

CALMING SUBURB TRAFFIC

The public meeting held on 7 November 1991, jointly organised by the Trust and the Residents Association, filled and over-filled the Institute hall. John Marshall, MP, was in the chair but had to leave early to meet a House of Commons deadline. After introductions by Eileen Whelan, Chris Kellerman outlined the background of traffic problems in the Suburb.

Then Margaret Heraty summarised the results of the traffic survey she carried out, commissioned by the Trust and the RA. Briefly they were that although there were excessive speeds on some roads, nevertheless in relation to the 30mph limit and conditions in other urban areas, neither speeds nor densities were regarded as exceptional by current standards. She stressed, and police representatives present later confirmed, that in practice speeding offences were not prosecuted until the speed was 15mph over the official limit; i.e. the effective limit, apparently acceptable to the police, was 45mph. However, she said, "Much of the traffic is going at speeds which are clearly illegal and are also excessive for a residential area. The concern of residents is well understood."

Tim Pharaoh, a traffic engineer from South Bank Polytechnic,

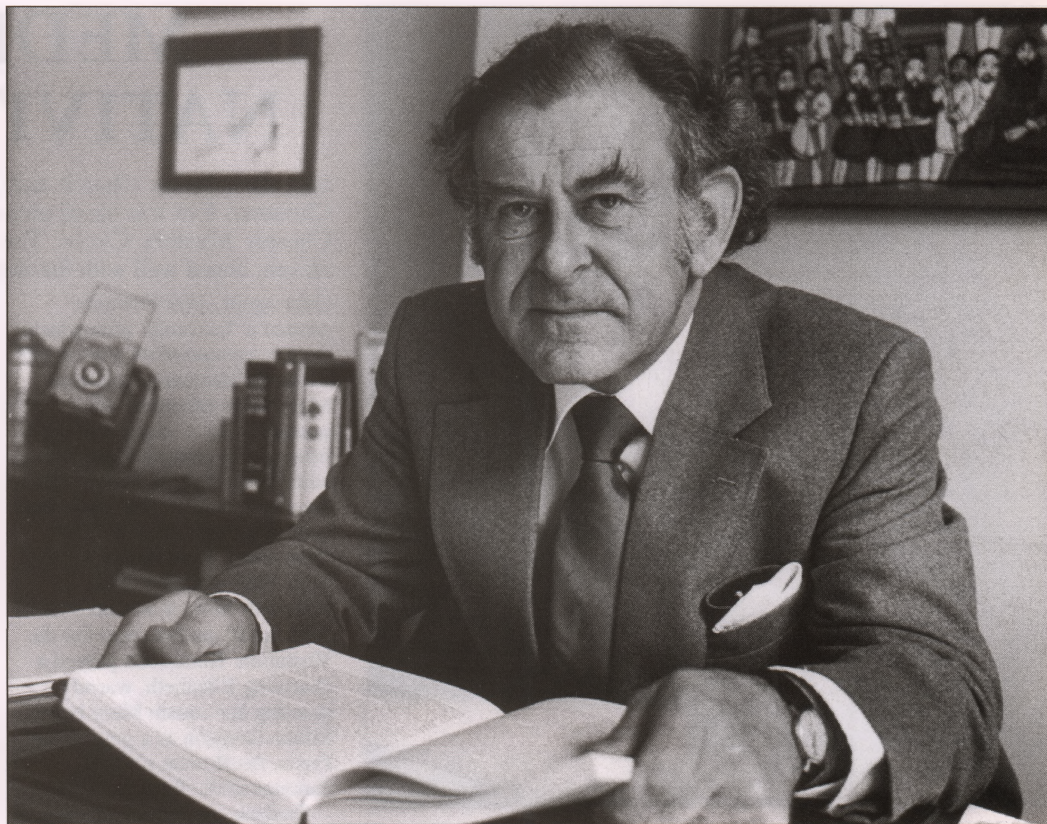
illustrated however the extent to which European cities and urban areas had moved towards adopting a 20mph limit, supported by traffic-calming schemes. Almost the whole of west Berlin, for example, is on a 20mph limit. This approach also now had some support from our own Department of Transport, and traffic-calming schemes have begun to appear in Britain. The essence of traffic calming, he explained, was to allow full access for traffic (unlike traffic management schemes, which generally limit access) but to calm it and make dangerous speeds both look inappropriate and actually be physically difficult. David Rapson and Bill Bailey followed on with a call for the designation of the whole Suburb as a special traffic area with a 20mph limit protected by traffic calming. The emphasis was on the need to protect a whole area and not just a particular road, because

tackling a single road merely forces on to adjoining roads.

A lively and stimulating discussion after the main talks showed the strength of feelings on the subject. In contrast, Chief Inspector Hill from the police seemed to suggest that nothing much either could or would be done, but the general feeling of the meeting was that something had got to be done. At the end, a resolution was passed unanimously, stating:

This public meeting on Thursday 7 November 1991 strongly urges the Council of the London Borough of Barnet to implement traffic calming measures, including the de-trunking of Falloden Way, to safeguard the outstanding conservation area of the Hampstead Garden Suburb against the dangers of road traffic to the lives of people by developing it as a specially designated traffic area; and to enter into discussions with residents' representatives accordingly.

We welcome the announcement of a Private Member's Bill that would confer traffic-calming powers on local authorities. SFB



Lord McGregor, new HGS Trust chairman.

Building on past achievements

I became Chairman of the Trust in October and during my term of office I hope to build on the achievements of my two immediate predecessors, Tony Thornley and Gerry Mansell. During their chairmanships, the Trust was put on a sound financial footing and the organisation has been completely restructured. The most important development was acquiring the long leases from Ashdale two years ago which put the Suburb once again in a position to control its own future.

The main function of the Trust remains the processing of applications for alterations. Since the beginning of the financial year, the number of applications has fallen as a result of the recession. This lull is giving us the opportunity to review policies on such matters as hard standings. Later in the year, the Trust will be producing new design guidelines which will provide an invaluable aid to both residents and their architects when submitting plans for alterations. The new guidelines

will be illustrated with photographs and drawings.

Recently, the national press has reported that organisations administering Schemes of Management in Bournville, Dulwich and Letchworth have been facing difficulties. The causes have been the level of the management charge payable by freeholders and relations with local residents. I am anxious that the Trust should learn from these mistakes and avoid committing the same errors on the Suburb.

We shall do our best to ensure

that increases in the management charge are kept to a minimum, especially as leaseholders, who pay a fixed ground rent, still account for around 30% of all households. As far as relations with residents are concerned, the Trust will continue to work closely with the Residents Association. Recent examples of cooperation include the joint meeting on traffic held last November, which filled the Institute Hall, and joint meetings with Barnet about improving local authority services on the Suburb.

Unlike other ground landlords administering Schemes of Management, the Trust is owned by the community. As the new Chairman, I am looking forward greatly to working with you in helping to conserve and promote the benefits of our unique Environment. ORMCG

Craft gifts galore

The 1991 Suburb Craft Fair was held in the Free Church Hall on 23rd November. In warm autumn sunshine hundreds of Suburb residents, as well as those from further afield, came to browse amongst the many stalls to do some seasonal shopping and meet old friends – and support the North London Hospice Appeal.

There were over 30 stalls offering a variety of high quality crafts, including patchwork (Mollie Cattle), soft toys (Margaret Smith & Kay Saint), floral decorations (Mari Aldred), wooden toys (Dave Beetlestone), enamels (Diana Redhouse), silverwork (Veronica Shaw), silver jewellery (Liz Sheehan), hand-painted silk (Nicola Kantorawicz), ceramics (Helen

Cohen), handpainted flowerpots (Julia Chalfen), preserves & cakes (Yvonne Oliver), hand weaving (Hilary Shrimpton), collage cards & nursery pictures (Sam Bordell). There were also practical demonstrations: Sue Pearl passing the time away at her spinning wheel attracted much interest, as did Janet Lilley with her potter's wheel, while Tessa Hauxwell & Hilary

Donaldson demonstrated the techniques of upholstery – the experts make all these things look so easy!

John Enderby's team of helpers from the North West Support Group (with Lesley Michaelides at the helm) served delicious, much-needed refreshments all day, raising £768.70. The door monies together with donations from stallholders (including raffles for patchwork cushion and upholstered chair) raised nearly £800. At the end of the day the grand total for the North London Hospice was £2,012.88! A very big thank you to all our supporters. YO

MOZART EVENING

On Saturday February 1 at 7.30 in the Institute Hall the Affini Quartet with guest artist Emanuel Hurwitz will be presenting a Mozart Commemoration Evening.

Tickets at £12.50 to include a buffet supper with wine offer extraordinary value. It's all in aid of the North London Hospice. For tickets phone 081 458 3917, 081 203 2630 or 081 455 8741.

RA AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Residents Association will take place on 30th March 1992 at 8 p.m. in Bigwood Hall, Bigwood Road, NW11.

Any motions for inclusion on the agenda must be received by first post on 14th February 1992.

Nominations for the posts of officers and members of Council must be submitted, in writing, signed by the proposer and seconder, and have the Nominee's consent. These must be received by 20th March 1992.

Notice of motions and nominations should be sent to the Assistant Secretary, Mrs R. Goldstein, 1a Church Mount, N2.

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Between May and December we sold nearly £8 million of Property.

In December alone we let six properties with annual rents exceeding £70,000.

...BUT THEN WE ARE A TOUGH ACT TO FOLLOW

Residential Sales and Lettings