

# SUBURB NEWS



The Newspaper of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association

OCT '84

## WILD HATCH PLAN IS TURNED DOWN

It has just been announced that the Department of the Environment has rejected all applications to develop Garricks Glebe and to convert the garage at the end of Wild Hatch into a cottage. A local enquiry into the appeals against Barnet was heard on 31 July and 1 August before the Inspector, Mr. Cubby. The hearing was well attended by local residents and on the first morning there were close to 100 visitors.

Barnet were represented by Mr. Milner who called Messrs. Snell and Mills as witnesses. The appellant was Mr. Mazure a director of Shield Properties: Besides being a property developer Mr. Mazure is also a solicitor and he conducted his own case.

Local residents, the Trust and the Crematorium were represented by Mr. Pickles, who called the following witnesses Ernest Howey and Claudia Roden, two residents of Wild Hatch; Gerald Priestland; Alfred Lester, a local architect; Janette Harris, the treasurer of the RA; Cecil Carey, the Managing Director of

the Crematorium; and Mervyn Miller a member of the Trust Council. A small committee made up of Ernest Howey, Hugh Hamilton and Christopher Kellerman, the Trust Manager, co-ordinated the defence. Surveys were undertaken of pedestrian movements through Wild Hatch, a huge poster and canvassing campaign was undertaken throughout the suburb and the inspector was inundated with letters of objection. All the residents of Wild Hatch and every resident, except two, on the southwest side of Hampstead Way between Corringham Road and Meadway supported the protest.

There were a number of reasons why Mr. Cubby rejected all the appeals. In the case of the garage he argued that "the character of an area depends not only on the uses established there but also on visual factors and I am convinced that any major alterations to the appeal site buildings, including the existing northern wall, would be detrimental to the prevailing characteristics of this part of the conservation area." As regards Garricks Glebe, the inspector felt that "being densely wooded with trees and shrubs it forms an important visual barrier between the residential element of the conservation area and the Crematorium's Garden of Rest immediately to the south-west."

Commenting on the result of inquiry Christopher Kellerman, the Trust Manager, said "the Trust have always opposed developments on these two sites and the campaign has shown what can be achieved when local residents, the RA and Trust are all pulling in the same direction. I hope this sets a precedent for future co-operation within the community." CK



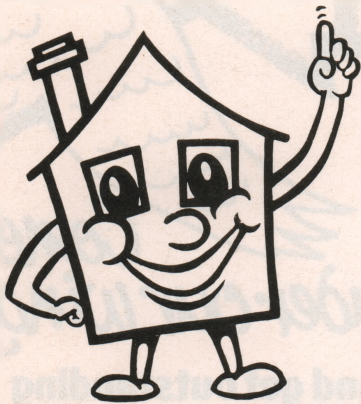
The Residents Association's Family Fete on September 2 attracted hundreds of residents. Here Jo Hann was helping with the "Dead Rat" game. Report page 2.

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## NEWS OF FALLODEN WAY

### PUBLIC MEETING

Anyone with doubts about the Suburb's attitude to Department of Transport plans to "improve" Fallodden Way had them finally dispelled early in September. A public meeting, called by the Lorry Route Joint Action Committee with a mere five days warning, packed the Free Church Hall to the doors. Residents were angered that the Ministry were continuing their dirty tricks campaign by refusing the Suburb the same opportunities of public consultation over their five schemes as East Finchley had enjoyed, and a public discussion however hasty, was felt necessary before the miserly two-day Suburb exhibition opened.

At the meeting, over 250 residents heard Suburb MP Peter Thomas repeat his opposition to all the Ministry's schemes and pledge his support for the residents' campaign to have all through traffic removed from the conservation area. During a half hour question and answer session Mr. Thomas — a former Secretary of State himself — said that through a long career in politics he had never known a road arouse such strong feelings and such concerted campaigns to protect it. With 200-300 individual letters already received, each one passed to the Minister Lynda Chalker, he felt very optimistic for the final outcome.

The meeting turned to how best to show the Suburb's disapproval of the Ministry's tactics and discussed two opposite courses of action. Advocates of a public boycott of the two-day exhibition — "the Ministry's

mean-spirited, dishonest and totally inadequate gesture at public consultation" — argued this as the most effective way of embarrassing the authorities into holding a full and proper exercise in the Suburb. Others felt that the highest possible attendance should be encouraged, and a record of the Suburb's verdict on the exhibition be sent to the Secretary of State. Those for attending and protesting the exhibition's inadequacies were in a clear majority and the meeting closed with further condemnations of the schemes and the meeting's resolve that Department officials should be questioned closely on the many inconsistencies of their schemes and procedures.

### THE EXHIBITION

The exhibition opened on 10 September to immediate controversy. None of the missing information such as traffic figures and absent models, and disinformation such as incorrect speed limits and accident statistics had been corrected. The display boards which are nowadays always provided for public use were deliberately omitted, to much provocative smirking from the Ministry organisers.

The high attendance hoped for at the public meeting duly materialised. Over 400 residents attended, many refusing to sign the Ministry's attendance book as a sign of their disapproval, preferring to register their attendance by signing the Joint Action Committee's petition calling for full and proper consultation for the Suburb. This petition of the first

400 signatures has been sent to the Secretary of State via the Suburb's MP Peter Thomas.

During the course of the two day exhibition, residents found they could obtain little useful information. Traffic counts that would reveal the justification — or lack of it — for widening, had simply not been taken. Existing surveys, which prove the massive drop in HGV traffic since M25 opened, were omitted and residents wanting answers to traffic questions were told on the second day that they had wasted their time attending as there was no-one there qualified to deal with them.

All in all the exhibition can be said to have served only one purpose. It showed the Suburb the lengths — and depths — to which the Department of Transport will go in trying to foist its ideas of "improvement" on an unsuspecting public. Fortunately for the Suburb its long experience with the Marsham Street Mafia has left it very suspecting and Mrs. Chalker will have a great deal of explaining to do when she meets our deputation early in November.

What Next?

After the consultation period what next? The RA, the Joint Action Committee and the Trust are now trying to keep up the momentum of publicity and protest. As the exhibition in the Free Church Hall ended we received letters from Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, which, to put it mildly were riddled with inaccuracies and inconsistencies and half-truths and to which we are currently preparing replies.

A meeting has been arranged by Peter Thomas MP on 8th November with Lynda Chalker at the House of Commons at which we shall all put our case most forcibly.

From hints dropped by Department of Transport officials at the exhibition it appears that the Department of Transport is considering the yellow scheme (the tidal flow scheme) which, as we understand it, would not require a full scale public enquiry since no part of the highway would be touched. If a public enquiry is called the RA at present certainly does not have sufficient funds to be represented professionally and the Executive Committee will be examining the various options open to us in the future.

MJ

## STOP PRESS

The Pavilion Children's Centre has broadened its scope still further — this time to amuse the nursery school age group. On 20th September it began a 'Fun with Music' group that takes place every Thursday between 2 and 3 p.m. Piano teacher Pamela Barewood leads the activities — rhythm, movement, percussion and singing — and is assisted by mothers whose children are involved. About 20 children take part, at a cost of £16.80 per term.

For further details contact Niki Landau: 455 8256.