

BILLERICAY OBSERVER

TUESDAY DECEMBER 6th, 1960.

EDITOR WYNFORD GRANT. EDITION NUMBER 75. PRICE 1½d.

COUNCIL STORM - BID TO REPLACE CHAIRMAN

In an exclusive interview with the "Observer" Cllr. Hollands (Basildon Central) revealed that he intends to move a motion of "No confidence" in Cllr. W.H. Davies J.P. Tory Chairman of Basildon Council at the next Council Meeting. Cllr. Hollands was one of the Labour Councillors who walked out of last Thursday week's Council Meeting. Giving his reasons Cllr. Hollands said; "I walked out because of Cllr. Davies's insulting and dictatorial behaviour towards Cllr. Smart. In my opinion, because of his behaviour, Cllr. Davies is not fit to be Chairman of the Council and I am moving the motion of 'no confidence' in the hope that the Council's Tory Group will replace Cllr. Davies by a more suitable person".

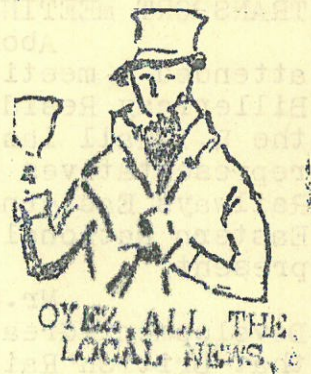
The three Labour Councillors walked out during a debate on Civil Defence Estimates. In moving reference back of the estimates Cllr. Condon (Lab.) said that expenditure on Civil Defence was a waste of time and money. Cllr. Smart seconded the motion and after warnings to "be brief" Cllr. Davies told him to "sit down and stop wandering all over the world" when Cllr. Smart started to talk on Russia. Cllr. Smart said "No, I will not", and among the thunderings caused by Cllr. Davies's gavel continued speaking. After banging his gavel several times Cllr. Davies asked Cllr. Smart "to leave the Chamber". Cllr. Smart replied "I will - in protest", gathered up his papers and stormed out.

At once Cllr. Hollands shouted "Dictator" and followed Cllr. Smart.

Cllr. Morgan then stated to Cllr. Davies "You are not fit to be Chairman of the Council". Asked to withdraw the remark or leave the Chamber Cllr. Morgan repeated it and stormed out.

Then the door opened Cllr. Smart appeared and shouted "Hitler" at Cllr. Davies. He was followed by Cllr. Hollands who shouted "You just rule the Chamber with that hammer".

CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE.



TOWN CAR PARK - COUNCIL ACT

Basildon Council are making an all-out effort to establish a Car Park in central Billericay within the next few months.

The Council are acquiring land at the rear of 97-99 High Street (zoned as a Car Park on the Town Map) at a cost of £3,750 for a Car Park. The total cost of the Car Park will be £6,638, and the capacity will be 70 cars. By the acquisition of further land the capacity could be increased.

The Council are asking the County Council if they can demolish a wall at the south of 96, High Street and include part of the land beside No. 96 to provide a better entrance to a temporary Car Park at the rear of No. 98. A portion of the garden of "Barnsley Cottage" is to be taken to provide more space. The cost will be £1,187, and the capacity will be for about 92 cars.

Negotiations are proceeding for the purchase of some of the land attached to "Foxcroft" and at the rear of Green's Stores. If a further strip of land is purchased the site could be joined to land behind No. 98 and the three sites could be developed as a major central car park for 250 cars with access from the High Street and an outlet into Chapel Street.

Negotiations are also going ahead for the use of land adjoining the Archer Hall, provided that the surface is hardened, as a general Car Park and also as one for the Hall.

The Council are taking no action on suggestions that land adjoining the Ritz Cinema in Chapel Street or land at Sun Crossroads be used as temporary Car Parks. In the case of Chapel Street it was felt that a Car Park would draw traffic to the narrow, northern end of Chapel Street, which ought to be one way. The Sun Crossroads site was not used because of its proximity to the crossroads.

TRANSPORT MEETING WELL ATTENDED.

About 150 people attended a meeting organised by Billericay Residents' Association at the W.I. Hall last Tuesday week. Two representatives from the British Railways Eastern Region and the Eastern National Bus Company were present.

Mr. Smith, Head of Development Great Eastern Line, said that British Railways were "intensely interested" in complaints from their customers. He said that the many delays which had occurred recently on the Liverpool Street-Southend line recently were due to the change over of voltage, the new system being more economical. Speaking on overcrowding he said; "62,000 people go into Liverpool Street in 1½ hours of a morning, and 62,000 came out in 1½ hours of a night. This colossal suburban service is our most uneconomical service, as during the rush hour we are using our maximum stock, and during the rest of the day we either have to put our trains in sidings or run them up and down the line empty. However there are a few rays of hope. While the electrification scheme is going on on the London, Tilbury, & Southend line, we have made tickets of the season type between Leigh and Fenchurch Street interavailable between Rayleigh and Liverpool Street. When this inter-availability ceases we estimate that it will ease the pressure on this line. Also when the "gap" between Chelmsford and Colchester is closed, and electric trains run right through from London to Clacton the Southend service will be revised to your advantage. Also we are considering lengthening our trains to 12 coaches, despite the expense that would be entailed, and the fact that we would have extra empty stock on our hands during off-peak periods".

Mr. J. Wade, Assistant Traffic Manager, Eastern National, said that the Eastern National always welcomed suggestions from customers, and were always prepared to provide additional services, where they were economical. He outlined future plans for the area.

After the speeches of the two representatives members of the public present asked them various questions.

STOP PRESS.

ROUND AND ABOUT by "WANDERER"

For the fourth Council Meeting out of five, stormy scenes were the main feature of the debates. However, last Thursday's Council Meeting was the stormiest yet, the storm is still going on in the form of an external slanging match, and an even bigger storm is brewing for the next Council Meeting, when an attempt is being made to throw the Chairman out of his position, and replace him by another Councillor. As I forecast in August, when such words as "Agitator" and "Dictator", were used the latest storm has not been confined to the Urban District, but has been reported at national level in the Press and T.V.

The row at the last meeting was over Civil Defence or to be more precise over Civil Defence and the H-Bomb. The arguments developed into national politics, and then the rumpus started. The feeling of intense bad will, which has developed, may well harm the essential, local work of the Council.

I am not going to go into the complexities of politics on the national and international levels, or the nuclear weapons argument in any way.

The storm has developed too far, and too many things have been said now for it to die a natural death, and unless a genuine effort is made by both sides to talk over their differences in a friendly manner the meetings of Basildon Council for months ahead, by hatred and chaos.

I am pleased to see that the Consultative Panel on Billericay High Street is to operate for another year. The advice of the Consultative Panel is very valuable to the Council, and no doubt they have prevented many disfigurements of our attractive High Street, while realising that some architecturally sound re-development must take place.

The Press & Public Relations of Basildon Council, which have kept up a high standard for a long time, are now gravely deteriorating. No Press Conference has been held this year, and it looks as if no Delegate Conference will be held in 1961. Also the Establishment Committee and then the Council decide not to issue a Press Statement on the O & M Report, a subject, which in my opinion, the reading public know little about.

UPROAR IN COUNCIL CHAMBER - "DRUNK
WITH POWER" ACCUSATION.
Continued from Page One.

Cllr. Morgan then appeared and shouted "Go back to Nazi Germany where you came from".

Cllr. Davies shouted in reply "Take your papers to Krueschuv, there will be no Communism in this Chamber". The three Councillors then left the Chamber for the second time and did not return.

Supporting the Estimates Cllr. Phelps, Chairman of the Finance Committee denied a statement that people just joined the Civil Defence just to get free driving lessons. He drew attention to the fact that if the Council did not support the local Civil Defence the Government would force them to, and surcharge them. He pointed out that the Civil Defence would be of great assistance and would save many lives in the event of a nuclear war, particularly in the "fringe areas". Also in case of national or local emergency, such as flooding the Civil Defence were a great help. He ended by saying that the number of people in Civil Defence proved that people were still willing to give up their time for a good cause.

Reference back was defeated by 13 votes to 6.

The following letter has been received from Cllr. Morgan, one of the Councillors who walked out.

Dear Sir,

Here are my views on the disgusting methods Cllr. Davies uses to stop democratic discussions.

You may or may not know that the B.B.C. contained a report of the meeting in their news, last Friday.

The Tory Government knows full well that in this tight island of ours there will be no "fringe areas", and the whole of this country would be destroyed in the event of any concentrated attack. This is a fact that even the American Generals admit. But still the Government lie to the people by telling them that we have a sound chance of survival. They know full well that if the public ever stop to think for themselves they would demand the ending of wars and nuclear bombs.

As for Cllr. Davies it is obvious that the man is drunk with power. The Tory Group, in the main, are just puppets in his hands, you have seen how lifeless they are in the Council Chamber.

CONTINUED IN THE NEXT COLUMN.

'TORIES NOT CAPABLE OF SENSIBLE DEBATE"
Continued from Previous Column.

They are not capable of sensible debate, this is left to 3 or 4 of their members. No one can argue with a man who will not listen to the other side; it is obvious that this cannot go on and some form of action is now being discussed and will probably come out at the next Council Meeting.

J.E. Morgan, Bardfield, Basildon.
Councillor for Barstable Ward.

The following letter has been received by Cllr. Smart:-

Dear Sir,

It is my opinion that the Chairman of the Council was "out of order" in preventing me from speaking. One cannot, when discussing Civil Defence ignore nuclear weapons, neither can one when discussing nuclear weapons fail to compare them against the "small scale" horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Against the present sized nuclear weapons of war there is no defence and, in my opinion, no "fringe areas". The only defence the public have is to take Britain out of the American front line, then perhaps the ordinary "man in the street" might have a chance of survival.

B.H. Smart, Councillor, Langdon Hills.

O & M PRESS STATEMENT DEBATE.

A Labour move to refer back an Establishment Committee minute recommending that no Press Statement be issued on the Organisations & Method report was defeated by 13 votes to 10 at the Council Meeting.

Moving the motion, Cllr. Dove stated that as £3,000 was spent on hiring the O & M consultants he felt the public should know what had been done with the money, and what the benefits were. Cllr. Dove then began to read a suggested form for a Press Statement, but was told to sit down.

Cllr. Mrs. Gadson said that the public were well informed on the subject and she described Cllr. Dove's statement "that nobody could make up a Press Statement" as "sheer nonsense".

CONSULTATIVE PANEL CONTINUES.

The Consultative Panel on Billericay High Street, formed in 1959 will run for at least one more year, decided Basildon Council on Thursday. The Panel, comprised of two members nominated by the local Chapter of Architects, and to be by the local group of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England advises the Council on planning approvals regarding the High Street.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

Observant readers may have already noticed that this issue is typed with a different typewriter, except for Page 5, which is typed with the usual "Observer" typewriter. On Saturday, after Page 5 had been typed the "Observer" typewriter, which had typed every issue from No.1 lost the letter "h" and as a result will have to be sent away for repairs. Mr. J. Hillyard of Cromwell Avenue very kindly lent the "Ob" his typewriter, and so the 75th issue has appeared on time. For more about "75 Issues of the 'Billericay Observer'" see the article elsewhere in the paper.

----- The Editor.

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RITZ CINEMA, CHAPEL STREET - PROGRAMES:

All programmes last for three days.
Mon. Dec. 5th Peter Cushing in "THE
FLESH AND THE FIENDS" (X) and "RIFIPI
AND THE WOMEN" (X).
Thurs. Dec. 8th. Howard Keel, Jane Powell
in "SEVEN BRIDES FOR SEVEN BROTHERS" (U)
Mon. Dec. 12th. Peter Sellers in "NEVER
LET GO" (X). Also "MONSTERS ON THE
CAMPUS" (X).
Thurs. Dec. 15th Tony Curtis, Dean Martin
in "WHO WAS THAT LADY?" (U).

75 ISSUES OF THE "BILLERICAY OBSERVER"

Issue No.1 of the "Billericay Observer" had only one copy typed, sewn together, and passed round, the headline on the four quarto sheets paper was "Lakeside - worst road in Billericay - to be made up at last".

By issue No.25 the paper had six quarto pages, and several carbon copies were produced. From issue No.26 the paper was duplicated (four foolscap pages) and from then on the circulation rose steadily to the present figure of nearly 500 copies, and the size increased to the present eight foolscap pages. Through the months the layout was gradually moulded into its present form, and the paper's policy developed and expressed itself through the "Wanderer" column. Meanwhile, in the first half of 1959, this unique paper for a unique town gained local, national, and international publicity, through the mediums of the press, cinema, and broadcasting.

Three national papers - the "News Chronicle", "Star", and "Empire News" have recently ceased publication and yet another - the "Sunday Graphic" - will end shortly. Also the "Evening News & Star" and the "Evening Standard" have increased their price to 3d. What of the future of the "Billericay Observer"? Despite suggestions from readers, the "Observer" (probably one of the cheapest papers in existence) has no intention of increasing its price to 2d, except in the most exceptional circumstances. The "Observer" is a non-profit making paper, and its object is to give its readers all and only Billericay news and articles for as cheap a price as possible. Some readers ask if I have enough time for other activities, and if I intend continuing the publication of the "Observer". The answer is that I enjoy producing the "Observer" and I intend to publish it for as long as possible. The "Observer" has a bright future and it is my intention to improve it in all ways as much as possible. In Edition No.100 I hope to review the improvements made in the last 25 issues - more news, a new heading on the front page, perhaps.

ARNE COURT OPENED.

Arne Court, Laindon, the first old people's home of its kind in the Urban District was opened by Cllr. W.H. Davies, Council Chairman, on Saturday. Accommodation is provided for 24 single old aged persons, and 7 aged couples. It is a comfortable, labour saving home where old people can retain their independence, while being provided with certain services.

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GIVE PHOTOGRAPHS THIS CHRISTMAS

PORTRAITS
CHILD STUDIES
SOCIAL FUNCTIONS
WEDDINGS PASSPORTS
COMMERCIAL ENQUIRIES INVITED

O. A. P's.
23rd November.

There was a very good attendance. Sick members were wished a speedy recovery; Mrs. Candler was improving; Mrs. Collins was now away sick; Mrs. Harrison and Mr. Plumridge were welcomed back after absence due to illness. Birthday honours were accorded Mrs. F. Smith and Mrs. Rosindale. Entertainment was provided by Mrs. Cicely Wardle's Concert Party.

30th November

99 members were present. On sick members Mr. Ramage was still in hospital; Mrs. Walledge was taken to hospital with leg and head injuries following an accident; Mrs. Rackham, Mr. & Mrs. Maxwell, Mrs. Candler, and Mr. Dawkins were all away sick. Sick members were wished a speedy recovery. Mrs. Train, Mrs. Darling, Mrs. West, Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Vivash were all welcomed back after absence through illness. The Secretary stated with great regret that Mr. Haynes, a member of the Branch for over 13 years, and a former Treasurer & Auditor was leaving the district. Entertainment was provided by the Crays Hill W.I. Drama Company.

CHRIST CHURCH, PERRY STREET.

Services:- Sunday December 11th, Holy Communion, 9.30 a.m. Sunday December 18th, Family Matins, 9.30 a.m. Young Wives Fellowship:- Tuesday December 13th, 2 to 3 p.m.

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The CHRISTMAS ISSUE of the "Billericay Observer" (No. 76) will be out on 20th December. Don't miss this issue - buy your copy early. Apart from being packed with local news there will be some special features!

DIVERSION PROPOSAL MEETS WITH STRONG OPPOSITION.

At a local inquiry held by the Minister of Transport last Friday week at Billericay into an application for the stopping up and diversion of a footpath met with objection from Mr. W. Taylor, who represented the Billericay Group Council for the Preservation of Rural England and also from Mr. J. A. Dodd of Perry Street, representing a number of residents in the Perry Street/Stock Road area.

For the applicants, W. D. Crabb & Sons Ltd, Mr. F. J. Gerry said his clients bought the land in March, 1958. Plans were submitted to the local authority for building and permission granted. His clients went ahead with the development.

Mr. Taylor said that his organisation represented many people living in the Stock Road and Perry Street areas. The existence of the footpath was confirmed in 1956. He maintained that the Minister had no jurisdiction to make an order, as he was not approached in time to enable him to be satisfied before development took place that it was necessary to stop up the footpath, so as to enable development to take place. He further claimed that the rights of the public had been seriously violated by the acts of the developer, and that Basildon Council had failed in their duty to protect the public right-of-way by not preventing the developer from building over the footpath.

Mr. Dodd said that during the Winter of 1957/8 and again in 1958/9 a complicated drainage system was being laid, and the site was in a dreadful mess. Despite protests to the appropriate authorities no effective action had been taken to protect the public interest and during the time the matter had been allowed to hang about, there had been an almost complete violation of the footpath.

He referred to the section of footpath which extended from Stock Road to the estate road, from the end of the concrete path from Stock Road, about a distance of 13 yards. He pointed out that a direct unobstructed path with a clear view ahead was imperative as the path was greatly used by young children attending Buttsbury Primary School, and in light of its possible future use by pupils attending the proposed new Secondary School in Stock Road.

CONTINUED IN THE NEXT COLUMN.

DIVERSION SHOULD BE ALLOWED ON ESTATE ROAD - Continued from Column 1.

A definite trap would be created by the proposed diversion, having regard to prevalent incidents where young children were involved.

However, he felt that the Minister should be advised of the correct position regarding the extent of the development, and in the interests of residents who occupied property on the estate, and for this reason alone, diversion along the estate road should be allowed.

Sir Maurice Holmes C.B.E., K.C.B. who conducted the inquiry, received a petition signed by over 70 local residents, and afterwards visited the site. He will submit his report to the Ministry, whose decision will be made known at a later date.

PLAY WAS A TRIUMPH FOR LOCAL FOLK PLAYERS.

Prolonged applause and laughter marked the Billericay Folk Player's Autumn Production "Angels In Love" last Thursday, Friday, and Saturday week. There was a packed house on Saturday, and "moderate" houses on the other two nights.

The play, a comedy set in Victorian days, is centred round Little Lord Fauntleroy, grown up.

Iris Moss, who had a strenuous part as Dearest (mother of Lord Fauntleroy) was excellent. All members of the cast played their parts very well indeed, and not once did one of them falter over their lines or action. Make-up, costumes, scenery, and lighting all maintained a very high standard, and the play reflected great credit on the Hon. Producer Robert Pratt, for whom it was a great triumph, and the company as a whole. A faultless excellent production.

BAZAARS.

A Bazaar in aid of Great Burstead Church, from 11.30 to 5 at the South Green Memorial Hall last Saturday week raised £210 for general funds.

About 150 people attended a successful Bazaar organised by Billericay Residents' Assn. at the W.I. Hall on Saturday in aid of general funds.

CHRIST CHURCH (PERRY ST.) SUNDAY SCH. present

"A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM"
by Ruth Cyndall Tongue.

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No.10.

HILL HOUSE, STOCK ROAD.

Hill House, along Stock Road, just past Lake Avenue consists of an old white plaster front building with a modern extension. The house dates from about the 1550's, and the front is shown in an old picture as white plaster with crossing beams, after the Tudor style.

For some of the time during its life it was a farmhouse, the farm being Lake Meadows plus where Lake Avenue now is.

There are nine rooms in the old house, and the ceiling timbers were apparently once ships timbers. Parquetting work has been discovered on the wall of the old kitchen, and this indicates that the wall was once an exterior wall. There are three Tudor fireplaces. When one room was being knocked into two on the upper floor two Georgian fireplaces were demolished to reveal a fine Tudor fireplace. Parts of the upper floor have steeply sloping floors. The south room of the old house is called the Ghost Room, and the ceiling was removed recently, which gives the room a high, pointed ceiling. It is not known why it is called the Ghost Room.

Major Spitty of "Hurlocks" in the High Street owned the house in the 19th century, and his baliff lived at "Hill House" and looked after the grounds. During a period of unemployment Major Spitty engaged local men to build a 5 acre in the grounds, the water being supplied from several springs in the grounds.

The Spitty Coach, now in a Colchester Museum, was kept at "Hurlocks" or "Hill House" and the old coachhouse has been extended to form a garage.

After the death of Major Spitty the property was acquired by Mr. Spurling, who sold much of the adjoining land for building. About forty years ago he built the modern nine room extension, which increased the number of rooms to 17.

The late William Cater F.S.A. bought the property in 1934, with nearly eight acres of ground, the remaining 35 acres having been earmarked as a public recreation ground - Lake Meadows. In 1952 Mrs. Cater converted the modern extension into three self-contained flats for retired Baptist ministers and their wives.

In the grounds there are some very fine trees - a Catalpa, an Ilex, a mulberry, many horse and sweet chesnuts. The most remarkable however is the Ginkgo Biloba or Maidenhair tree - probably the tallest in the country, and certainly in Essex.

Until a few years ago a Toll Cottage - probably of Georgian date - stood opposite "Hill House". There were two other toll cottages and gates in the area - at Great Burstead and Hutton.

The Editor regrets that owing to the exceptional amount of news it has been found necessary to restrict this week's "Billericay In The Past" article.

ESSEX RESIDENTS' A.G.M. IN BILLERICAY?

Billericay Residents' Association are considering a request from the Essex Federation of Ratepayers' Associations for Billericay Residents Assn. to organise and hold their February A.G.M. in Billericay.

At the last Committee Meeting a vote of thanks to Mr. S.R. Browne of Cromwell Avenue, who has resigned as Treasurer owing to pressure of business, was recorded. Mr. Browne will remain an active member.

£33,000 NOAK HILL ROAD IMPROVEMENTS.

Basildon Council approved a £33,000 scheme for improvements to Noak Hill Road (B1007), Billericay at last Thursday's Council Meeting. The scheme will extend from Church Street, Great Burstead to Noak Bridge and will provide surface water drainage, a 24ft wide carriageway with 6 ft wide footpaths on both sides, and bus laybys were possible. The Council are examining the possibilities of improving 150 yards of road south of Noak Bridge. The main scheme has been submitted to the Ministry of Transport and the Divisional Road Engineer for approval.

In a Press Statement Basildon Council urge people eligible for inclusion on the 1961 Register of Electors by inspecting the lists available at all main and sub post offices in the Urban District. The lists remain open until 16th December, 1960.

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