

BILLERICAY OBSERVER

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10th, 1959.

EDITOR WYNFORD P. GRANT. EDITION NUMBER 47. PRICE 1d.

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

Prior to a meeting between representatives of the Billericay and Sunnyside Residents Associations, Basildon Council, and Essex County Planning Authority regarding the fight of the Associations 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.

CONTINUED - PAGE 3.

COMMITTEE RECOMMEND COUNCIL TO ACCEPT SEWAGE TENDER.

Basildon Council Works Committee are recommending the Council, subject to Ministry of Housing & Local Government approval to accept a tender for the Emtsbury High Level Sewerage Scheme. This 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.

MUSEUM HOPED 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, Jacksons Lane, and Hillside Road, Billericay and an appeal has been fixed for Tuesday November 17th, at 10.45 a.m., 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 includes the greater part of the land in area of no notation which it is intended should be included in the Metropolitan Green Belt.

CINEMA DIARY

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Monday November 9th. Three Days.

Deborah Kerr, David Niven in "SEPERATE 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 Mac-Kenzie Bovard a cynical, bitter lawman nicknamed "The Hangman" for his unflinching 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 Jennison, beautiful, lovely widow. Bovard finds a man answering Butterfield's description but meets unexpected resistance from Selah, Sherrif Buck Wildon, 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).

Monday November 16th. Three days.

"ROOM AT THE TOP", (X). A savage story of lust and ambition. Also "WILD STALLION", (A).

Thursday November 19th. Three Days.

Walt Disney's "DARBY O'GILL AND THE LITTLE PEOPLE" Also San Mineo in Tonka, "U".
COMING: Monday Nov. 23rd, 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' Assc., (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 Basildon 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

by
"WANDERER".

Is it not strange that our elected representatives on October 5th, at the Industrial Estate Public Protest Meeting could remember passing 3 factories three months but not six factories three weeks before?

I am given to understand that the case of Basildon 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. Basildon Council are very fond of quipping the "Plan for Billericay" and should know this.

Next the paragraphs about it all being widely advertised in 1952. True enough, 85% 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, 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, go and have a look at it!). Last week I prophesised that the local refuse dump would be open at 6d. a time - well it is architecture. I now state: "The Arterial Road, Laindon is open for campers". 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 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 Sunnyville Residents' Assc. which deals with the controversial Perry St./Mounthnessing Rd. area.

A last word on the Industrial Estate. All is going very well. The "drastic 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".

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE WAS WIDELY ADVERTISED - COUNCIL STATEMENT.

Continued from Page 1.

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 deposit for all interested persons to inspect for a period of over six months at 108, High Street, Billericay. No objections were made against the reservation of this site for industry. The Town Map 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 many have taken advantage of this facility. The only 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 who may not have enquired the use of land neighbouring their houses 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 many 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 minutes 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 are 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.

NEW ROAD JUNCTION WILL REDUCE ACCIDENT DANGER - CASE FOR INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

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 those sites is advisable, and it is preferable to concentrate the industry the district needs to this one suitable area.

A completely erroneous impression that some residents seem to have is with regard 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 are considered suitable by present day standards for light and general industrial use, and every effort will be made to secure that, in design and layout, each 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 by the administrative 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 finding local employment for some of its present and future inhabitants is obvious.

Electrification of the railway has been of great assistance in easing 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, numerous 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.

CIRCULATION EDITOR'S NOTES.

7343-1,600
READERSHIP could
be more of a help
The correct claim,
"Double the amount of local news in
any other paper" has been regularly
placed on the "Observer" notice
board for many months now. In an
attempt, which I think will be
successful to include every single
local news items we are distributing
80 circulars to the Secretaries of
all organisations covering the
Billerica area.

Many other projects and improve-
ments similar to this which would
benefit the reader have been planned
but none can be carried out because
of one factor - MONEY. The leaflet
schemes, carried out recently were
paid for partly at the Editor's
expense. We are not making an appeal
for money and don't intend to. Nor
do we intend to raise the charge
per copy for the paper thus helping
Mr. Rising Price. Here are some of the
prices we pay: 500 sheets of paper -
about 18 to 19/-; 11b of Ink - About
15/-; Stencils (or skins) - 8d. each.
1.8.4/- per edition. And there are
others. Roneo Ltd, who supply all
equipment and who are manufacturers
of the "Ob" '250' rotary have to
make a profit however and it must be
added that they have given useful
advice on the printing side and
once coming to attend to a fault
ten minutes after a phone call. The
problem seems unsolved. Have you any
suggestions?

Owing to technical difficulties
and the fact that further information
has been written for regarding a
different method, the Town Crier
is not yet adorning Page 1.
N. G. R. A. 12.50-

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
Billerica 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 Billeric-
ay High Street are being construc-
ted in front of the Georgian home
of the late Dr. 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 assur-
ance 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 as 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
depecting the Girl Guide Trefoil
Badge in Lake Meadows next year.

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

At the Annual General Meeting of the Billerica O. A. P's at the Rose Hall on the 28th 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 Haynes was welcomed back from illness. November 4th; Mr T. Hopkins presided. A minutes silence was observed for the passing of Mrs. Brooks of the South Green Branch. Mrs Speller was very ill. Rayleigh entertained.

POULTRY.

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SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14th.
8p.m. to 11.45 p.m.

A MODERN DANCE

STANLEY STRUTT AND HIS ORCHRESTA.
8t

SOUTH GREEN MEMORIAL HALL
251 bus service every 1/4-hour from
Sun Corner, London Rd., Perry St.,
etc. Stops near hall. Other less-
frequent services from the Station.

TICKETS --- 3/6 EACH.

CHRIST CHURCH PERRY ST.

CHURCH SERVICES: Communion, 1st.

Sunday in month, 9.30 a.m. Evensong;
3.30 p.m. except 1st Sunday in
month.

YOUNG WIVES FELLOWSHIP: November 10th
2 to 3 p.m., November 24th, 8 to 9
p.m. All meetings held at Christ Ch.

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THE BILLERICAY STORY

CHAPTER 4 - MORE ABOUT THE SAXONS.

by Ha/Rd.
2nd series.
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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 spoils 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 new kingdom of the East Saxons, they left the ruins of the old town on its hillside and built themselves a Fort at Burghstede, a mile or so to the south, which seems to have been for some time a seat of their Kings, including Siebert the founder of the first church in London.

After his death the East Saxons reverted to their old, pagan, religion. At last, however, King Siegeberght was baptised, and invited Cedd (or Chadd) 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 Siegeberght 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 Well or Pond, and the present Church.

Cedd had his headquarters at Tilbury, Maldon, and Bradwell, so that Billericay, already beginning to grow again on the hill 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 mentioned in a deed of the 14th. century and although this has long since vanished a close examination of local 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 Ramsden Back 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 Whitelilies Farm and so into Mill Road. Until the construction of the Reservoir this footpath continued in a direct line to the Hanningfields, 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 Whitelilies 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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