

BILLERICAY OBSERVER

TUESDAY MARCH 14th, 1961.

EDITOR WYNFORD GRANT. EDITION NUMBER 82. PRICE 1½d.

COUNCIL RATE DECISION

It was decided at a Special Meeting of Basildon Council on Thursday that the Urban District Rate for the 1961/62 financial year would be 21/8d in the £, an increase of 8d on last year. 15/3d of the Rate is accounted for by the County Rate, which is 11d up on last year. The Council Rate is down 3d to 6/4½d.

Proposing the Rate Cllr. Pembroke, speaking on behalf of Cllr. Phelps Finance Committee Chairman who was indisposed pointed out that the County Council had used about £1½ million of balances, equivalent to nearly a 1/2d rate, a signal that in future County rates would rise still further. Cllr. Pembroke drew attention to the fact that five years ago, in 1955/6, the payment from the Council to the County Council was only £300,489. In the short space of six years the amount paid to the County had risen by 150% to £752,150.

Cllr. Pembroke continued: "Our present capital programme, including some works virtually completed, some now being carried out, and others soon to be started, totals over two million pounds, of which more than half are rate fund service schemes. You will know that the building of our new offices and the swimming pool project are not included in the figures I have quoted and will probably together total about £600,000 perhaps more. The important thing to-night for the Council (and the public) to realise is that nothing like the total annual cost of current capital schemes is included in our estimates. In a full year a further £32,000 in loan charges will have to be met together with additional maintenance charges.

The estimated expenditure for rate fund services reaches a record level of £519,260 - nearly £84,000 higher than the amount before you this time last year." In a summary of expenditure Cllr. Pembroke stated that the Works Committee estimates were up by £55,000, highways up £22,000, lighting up £4,000, parks up 20% and administrative expenses up 4½% to £111,365.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2.



OVER FIVE HUNDRED SIGN HEALTH CHARGES PETITION

Over five hundred people have signed a petition organised by the Billericay Labour Party protesting against the proposed increases in Health Service charges. The signatures were collected at a stand outside the Co-op Hall in the High Street on Saturday.

The petition reads; "We, the undersigned residents of Billericay, wish to protest at the increased charges for the National Health Service at the doubling of the prescription charge, and at the large increases in the prices of orange juice, cod liver oil, and vitamin tablets. We object to the charges, which will hit the sick, the aged and children, in other words that section of the community least able to bear the cost.

PENSIONERS CLUB FOR PERRY STREET AREA?

At the 2-monthly meeting of the Billericay Section of the Basildon Urban District Old People's Welfare Committee on Wednesday week it was reported that investigations were going ahead regarding the possibility of setting up a Pensioners Club in the Perry Street area, and pensioners will shortly be invited to say whether they would support such a club.

It had now been ascertained that the Council were including a bus shelter at Thynne Road in their current programme.

The Committee have approached the Local Health Authority in the hope that a further chiropody session might be possible in Billericay, but have been told that unfortunately this cannot be arranged at the present time without other parts of the district suffering as a consequence.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3.

COUNCIL BUDGET SPEECH.
Continued From Page 1.

On the question of housing subsidies Cllr. Pembroke emphasised that any Rate Fund subsidy had been stopped, except in respect of aged persons' accommodation.

Regarding rateable value Cllr. Pembroke said; "Our rateable value continues to grow and this year will pass the million pound mark, but unfortunately the increased rate yield does not all come to the Council because of the incidence of the rate deficiency grant calculation. The penny rate estimates rise from £3,575 to £4,110 while the rate deficiency grant from the national exchequer is estimated at £167,440, instead of the previous figure of £150,040.

The net result is that we have a bill of £367,620, whilst last year the figure was £306,220.

Last year we needed for our net expenditure a rate of $7\frac{1}{2}$ d, the ratepayers were asked for $6\frac{3}{4}$ d, and nearly 6d. was taken from the accumulated fund balance.

This year the estimated net expenditure is equal to a rate of $7\frac{1}{2}$ d, an increase of practically 10d compared with the 1960/61 rate levy which if added to the increase in the County Rate would make a very heavy burden to be borne and so we have decided that we should again this year (as we did last) offset some of the County increase, and after careful consideration my Committee has decided to recommend that you use £51,704 of the estimated rate fund balance of £148,627 in relief of the rate, a sum equal to $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.

If both the County Council and this authority found it necessary to rate for their annual expenditure without recourse to balances, the rate would have been 23/10d in the £.

Last year the budget speech contained a prophecy of higher costs and higher rates. I can do little else but to repeat that prophecy. Whilst new projects are accepted as necessary; and whilst wages and prices rise; little else can be expected and we must do whatever we can to exercise economy by wise spending and careful planning".

News Note:- The rate has been higher in three previous years:- 24/7d in 1953/4, 24/6d in 1954/5 and 24/6d in 1955/6. This was due to a high Urban District rate and a high County Rate.

ROUND AND ABOUT
by
"WANDERER".

The Council rate for the coming financial year was a pleasant surprise. But the warning of higher rates in the future should be heeded. A careful watch must be kept on the expenditure of the County Council and local Council.

Southend Waterworks Company want to erect a Water Tower in Norsey Woods. This amenity is a necessary one, but I support the C.P.R.E. in that the design should be imaginative, and more in keeping with the surrounding woodland. Although there are tall trees already there, new ones could easily be planted and would provide a more effective screen, especially from Norsey Road.

The Library facilities in Billericay are quite inadequate for the growing population, and one has to rely on Chelmsford libraries for books. The staff do their best, but the Library is far too small. There is not room for an adequate selection of books in the Reference or Borrowing sections, and also there is no separate Reading Room for newspapers and magazines. I suggest two alternative sites for a new Library 1) The old Council Chamber building, leased to the local Council by the County, but with the lease expiring in a few years, be converted or 2) A Community Centre be built with a Library or a Library be built on the Community Centre site, with the Centre to be added later.

Basildon Council have passed their Third Private Street Works Programme, which includes Lake Avenue and Cromwell Avenue. I cannot understand this. For all but a short stretch Lake Avenue is made up with an adequate surface and its character may be ruined by a concrete road, and Cromwell Avenue has a reasonable surface, far better than Bellevue Road, Rosslyn Road, Central Avenue, Tylers Avenue, Little Norsey Road, Headley Road to name a few examples. Of course a new road is to be constructed between Lake Avenue and Cromwell Avenue for a new housing estate, but this is no reason for making up the two roads, when others are little more than mud baths.

Now that the better weather is arriving there has been trouble with the motorists from Dagenham and Chelmsford wanting to get in Lake Meadows. I say take a firm line and prosecute those who park on the main roads. Lake Meadows is Billericay's park not Dagenham's, and it is not a Car Park.

TRANSPORT TO CHURCH FOR OLD PEOPLE.

Continued From Page 1.

A member reported that an elderly lady known to him would like to attend church regularly but was unable to manage the journey, and the Chairman asked that the needs of any such elderly people be brought to the attention of the Secretary, Mrs. Beryl Barr, who would then get in touch with the church concerned, and transport could be arranged.

The Rest Room in Billericay High Street continued to be well used by the pensioners, and the Chairman, Mr. G. Mephram, expressed gratitude to the ladies, under the leadership of Mrs. Alston, whose hard work had ensured the success of the venture.

It was reported that the "South Green Thursday Club" had been short of chairs, and the sum of £18 had now been given to the club by Basildon Area O.P. Welfare Committee for the purpose of buying chairs.

The Billericay Carnival Committee have offered one third of the proceeds of this year's Carnival to the Old People, and the Committee are considering how this very generous sum can be put to the best possible use. The Committee hope to undertake the catering at the Carnival.

It is hoped to take a party of handicapped elderly people to see the Billericay Operatic Society's production of "The Merry Widow" this month, and perhaps also arrange a summer outing.

Two new members were welcomed to the Committee; Mrs. Barbara Cottis, Visitor in Great Burstead, and Mrs. Morrison representing the Labour Party. The Chairman assured anyone who would like to help in any way with the steadily increasing work which the Committee undertakes, and particularly visiting, that they would be most welcome to come along and join the ranks.

"WINKLE PICKER" SHOES IN THE 16th CENTURY!

A pair of shoes found in the party wall of "North Sea House", 55, High Street, and donated to the Cater Museum closely resemble the "winkle picker" shoes of today, with pointed toecaps.

STOP PRESS NEWS.

LIBERALS ATTACK COUNCIL CHAIRMAN.

At a meeting of branch officers of Billericay Constituency Liberal Association recently, a resolution sharply criticising a recent speech by Councillor W.H. Davies J.P., Chairman of Basildon Council, was carried unanimously.

The resolution, which was proposed by Billericay's Prospective Liberal Parliamentary Candidate Mr. Peter Sheldon-Williams, and seconded by Mr. T. Rosier of Billericay Liberals reads: "That this Association deplores and censures in the strongest terms a statement attributed to Councillor W.H. Davies J.P., Chairman of Basildon Council, in which he urged the Billericay Residents' Association not to put up a candidate at the May local elections. Councillor Davies further urged Billericay electors not to vote for such a candidate if the Residents' Association did sponsor a candidate because the intervention of a R.A. candidate might damage Tory control of the Council".

"We regard this as the antithesis of democratic practice", the statement concludes.

COUNCIL DEPARTMENT MOVES BACK TO OLD OFFICES IN BILLERICAY.

As from Monday 20th March, the Council's Housing Department will be accommodated at 96, High Street, Billericay - Phone Billericay 1800 - formerly occupied by the Council's Health Department which has now moved to 98a, High Street, Billericay. Until the end of March housing rents will be collected by the Council's Treasurer at 88, Town Square, Basildon, but as from the beginning of April, the Housing Manager at 96, High Street, Billericay, will be responsible to the Council for all housing tenancy matters, and for the collection of rents.

FIREMEN FIVE HOURS AT WHEAT FIRE.

Billericay Fire Brigade spent five hours on the night of March 4th at a wheat stack fire at Whites Farm, Barleylands Road, Billericay. They were assisted by Laindon Fire Brigade. Thirty tons of compressed wheat was burnt.

Earlier the same evening the Fire Brigade had attended a chimney fire at St. Andrews Hospital.

On Tuesday afternoon they put out a fire in a dustcart in Rayleigh Road, Hutton. The rubbish in the back of the cart had become overheated and caught fire.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

Circulation this time is 530, in order to meet the increasing demand for the "Billericay Observer".

This issue is another 10-page one. However, I have no intention of increasing the price to 2d.

The popular "Billericay In The Past" history series will start again in the issue after next - that of April 11th.

Arrangements have been made for the regular coverage of fires in the Billericay area, and the first of these reports can be seen on Page 3.

The "Observer" was filmed for the Pathe Pictorial cinema newsreel, and among the local scenes filmed were the High Street, Station, and Fire Station.

The new system of distribution records has proved successful in the past few months and will be continued with.

The experiment of selling copies outside the Station on the Friday after publication has also proved a success. Last Friday week the Editor sold out in ten minutes. I will be there again on Friday the 17th and every fortnight afterwards.

Lastly but not least on Page 8 there is a letter, on a topic in a letter in "Observer" No. 81. This is most heartening and I hope the trend will continue.

----- The Editor.

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THE BILLERICAY WOMEN'S CO-OP GUILD
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FILM SHOW ON WEDNESDAY 22nd MARCH IN
CO-OP HALL, HIGH STREET, AT 2.30 p.m.

MORE THEFTS FROM MUSEUM.

There have been more thefts
from Billericay's Cater Museum at 74,
High Street in the past few weeks.

A silver tobacco box in a
screwed down display case was stolen,
after the screw had been forced. The
box was hallmarked and had the
inscription "Sergeant Morgan. Best
Turned Out in D. Squadron E.I. (or T)
Y. 1903" on it.

Also stolen was a small round
brass box the shape of a large
serviette ring with an embossed design
on the outside, and the top flanged
outwards in pie crust pattern.

Then the Curator Mr. H. Richman
discovered at a later date that a
German bayonet of the 1st. World War was
missing. The bayonet was nailed to the
wall.

One of the silver watches,
which were the first items to be
stolen, is now in the hands of the
Police.

RESIDENTS COMPLAIN ABOUT LIBRARY FACILITIES.

Billericay Residents' Assn.
have sent a letter to the County
Council complaining about the
facilities at Billericay Library. In
their letter they emphasise that they
are not complaining about the staff,
but about the size of the building and
the facilities provided in relation to
the town's population. Commented Mr. G.
Birch (Secretary); "There is hardly
room to move in there on a Saturday
morning".

The "Billericay Observer" is Printed &
Published by the Billericay Observer
Press at 143, Perry Street, Billericay,
Essex. Phone to be installed in the
next few weeks.

W I N T E R S U N S H I N E.

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BILLERICAY O.A.P's.

1st. March Meeting.

There was an excellent attendance. On sick members it was stated that Mr. Ramage was now back at Billericay Hospital being transferred from Black Notley. It appeared that he was a little better. Mrs. Newell was now out of hospital, and was a little better. Mrs. F. Smith, Mr. Youngman, Mrs. West, and Mrs. F. August were all welcomed back after being away sick. The Secretary gave details of the Outings to Clacton, Brighton, and Felixstowe. Mrs. Boulter and Mrs. Pratt from Warley entertained.

8th March Meeting.

There was a very good attendance. Regarding sick members Mr. Ramage was a little better, as also was Mrs. Newell. Mrs. M. Horne was away with Gastric Flu. All were wished a speedy recovery to good health. Several Members returned after absence through illness. They were Mrs. W. Speller, Mrs. Fee, Mrs. Gilbert, Mrs. Robertson and Mr. Emery. The Members were entertained by the Branch's Concert Party in "The Wearing of the Green" which was by request. Those taking part were Mrs. Plumridge with songs, Mr. Joseph with songs, Mr. Wiltshire with Songs and Mandolin, Mr. Plumridge with Songs and Drums; Mr. Dawkins with Cornet Solos, Mr. Milburn with Songs, and Mr. Riches a non-member sang a Duet with Mr. Wiltshire. The Pianist was Mrs. Dawkins and the Compere Mr. Dawkins. Tea hostesses for both meetings were Mesdames Porter, Cross, and Sandrock.

CHRIST CHURCH, PERRY STREET.

Services:- March 19th, Family Communion, 9.30 a.m. March 26th, Matins, 9.30 a.m.
Young Wives Fellowship:- Tuesday March 14th, 8-9 p.m., Miss Harris, Moral Welfare. March 28th, 2 to 3 p.m., Easter Talk.

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"SPORTS OBSERVER".

Billericay Town Sports Club News:-

Saturday March 4th:-

1st XI lost away to Crittalls 0-4 in CMEP.

2nd XI lost at home to Stock United 3-6 in CME2.

The first team are third from bottom in CMEP, the second team are fifth from bottom in CME2.

CMEP - Chelmsford & Mid-Essex League, Premier Division.

CME2 - Chelmsford & Mid-Essex League, Second Division.

CINEMA DIARY, RITZ CINEMA, CHAPEL STREET BILLERICAY.

Monday March 13th, 3 Days, "STRANGERS WHEN WE MEET", starring Kirk Douglas and Kim Novak (A) and Dick Clark, Victoria Shaw in "BECAUSE THEY'RE YOUNG", (A).

Thursday March 16th, 3 Days, Anita Ekberg, George Marshall in "SIGN OF THE GLADIATOR", (U), also "DUKE WORE JEANS".

Monday March 20th, 3 Days, Burl Ives, Shelley Winters in "LET NO MAN WRITE MY EPITAPH" (X) also "MURDER BY CONTRACT" (X).

Thursday March 23rd, 3 Days, Dana Andrews, Fredric March in "BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES", (U), at 4.24, 7.30, Matinee Sat. 1.30.

Sunday Programmes also.

TWO MORE "BILLERICA NEWS" COPIES RECEIVED.

Since the last issue two more copies of the "BillERICA News" (Mass., U.S.A.) have been received. In one of them the "Observer" letter re-establishing links with our American sister town is published in full.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Forthcoming Events In Billericay.

March 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, Billericay Operatic Society present "The Merry Widow" at the Archer Memorial Hall at 7.45 p.m. with Matinee on Saturday at 2.30 p.m. Box Office:- Vere's.

Congregational Church Arts & Crafts Exhibition, Mayflower Hall, Chapel St., on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th

March from 3 p.m. Prize giving 16th March. Music & Elocution Festival from 10 a.m., Mayflower Hall, Saturday 18th

March. Prize winners' concert, 25th March, Mayflower Hall, 6.30 p.m.

March 27th, Buttsbury Residents' Assn., Annual General Meeting, Buttsbury School, at 8.30 p.m.

Sunday 16th April, Tyelands Riding Club Hunter Trials, Park Hill Wood, Herongate at 11 a.m.

NEWS OF THE LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

Women's Co-op Guild.

At the March meeting of the Billericay Women's Co-op Guild the idea was put forward and discussed of changing the day of meeting from Wednesday to Monday, as this appears to be more convenient to several intending members.

Floral Arrangement Group.

Another successful meeting was held at the W.I. Hall on March 1st. Mrs. Totts lecture "When Flowers Are Few" was well received, the hall looking quite Springlike with the lovely arrangements of Spring flowers. The members arrangement "Easter Surprise" was won by Mrs. Turner, 2nd. Mrs. Cox, 3rd. Mrs. Shipton and highly commended, Miss Needham.

MATTHEWS
25/27 HIGH STREET

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EASTER EGGS

QUEENS PARK

STORES

SPAR GROCERS

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| CROSS & BLACKWELL HERRINGS IN TOMATO - | SAVE 4d, 14 oz. size, 1/10d to 1/6d. |
| CROSS & BLACKWELL HERRINGS IN TOMATO - | SAVE 2½d, 7 oz. size, 1/2½d to 1/-. |
| HARVEYS STEAK & KIDNEY PUDDINGS 16 oz. | SAVE 6d, REDUCED FROM 2/8d to 2/2d. |
| HARVEYS STEAK & KIDNEY PUDDINGS 8 oz. | SAVE 3d, REDUCED FROM 1/6d to 1/3d. |
| BATCHELORS PROCESSED PEAS A.I. ----- | SAVE 1d, REDUCED FROM 6½d to 5½d. |
| PEEK FREANS SHORTCAKE ½lb ----- | SAVE 2d, REDUCED FROM 11½d to 9½d. |
| MARRIAGES FLOUR S.R. or PLAIN 3lb ---- | SAVE 5d, REDUCED FROM 1/10d to 1/5d. |
| MARRIAGES FLOUR S.R. or PLAIN 1lb ---- | SAVE 1d, REDUCED FROM 8d to 7d. |
| GLENVILLE CUSTARD POWDER 7 PINT ----- | SAVE 2d, REDUCED FROM 11½d to 9½d. |

OFFERS AVAILABLE 20th MARCH - APRIL 1st.

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 16 oz. BENEDICT FRUIT SALAD ----- | SAVE 9½d, REDUCED FROM 2/3½d to 1/6d. |
| 12 oz. JARS COUNTRY MARKET SLICED BEETROOT ----- | SAVE 3d, REDUCED FROM 1/3d to 1/-. |
| 2½s COUNTRY MARKET CALIF. SLICED PEACHES ----- | SAVE 5d, REDUCED FROM 2/11d to 2/6d. |
| E.1. COUNTRY MARKET GARDEN PEAS ----- | SAVE 2½d, REDUCED FROM 1/3½d to 1/1d. |
| A1T COUNTRY MARKET GOLDEN PLUMS ----- | SAVE 3d, REDUCED FROM 1/4½d to 1/1½d. |
| ½s MARTINUS TUNA FISH ----- | SAVE 4½d, REDUCED FROM 1/9d to 1/4½d. |
| 6oz MOLLY CREAM ----- | SAVE 3½d, REDUCED FROM 1/2d to 10½d. |
| ½s PEEK FREANS ASSORTED ----- | SAVE 3d, REDUCED FROM 1/4½d to 1/1½d. |
| 12oz TULIP LUNCHEON MEAT ----- | SAVE 6d, REDUCED FROM 2/6d to 2/-. |
| SUNCRUSH ORANGE ----- | SAVE 11d, REDUCED FROM 3/3d to 2/2d. |

ALSO ON SALE AT QUEENS PARK STORES:- CIGARETTES, TOBACCO, CHEMISTS SUNDRIES,
CONFECTIONERY, GREENGROCERY, and FROZEN FOODS.

THROUGH THE POST.

Letters from "Observer" readers.

The Editor,
Dear Sir,

With reference to the letter of Mr. Keene which was published in your "Observer" of the 28th February, No. 81, I would like to point out that over two years ago I brought this matter of the danger at Sun Street Garage to the notice of the Police. They sent me a very courteous letter stating they had sent my letter on to the Council, as it was a matter for the Council to deal with. The outcome of this correspondence was that the Council compelled the Garage Proprietor to instal overhead pipes from the Petrol Pumps to restrain cars etc. from pulling on to the pathway. I agree with Mr. Keene that something should definitely be done about the matter as people have to walk in the road as the cars still pull up on the pathway. It seems to me that when an accident does occur something may be done about it; I have seen several old people and children myself walk out into the road to pass by. It is a real danger spot.

W.A. RICHES, HON. SECRETARY, BILLERICAY
O.A.P. ASSOCIATION.

NORSEY WOOD - RUMOUR AND FACT.

Billericay Residents' Association have written to Basildon Council enquiring about rumours that the Norsey Wood (195 acres) is to be developed for housing purposes, and asking for a statement about the future of the Woods.

Meanwhile Southend Waterworks Co. have submitted an outline planning application to the Council for the erection of a Water Tower in the Woods, 80 feet high, 60 feet in diameter, and 13 feet in tank depth, to be situated near Norsey Road, opposite Little Norsey Road. It is proposed that the tower will be of reinforced concrete construction. The Billericay Group C.P.R.E. have written to the Council asking for a more imaginative design and the planting of more trees in the area. In their letter the Group state that they realise that Water Towers are necessary in rapidly expanding areas, and that a more objectionable site could have been chosen.

The Billericay and Buttsbury Residents' Associations are looking into the proposed Water Tower.

TO LET.

4-BERTH CARAVAN TO LET AT BRIGHTON, SUSSEX, EVERYTHING FOUND, EXCEPT LINEN, GAS COOKER, OPEN FIRE, CHINA, CUTLERY, VERY COMFORTABLE. ON LOVELY SITE -- SHOPS, SHOWERS, SHAVING POINTS, FLUSH SANITATION, CHILDREN WELCOMED.

TERMS ACCORDING TO MONTH.

Apply:- E.M. Johnson, 3, Poplar Place, Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTS.

For Sale

17) Compact GLC Gas Stove; three burners and oven, including plate rack and splash back. In good condition. Price £3. "Langley", Hill House Drive.

JUNIOR RED CROSS AT WORK.

Three cadets of Billericay Junior Red Cross, Linda Verrent, Pat & Beryl Parrish of Norsey View Drive, and a friend Susan Jenkins, having seen pictures on television, and in the press, of the plight of children in the Congo, wanted to do something to help, and on their own initiative organised a Jumble Sale to be held in their garden. They collected jumble from friends and neighbours, advertised the sale by "posting" leaflets and sold raffle tickets. Then the jumble was sorted, priced, and sold. This together with money raised by selling cakes made by friends, resulted in the grand sum of £5/0/3d handed to the Cadet Officer with a request from the little girls that the money should be sent via the Red Cross to help the starving children in the Congo.

CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT GROUP FORMED IN BILLERICAY.

At a recent meeting at 11, Bootham Road a Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament Group was formed in Billericay. There are about a dozen members at present. The Group hopes to run the catering at Brentwood for people on the Wethersfield-London march at Easter.

MUSEUM OPENING TIMES CHANGE.

The Cater Museum at 74, High Street will no longer open until 7 p.m. on Tuesday evenings. It is hoped to arrange late opening on Saturdays.

COUNCIL ASK FOR THE VIEWS OF PRESS.

Basildon Council have asked the local Editors for their views on the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960 which provides for the admission of the Press to certain Council Committee Meetings and all of Council Meetings.

FRONTAGERS PETITION MINISTER OF HOUSING OVER STATE OF ROADS.

43 residents of First and Second Avenues, Tye Common, Billericay have petitioned the Minister of Housing & Local Government Mr. Gardner Q.C., M.P., and Basildon Council about the state of the two roads.

The petition draws attention to "appalling conditions in the two roads with lack of surfaces and channelling and the state of the footways, together with the disgusting conditions resulting from cesspools not being emptied since July".

In an interview with the "Observer", Mr. W. Mash, organiser of the petition, stated that with one or two exceptions there had been 100% support for the petition. Mr. Mash felt that the cesspools constituted a danger to health, and there were several young children in the roads. He also stated that coalmen refused to deliver coal and fuel ordered because of the state of the two roads. The frontagers of First Avenue had paid for ash for footways and had tried to improve the road surface, but

CONTINUED IN NEXT COLUMN.

FIRST AND SECOND AVENUES Continued from previous column.

this was very expensive. In addition when there was heavy rain a ditch in Frithwood Lane overflowed and flooded the road to a depth of 4 inches. A few years ago the road was grass and the surface was reasonable, but it had steadily deteriorated. Mr. Mash said that he was at a loss to understand why the Council allowed so many new properties to be built in the area, when the roads were in such a state.

In their reply the Council state that they cannot give any definite date for the making-up of the roads, but plans were being prepared. Nothing could be done until the £40,000 Tye Common Sewerage Scheme was completed which would allieviate the cesspool situation. They could not empty the cesspools because their vehicles would get bogged down in the winter.

The frontagers are going to press the Council again for a definite date for the commencement of work on the two roads. They are also going to ask the Council to put down some temporary surface, so that coal lorries can get up the road, and also the Council's sewage vehicles.

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SPANISH GRAVES 6/6

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CARNIVAL QUEEN ENTRY FORMS OUT SOON.

The entry forms for the Billericay Carnival Queen Competition would shortly be out in the shops, it was reported at a recent meeting of Billericay Carnival Committee at the Rose Hall. The selection dance for the Queen and two attendants would take place at the Archer Hall on May 20th. Judges would be from outside the area. It was also reported that Eska (London) Ltd. had agreed to make the dresses for the Carnival Queen and two attendants. Vere's would provide hair styling, Shelleys gloves, and Ashleys stockings. The Carnival Queen would reign just for Carnival Day (June 24th).

It was agreed to try and get two huntsmen from the Essex Union Hunt to lead the procession in full hunting dress.

It was announced that judges for the Youth Band competition would come from the Army.

It was hoped to arrange a tug of war as one of the Carnival's highlights.

It was reported that entry forms for the procession would be in the shops shortly.

Proceeds will be divided into three equal parts. One third will be for the benefit of non-political youth organisations in the area, one third for the benefit of the old people in the district, and the remainder for the benefit of the sick and infirm.

Mr. J. Dodd, Carnival Secretary asks all voluntary organisations who have not received a letter from him to get in touch with him.

AROUND THE TOWN.

No.3 - "What is the C.P.R.E.?"

Many people wonder exactly what the Billericay Group of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England favour and what they do.

The Council is a national body, and the Billericay Group is one of its many branches, founded in 1937. The objects and aims of the Group cover a wide range of subjects. The preservation of the countryside (as shown in their title) is one of their main fields of activity. They are interested in trees, footpaths, and new development. They are also interested in the preservation of old buildings and the preservation of records of the past (in Billericay, through their aid to the Cater Museum). They are also interested in making a town look clean and tidy, by the provision of adequate litter bins, and the penalty for offenders, the removal of ugly hoardings and other advertisement signs.

What have the C.P.R.E. done in Billericay? To quote the Secretary Mr. W. Taylor "It's not so much what we have done, as what we have prevented, things which would have made Billericay a far worse place". The Group have published two books "A Plan For Billericay" (at the request of the planners) and the "Billericay And Its High Street" book. The Group also arrange three outings a year for members.

The C.P.R.E. certainly believes in member participation - there are sub-committees dealing with various aspects of the Group's work, which any member can belong to. In addition there is an active Junior Section of 25 members - a sure sign of the Group's virility.

SOUTH GREEN WAR MEMORIAL HALL. (Bus 251 to South Green).

BINGO

TUESDAY MARCH 14th

TUESDAY MARCH 28th

AND FORTNIGHTLY, onwards.

2/6d ADMISSION FOR EVENING.

Starting 8 p.m. - PRIZES.