

# BILLERICAY OBSERVER

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Tuesday October 24th, 1961.

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"The only newspaper printed and published in Billericay".

## COUNCIL WALK-OUT "DICTATORSHIP" SAYS LABOUR GROUP LEADER

Shouting "Dictatorship", two Labour Councillors (Cllr. Dove and Cllr. Morgan) walked out of last Thursday week's Basildon Council meeting, after a row between Cllr. Dove, the Labour Group Leader, and Mrs. C. J. Gadson, Tory Council Chairman.

After a prepared statement had been read out on the economic situation, Cllr. Dove asked Mrs. Gadson for permission to comment on it. Mrs. Gadson refused, and Cllr. Dove asked "Why?". "Because I say so", came the reply. After the minute had been passed, Cllr. Dove stood up and said; "I deprecate the fact that you did not allow me to put my point of view". Mrs. Gadson replied "You had already spoken, and anyway I don't suppose what you had to say would be worth hearing".

At this Cllr. Dove picked up his papers, stormed out shouting "Dictatorship", and slammed the door. He was followed by his colleague, Cllr. Morgan.

Commenting on the incident Cllr. Dove said; "By introducing such a note of intolerance into the meeting the Chairman of the Council, is in my opinion, acting in a way unbecoming of the position she holds. Indeed the question must be asked - is she only going to allow Councillors to speak when they agree with her viewpoint? If this is so, it will make a mockery of having the Opposition in the Council Chamber. It is clear to me, however, that this was another example of how the individual rights of a Councillor to express his views within the confines of Standing Orders are being lessened". Cllr. Dove emphasised that he thought that he was within his rights in speaking, and condemned the attitude of Mrs. Gadson to the only Independent Councillor, Cllr. H. E. Wilkins (see Page 12).

The public benches were full, and several members of the public were standing. One of these was Mr. W. J. Blair, Secretary of the Buttsbury Residents' Association. Giving his views on the walk-out he said; "I was dismayed at Mrs. Gadson's attitude. She was very biased in favour of her own party. She was very rude to Cllr. Dove, and didn't give him a chance to speak.

Footnote; Almost a year ago three Labour Councillors walked out of a Council Meeting during a debate on Civil Defence estimates. Subsequently the Labour Group moved a censure motion on the Chairman, in an unsuccessful attempt to make him resign. Cllr. Dove has stated that he is not taking any action at present, but is giving the matter consideration.

#### BY-PASS PLAN TURNED DOWN.

Following a debate at the recent Council Meeting it was decided not to go ahead with plans for a Billericay By-Pass.

Cllr. Phelps said; "A relief road for Billericay has never been needed or wanted. To construct it would cost several hundred thousands pounds, and this would be a gross waste of public money. The answer lies in a one-way working of Chapel Street and the High Street - from Chelmsford down Chapel Street, and to Chelmsford down the High Street. All that would be necessary would be some traffic lights. This would be far better than going round the houses behind Chapel Street, along Norsey Road, and then across to link up with Stock Road. This would mean land lying sterile for years, while the planning was done. The greater majority of the people of Billericay don't want this By-Pass. The High Street is 42 feet wide in parts. We know it's narrow by the Church, but it's wide enough for one-way working. At the moment the High Street is cluttered up on a Saturday, and the Car Parks are hardly used. If we got every car off the High Street through "No Waiting" orders then the traffic flow would be greatly improved".

Cllr. Wilkins (Ind.) commented; "We must be bold and ask the local people what they want. We must plan to the future - in ten or fifteen years the High Street will grind to a standstill".

It was unanimously agreed not to proceed with the proposed Relief Road.

The Council decided to seek the views of the Police on "No Waiting" orders for:- a) Sun Street to St. Ediths, b) The Church to Norsey Road, continuing along both sides of Stock Road to Hill House Drive, and along both sides of Norsey Road to Crown Road, c) Two short sections of the High Street immediately adjacent to the Car Park entrances.

A survey of householders in Cromwell Avenue and Lake Avenue revealed that 30 were in favour, and 4 against "No Waiting" restrictions in these roads. It was decided to defer consideration of "No Waiting" orders in these roads and in Hill House Drive. It was decided to consider next year the removal of the park entrance gate to the top of Lake Avenue.

#### LEAGUE OF FRIENDS REACH MEMBERSHIP TARGET.

Despite bad weather a fair number of people gathered in the W.I. Hall, Billericay, for the Annual Public Meeting of the St. Andrew's Hospital League of Friends.

Mr. Squires, Chairman, described the year as a most successful year, and attributed this to the good administrative organisation of the League. He read a letter from Mrs. Law J.P., who is on the House Committee of the Hospital, paying tribute to the work the League had done in the past year. They were an integral part of the Hospital.

Mrs. I. Peach, Secretary, also described the year as the most successful in the life of the League. Two new functions - the Concert and the Dinner and Dance - had been introduced, and had proved to be extremely popular and successful. All other functions had been more successful than usual, and the Fete had been bigger and better.

The Membership Secretary, Mr. Harrison stated that last month, when the League had a membership of 191, a target of 200 had been set for the Annual Meeting. This had been achieved - membership was now 210. Last year it was 141. Mr. Harrison stated that he thought the ultimate success of the organisation depended on the support received from members.

Presenting the Treasurer's Report, Mr. Rosier stated that £909 11-8d had been made on the Fete. Another £800 had been placed in the deposit account for the staff recreation hall, making a total of £1,000. Last Christmas, a gift had been given to every patient, and every member of the staff on duty, for the first time ever, at a cost of just under £100, and it was intended to do this again this Christmas.

#### CABLE FAULT AFFECTS PHONES.

G.P.O. engineers worked in high winds on Wednesday evening in Perry Street, in an attempt to locate and rectify a cable fault, which had cut off hundreds of phones in the Perry Street area. After several hours, the work was completed, and the phone service restored.

## COUNCIL ANSWER FLATS PROTESTS.

Because of the number of letters received by Basildon Council protesting against the erection of flats in various areas of Billericay, the Council have issued a standard duplicated letter in reply.

This states that the Council gave full consideration to the erection of flats in March, when they gave permission for the erection of flats on the Bush Hall Estate. The letter states that the Council do not agree that the flats will devalue neighbouring properties. The Council agree that there may be some lag in public services because of rapid development, but state that these services are continually under review by the authorities.

On the erection of flats in Billericay in general the letter states; "It must be appreciated that, although it might be desirable to retain Billericay as a semi-rural area, it is a town which cannot avoid playing its part in providing for the housing needs of the country generally, and the town's increased population is provided for in the County Development Plan which was approved by the Minister. The Council fully appreciate the reasons behind your objections to flats, but feel a certain amount of this form of development is inevitable and it should be appreciated that the Council have a duty and they will do all in their power to secure that flats and any other development erected in the district are well designed and well planned, and that the interests of adjoining residents are taken into account".

At the recent Council Meeting the Chairman of the Council, Mrs. C.J. Gadson, read out a long telegram from residents of Bush Hall Road, protesting against the flats. Commenting Mrs. Gadson said that the scheme for a four-storey block of flats had been dropped by the developer, and he was only proceeding with a plan for a three-storey block.

In an interview with the "Observer" over the weekend, Mr. Waugh of Jacqueline Gardens, a Road Representative of Buttsbury Residents' Association said that there was very strong feeling about the matter in the area. People were particularly concerned about public services, and traffic. There was also a feeling against being overlooked by flats.

## STATION FLATS OBJECTIONS DEADLINE.

Mr. Bowles of Dukes Farm Road told the "Observer"; "Flats as such are not a bad thing. But one has to take into account such things as situation, schools, and conditions on the railway to London. The Council did not act in a very commendable fashion in not letting the local residents know about the flats. I think they were afraid of repercussions from residents, and that an Inquiry might have to be set up, so they managed to avoid one."

The Council have issued an official statement on the flats proposed for Radford Way. (Opposite the Station). In this they say that the detailed plans have now be submitted and can be inspected at any reasonable hour at the Council Offices in Basildon until October 31st. All objections must be in to the Clerk of the Council in writing by November 1st.

## COUNCIL NOT TO BUY LAND FOR PARK.

Following information from the District Valuer Basildon Council have decided not to proceed with negotiations for the purchase of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land at the north-west corner of Lake Meadows, for an extension to the Park. Negotiations for the land, which was to have been a Car Park and access road until Residents' protests made the Council change their mind, have been going on for several years.

## WEST RIDGE FIRE - SMOKE DAMAGE.

Firemen from Billericay and Laindon attended a fire in a house in West Ridge, Billericay, early on Saturday morning. An immersion heater short circuited causing some clothing in an airing cupboard to catch fire. The clothing and the cupboard were severely damaged, and other parts of the house were damaged by smoke. Last Saturday week the Fire Brigade attended a chimney fire in Queens Park, Billericay. Last Tuesday fortnight they were called to a malicious false alarm at Hutton. In the past fortnight they have also dealt with two grass fires at Ramsden Bellhouse, and have given assistance to other Brigades.

### EDITORIAL.

Editor:- Wynford P. Grant.

Editorial Offices:-  
"Billericay Observer",  
143, Perry Street,  
Billericay,  
Essex.

Phone:- Billericay 1927.

Readers will note that this issue of the "Observer" has 12 pages, instead of the usual 10. This is because of the demand for advertising space. The paper will continue at this size, while it is still justified by the advertisement revenue.

Circulation of the "Observer" is now 800+. I am going to try and reach the 1,000 copies mark by December 5th - the publication date of the 100th issue. In the last six weeks circulation has increased by over 200 copies, so I hope it will be possible to achieve this circulation aim.

The machine I now use for duplicating the "Observer" is a Gestetner "360" model, which is electric, and fully automatic.

--- The Editor.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Forthcoming Events in Billericay

Wednesday October 25th:- Basildon Urban District Council Finance Committee Meeting, Council Chamber, High Street, 6.50 p.m.

Saturday 28th October:- Modern Dancing, Archer Hall, provided by two bands.

Tuesday November 7th:- Basildon Committee for Education, Council Chamber, High Street, 6.50 p.m.

### BILLERICAY FLORAL ARRANGEMENT GROUP.

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Young Wives Fellowship:- Tuesday  
October 31st, Christ Church, 8  
to 9 p.m.

ADVERTISMENT RATES from the Editor.

# For the Old Folk

Billericay O.A.P. - 11th October Meeting.

93 were present. All sick members were wished a speedy recovery. Mr. Ramage was welcomed back after being absent for eighteen months through illness. Mrs. Shaw was welcomed back after her absence due to the death of her husband. The entertainment was provided by the "Joybells" Concert Party.

Billericay O.A.P. - 18th October Meeting.

In spite of bad weather 92 were present. A Minute's Silence was held for the passing of Mrs. Wharton. As to sick members it appeared that Mrs. W. Speller was improving; Mrs. Newell had Pleurisy; Mrs. Candler and Mr. Emery were suffering from Bronchitis; Mr. E. Speller was very sick and going into Hospital. All were wished a speedy recovery. The Crays Hill W.I. entertained with a play - "The £5 piece". The Secretary gave out details of the forthcoming A.G.M. and Dinner.

Sunnymede & Outwood Common O.A.P. Club.

On the 13th goods and fruit brought along by members were auctioned for the Club's benefit. 4 new members were welcomed. After tea, when a cake made by a member was passed round, several games of Bingo were enjoyed. The meeting concluded with songs, Mrs. Brett at Piano, and Mrs. Morrison singing two songs. Last Friday a very pleasant evening was spent with games of Bingo and the old Songs.

Old Peoples' Welfare Committee:- The South Green Primary School Harvest Festival was such a success, that the Headmistress was kind enough to send parcels to thirty pensioners. On Saturday October 14th the Round Table took 21 pensioners who seldom go out by coach to Southend, where they enjoyed a meal, and went on a tour of the lights.

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Monday October 23rd (3 Days):-  
Kenneth Connor in "DENTIST ON THE JOB" (A). Also "MAN IN THE BACK SEAT" (A).

Thursday October 26th (3 Days):-  
Richard Todd in "DON'T BOTHER TO KNOCK" (A). Also "TARNISHED HEROES" (U). Special all-U matinee Saturday.

Monday October 30th (3 Days):-  
Richard Widmark, Sonja Ziemann in "SECRET WAYS" (A). Also "POSSE FROM HELL" (A).

Thursday November 2nd (3 Days):-  
Clint Walker "Cheyenne of T.V." in "GOLD OF THE SEVEN SAINTS" (U). Also "WHITE WARRIOR" (U).

RECREATION GROUND MEETING.

The South Green Committee of Billericay Residents' Assn. have decided to hold a meeting in South Green on November 16th on the question of South Green Recreation Ground. They have to take this action because they are getting nowhere with the Council with their protests that the removal of the hedge round the ground would create a road safety menace. The agenda will be open, and a decision on further action will be taken.

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14th October:-

Norsey Rangers beat Teleflex at home 3-2. Norsey Res. drew with Teleflex Res. away 5-5. The Minors beat Outwood Common at home 8-0.

21st October:-

Norsey Rangers beat Marconi away 3-0. Norsey Res. beat Craylands at home 7-3. The Minors beat Hornets at home 13-1.

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ITALIAN TOMATOES -----	SAVE 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	REDUCED FROM 11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d to 10d.
DAISY PEAS -----	SAVE 1d	REDUCED FROM 9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d to 8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.
BRILLO SOAP PADS -----	SAVE 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	REDUCED FROM 2/3d to 1/10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.

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## BILLERICAY IN 1706.

by the Editor,

One of the most important features of Billericay at this date were the various Inns. These played a far more important role in the town than the Public House of today. As a town of some importance, on the busy Tilbury-Chelmsford road the Inns of Billericay were no doubt used by many travellers on their way from Chelmsford and the north to Kent via the age-old crossing at Tilbury. They were a source of employment to the local people, as well as a source of refreshment.

The largest in the town at this time was the Red Lion, which exists on the same site today. This is shown in the 1706 rental as being owned by one Samuel Threshow Gent. It is described as including two crofts (formerly three), a barn, three stables, a yard, and a garden, six acres in all. It is probable, from the evidence in the description, that the "Red Lion" included what is now known as Nix's. Certainly the boundaries of these two properties are closely intermingled. Samuel Threshow is also shown as owing "a tenement and garden" next to the Lion. This was probably the building on the site of No.109, and was probably used for putting up travellers, or accommodation for staff.

The same Samuel Threshow, as well as owning other property in the town, is shown as the owner of the "White Lyon" - "Tenement called the White Lyon Inn, with two cherry orchards, and of pigstie thereto belonging" - now Shelley's. The arch into the courtyard and the cherry orchards still exist today.

It has been thought that the "White Hart" was at "Hurlocks" at that time, for on a 1681 map it is shown as owned by Joseph Fishpoole, who is known to have owned "Hurlocks". The survey reveals that John Fishpoole owned both properties, and that the "White Hart" stood on the site of Barclay's Bank. The "White Hart" now stands at the other end of the High Street, by the Post Office.

No.33, High Street is stated to have been referred to as "The White Swan" in an 18th century deed. The survey confirms the existence of this Inn - "Richard Wingford for a tenement called the 'Old Swan' and a yard thereto belonging".

On the other side of the High Street, at about No.20, Gilbert Garret is shown as owning "The Bull tenement and orchard". A property next door called the "Bull Kitchen" is mentioned.

The existence of "The George", where Howard's now is, is confirmed by the survey. The "King's Armes", shown on the 1681 map, as belonging to William Curtis, is shown in the survey as belonging to the "house of Curtis". This Inn stood where Layland's now is.

Last but not least the "Croune" which existed opposite Woolworth's until the late 1800's (the arch is still there), and is now by the railway bridge, is mentioned as having an orchard, stable, and garden. The rent totals point to the "Red Lion", "Croune", and "White Lyon" as being the most prosperous inns in Billericay in 1706.

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#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir,----- At last Basildon Council are to allow local residents to voice their opinions on the proposed flats in Radford Way. It must be noted however that outline approval has already been given for the flats, and any representations made, will, if acted upon, only alter the details of the finished plan. If it was proved that the flats were not necessary they would still be built, or the Council would have to compensate the developer.

Their decision on the matter of publicity is in the right direction, and one hopes that in future they will give more publicity to planning applications of this nature before outline permission is given to the developer.

Residents of the Bush Hall Estate and its immediate surroundings are not as fortunate because planning applications for two, three, and four storey blocks of flats were approved for Bush Hall Road and Newlands Road last March. So far as can be seen these flats will be erected on the odd plots of land not fully developed in the area. Many residents on this estate have only recently moved into their property and were not advised, when contracting to purchase, of the possibility of the erection of flats so close to them. Now whether they like it or not, in the majority of cases, they have to stay put as the removal expenses are too great.

Continued In Next Column.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - Cont.

In response to numerous letters containing objections to the development the Council have issued an information bulletin giving their reasons for the approval of the planning applications, and although they state that the flats are well designed and in keeping with their surroundings one cannot help feeling that this is the first step in giving approval to flats on any odd plot of land in Billericay, with the excuse that the best possible use must be made of building land.

If flats are necessary why not build them as a feature of the district with open space round the blocks, play areas for children, proper access for cars and off-street parking, adequate drying areas, and the minimum loss of privacy to nearby properties.

The Council acknowledge that more strain will be put on the public services by flats causing a higher density of population, but surely there is a limit to this. Ask any traveller if he can get a seat on his train in the morning, ask people with young children how they feel about school places, ask people about electricity voltage drops, ask people living on unmade roads, ask about youth clubs and community centres.

May I say in conclusion that flats are not the dirty word that Cllr. Quirk infers, but they do bring problems which can only be remedied by careful short and long term planning, good design, publicity by the Council, and constructive comment by the public - W.J. Blair, Secretary, Buttsbury Residents' Association.

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#### BRITISH LEGION - BILLERICAY BRANCH

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IF YOU AGREE ON THIS POINT WOULD YOU CALL IN THE

SHOP AND ADD YOUR NAME TO A LETTER OF PROTEST

WHICH WILL BE SENT TO OUR LOCAL M.Ps.

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## COUNCILLOR REBUKED FOR ASKING QUESTIONS.

Cllr. H. E. Wilkins, Billericay's Independent Councillor was rebuked at the recent Council Meeting by the Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. C. J. Gadson, for asking too many questions at Council Meetings.

Commented Mrs. Gadson; "If every Councillor asked as many questions as you did the work of the Council would be obstructed. You could easily ask these questions of the Chief Officers. I would not like to see the privilege of asking questions restricted or abolished, but this may be necessary".

Cllr. Wilkins's first question was on flats - "In the interest of good public relations, can the Chairman state what the policy of the Planning Committee is with regard to planning and building of flats in the built-up areas of Billericay and Wickford. I submit that the building of flats is of wide general interest to residents". Cllr. Wilkins continued to refer various conditions for the erection of flats - Publicity, planning principles, open space, play areas, motor access, escape in case of fire, drying areas, refuse collection, loss of privacy, landscaping.

In reply Cllr. Quirk said that publicity would be given in appropriate cases, and he could not state the principles. He then commenced an unofficial speech; "Cllr. Wilkins is a Chartered Surveyor, he knows about flats, and he knows this isn't the time for a treatise on town planning. The questions are being used for publicity for the Residents' Association he represents. Some people on this Council are far too parochial. We've been doing this job for years, and we haven't done a bad job. Just because Wilkins is on the Council it doesn't mean all development will stop". Mrs. Gadson thanked Cllr. Quirk, and said that she was having a model of the Station flats on show afterwards.

Mr. Wilkins's other question was on incompleteness of Private Street Works. Mrs. Gadson said she thought this was a reflection on the good work of the Council.

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STOP PRESS NEWS.

## ROUND AND ABOUT

by  
"WANDERER".

I consider Cllr. Mrs. Gadson's rude attitude to Cllr. Dove at the last Council Meeting highly deplorable, and not at all becoming of a Council Chairman. Her remarks to Cllr. Dove can only be described as insulting, and her attitude could be compared to that of a Dictator, and not that of a responsible, sensible person. Not only was she rude to Cllr. Dove, but I consider that she was highly rude to the Independent Cllr. Wilkins. Mrs. Gadson had not legal or moral right for criticising Cllr. Wilkins for asking questions about subjects in which the people of Billericay are highly interested.

I do not consider that the expenditure of several hundred thousand pounds on a Billericay By-Pass would be justified. The proposed route (behind Chapel St., Norsey Road, Norsey Rd. - Stock Rd. link) would not help the motorist at all, might mean the demolition of properties, and would mean that good agricultural land would be used up. The High Street is wide enough to cope with the present volume of traffic, and the traffic for many years to come, provided that there are "No Waiting" restrictions. These may not be popular with all, but there are now two large and central Car Parks, and under the present proposals waiting would still be permitted in certain sections of the High Street. However, I do consider that Stock Road needs improving. Drainage and building works have caused the road to be dug up many times. It is now a series of patches, bumps, and potholes, and what good surface is left is steadily deteriorating. It would not cost much to re-surface this road, but it would be well worth it.

The Council have invited people to object to the detailed plans for the Radford Way flats scheme. This is a good step. However, the opportunity should also have been given for people to comment on the outline permission. And why weren't the people of Bush Hall Estate informed of the proposed flats? Permission was given in March, but the news wasn't revealed until September - six months later. Surely, advance publicity was justified in this case ---- "Wanderer".