

SUBURB NEWS



The Newspaper of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association SPRING '85

RA AGM HEARS OF INSTITUTE DANGER

Nearly 200 members attended the Association's Annual General Meeting on March 25.

Following a welcome by the Chairman, Tony Mandelson, during which he updated his remarks in the report, the Report and Accounts were proposed accepted by Ted Hoblyn and seconded by Richard Bull.

Turning to the election of Council members the Chairman reported that nine members retiring by rotation had offered themselves for reelection: S.A. de G. Abbott, D. Bogush, D. Drown, G. Hirschfield, Mrs R. Kriteiman, Mrs E. Layton, T. Neal, K. Thorpe and J. Wilson, leaving four vacancies which he hoped would be filled during the year.

There being no other nominations the officers for '85-'86 will be: Chairman, G.N. Mandelson; Vice Chairman, R.J. Wakefield; Hon. Sec., R. Bull; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs J. Harris. The Chairman thanked retiring Council Members Esther Eisenthal, Sue Freeman, Douglas Jobson and Elaine Tyrell for their support

and paid tribute to the work of David Bogush as Secretary and Sue Pearl who is giving up the chairmanship of Consam. He also thanked Rosemary Goldstein for her tireless work as Assistant Secretary.

Peter Blackstaffe was thanked for his past help as Hon. Auditor and re-appointed.

QUESTIONS

Richenda Barbour opened an hour long session of questions and answers by asking whether another Suburb Clean Up Campaign would be mounted this year. David Bogush, who organised the '84 Clean Up replied that Barnet would help with skips only every other year. A number of members commented on litter, Cllr Shutz commented that as the majority party they had already been accused of cleaning only certain parts of the Borough, such as the Suburb, but he would note members comments.

Freddie Hannam wanted to know what was happening about the Oakwood Road 'humps'.

Martin Jaskel, RA Traffic Committee Chairman, answered that GLC promises had not been forthcoming and that a delay of 3 to 9 months was expected.

Memorial seats were a concern for Mrs Monkhouse who asked who was responsible for replacing them when they were vandalised. Alan Lawson replied that he liaised with Barnet over them. Cllr Max said it was regrettable that seats were regularly smashed. They are replaced, but if every one was replaced immediately the cost would be astronomical.

Car parking near corners around the Institute was discussed as was the state of the path behind Market Place shops. It was raised by Mr May who called it the "biggest rubbish dump in the area". Cllr Max blamed it on the "cowboy shopkeepers" who dump their rubbish and blame it on one another. The problem is, he said, that responsibility for the path is ill defined; Barnet can only take action when there is a danger to public health. He advised residents to contact the Public Health Department.

SUBURB FLATS

Barbara Anderson asked what was RA policy on keeping in touch with residents living in flats? "I know at least two families, living in Market Place, who have received no communications from the RA", she said. The Chairman answered that there were considerable difficulties in maintaining contact with some flat dwellers as security entryphones made it impossible for wardens and voluntary distributors to "walk round most of the flats making deliveries". He said that the RA had held a meeting with flat tenants associations but not all flats had been represented.

Norma Blausten suggested that residents in flats could offer to become wardens.

In answer to a question from John Anthony, Martin Jaskel told the meeting that there was no further news of the future of the H2 but that as this service was one of the least attractive for a private contractor the RA is hopeful that the Leaside District of London Transport will retain it.

RA FUNDS

The Chairman told the meeting that the RA Council, whilst cognisant of the need to maintain reserves for major emergencies such as a public enquiry over Falloen Way or a private members bill to enable Trust management charges to be shared more equitably between residents, they had set up a working group to look into uses for part of the accumulated reserve.

Elisabeth Layton, a member of the group, outlined their preliminary ideas which will be put to the RA Council in April.

They included keeping a major reserve for pump priming large future needs and an annual project fund, initially £5,000.



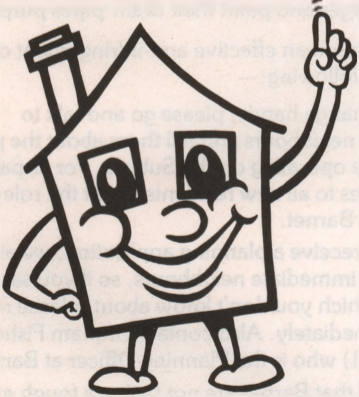
True love triumphs in the H.G.S. pantomime. Fiona Riem as the princess and Fiona Lumsden plays George. Report page 4. Photos Colin Allen.

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Some £2,500 would be spent each year on social or environmental projects.

Forms would be produced to enable residents to make application for specific ideas. They would be designed so as to assist applicants to think out their proposals and help RA assessors to judge between applications. Cllr Halfon welcomed these "sensible suggestions", but felt that income from the reserves should be spent without using the capital.

Ted Hoblyn recalled earlier days when the RA had been hamstrung for lack of funds and urged the Council not to look for ways of spending them.

Miss Henderson made three suggestions: that subscriptions should be lower and of a standard amount so as to attract all residents into membership; bring children on an outing from Toynbee Hall to maintain the historic connection; use RA funds to buy the Wild Hatch land that had been the subject of planning refusals and ensure its future as a Suburb amenity.

INSTITUTE APPEAL

After the AGM the meeting was addressed by Cllr Max, Miss Marjoribanks and representatives of the architects and the organisers of the Institute Appeal.

Cllr Max summed up when he said that residents could contribute to the appeal for any of

four reasons:

To help save a Grade I listed building.

The continued existence of the school.

To save a thriving adult education centre.

To preserve the buildings for community use.

Sue Pearl voiced the feelings of a number of RA Council members when she asked why the cost, £2,500,000 was so high, whether the unsightly prefab buildings would go when work was completed, and whether the community would actually have access to surrounding buildings such as the Tea House, that were continually in use by the Institute.

Rosalyn Kriteiman wanted to know why was it only now that such large sums are needed and who has been responsible for capital spending up to now?

Cllr Max responded that the Institute was a very large building in a very bad state of repair, but that most of the damage had been discovered only when work was being carried out in 1982. He said that the three new Portacabins only had planning permission for the duration of the repairs but pointed out that these repairs would not actually give the Institute any more room. Turning to the question of community use of other buildings, Cllr Max said that his understanding was that the owners of these premises were

only too glad of the regular income provided by the Institute. RJW

TRUST TO SUE

The Trust is beginning to take a tough line against freeholders who do not pay their management charges. Despite numerous reminders and telephone calls, there remains a small hard core of freeholders who have not paid their charges for years and in some cases are owing more than £100. Recently the Trust instructed its solicitors to send out final demands to over 200 freeholders and if they still refuse to pay the Trust will take these cases to the Small Claims Court. It is with great regret that the Trust are having to take these measures, says Christopher Kellerman, the Trust Manager, but it is totally unfair that the majority of freeholders who pay their charges on time should have to subsidise this small minority. Over the last six years since the Trust increased its charges from £2 the annual management charge has averaged £16.95, or less than 33p a week. For most people this is not an exorbitant amount to pay.