

WHEELIE BIN MEETINGS

scheme unworkable' Mr Mansell continued. 'The Council is not so all powerful as to make a decision in so high handed and arbitrary a manner, and it was not good politics either'.

Chris Kellerman prefaced his showing of slides of the effect of wheelie-bins in the pilot areas with the words 'I've seen the future and it doesn't work'. He showed slides of bins in the streets and front gardens of North Finchley and Letchworth. Many of the latter's architects came on to build the Suburb.

Members of the audience then expressed their views and made suggestions ranging from taking out injunctions (Jim Ambrose) to a massed parade of wheelie-bins blocking Falloeden Way (Terry Rand).

Ronnie Jaffa said that only political pressure could bring about a reversal. We should make it clear that residents will not vote for Conservative candidates.

At this point Cllr Davis, having been at a Governors' meeting earlier, arrived to find a clearly hostile audience.

Chris Dickinson asked why our councillors had voted for the scheme when he must have known his voters would have been opposed.

Cllr Davis explained that trial areas had included houses of all types and that he had tried to have part of the Suburb included as a trial area. He had also asked for the Suburb to be excluded but the scheme had to be borough wide.

76% of those in the trial areas, 50% of whom responded, had said, in response to a questionnaire, that they were happy with wheelie bins.

Cllr Shamash, who lives on the Suburb, maintained that the questionnaire had been designed and supplied by the bin manufacturers and that the objective was to save money — only £100,000 per year, but that the capital cost was enormous. He would put a motion to Council to defeat wheelie bins.

David Baker said that an area of concern was the effect on Barnet planners 'how can they

do their job of protecting the environment when by this action the Council had done so much damage'.

Lady Woodfield proposed a mandatory scheme for use of plastic bin liners in ordinary dustbins thus reducing litter, making life easier for dustmen and saving capital outlay.

Sir John Whalley paid tribute to the collectors and said his particular house had not been designed for wheelie bins up and down steps he asked whether 'the Council is run by Mr Callow or the Council members?'

The meeting decided on a deputation to the Town Hall.

TOWN HALL MEETING

The joint meeting was opened by Cllr Usher and then Mr Caller proceeded to show a video of photos taken in HGS of heaps of black bags and rubbish which he claimed was littering HGS. According to him, there is more illegal dumping of rubbish in HGS than anywhere else in the borough — in other words, HGS was a slum — therefore wheelie bins could only be an improvement!

Mr Mansell then stated the Suburb's point of view and said that we considered the Council had acted arbitrarily and undemocratically — 'whilst Mr Gorbachev in Russia now appeared to be taking the path of democracy, LBB seemed to be going in the opposite direction'. In spite of repeated requests for consultation there had been no prior consultation. Here Cllr Usher said there had been no formal request for consultation. Janette Harris interjected and said that right at the beginning of the suggestion of a proposed wheelie bin scheme it had been arranged that Mr Monaghan would attend an RA Council Meeting — his visit had been postponed, fixed for a later date and postponed again. Whilst Mr Monaghan agreed that this was so, he would not answer the question as to 'Why?', but Cllr Usher and Mr

Caller repeated the question that 'there had been no formal request for consultation' — we interpreted this as meaning that because Mr Caller had not been approached, he had vetoed his representative going.

Mr Mansell (and the rest of the Trust and RA) continually emphasised that HGS was a Conservation Area, but this cut no ice — the repeated answers amounted to 'So what — what's so special about the Suburb?'

Mr Caller insisted that we had misled the residents — the article which appeared in *Suburb News* was incorrect, as were statements made at the public meeting held on 16 June. In reply to the question as to why nobody from Barnet Council had attended the meeting, Cllr Usher said that they were all very busy people and their diaries were full for that day! Mr Caller stated that before the scheme was introduced into any area, residents who were likely to have problems were invited to raise them and every case was investigated. If, e.g. a house had a flight of steps, the bin would be collected from the top of the steps.

Cllr Davis refuted the argument that the Suburb looked like the video pictures — these were not representative. He also stated that the Council had the wrong image of the Suburb — they thought it consisted of large houses, each having 3 cars and staffed by maids and gardeners, but this was not so, and he asked the Council to consider special treatment for the Suburb as a special conservation area.

John Marshall also put in a plea re conservation areas.

The arguments, sometimes quite heated, went on for some considerable time, no side giving any ground whatsoever. Cllr Usher reminded the meeting that front gate collection was now enforceable by law.

It was agreed that Mr Caller would provide an article for *Suburb News* and that a further public meeting would be arranged for September.

Barnet would state that no bins were to be left on pavements.

There will be a report back to residents at the trust AGM on September 14. **RJW**

FAURE AT THE FREE CHURCH

Over 100 gathered on 23 April to hear an exhilarating concert of French music under the direction of Dr John Winter and with Peter Dyke at the organ. The presentation ranged from flute solos by Joanna Scopes and viola by Dilys Thomas to the church choir and soloists. The programme moved from Marin Marais (1656-1728) to Debussy and to Fauré, first in the sparer style of the Cautique de Jean Racine and then to the sumptuousness of the Requiem. The Requiem itself was delivered to great effect by the soloist Sally Wilmot and Stephen Tervy — and by the choir. A much enjoyed occasion. **SA**

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TONY MANDELSON

Tony Mandelson, who died on May 2, was one of the Suburb's best known figures, carrying on into the eighties the tradition of commitment to the community and to the Suburb idea which was so much part of Dame Henrietta Barnett's original thinking. There can be few people who lived that commitment with more conviction, with more zest and more high spirits, but few also who gave more of their time and energy to further the causes which were close to his heart.

I first met Tony 46 years ago, when we were both members of the same draft of young officers sent out to the Middle East as reinforcements for the Eighth Army. The long journey on the Queen Elizabeth round the Cape, under cramped conditions and much of the time in intense heat, brought out the best in

Dear Sir,

I wonder how many other residents there are who, like me, deplore the ever increasing quantities of litter on the Suburb and would seriously like to do something positive about it.

As part of the recent environment week, the Residents' Association organised a massive clean up and, thanks to the efforts of a number of public spirited residents, the Suburb was relatively clear of litter for a short time. But, within a week or two, passing motorists, local tradesmen and pedestrians had jettisoned yet more of their beer cans, food containers, newspapers, paper handkerchiefs, cigarette cartons, sweet wrappers and cigarette stubs, making our roads and pavements now as bad as ever.

Some residents believe that 'the authorities' ought to do something about it arguing, on the one hand, that in many continental countries the law compels all householders to clean up outside their own houses; or, on the other hand, that it should be the responsibility of the Council to keep our streets clean. But Barnet certainly do not have the manpower to do this, and in the short term there is really no point in looking to central or local government for practical solutions. The conclusion must be that the only people to pick up the litter are ourselves!

No doubt some will feel that it is beneath their position and dignity to do so, and others that it is difficult enough to persuade even a small minority of residents to do this once a year. But I can't help wondering whether there is really such a dearth of caring residents on the Suburb, or whether there is actually a fair number of residents of good will who are just waiting for someone to give a lead.

And so, I would ask whether it might be possible to form at this stage a nucleus of people — 'Friends of the Suburb' — who would be prepared on a regular basis to clean up and keep clean a stretch of road and pavement of, say, 50 or 100 yards outside their houses. I envisage, at the start of the scheme, a small number of 'Litter Free Zones' which would be clearly recognised in contrast to the rest of the Suburb not only by their lack of litter but possibly also by a small badge or sign attached to a tree at either end say 'L.F.Z.'!

As the idea grows, I envisage the Friends of the Suburb persuading other good neighbours to join until the Litter Free Zones spread to cover more and more of the Suburb. And I can even foresee the need for the whole scheme to be officially recognised by the Council of the Residents' Association and formally organised within a new Environment Committee whose remit would include other initiatives, from preventing the discarding of litter in the first place, to regular social meetings of the Friends of the Suburb to reward success, to plan future priorities and to encourage a new spirit of neighbourliness.

Would anyone be interested in attending a meeting to discuss and develop these ideas further?

Peter Lloyd
12 Meadway
London NW11 7JS

He was the life and soul of the party, full of fun and an instant cure for anyone's boredom. In the Western Desert, where we served in the same division, he was for a time a liaison officer with the divisional commander, a rubicond figure known as 'Crasher' Nichols, and later served in armoured cars. He was wounded at least once when his vehicle ran over a mine, and in later years was often in pain as a result.

Tony readily adopted the characteristic Eighth Army style — the rather casual dress, the desert boots, the colourful scarf, the battered peak cap worn at a rakish angle — and in later life he retained something of that cavalier air and that studied but elegant casualness in his dress. The battered but sporty Lancia, so familiar on Suburb roads,

was a young man's car, a worthy successor to the jeep of desert days, and the socialability, the easy, eager, cordial manner were all of a piece with the style of that earlier Tony in those far of years of wartime comradeship.

But there was another Tony, known best to those closest to him but never far beneath the surface — the man of quick and instinctive generosity, of deep and strong feelings which could be equally strongly expressed, with whom anger could come without warning but never lasted and was quickly forgotten, the dedicated Labour Party member and the tireless worker for Suburb causes. In his last years, particularly after his retirement two years ago, the Suburb truly became his whole life. What he did for it will long be remembered.

FRENCH ARCHITECTS' VISIT

A delegation of French Architects and Builders visited the Suburb last month on a two-day lightening tour.

Led by Architect Gerald Bauer, who concentrates his professional talents chiefly on suburban Paris, the team of seven construction experts came to see at first hand this "masterpiece of urban planning."

Their visit is testimony to the international recognition which Hampstead Garden Suburb building commands and which Bauer described as "the best in Europe."

Lamenting the current standard of building in his own country he confessed that "modern family housing in France is generally poor", and that there was much that could

be learned from the quality of materials and design that went in to the building of Hampstead Garden Suburb.

The team photographed liberally as they walked and displayed a particular interest in the early brick terraces of Asmunds Place. But it is as much for the gardens as the houses themselves that Bauer deemed the visit worthwhile; the combination of which two elements he described as "a total environment."

Suburb-dwellers who noticed the impeccably dressed group at 9 o'clock on an otherwise ordinary Friday morning will now be able to account for their presence. It is heartening to know that in matters of style we still have an edge. **JG**

HENLY'S CORNER

'recognising the institutionalised vandalism perpetrated by the upgrading of Falloeden Way and deploring the inability to consider more radical alternatives which would eliminate this road as a strategic trunk route'. They could not be trusted and their only concern was to provide bigger roads for more traffic with no real concern for the environment "any private developer would be required to comply with statutes that the Department of Transport can drive not only the proverbial 'coach and horses' through but also encourage fleets of aptly named 'juggernauts'".

He thought that the magnitude of the proposed scheme was not justified and that it would 'undoubtedly attract further

externally generated traffic to fill the extra capacity created causing further bottlenecks elsewhere'. He welcomed the Borough of Barnet's objection to the proposed footbridges but said 'The Trust was both disappointed and amazed that Barnet could only find one minor point of criticism of the proposed landscaping, namely the lack of reference to seating!'

Barnet are in favour of the scheme and they 'appear to have chosen to forget that the Suburb is a conservation area of outstanding architectural and historic interest as assessed by the Secretary of State'. He commended the Residents Association for 'resisting these proposals'. **DR**

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