

SUBURB NEWS



The Newspaper of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association

APRIL '84

R.A. CHAIRMAN SET TO TAKE R.A. v TRUST OVER AT TRUST

Gerry Mansell, Chairman of the Residents Association told a crowded Annual General Meeting that he had been co-opted as a member of Council of the New Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust, on the retirement of Dennis Ross, with a view to taking over as Chairman, from Ian Hodgson, within a short period.

Busy Year

Earlier the meeting heard the Chairman update the published Annual Report on what has been a very active year for the R.A.

Questions were asked from the floor about the future of the H2 bus (report below) and road humps. The R.A. had asked for road humps to be considered for Hampstead Way, Meadway, Temple Fortune Lane and Oakwood Road. Barnet Public Works Committee has said that, of these, only Oakwood Road is suitable and they propose an experimental scheme.

Dr. Hoblyn pointed out that traffic may merely be driven into other Suburb routes and hoped that the R.A. Traffic Committee would take an objective look at the disadvantages as well as the advantages.

Replanting

The Trees and Open Spaces

Committee had heard from Barnet that a start would be made on replanting of the first section of Bigwood in April.

Trust Changes

Mr. Mansell welcomed the staff changes at the Trust but expressed regret that they meant that both he, as Chairman, and Chris Kellerman, as Vice-Chairman, should be leaving the R.A.

Disquiet

In questions and comment a number of residents expressed disquiet that the action of some 200 freeholders in challenging the '82-'83 management charge seemed as if it would cost all freeholders a substantial increase in the next charge owing to the likely high cost of professional fees involved in the appointment of an independent arbitrator under the terms

of the Scheme of Management.

Orchards

Members drew attention to the appalling state of the orchards south of Central Square. Dawn Orr told the meeting that it was difficult to establish who owned the freeholds involved and therefore who was responsible.

Library Hours

Concern was expressed over the reduction in opening hours at Barnet libraries. Mr. Mansell said that the R.A. had written to Barnet and Councillor Halfon stated that he had answered numerous letters from residents on the subject.

Pavements

The state of suburb pavements was also raised. Sue Pearl, Chairman of Consam recalled that the R.A. had carried out a detailed survey of pavements two years ago and passed the results to Barnet, as far as she knew all the repairs necessary at that time had been carried out by the Council.

Councillor Halfon told the meeting that Barnet had budgeted £400,000 for such repairs this year. He said that residents should write to the Borough

Engineer with copies to Mr. Halfon.

Saying that car-parking on pavements was the cause of much of the damage, Councillor Shultz said that there had been an increase in prosecutions of pavement parkers.

New Officers

A proposal that the officers for the coming year should be: Chairman, Tony Mandelson; Vice-Chairman, Richard Wakefield; Hon. Sec. David Bogush; Hon. Treasurer, Janet Harris, was seconded and adopted by the meeting.

New R.A. Councillors for the year are:

Mr. E. Caplin	Ms. J. Singer
Mr. M. Feldmann	Mr. R. Summers
Mr. J. Jackson	Sir J. Walley
Mr. A. Lawson	Mr. L. Wood
Mr. D. Morrison	Mr. R. Phillips

Tony Mandelson expressed the gratitude of Council and Members of the R.A. for Gerry Mansell's tireless year of office, one which had seen more R.A. activity than ever before. Wishing the Chairman well in his new appointment, Mr. Mandelson said we looked forward to a continuing improvement in the R.A.'s relationship with the Trust. RJW

For many more years than most of us now involved can, or care to, remember the relationship between the Trust and the RA has, to say the least, been strained. In a sense this is as it should be as one of the R.A.'s functions is to take up cudgels on behalf of members against any body that appears to be threatening their legitimate interests. After all there will always be some who feel aggrieved at the Trust stopping them doing something they want to do or, more likely recently, not stopping someone else doing what they shouldn't be allowed to get away with.

The R.A. has been consistently, but constructively critical of the management of the Trust. It was the R.A. that led the way in the formation of the Joint Working Party whose work eventually culminated in the Joint Working Party Report, some of whose recommendations are now, belatedly, being implemented; in particular the overdue appointment of an estate manager.

The Trust Council has, to be fair, a thankless task to perform and, whatever one thinks of its record, it has been hamstrung by lack of money, then preoccupied with getting the scheme of management revision through the courts, and now by the resultant imbalance of income derived from freeholds and leaseholds.

Residents should therefore be thankful for the way that Council members have given their time and talents to wrestling with these seemingly intractable problems.

Now we have a Trust Council

member, Brian Gallagher, a Chairman designate, Gerry Mansell and Estate Manager Chris Kellerman, all ex R.A. Council members, joining Elisabeth Layton, who has devoted her time to both for some years. Will it all be different?

There are those who will say "We've seen it all before!" And there are those who have said that "The R.A. is the lapdog of the Trust!" We hope the former will be proved too cynical. We know that the latter has never been the case and will not be so now.

The new Council, and officers, of the R.A. will continue to take up residents' causes and, through its Conservation and Amenities Committee, keep a close eye on the conservation of the Suburb. We will not hesitate to make what we believe to be constructive criticism again if the Trust does not, as we expect it will, significantly improve its performance and service to residents.

We believe that it is in the interest of all Suburb residents that the R.A. should assist the Trust as positively as possible. It is for this reason that you will find a regular advertisement feature, prepared by the Trust, in Suburb News. The R.A. may not necessarily agree with the views expressed by the Trust in its space but hope that regular, wide dissemination of Trust information will help us all to understand what it is trying to achieve.

Gerry Mansell was quoted in our last issue when he said at the Trust's November AGM "Let us seek such ways as may be available to us of meeting the aims of the residents". Let us hope that he has found a way.

RJW

H2 BUS FUTURE UNCERTAIN

At the R.A. Council Meeting in March, Mr. Hillman, General Manager of London Transport's Leaside district, and Area Service Manager, Mr. Williams, had been invited to discuss the future of the H2 service and to hear suggestions from the R.A., and, in particular, from Neale Close residents, for changes to the schedule that would extend the service to the North side of the Suburb.

Mr. Hillman pointed out that the buses were four years old and had been designed to be replaced at the end of three years. A submission had been made for the purchase of three new Dodge vehicles. It was by no means certain that the necessary funds could be found. If the money is not forthcoming there is a possibility that the service could be discontinued.

With the proposed abolition of the GLC and the subsequent transfer of responsibility, the H2 could be transferred to private enterprise.

Returning to the route



taken, Mr. Hillman said that the minimum round trip time should be 25 minutes, as it is now, or there would be fewer than four buses an hour. Council agreed that

this frequency should be maintained.

It was suggested that two journeys a day could be diverted in off peak hours to go up Ossulton Way.

Martin Jaskel, R.A. Traffic Committee Chairman, agreed to liaise with Neale Close residents and put forward proposals to London Transport RJW

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