

SUBURB NEWS



The Newspaper of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association JAN '84

BIG WOOD AND LITTLE WOOD FOR REPLANTING

After years of discussions the Council is planning action on Big and Little Woods. Mr. Robert Ingall of the Barnet Council's Parks Department so advised the Trees and Open Spaces Committee of the Residents Association at a recent meeting.

The Committee strongly support a well-ordered replanting of the Woods.

Both Woods contain a large number of trees which will reach the end of their lives together and a decline has set in. Steps to remedy this by the introduction of sapling Oaks and restoration of copices are being planned to commence early in 1984.

There have been widespread consultations with the R.A., the Trust, The Finchley Society and other professional ecologists to produce a structured management plan in Big and Little Woods. This involves taking the Woods section by section, as bounded by the paths, and removing the minimum number of trees to allow replanting and establishment of the saplings.

The sections will be taken one or two at a time, every two or three years. The effect may appear rather drastic, but the benefits will soon become apparent. The whole task will be spread over twenty to thirty years and as far as possible, the privacy of adjacent residents will be preserved by leaving the lower vegetation on the perimeter of the Woods.

The Trees Committee, in consultation with Barnet Council, intend to organise a tour of Big Wood when the work begins. Please look out for notices if you would like to take part in the tour.



TRUST AGM HEARS SPIRITED DEFENCE

The Institute Hall was filled to capacity for the A.G.M. of the New Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust on November 28 as over 200 residents gathered for what was expected to be a confrontation by residents who are also members of the Freeholders Association.

In the event there was a strong support for the Trust from the floor following a spirited defence of its position from the Chairman Ian Hodgson, from Brian Gallagher, Pat Tyler and Dennis Ross and, via Dr. Mervyn Miller, and Roderick Gradidge, from the Institute of Town Planning and the Victorian Society.

Mr. Hugo and others put the case of the Freeholders Association that was fully covered in the October issue of Suburb News.

R.A. Council member Eileen Whelan summed up the view of a number of questioners when she said that she was ashamed when

she thought of the original founders of the Suburb who worked for an ideal with such altruism and asked: "What would they have thought of all the bickering that was going on? Why can't we all work together to make the Suburb work?"

The Chairman agreed to consider a proposal from Gerry Mansell, Chairman of the R.A. "that if we are to emerge from deadlock, representatives of the Trust, the R.A. and the Freeholders Association should meet to make sure that something is being done. Let us seek such ways as may be available to us of meeting the aims of all residents." RJW

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TRUST NOMINEES WIN COUNCIL ELECTION

Pat Tyler the Treasurer of the New Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust and Brian Gallagher, a coopted member, were both successful in the Trust Council elections. The result announced on December 12 was P. Tyler 268, D. Gallagher 256, V. Hugo 204, R. Caplin 218.

One of the first actions of the new Council, in the Finance and Management Committee, was a decision to send a final letter and statement to the minority of freeholders who have yet to pay the Management Fee of £15.50 for 82/83, and to follow this up, if

the fee is not paid within 21 days, with a County Court Summons.

The additional management fee of £11 for 82/83 is subject to an independent surveyor's report following the objection to the charge by 200 freeholders.

Leaseholders are being asked to make a voluntary contribution as and when their ground rents become due during the year. An encouraging proportion of those already asked to contribute have done so, it was reported at the A.G.M.

RJW

NEW RESIDENTS PARTY

On 15 October the Residents Association held a reception in Bigwood Hall for new residents, which became quite a party. We made a host of new friends and had many offers of help in the running of the association.

The Party was great fun and in fact when the time came to say "Good night" we had to be reminded by our friend and caretaker Mr. Benjamin "time was up".

Mrs. Brigid Grafton Green displayed a small but very interesting sample of Suburb history from the archives and answered innumerable questions,

there-by spreading the centre of interest from one end of the Hall, where the drinks and eats were, to the other, where her table was.

Thanks are due to all who shopped, cooked, and organised the Party so well, and most of all the new residents who came and made the evening such a great success.

Many of the residents who attended offered to help and by now will have been contacted by Chief Wardens. This voluntary help is essential if the Suburb is to remain alive. The more helpers we have and the greater the involvement by residents, the livelier, more informed and effective association we shall have.