

30th June, 1959.

To all Residents.

Dear Sir or Madam,

1. A meeting of the Residents of the Estate was held at the Cricket Club on Monday, 15th June, 1959 at 8.15 p.m.
2. The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. R.B. Ogden, presided and about 65 of the Residents attended.
3. The Chairman welcomed new residents and explained that in accordance with the wishes expressed at previous meetings, apart from Woodside and Chiltern Hills the work on the roads has been limited to bare essentials.

The Past Year.

4. The Chairman then submitted the Accounts and expressed sincere thanks to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Ashworth for his work in collecting the 6 gns. subscriptions from 109 residents. Of the 11 who have not yet paid, 8 have promised to do so.
5. As regards expenses, the accounts showed :-
 - (a) The Hill Roads required the greater expenditure because of the scouring effects of heavy rain. He thanked the residents who minimised this by keeping clear the roadside gulleys, and hoped they and others would co-operate in keeping these clear.
 - (b) The sum of £130 on Chiltern Hill included the balance of the making up work at the foot of the hill the previous year jointly with the commercial firms situated there.
 - (c) Due to flooding in Ellis Avenue, part of the road had to be raised and a soakaway installed.
 - (d) Remaining expenditure had gone on pot-hole filling and other maintenance.
 - (e) Of the balance in hand £130, much is earmarked for current repair work already in hand or accrued, including the making up of Winkers Close.
6. In answer to an enquiry, the Chairman stated that the Contractors employed were selected from competitive tenders.
7. The Accounts were approved unanimously.
8. The Chairman reported -
 - (i) that the local authorities, after renewed representations from the Committee and following some independent canvassing of one of the residents, have agreed to remove the grass triangle at the foot of Woodside Hill and to improve the lighting.
 - (ii) that there is at present no news as to when the proposed new by-pass is likely to be constructed.

9. The Chairman reported that, as requested at the last meeting, letters had been sent to residents concerned where excessive driving speed on the estate has been observed, and he again urged all residents not to drive at more than 15 - 20 m.p.h. in view of danger to children and animals on these narrow roads.

Main Drainage.

10. The Chairman read extracts from a letter from the Amer sham R.D. Council suggesting the installation of main drainage on the estate, at an estimated cost to residents of £80 per house. This would represent one half the cost, the other half being borne by the Council. This figure would include branch drains to the highway boundary of each property but not the cost of connection to the house drainage system within each property. If desired, the Council would consider spreading the payment over five years.

The Chairman stated that unless the meeting was strongly against the proposal, a postal vote would be taken from all the property owners.

In a long discussion, in which nearly every speaker was against the proposal, it was pointed out that the cost of connecting houses to the main drains could itself be considerable - possibly from £50 upwards - and that many owners had only recently borne the cost of constructing cesspools. On a show of hands it was decided by approximately 60 votes to 5 that even if the Council bore the entire cost of installing the main sewers, the proposal be not agreed to.

The meeting however requested the Committee to inform the R.D.C. of the great dissatisfaction of the residents to the present delay of 5 or 6 weeks after request in emptying cesspools and to press for its improvement. It was pointed out that the money proposed by the R.D.C. to be spent on main drainage could well provide for additional tankers and crews.

In view of the above, a postal vote is not being proceeded with unless there is a demand from residents who did not attend the meeting.

The Coming Year.

11. The Chairman proposed and the meeting agreed that this coming year -

- (a) The upper part of the hill in Woodside, in view of its rapid deterioration, should be made up to the same standard as the lower portion.
- (b) Upway, in order to deter through traffic, merely to have its pot-holes filled in.
- (c) Winkers Close to have circle renewed and 4 or 5 soakaways installed at a cost of £40 - £50.
- (d) On other roads, general routine maintenance only, save that Chiltern Hill should be tarred and chipped over the existing surface if and when funds permit.

12. In view of the statement last year that it was hoped the subscription could be reduced to 5 gns., the Chairman left it entirely to the meeting to decide whether this should now be 6 gns. as for the past year or 5 gns., which would allow little if any margin.

It was proposed and seconded from the floor of the meeting and carried unanimously that the subscription should be 6 gns.

13. The Chairman voiced the opinion of the meeting that the residents of the new private road off Ellis Avenue would be expected to contribute to the upkeep of the estate roads but that the Committee would have no responsibility for the private road.

14. A proposal that the Roads should become a Residents' Committee was not proceeded with when the Chairman pointed out that this would entirely alter the character of the Committee and would only be practicable by increasing its size, with the appointment of sub-Committees.

16. The meeting once again unanimously decided that no editor was required.

17. The Committee was re-elected en bloc with the thanks of the Section for their work, particularly Mr. Ashworth for his untiring work in collecting contributions. It was felt in all the circumstances to be undesirable to publish the names of those not contributing.

18. Please send your contribution of 6 guineas NOW to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Ashworth, "Orchards", Lewis Lane, without further reminder.

For the Committee,

J.R.T. HOOPER,

Hon. Secretary.

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15. Other matters raised by residents referring to individual problems were ventilated and discussed.