Church.

THE BILLERICAY STORY

by Ha/Rl.
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2nd series.

CHAPTER 2 - SAXONS!

(Owing to non-arrival owing to posting difficulties the chapter about Billericay 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 (Billericay 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 637 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 Billericay 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 Thundersly.

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 East Saxons forming a kingdom which included Essex and London.

It must have been some years after the destruction of Roman Billericay 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. 'Burghstede' means 'Site of the Fort'.

In the seventh century Sebert, King of the East Saxons is said to have lived at Burghstede, probably on the site of Grange 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 sons went back to the old religion, remembered in the names of several local places like Thurrock and Thundersly, which include the name Thor and in the days of the week - Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. At last King Siegeberht was baptised, and the Roman missionary Cedd was invited to Essex 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 Chad'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 Billericay which began to grow again near its original site on the high ground must have seen many of the comings and goings of these early Bishops and their followers. A road from Billericay 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 892 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 Lea, and they also had a fort at South Benfleet where they were attacked by the Saxons and their ships burned in 893 A.D. 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 Ashingdon. Life still went on in these troubled times and we can imagine the surroundings of Billericay 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.
