

# SUBURB NEWS



The Newspaper of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association SUMMER '88

## WHEELIE BIN UPROAR

The vehement reaction of Suburb residents to the threat of Barnet Council's decision to change our refuse collection system to front gate collection and wheelie-bins came as a surprise to all concerned when over 300 turned up to a public meeting organised by the RA and the Trust at Bigwood Hall on June 16.

Most of the anger of residents was directed at our Councillors who had voted for the new system and at council officers who had avoided consultation with the RA before making their recommendations.

The meeting was chaired by John Marshall MP. Gerry Mansell opened the proceedings with apologies from all three Councillors and the news that no Council officers had agreed to attend.

Eileen Whelan for the RA, having paid tribute to Tony Mandelson's efforts to get Barnet officers to attend RA council meetings and raise public awareness, accused the local authority of sharp practice 'They are offering information about implementation not consultation'.

Chris Kellerman outlined to the meeting Barnet's case for the changes.

Chairman of the RA Consam Committee said that he had received many letters from resi-

dents who would have to cope with large wheelie-bins in the face of narrow paths, terraced houses, small front gardens and blocks of flats. 'These proposals represent a real decline in service' he said. 'Rows of bins in the streets or in front gardens are unacceptable in a conservation area'.

Gerry Mansell said that the Trust had asked for assurances supported by John Marshall who had himself written to Barnet asking them to reconsider on strong aesthetic grounds. There had been 'steadfast refusal by officers to reconsider in advance of the Council's decision, blank refusal of a pilot scheme on the Suburb. As a result Barnet does not know of the problems that may make the

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The HGS Dramatic Society continue to delight Suburb residents with their productions in Little Wood. This year it was *Midsummer Night's Dream*. Seen here Judith Sheppard — Titania, Peter Davies — Bottom, Angharad Williams — Cobweb, Caroline Pike — Psephenos and Louise Edwards as Mustard Seed.

## HENLY'S CORNER DOUBLE COUNTING REFUTED BY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

Despite two days of submission and cross examination of The Department of Transport by Residents Association barrister, Mr R. Jaffa, that 'approximately 50% of the benefits' (extract from the Inspector's Report) of the East of Falloden Way Scheme would be lost if Henlys Corner were not altered and that the Henlys Corner Scheme assumed that the A1 Falloden Way Tidal flow scheme would be built, the Inspector has refused to ask the Department of Transport to provide further information which might prove that they have valued the benefits for these schemes more than once. The Department admits that the schemes may be 'influential upon each other' but maintains they are not inter-dependent. Mr. Jaffa asked if 'a brick wall across the North Circular Road' would make them admit that the schemes were related or complementary. The answer was 'no' as they were entitled to assume that the other schemes would be carried out when evaluating Henlys Corner but when asked what the effect would be if East of Falloden Way was not altered the Department said they did not know!

### Local fears

That M25 traffic will return to an 'improved' North Circular Road which will itself become a new 24 hour 'motorway'.

That the extra 5,000-6,000 vehicles per day projected for Falloden Way will mean that the Department must upgrade this trunk road.

That extra traffic will be attracted to the area and take more rat-runs through the Suburb.

That the pedestrian foot-bridges and tunnels will be difficult and dangerous to use as well as ugly.

That the loss of land at Brookside Walk for 'exchange land' at Coppetts Wood two miles away is unfair.

That 'experts' are not infallible and that just as the Department of Transport were wrong over their predictions for traffic on the M25 they have underestimated the effect that the Henlys Corner scheme will have on Hampstead Garden Suburb.

### Inquiry dates

The Inquiry will be adjourned from the 12th August to the 6th October. You can phone the Programme Officer for details on 346-2598 at the Kinloss Suite of the Finchley Synagogue, Kinloss Gardens, Henlys Corner, N.3 where Vice Admiral Sir Peter Buchanan is conducting the Inquiry as Inspector appointed by the Secretaries of State for the Environment and Transport. DR

## TRUST DEFENDS SUBURB

Dr. Mervyn Miller, Architect and Town Planner, who is a Director of The New Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust Ltd., appointed by the Royal Town Planning Institute, severely criticised the Department of Transport at the Inquiry for not

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## FRIENDS GET GOING

'Friends for the Elderly', the formation of which has been reported in past issues, got off the ground on June 1 with a public meeting chaired by Gerald Priestland at the Temple Fortune Health Centre.

Over 100 people attended to hear Dr. Donovan, founder Neville Croft, Valerie Lipman of Age Concern and Dr. Nori Graham who outlined some of the problems and areas of concern.

A questionnaire prepared by

the group had been circulated to 51 residential homes in the area of which 16 had been returned. The questionnaire was designed to find out just what help was needed or would be welcomed.

It has been decided to commence with a pilot scheme in no more than four local homes.

Eventually the hope is to establish support for these homes which will act as models for future groups and provide the group with feedback and expertise. RJW

## CORRINGWAY DEVELOPMENT

Outrage has followed the New Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust's decision to recommend that Barnet Council accepts the Berkeley House scheme for the development of the historic chauffeurs' flats in Corringway. They were designed by Parker and Unwin and built in 1911. The Shankland Cox report on the Hampstead Garden Suburb in 1971 proposed that they be listed, and although nothing was done at the time, English Heritage is considering listing them now.

The Berkley House development envisages single-storey front extensions, three-storey rear extensions, and substantial alterations which will turn the existing modest maisonettes into expensive 'yuppie' houses and flats. The new corner block will rise to four-and-a-half storeys (higher than all surrounding dwellings), to dominate the neighbourhood.

In addition to 8 new parking spaces in Corringway, there will be an underground car park for 72 cars, designed on a stacking principle and using hydraulic lifts. Such a cumbersome arrangement is bound to label this a 'long term' carpark, with the majority of the vehicles in daily use being parked on the surrounding streets where they will compete for space with the Wheelie-Bins! Readers may wish to visualise the movement of these additional 80 cars — two to three times a day — along the narrow and solidly-parked streets of the once quiet Suburb.

This massive over-development, which virtually doubles the size of the present building, will destroy a pleasant garden at the back of the block as well as a

row of poplars (all under a preservation order) which at the moment grace the neighbourhood and screen Corringway from Waterloo Court, a listed building by Baillie Scott.

The scheme vastly exceeds both the New Hampstead Garden Suburb and Barnet density limits, but Berkley House claim that a smaller development or the refurbishment of the existing building would not bring them a sufficient return. This means that Berkley House bought the building (£1,325,000) at auction with the assumption that they would get planning permission — a curious assumption for a development in a Conservation area. As it happens, their confidence has been justified as far as the New Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust is concerned.

Let us hope Barnet does not follow the Trust's example in betraying the spirit of the Suburb. If they do, residents are suggesting that the word 'Garden' be dropped from its title.

Waterlow Court Residents Association

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