

# TRUST AGM WHEELED BIN PROTESTS

properties differ widely and account has to be taken of differences. Complaints could be made through the RA as they are represented on the Property and Plans Committee.

## Thanks for help

Eileen Whelan took the opportunity to thank Mervyn Miller for his presentation at the Henly's Corner enquiry.

## New Trust Members

A discussion ensued on the question of Trust members. Camilla Raab asked what was being done to increase the number.

Chris Kellerman said that some 40 people had joined as a result of the Trust advertisement in the last Suburb News.

The Chairman said that most residents were indifferent until such time as they have a particular issue with the Trust.

Kit Ikin asked how many members there are now and felt that a large number was not desirable in case there could be some sort of takeover. Gerry Mansell felt that, with a large turnover of population, it was important that as high a proportion as possible should be in membership. However many there were it was difficult for him to foresee a situation where the Trust could be turned into a different kind of body.

## Traffic

A number of residents asked about traffic and road humps and whether any other humps were planned in addition to those

in Oakwood Road. The Chairman answered that a report was still awaited from Barnet but that humps had made a substantial difference to conditions in Oakwood Road.

## Corringway

Both sides of the Corringway development issue were aired with concern expressed over the size of development and its harmful effect on Waterlow Court and an impassioned plea for the development was made by a Corringway resident who said that residents had lived with Mendels and 60-cars parked so that ambulances and fire engines could not approach, followed by five years of vandalism, of being told by police that it was not safe to go out at night, of broken syringes in the chauffers' flats and slashed tyres.

She asked how much longer do residents have to put up with these conditions whilst people argue about densities and other niceties? She was making a plea for 'quality of life, not profit margins' and asked what had happened to neighbourly support.

The Chairman said he sympathised and pointed out that the Trust had passed the present plans.

## Wheelie bins

At 9.00 the meeting on Wheelie Bins commenced with RA officers joining the panel and with Gerry Mansell outlining the situation so far, as covered by Suburb News Summer edition.

Since then an RA Trust letter had been sent that pressed Barnet on the question of whether their Planning Department, responsible for matters relating to the conservation area, has been consulted over the proposals and whether some roads should be excluded.

Gerry Mansell paid tribute to Councillor Malcolm Davis for his efforts since the June meeting, 'at which he had had rather a rough ride' 'but he is relatively isolated on the Council in pressing the Suburb point of view'.

The Chairman said he was afraid that Barnet Council would press ahead with their plans regardless of any objections.

Norma Blausten, replying to a question from Stuart Gray, said that the refuse collectors certainly do not want the scheme and went on 'I detest a defeatist attitude, we should be looking for means of blocking a scheme that has been foisted on us in a disgraceful manner. Can we not appeal to the ombudsman rather than wait until the Council tell us it is too late?'

Dorothy White asked 'would it not be possible for the RA and Trust to assess the number of homes where bins cannot be taken in and out so that tenders are not based on the assumption that all will be collectable from front gates?'

Councillor Shamash told the meeting that he had asked, in Council, who is going to play God in deciding which residents could not manage the bins — no answer had been received. Alan

Lawson said he estimated some 50% of homes could be in difficulty.

An American resident said he was saddened to see mistakes made in the US being repeated here. Wheelie bins wear out, he said, and when the wheels break they are impossible to move, they are too big for bin liners and they smell! They had been tried in the States and speedily taken out again.

Stuart Goring was troubled by an apparent conflict of interest in Barnet disregarding our conservation area status.

Mervyn Miller said that, regrettably, under planning legislation, wheelie bins do not fall within the definition of development and were therefore not under the control of Article 4.

He went on to say that Letchworth Garden City had been subjected to wheelie bins and 'you only have to visit on collection days to see them everywhere'. 'It's all part of a confidence trick to get rate payers to do what was previously done by Council workers on the rates. The silent majority on the Suburb, who will accept them, must be persuaded to object'.

Councillor Shamash told the meeting that Councillor Davis, whose main support had been from the Labour group, had proposed to the Public Works Committee that two small bins should be provided and that the system be introduced to HGS for a six month trial period only. Councillor Shamash said that no other Conservatives had voted for the proposal, which was

defeated only on the Chairman's vote. Nevertheless it was referred to Council on October 11.

Ronnie Jaffa pointed out that political pressure had worked in the case of Councillor Davis 'we now have one Councillor against the rest'. Could we not contact other areas to put pressure on their councillors?

Councillor Roy Shutz said that he would be supporting Councillor Davis at the October 11 Council meeting.

The meeting ended with a

number of draft resolutions for action by the RA and Trust, including a plea to Residents to write to John Marshall and Barnet Councillors. They should also attend the October 11 Barnet Council meeting, even though it is likely to be dominated by a debate on secondary education.

Finally, Gerry Mansell thanked RA wardens who at short notice, and quickly, had leafleted the entire Suburb with a notice of this meeting. **RW**

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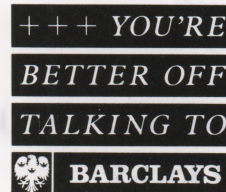
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