RESIDENTS ASSC. ARE PREPARED TO TAKE "DRAMATIC ACTION" OVER INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Prior to a meeting between representatives of the Billericay and Sunningville Residents Associations, Basildon Council, and Essex County Planning Authority regarding the site of the Association to prevent the erection of 40 factories near Billericay Station a spokesman for the Billericay Residents told the "Observer" in an exclusive interview that if the meeting's result was not definite and satisfactory the Association would take drastic action on a wide scale.

The spokesman continued: "The Residents Association after pursuing the matter further finds that the Council have not replied to the Ministry of Housing & Local Government's letter of many weeks ago. The Ministry have only in the last two days, raised this issue once again. Their spokesman put the delay down to the fact that they thought the Council were giving the matter their fullest consideration.

This misapprehension held by the Ministry has been firmly shattered by the R. Assc. who have given facts i.e., concerning the Council's backpedalling and failure to keep their promises made at the Public Protest Meeting. They have sent to the Ministry a report of the last Council meeting and disinterested remarks made by various Councillors."

Basildon Council has sent the following statement to the "Billericay Observer" in the past fortnight:

"Plans for the development of an Industrial Estate on the land adjoining Billericay Station between Stock Road and Perry Street have been public knowledge for many years and were included in the Billericay Council Draft Planning Scheme in 1937."

COMMITTEE RECOMMEND COUNCIL TO ACCEPT GENERAL TENDER.

Basildon Council Works Committee are recommending the Council, subject to Ministry of Housing & Local Government approval to accept a tender for the Bittsberry High Level Sewage Scheme. The scheme, when completed, will bring sewage to many people living in the North Billericay area.

MAIN WATER SUPPLY FOR QUEENS PARK - COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.

Basildon U.D. Council Health Committee are recommending the Council to enter into arrangements with the Southend Waterworks Company for the laying water mains which will bring a main water supply to certain houses on the Queens Park Estate, Perry St., and improve conditions for other residents by reducing the distance they now have to travel to reach a standpipe.

"WILL HOPE TO BE OPEN BY CHRISTMAS"

It is hoped that the new Billericay Museum, organised by the local group of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England at 74, High Street will be open by Christmas. The Museum was originally planned to be opened in the Spring.

APPEAL AGAINST COUNCIL'S PLANNING DECISION.

Mr. H. Ward of Richmond, Surrey has appealed against the decision of Basildon Council to refuse permission for residential development on land extending to about 150 acres bounded by Southend Road, Jackson Lane and Hillside Road, Billericay and an appeal has been fixed for Tuesday November 17th at 10.45 am. at the Council Chambers, Billericay.

The Council refused permission on the grounds that the development would be inconsistent with the provisions of the County Development Plan which included the greater part of the land in area of no notation which it is intended should be included in the Metropolitan Green Belt.
MONDAY NOVEMBER 4TH THREE DAYS.

Deborah Kerr, David Niven in "SEPARATE TABLES" (A). This is a story of a Bournemouth hotel and the emotional conflicts of its occupants. Also "INNOCENT MEETING" (A).

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12TH THREE DAYS.

"THE HANGMAN" (U) is a unique outdoor drama, which boasts a powerful story and an exciting cast. It tells of MacKenzie Bovard a cynical, bitter lawyer nicknamed "The Hangman" for his ungallant ability to get his man and his search for Johnny Butterfield suspect in a hold-up and killing. The only person able to identify Butterfield is Selah Jennis, beautiful, lovely widow. Bovard finds a man answering Butterfield's description but meets unexpected resistance from Selah, Sherri Buck Miller, and the townspeople all who insist on the man's innocence. The conflict between Bovard races to a dramatic and surprising climax. Also "THE MATCHMAKER" (U).

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 14TH THREE DAYS.

"ROOM AT THE TOP" (X).

A savage story of lust and ambition. Also "WILD STALLION" (A).

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 15TH THREE DAYS.

Walt Disney's "DARBY O'GILL AND THE LITTLE PEOPLE" also "San Diego in Tonka", "U."

COINING MONDAY NOVEMBER 25TH THREE DAYS.

"LOOK BACK IN ANGER" (X).

ONLY SIX ATTEND MEETING OF ESTATE ASSOCIATION.

Six members and the Editor attended the A.G.M. of Romney Hall Estate Residents' Ass., situated between Tye Common and London Road, held at the W.I. Hall on November 4th. The Association has 50 members.

As a result the A.G.M. and an Extraordinary General Meeting proposed to have been held on the same evening was cancelled. A further statement will be printed in due course giving news of the future of the Association.

COUNCIL WASP NEST DESTRUCTION SERVICE.

Following receipt of an exceptionally large number of requests for dealing with wasp nests, mainly from persons unable to cope themselves with the problem, Bexhill Council Health Committee have authorised the medical Officer of Health, at his discretion, to arrange for wasp nest destruction in the area.

ROUND AND ABOUT

"WANDERER".

Is it not strange that our elected representatives on October 5th, at the Industrial Estate Public Protest Meeting as the reminder passing factories three months but not six factories three weeks before?

I am given to understand that the case of Billericay Council is given fully in the statement issued to the "Billericay Observer".

The first point made is that no objections were made. THIS IS NOT SO.

The Billericay Council For the Preservation of Rural England in their 1945 plan for Billericay objected to the industrialization of Billericay. Seeing that industry may have wanted to come to Billericay they set aside a small site under certain conditions, Billericay Council are very fond of quoting the "Plan for Billericay and should know this.

Next the paragraphs about it all being widely advertised in 1952. True enough, 55% of Billericay has been built in the last four years and so have the local associations. The unsightly buildings, these should be replaced by something beautiful, but not just as unsightly.

The site is eminently suitable (Phrase book: Bang in the middle of residential development, hopeless for landscaping). The new road junction is less dangerous (What, so can we have a look at it?). Last week I prophesied that the local refuse dump would be open at 6 a.m., a time - well it is architecturally, I now state: "The Arterial Road to Laindon is open for camps." But seriously, it is a prospective death spot, Furthermore, a 20,000 limit should be fixed on the population of Billericay.

Re the Romney Hall meeting, there is very little to do on this estate for an Association to do. Whilst the Billericay Residents' Association is booming, associations for single estates are on the way out. The other two left are Chantry Tenants (mainly social) and the very active meeting a month Sunning Hill Residents' Club, which deals with the controversial Ferry St./Mount Pleasant Estate.

A last word on the Industrial Estate, All is going very well. The Zdaristic measures plan is very effective and efficient. If something for better or worse has not happened by the next edition I shall be very surprised indeed.

----- "WANDERER"
This scheme was
submitted to the Minister of Health
who was then responsible for town
planning but never approved. The
draft scheme was, however, open for
inspection and certain objections
were made. So far as my records show,
no objection was made to the
proposed industrial site. The site
was also shown as such on the
Council's Post War Planning Proposal
the Greater London Plan, and the
County Development Plan. When the
latter was in draft stage in 1952
it was widely advertised both in the
Press and by means of posters;
exhibitions were arranged and the
plans were on display at all
interested persons to inspect for a
period of over six months at 106,
High Street, Billericay. No objections
were made against the reservation
of the site for industry. The Town
Plan for Billericay was approved by the
Ministry of Housing and Local
Government in 1957 and a copy is
always available for inspection by
members of the public at these
offices, and it is a fact that may
take advantage of this facility.
The previous protests of which
the Council are aware are a few
which were made about twelve months
ago in the local newspapers and
which were replied to by the
Chairman of the Council's Planning
and Development Committee.

It is appreciated that
some new residents may feel that the
development of the site is a new
and unwarranted venture: this is not
so for the site would have been
developed some years earlier if it
had not been for national austerity.
On examining Council minutes of
some years ago (issued to the Press
and available for public inspection)
that were very explanatory and lucid
relating to negotiations regarding
the industrial site. Part of the
undeveloped area contains brickworks
including some very unsightly
buildings and a water tower which
by no means add to amenity.

The site itself has
always been considered eminently
suitable for industrial development
because of road and rail facilities
and the new roads which being
provided will result in a much
needed link between the Perry St.
and Mountnessing Rd. area and the
Station and the High Street, thus
improving traffic circulation.

The new road junction now
being constructed in Stock Road
should be a great improvement on the
present Station Approach Junction
which is very dangerous and
improved car parking facilities will
result.

The question has been asked as
to why it is necessary to encourage
new industry to the site, there being
one or two existing industries in
other parts of the district.

The answer is that these other
sites were developed before there was
any effective plan. It is not intended
to disturb these industries, but their
situation is such that no substantial
expansion of these sites is advisable
and it is preferable to concentrate
the industry the district needs to
this one suitable area.

It is completely erroneous
impressions that some residents seem
to have as to the nature of the development. There is
no question of the introduction of
heavy industry into the area. The
estate will be well laid out and
developed only with buildings which
were considered suitable by present
demands standards for light and general
industrical use, and every effort
will be made to ensure that
design and layout, which building will
be of the highest possible standard.
The existing pre-war or immediately
post-war buildings cannot be regarded
as setting the pattern for
future development and the estate,
when finished, will be pleasant in
appearance and the front elevations
of the buildings will receive
careful architectural treatment, and
in most cases the production area
will be screened from the administrat-
ve part of the building.

One of the problems that has
worried successive Councils, both at
county and district level is that
of providing some local employment.
The town is rapidly developing and
the need for local employment
important to its present and
future inhabitants is obvious.

Electrification of the railway
has been of great assistance in
reducing the burden of travel to
places of employment, but even with
 electrification the ever increasing
population demands the provision
of local employment. If transport
facilities are not to become
completely overloaded there are, of
course, thousands of young people
now at school in the district who
will soon be seeking employment, and
the Council have an obligation to
attract potential sources of
employment.
LIGHTS FAILURE AT BIRD SHOW.

Emergency lighting was used after the Annual Cage Bird Show of Wickford & District Cage Bird Society held at the W.I. Hall Billericay on October 31st was plunged into darkness around 6.15 p.m.

Birds from all over the country competed in the show, but entries were 70 down on last year owing to an early moult due to the hot weather.

The Show Secretary told the "Observer" that despite this, the high standard of previous years had been maintained and that the judge had difficulty in deciding on the winners.

TWO MORE SHOPS FOR HIGH STREET.

Two more shops for Billericay High Street are being constructed in front of the Georgian home of the late Mr. Gunter. The house is at present the home of Mrs. Gunter, and is also used as a surgery by two local doctors.

COUNCIL CLERK'S ASSURANCE OVER LAKE MEADOWS DEVELOPMENT.

In reply to a letter from the "Observer," the Clerk of Basildon Council gives an assurance that the development at present taking place in the two fields adjoining Lake Meadows is for two sports pitches only. Mr. Hatt adds that negotiations are taking place for further land adjoining Lake Meadows but that they are in the preliminary stage only, no further information can be given.

Basildon Council Parks Committee are recommending the Council to arrange a flower display carpet depicting the Girl Guide Trefoil Badge in Lake Meadows next year.

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C.A.P.'s WILL HAVE TO RAISE FUNDS.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Bilericay C.A.P.'s at the Bore Hall on the 25th October the Treasurer Mr. J. Lewis stated that although the Branch had not had a Jumble Sale or Bazaar or any similar event during the past year the financial position was good, although not as high as when he became Treasurer. The Association were in a good financial position, but would have to raise funds this year to give cheap outings, a free Annual Dinner etc.

The Secretary stated that the Branch had started off the year with a golden wedding of Mr & Mrs Maxwell. Then the Branch had two weddings of four of the members, Mr & Mrs Pierce, and Mr & Mrs Spencer. He also said that the Branch had had a number of outings three of them cheap outings, as the balance had come out of the Branch funds. We had also had an Xmas Tea Party in December, which had been a great success, and the Annual Dinner. All had received a small parcel, of tea and sugar at Christmas from the Branch funds. The Branch had had a very good year with some entertainment every week. All officials were re-elected unopposed and all sick members wished a speedy recovery. Mrs Horne was welcomed back from illness.

November 4th: Mr. T. Hopkins presided. A minstrel's silence was observed for the passing of Mrs. Brooks of the South Green Branch. Mrs Speller was very ill. Bayley entertained.

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POULTRY.

**CAFONS, POURLON.**

**TURKEYS, COCKRELS, BOILERS.**

**ALL FORMS OF TABLE POULTRY OBTAINABLE.**

Prices are very comparable to the meat trade, delivery a pleasure and at no extra cost. Write or phone me for prices.

R. NORRIS, LEA COTTAGE, SOUTHEND ROAD, BILLINGHAY OR PHONE 767.

Christmas is nearly two months away but early order avoids disappointment.

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14th.**

8 p.m. to 11.45 p.m.

**A MODERN DANCE.**

**STANLEY STRUTT AND HIS ORCHESTRA.**

**AT SOUTH GREEN MEMORIAL HALL.**

261 bus service every 1 hour from Sun Corner, London Rd, Ferry St., etc. Stops near hall. Other less-frequent services from the Station. TICKETS --- £1/6 EACH.

CHRIST CHURCH PERRY ST.

CHRIST CHURCH SERVICES: Communion, 1st Sunday in month, 9.30 a.m. Evensong: 3.30 p.m. except Int. Sunday in month.

YOUNG WIVES FELLOWSHIP: November 10th 8 to 3 p.m., November 24th, 8 to 9 p.m. All meetings held at Christ Ch.
When the Roman Garrisons left our shores to help in the
defence of their own homeland, the whole of this country became the
target of invaders. By 637 A.D., these people had penetrated as far south
as London and Kent, and soon afterwards the inhabitants of Billericay
could see the sails of other invaders, the Pirates from overseas in the
Crouch then navigable as far as Wickford, and the Thames. The owners of
these vessels were the Saxons who burned and pillaged our town as they
did every other town and village which fell into their hands, and when
at last they decided to settle down in their own kingdom of the East
Saxons, they left the ruins of the old town on its hillside and built
themselves a Fort at Burghstead, a mile or so to the south, which seems
to have been for some time a seat of their Kings, including Sisbert
the founder of the first church in London.

After his death the East Saxons reverted to their old,
pagan, religion. At last, however, King Siegeberht was baptised, and
invited Cedd (or Chad) the Roman missionary to preach the True
Religion throughout Essex, Chad's Well and Pond at Great Burstead Church
being the place where these predecessors of ours were converted
and baptised all those centuries ago. The first church at Great Burstead is
supposed to have been built by Sebert or the later Siegeberht who is
also said to have been buried there, but the Rev. E.L. Cutts in his little
book 'The First Rector of Burstead' gives a different theory and
describes our forefathers as holding their religious meetings in the
open round a certain Chad's Cross, named after the missionary Cedd, which
he presumes to have been sited between the Wall or Podd, and the present
Church.

Cedd had his headquarters at Tilbury, Maldon, and Bradwell,
so that Billericay, already beginning to grow again on the Mill must
have seen many of the comings and goings of these old Bishops and
their followers. A road from Billericay to Maldon by way of Downham is
attested in a land of the 16th century and although this has long
since vanished a close examination of old maps does show signs of what
may have been the site of the old road, it seems possible indeed that it
went by way of the 'Preaching Cross' - by Forty Acre Plantation - along
the edge of the now enclosed Riverside Park Common where before the War
was a wide, straight track, at present overgrown and neglected. A
continuation of this track is still usable and forms part of the
boundary of Bishop's Wood, leading eventually to a footpath behind
Whitehills Farm and so into Mill Road. Until the construction of the
Reservoir this footpath continued in a direct line to the Manningfields,
and from there it is still possible to trace portions of roads and other
paths in an almost straight line to Maldon.

This is only a theory of the writers, but the line is even
more noticeable on older maps before certain portions of roads were
either diverted or closed altogether. And it would help to explain the
remarkable number of names such as Bishop's and Whitehills whose
origin does not seem to have been proved in the past. The Preaching Cross
was, of course, a parish boundary mark described by old writers as the
name given to a tree on the site of which formerly stood a stone cross.

Remembrance Sunday Service was held on November 8th at
Billericay Church at 3 p.m., followed by the placing of wreaths by
various local organisations at the War Memorial.

SAFETY IN THE HOME.

After hearing the report of the Clerk of the Council
Basildon Council Health Committee decided to recommend the Council to
call a meeting of all local interested organisations to discuss the
matter.

Billericay Council for the Preservation of Rural England Annual General
Meeting will be held on January 23rd, 1960, at the W.I. Hall, Billericay.

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