



Siddiek was born in Durban, South Africa. He came to the UK in 1957 to study as it was impossible at that time for non-whites to receive further education in his native country. He is married to Marie and they have four daughters and four grandchildren. After a long career in Local Government he now practises as a solicitor. He was on the Residents Association Council for many years and was its Honorary Secretary for four years. Siddiek and Marie now visit South Africa at least twice a year, when they see friends and family. In London they enjoy the theatre, cinema and art exhibitions while Siddiek also loves watching many sports, particularly cricket.

**RANTS**

**Social:** We have lived on the Suburb since 1967. Then there were still many artisans cottages, as Dame Henrietta Barnet had envisaged, which were occupied by the working classes. They were all invariably controlled tenants on fixed modest

rents. This was in line with her philosophy of a Garden Suburb where there would be houses for rich and poor resulting in the merging of the classes. Sadly with the passing of the years that idea completely disappeared, as with the death of these controlled tenants the properties have been sold by the freeholders at prices which are now only affordable to the rich.

**Suburb trees:** A very significant change in the landscape of the Suburb has been the wholesale destruction of the original trees. Of particular note is Erskine Hill which was carefully designed to accommodate the large oaks which created a vista which could be appreciated both in Summer and Winter and enhanced the distinct architecture of the houses. Alas, with the misguided views on the issue of subsidence, which falsely leads to the conclusion that every tree is a threat to the stability of houses, these trees have mostly been removed or so reduced in size as to render them as totem poles – unworthy of the memory of the founding fathers of the Suburb. It is also somewhat paradoxical that whilst private trees are protected the Local Authority seems to have carte blanche with those in the public domain.

**The Local Council:** There is little or no democratic accountability. The ward councillors have little regard for the views of their constituents, they appear to owe a greater allegiance to their Party. A clear example of this is their policy on traffic where cars take preference – resulting in more congestion and pollution. This was highlighted in Temple Fortune where they opposed traffic calming measures. More consultation is imperative.

**Enforcement:** There are many breaches of planning rules. These are in the main regarded as minor but the cumulative effect is substantial. For example, removing original doors and replacing them with glass ones which look out of character. Satellite dishes are another eyesore.

**RAVES**

Despite the shortcomings that I have alluded to, I feel that I am indeed privileged to live on the Suburb. It gives me great pleasure just to stroll through and observe the very distinct and unique architectural styles, the landscaping and the open spaces which we owe to the inspiration and dedication of the architects that were employed when the Suburb was conceived. The houses, whether detached, semi-detached or terraced, are all different and individual. Their uniqueness lies in the fact that these variances are not always apparent but only come to light on closer examination. The result is that no house competes with another and this comes about because of the very subtle designs. We have an obligation to preserve and enhance the unique environment of the Suburb by being constantly vigilant in safeguarding it for the generations to come.

Beans Balawi, the Suburb's budding star, featured in Style last summer. Now eight, Beans has spent the past six months filming the Granada series 'Where the Heart is' in which he plays Denise van Outen's son Callum. He says, "She is like a big sister to me." They spend a lot of time together travelling to locations around the country. Beans says he has loved all the things he has learnt to do on 'Where the Heart is' like flying birds of prey and driving a steam train.

Beans plays another son, this time Demi Moore's, in a new film 'Half Light' and they became good friends over the four months of filming. While on location he has a tutor and the Garden Suburb School work alongside him to make sure Beans doesn't fall behind. "His form teacher, Mrs Houghton has been especially helpful," says Beans' mother Mandy. Watch out for Beans in 'Where the Heart is' through the Summer and in the third series of 'Life Begins' in the Autumn.



**Trust (trust) n.** reliance on and confidence in the truth. Custody, charge or care. (Sp in **Hampstead Garden Suburb** – up to 1250 members who elect half the **Trust Council** in whom is vested legal powers to preserve the character and amenities of the **Suburb**.)

The Trust requests the pleasure of your company as a member

The terms of its constitution allow for 1250 members of the New Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust. The actual number in membership varies and is at present 820. The Trust Council would like to see more Suburb residents represented. The sole requirement for membership is to have lived continuously on the Suburb for three years. Membership provides an opportunity to take part in the management of the Suburb. Many residents come to live here because it is a unique environment and support the aims of the Trust in trying to preserve the Suburb's character and amenities. All residents who believe that the job we are trying to do is worthwhile should become members. Ask us for a membership form and join us at our annual general meeting. Free Church Hall, Northway NW11 September 14 at 8pm



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