LOCAL SCHOOLS ACCOMMODATION—"SOMETHING HAS GOT TO BE DONE" SAYS COUNCIL VICE-CHAIRMAN.

Speaking about the new Basildon U.D.Council Education Committee at the Council's November 10th meeting, Mrs C.J. Gadson, Vice-Chairman of the Council and Planning Committee chairman said: "Something has got to be done about schools accommodation in Billericay and Wickford. She continued, "Billericay has only one school planned for, on which work is due to start in 1960/61, which will be completed about 1965/6. It is intended that when it is complete it will be shared by Billericay and Wickford."

Billericay Council has appointed an Education Committee consisting of Councillors Mrs. Barton, Davies, Mrs. Gadson, Phelps and Stone plus the Chairman of the Finance Committee, as an ex-officio member, Councillor R.R. Garwood. The terms of reference of the Committee are that it will maintain a general oversight of the educational facilities provided or to be provided in the Urban District and to deal with all matters relating to the delegation of education functions.

It is proposed that the Committee remain until the Council take over their delegated education functions in April 1961.

COUNCIL MOVE-OVER FIXED.

Basildon Council are moving to temporary office accommodation in Basildon Town Centre, from the present separate Billericay offices on 29th March, 1960, pending the erection of the Municipal Offices. The Council are setting up a committee to deal with the moving.

CHURCH IS £200 IN THE RED.

Opening St. Laurence Church Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 21st November at the South Green Memorial Hall the Rev. G.R. Holley, Vicar said that although now the restoration of the church roof was complete, the Church were £200 "in the red" as a result of this. It was hoped that the bazaar would raise one-eighth. Friends and church organisations manned the stalls.

CIVIC TRUST WANT TO ARCHITECTURAL TREATMENT OF HIGH STREET BUT COUNCIL SAY NO.

Basildon Council have told the big national organisation, the Civic Trust, that they cannot give architectural treatment to Billericay High Street.

At the Council's 5th November Planning Committee meeting, the Clerk reported upon the outcome of a visit by Col. Past of the Civic Trust, to Billericay to discuss the possibility of special treatment of Billericay High Street. In accordance with the instructions of the Planning Committee, the Trust had co-operated with the local authority, local traders' associations and individual shopkeepers and the result had been an improvement in the amenity and appearance of Magdalen Street, which was considered to be of outstanding architectural interest. The Trust had, after consultation with Essex County Council, Billericay had been selected as one of a number of further towns for consideration for similar treatment. Members of the Council felt that Billericay High Street was not suitable for such treatment as only a small number of buildings in the High Street were buildings listed as being of historic and architectural interest, and these were not grouped together but scattered up and down the street. It was likely that some of the buildings, especially those unlised, would eventually be pulled down and rebuilt, although every effort would be made to encourage developers to build in conformity with the character of the High Street in accordance with the Council's policy therefore. The Committee decided that whilst the Council appreciated the Civic Trust's interest and suggestions for the maintenance of the High Street's architectural standard, they did not think that the special treatment would be applicable in Billericay.
CINEMA DIARY,

RITZ CINEMA, CHAPEL ST., BILLERICAY.
Prices: 3/-, 2/6, 2/-, 1/6, 1/9.

Monday, November 23rd, Three Days.
"LOOK BACK IN ANGER" (R), from the
violent play by John Osborne.

Thursday, November 26th, Three Days.
"ALIVE AND KICKING" is a charming,
amusing story, (U), of three old
ladies, very friendly with each
other and living at an old ladies
home discover they are to be
separated. They decide to run away
and have some exciting and amusing
adventures which end in them
landing on an island off the
Irish mainland. They discover three
deserted cottages but these belong
to an American man who, however,
has a heart attack and apparently
falls into the sea. They organise
the islanders into a jumper-knitting
industry, then the American's
solictor becomes suspicious.
The story has an exciting, astounding,
and amusing conclusion, starring,
Sylvia Syms, Thorley Walters,
Helen Harrison, and Stanley Holloway.

Monday, November 30th, Three Days.

Ernst Lubitsch, Curt Jurgens, in "THE
INN OF THE SIXTH HAPPINESS". This
is a story of an Englishwoman who
determines to go to China as a
missionary even though she is not
qualified. At first the townspeople
insult and call her a "foreign devil". When her co-missionary is
killed she continues with the work
of the Inn despite the fact that
Lin Nan, an Eurasian Chinese Army
officer implores her to return to
England. In an effort to end what he believes is her
'madness', the town's mandarin
gives her the arduous task of Foot
Inspector. Then the Japanese invade
China. Then Gladys begins her long
travel with a hundred children over
the mountains, with barely any food,
and the enemy to contend with, to
safety. There are many other
adventures in this colourful,
oriental film.

Thursday, December 6th, Three Days.

James Cagney, Susan Beaumont, in "NO
SAFETY AHEAD". This is a story of
a young man working in an office
on a small salary, is tempted by
the possibility of quick riches
and falls in with a gang of bank
robbers. In the robbery the bank
manager is killed and Cagney, the
young man, flees with police and
crooks, frightened that he will
squeal after him.

ROUND AND ABOUT
by "WANDERER".

Basildon Council must be
praised for their action of estab-
lishing and the sentiments expressed
by Councillor Mrs. Gadson were true
and worthy ones. With 1,600 children
under five in Billericay there is a
definite need for a new Primary
School on modern lines, a large one,
with large and adequate room for
expansion and playing fields. Part
of the Industrial Estate is the
only suitable central site — and we
must have a central primary school,
but our planners have put that down
for factories for basildon people
as in the present factories, to
come to.

The Councils turning down
of the Civic Trust's offer was wrong
because such treatment is necessary
and would improve the High Street.
When the Council are next doing
their 'planning' they should remem-
ber that a town with an attractive
High Street, no ugly Industrial
Estate and attractive housing
estates and open spaces is of higher
value than a shoddy, ordinary one.

It now appears that the
Industrial Estate, to the main will
not be screened despite verbal
and written promises. At the Press
Meeting, the Councillors forgot that
they had recently passed 6 factories
also, a few weeks ago the Council
made an official denial of any
likelihood of building on the Queens
Park Estate. Yet it now appears that
such building may shortly commence.
To their credit, the Council have
called Press Conference for next
Saturday. One of the items is Amenities
Provision and after the conference
it is to be hoped that we shall
know the Council's intentions.

Following a strong letter
from the Billericay Residents
Assoc, Basildon Council have placed a lamp
at the place where Long Meadow Path
crosses the Industrial Estate, saving
many muddy feet. Let's hope the
Council keeps it up and provides
more lamps in badly lit footpaths
and roads, especially those oil-used.

Rail services. WHEN is work
of improvements going to start on Billericay
Station Improvements, i.e. widening of
entrance and exit systems? A year
ago it was promised that work would
start this year. Something must be
done urgently. A suggestion for
improving through services —
extend the trains and platforms to
10 or 12 coaches as on other regions
-0- ----- "WANDERER".
BAZAAR TARGET OF £500 - PROCEEDS TO CHURCH REPAIR FUND.

A Bazaar and Concert held by the Congregational Church at the Mayflower Hall on November 21st had a £500 target. Proceeds will go to the Church Repair Fund, eventual target £1,000, which will be used to repaint the church building and repair the windows. The Bazaar, attended by over 200 people, was the first effort in aid of the Repair Fund.

Stalls were: Old Curiosity Shop, (Women's Guild), Books, (Mrs. Power & Miss Slater), Cakes and Table Decorations, (Choir), Toys and Bottle Stall, (Badminton Group), Fruit, Flowers, and Vegetables, (Mr. and Mrs. F. Hammond), Handkerchiefs and Home-Made Sweets, (Girls' Life Brigade), Seedwork, (Young Wives), Pound Stall, (Sisterhood), Toilet Requisites, (Sunday School), White Elephant, (Women's Guild), Slide Shows, (Drama Group). The Concert included 13 vocal items.

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE - ALL THE LATEST.

In an effort to find out the latest position regarding the plight of local residents' associations to prevent the erection of 40 factories on a site near Billericay Station, the "Observer" interviewed Mr. J. E. Hillyard, Acting Secretary, Mr. Hillyard made the following statement: 'The Residents' Association has consulted every local councillor as we were disturbed by their apparent lack of knowledge of the residents' feeling. Councillor Crisp, (also an Essex County Councillor) has replied and a meeting has been arranged. We are going to retain the services of one of the country's most eminent planners in private practice. He will be asked to look into the whole background of the matter and report to the Residents Association Committee. The best case that can be put will then be put to the Ministry. Regarding screening of the factories verbal and written assurances have been given to the effect that the site would be well screened, but it has been finally admitted that there was never any such stipulation'.

Commenting on the Industrial Estate, Mrs. E. J. Haddow, Chairman, U.D. Council Planning Committee and Councillor, Vice-Chairman, stated that the matter would again be dealt with at the next Planning Committee, at Thursday's Council meeting. She added, "Anybody coming to live here should have expected it".

COUNCIL CHAIRMAN CONFIRMS DECISION - NO DELEGATE CONFERENCE THIS YEAR.

Councillor W. H. Davies, Chairman of Basildon U.D. Council, at last Thursday's Council Meeting confirmed the Council's decision not to have a Delegate Conference in 1960. (Included in this municipal year).

Councillor Davies was asked the following question by Councillor Love, Leader of the Council's Labour Group: "In view of the public disquiet and unfavourable press reaction aroused by the Council's recent decision of not holding a Delegate Conference this municipal year, would the Chairman please consider exerting his influence upon the Council and prevail upon them to reconsider their decision, thus ensuring that the excellent public relations record heretofore held by the Council is regained?"

Giving reasons for his refusal, Councillor Davies said; "owing to the fact that we have an organisation and methods survey at present, that we have much preparation to do in connection with the delegation of Health, Highways, and Education, the move of administration to Basildon and finally, most important the decision of a previous Council which means that we cannot employ any more staff, we feel that it would not be practicable to have a Delegate Conference this year".

"SAVE OUR MEADOWLAND APPEAL." Over 1,500 Billericay residents signed a petition at two stalls in Billericay High Street on Saturday November 14th supporting the decision of Basildon Council of refusing permission for Mr. Ward of Richmond, Surrey, to build 4,000 houses on beautiful, undulating, wooded land between Bell Hill, Jacksons Lane, and Chapel Street, Billericay.

On Tuesday Mr. H. J. Hughes, Chairman of the Billericay Local Government Public Inquiry, put the case against the development for the residents of Billericay at a meeting of Basildon Council of Housing and Local Government Public Inquiry.

The Editor spent some time at one of the petition stalls on the 14th. Among regular comments were "We want a bit of countryside somewhere" and "No more development". Many people rushed up thinking it was a petition against industrialization. The result of the enquiry will be published in the "Observer", when it is announced.
EDITOR'S NOTES.

Let it be made quite clear that the "Billerica Observer" deals in every type of local news not only political, petes, bazaar, accidents, (when we hope not), local organisations are all included in the "Observer" if they are local news. Most local news has some connection with politics and of course with the affairs of town. Evenings and weekends news is sometimes but not often, unavoidably missed. I feel that, as editor, the paper is often overlooked, time like money and is a factor which prevents great circulation increases, but it is very satisfying to know that the circulation graph always has and still is, showing a steady increase towards that 500 copies target. Several, including two sellers of the "Observer" have expressed the opinion that the paper's present standard is maintained that should not be too difficult.

Town Crier. We have written away for details of a cheaper method which might save as much as 12/-, but, as yet have not received a reply. If it is not ready, Christmas I shall be very surprised. We also have some other plans which are at present, however, on the 'secret list'.

W. Grant EDITOR (Age 12)

TOC H.

A meeting to form a Toch H Branch in Billericay held last Friday at Billericay Recreation Rooms was very poorly attended. It has been decided to have another attempt at forming a Branch and a meeting has been fixed for Friday (27th November) at 7.45 at the Recreation Rooms, Billericay, near Barclays Bank, almost opposite the church.

It is hoped that there will be a better response and that enough will attend to form a Branch in Billericay to carry out the excellent, voluntary work, based on Christian principles Toch H does.

YOUNG LIBERAL GROUP IS FORMED.

The inaugural meeting of the Billericay Young Liberal Group was held on 10th November. The large number who joined indicates the interest of the young people of the area in the Liberal movement. Regular meetings started on November 23rd (yesterdays, when a festive drive was held) and they will be held fortnightly.

All those under 35 who are interested should apply to Mrs. M. Wood, "The Lyson", 9, Fairfield Rise, Billericay.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING APPROVED.

The Pedestrian Crossing in Billericay High Street has been approved and orders for the equipment have been placed.

Basildon Council Planning Committee have deferred consideration of an application by Harris Bros. of an outline application for a petrol pump, washing bay, and greasing bay in Station Approach, Billericay.

GARAGE TO LET. Phone Billericay 101 or apply to "Observer" office.

FOR SALE. Gents dinner suit in good condition - £7. Phone Billericay 101 or apply to "Observer" office for further details.

I sold a scooter through "GB" 64 Brazil Ads. For sale, wanted, etc.

CALL AT "MATTHEWS" 27 HIGH ST. FOR THE LARGEST RANGE OF ALL LEADING MAKES OF CONFECTIONERY.

A GOOD SELECTION OF GIANT SIZES ALWAYS AVAILABLE.

"NEILSON'S" ICE CREAM.
LET POLY ARRANGE YOUR HOLIDAY

Summer or winter, in Britain or on the Continent, Poly Travel offer the finest selection and best values in holidays.

See for yourself how inexpensive a fully inclusive holiday can be. Write or 'phone Poly for your free copies of these wonderful holiday programmes:

POLY HOLIDAYS
- Full details of Poly's holidays on the Continent.

BRITISH PROGRAMME

WINTER SPORTS
- Selected resorts for the novice or experienced sports enthusiast.

WINTER SUNSHINE
- Winter holidays in the sun to suit all pockets, all tastes.

HOLIDAYS AT SEA
- Combined land-sea holidays and cruises.

POLY TRAVEL LIMITED, 359, REGENT STREET.
LONDON W.1.

Telephone: GERRARD 6979.

O.A.P.'s

At the 11th November meeting of Billericay O.A.P.s held at the Rose Hall Mr T. Hopkins (Vice-Chairman) presided in the absence of Mr W. Joseph (Chairman) who was out with the Concert Party. 32 members were present, an excellent attendance. Mr Hopkins reported on sick members. He said that Mr Gill was coming out of hospital tomorrow, though still very ill, but slowly improving. Mrs Speller was also still very ill, though there was a slight improvement. All sick members were wished a speedy recovery. The Secretary, in his report, read out several letters, including a 5/- donation from an anonymous member and a £214.0. donation from Billericay Bowling Club, who were a member of such club and the O.A.P.'s. Miss Lawson and her Scotch Dancers gave fine entertainment.

18th November.

Mr W. Joseph presided. He asked for reports on any sick members, including Mr. Iches (Secretary), Mr. Dawkins (Asst Secretary) then read correspondence. There was a very good attendance. Entertainment was given by Mrs Matthews Westcliff Concert Party. Tea hostesses were Mrs Damar Green, Roberts, Pearce, and Prince.

GUILFORD CHURCH STREET

CHURCH SERVICES: Communion, 1st Sunday in month 8.30 a.m. Evensong 5.30 p.m. except 1st Sunday in month.

YOUNG WIVES FELLOWSHIP: November 24th Sunday 6 to 9 p.m. December 7th, 8 to 9 p.m. All meetings held at Christ Church.

BILLERICAY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting to be held at the W. I. HALL, BILLERICAY on Monday November 30th, 1969. Commencing 7.45 sharp.

NO TO ADVERTISMENT SIGN.

Basildon Council approved last Thursday the decision of the Planning Committee to refuse permission to erect an advertisement sign at Laylands, 70, High Street, Billericay. The reason given was that an illuminated advertisement of the type and size envisaged could not fail to have a detrimental effect on the general character and appearance of Billericay High Street.

The Council also approved the Committee decision to serve notice on the owners and occupiers of "Clarence", High Street to remove two advertisement notices erected without planning permission.

STOP PRESS,
The Billericay Story by H.A.

Chapter 5 - Danes & Normans.

In 893 A.D. new invaders - this time the Danes - arrived from the Continent.

After establishing their Headquarters at Shoebury, these Danes forced their way through Essex and along the Thames getting as far as the Severn where they were defeated and had to return again to Shoebury. They also occupied Mersey Island, and had a fort at South Benfleet where they were attacked by the Saxons about the year 895 A.D. This attack is described in the Anglo Saxon Chronicle where it is stated that the Danes were defeated and their ships burned on the spot, the truth of this being established by the discovery of various relics of the fight when the present railway station was built in the last century.

For many years, however, the struggle went on, and it was not until 991 A.D. that the famous battle of Maldon took place, and IOI6 that "all the nobility of the English race was destroyed" at Ashingdon where Canute founded a church to commemorate the event.

Billericay then was "in the thick" of all this disturbance, but life still went on and we can imagine the little groups of huts - for the cottages of that time were no more than that - near the village church and manor houses, with the areas of Strip Cultivation among the open common ground and wooded tracts, both very much more extensive than now. Our small town straggled along the hilltop by the ancient roads of Billericay, Maldon and Bradwell, then the three main centres of Christinity in this part of the country.

When the Normans arrived in IO66 the local manors were still held by Saxons who were soon to be dispossessed though in some cases they remained as tenants of the new owners. Some of their names sound querulously in our ears, but we can imagine them going about their affairs in our neighbourhood all those centuries ago, in houses on the sites of those existing today. At Mountnessing (Hall) were the three ladies Ingwar, Alferga, and Algar, and at Crowbridge a man named Alwin. Not far off at Hutton was a certain Got, and at Cinga, which we know better as Hutton, lived Bond.

At Bursted the Saxon Ingwar was displaced and his property passed to no less a person than the half brother of William the Conqueror, the great Bishop Odo who held vast possessions in various parts of the country. Bishop Odo chose Bursted as his Chief or Capital Manor in Essex, although he had other manors in Darentable, Basildon, Wickford, Vange, Harlow, South Hanningfield, Horndon-on-the-Hill, and Namsden. Some of the earliest work at Great Bursted Church can be traced to the time of Bishop Odo, who was possibly responsible for replacing the earlier wooden building by something more substantial and more suited to the new order of things. It is quite likely that he sometimes actually watched the craftsmen at their work and perhaps offered advice and suggestions as the building proceeded.

This is not as far fetched as it might sound, because Odo's chief residence and Headquarters was Rochester Castle sometimes known as "The Castle of Count Odo," and certainly the easiest and quickest route from there to his possessions in the north was by Gravesend and Tilbury, and so to his chief manor in Essex at Bursted on the site of the present Great Park near the Church.

Consideration regarding New Billericay Bowling Green.

Basildon Council approved on Thursday the decision of the Parks Committee to, when considering the annual 1960/61 financial estimates, give consideration for the inclusion of a capital item for the bowling green atfake meadowstobe converted from a four rink green to a six rink green and the existing area resurfaced. The Committee also decided that the restoration work, at present taking place, to improve playing conditions be continued.

Basildon Council have appointed a committee to approve one of two estimates for a chain of silver gilt, in place of the present frayed blue ribbon, which is the Chairman's badge of office.

Printed and Published by the "Billericay Observer,"I43, Perry Street, Billericay, Essex.