

INTRODUCING THE L.R.A.

This is the first issue of the newsletter of the Loudwater Residents' Association. We hope to publish one such letter each quarter because we believe there is a need for some regular communication between all of us in Loudwater. We hope to include all relevant items of news and if anyone has any news they would like to see included—new arrivals in the area, local developments, social or artistic activities, etc etc—the Editor would be pleased to consider it. Contact John Jarrett, Martha's Vineyard, Violet Way, Loudwater. Rick. 74225

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Your committee has met more frequently recently and this newsletter is one of the results.

We have changed the disposition of the Association's funds to secure a better return.

We have taken up, with the Troutstream Estate, a case of dog nuisance.

You will find below reference to two other subjects on which we would also like your views.

PLANNING DEVELOPMENTS

Two developments are of interest. One is that the garage-site plan has now been sent to the Council. For those who want to inspect it, the number is Plan 8/598/75.

The second is the site at Ghyllwood between Rooks Hill and Sarratt Lane, where the plan for several houses has not yet been proceeded with.

SHOPPER BUS SERVICE

The Three Rivers District Council has asked us to collect views from residents on its proposed shopper bus service. London Country Bus Service some time ago withdrew the 336a (Harry) service—they are now threatening to withdraw both the 335 and 336 services. A shopper bus service may therefore be the only possible public transport service available in future for those—and they are more than is generally realised—who are too old, or too frail, or too young, or for other reasons are unable to run a car.

The Council's proposals are that a mini-bus will operate once daily, leaving Rickmansworth to cover a circular route via Chandler's Cross, Bucks Hill, Chipperfield, Belsize, Sarratt Lane, Loudwater Lane, Chorleywood Road, Rickmansworth. The return journey will be approximately 1½ hours later which it is felt will allow adequate shopping time. A map illustrating the various routes is available at the Council Offices, and queries can be answered by Miss Avril Bland, of the Legal Services Department, 17-23 High Street, Rickmansworth. Rick. 76611.

If you contact the Council direct, we would be grateful if you could let the L.R.A. have a copy or note of any points you make, because we need all the information we can get if we are to represent residents' views accurately.

NORTH ORBITAL ROAD (M25)

As reported at our last Annual General Meeting, two of our members, Messrs Saunders and Watkins, have continued to press the Department of the Environment for adequate plans to minimise the intrusion of this motorway into the Chess Valley. A number of householders can already see the southbound slip road up on to Chorleywood Road as a result of the loss of Little Lady's Wood and the sound of six lanes of motorway traffic and two lanes on the slip road will be particularly evident to those people in Trout Rise and Whisperwood and to some householders in Troutstream Way.

You can recall the noise of the large earth-scrappers going to and fro during construction. The continual noise from the projected 30,000 vehicles per day will be at a similar level, as far as can be calculated.

The landscaping, which the Department of the Environment had planned, will consist of small "forest whips" some two feet high, planted closely over the visible embankment of the slip road and at irregular intervals beyond Little Lady's Wood towards Solesbridge Lane. As the Department of the Environment Landscape Officer agreed, "This will have no effect for at least 30 years".

Continual pressure has been exerted by our two representatives on the Eastern Road Construction Unit, which is

responsible for the execution of the project, and, through Geoffrey Dodsworth MP, on the Secretary of State. This has elicited to date an agreement to erect a 2 metre high solid wooden panelled fence adjacent to the slip road and between the remaining portions of Little Lady's Wood. Whilst this will have little effect on the noise value which will carry across the valley, it will at least shield us from the sight of traffic on the slip road.

The possibility that a 2-metre high acoustic fence could be erected between Chorleywood Road and Solesbridge Lane on the east side of the slip road has been discussed with the Director of the Eastern Road Construction Unit. Such a fence, consisting of a "sandwich" of two solid wooden fences with concrete panels hidden between them is to be constructed on the west side (Wyatt's Close) of the roadway because the householders there will be subjected to even higher noise values—i.e. above 68 decibels.

On this side of the valley, few householders will experience quite such high values, but levels of 64, 65 and 66 decibels have been recorded during construction and will constitute a serious intrusion into the peacefulness of living on the Loudwater Estate.

The only legal remedy we have against this noise is to claim a reduction of rateable value as a result of loss of amenity and to claim compensation under the Land Compensation Act 1973 for loss of capital value of the property. *It is important that all householders who are affected, when the road opens in the Spring of 1976, should make such claims.* In deciding whether to erect an acoustic fence or not, the Department of the Environment will take into account the total value of all claims for compensation and also the loss of rating by the local authority.

In the meantime, however, the Director of the Eastern Road Construction Unit promised to investigate the whole matter and to report back by the end of June, since he is faced

with a similar noise problem on the M40 at Gerrard's Cross. Regrettably, this report has not been forthcoming, but we will continue to press for answers to these problems as soon as possible.

AIRCRAFT NOISE

Yet a further intrusion into this area has been, as I am sure you will have noticed, an increase in the number of aircraft over-flying the Estate in many directions. An approach has been made through Mr Dodsworth to the Board of Trade and a letter has been received explaining the introduction of a new out-going air route from Heathrow over Amersham and Chesham. I am sure you will agree that this cannot be the complete answer to the problem as we now note large aircraft ex-Heathrow flying over towards Brookman's Park, towards Bovingdon and also from North to South. In addition to this, there appears to be a more frequent small aircraft service, flying East to West, as well as some military aircraft and a helicopter service. The Committee will continue to press for adequate answers to these problems.

It would be helpful to our efforts if householders affected by this increase of noise would make complaints directly to:

The Department of Trade
Civil Aviation Branch 3
The Adelphi
3 John Adam Street
London WC2
Tel: 01-217 5538

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

It has been suggested that the L.R.A. should hold some social function in order to help us all to get to know one another better. If you have any views, would you please complete the form below and drop it in on your nearest committee member. There is, of course, no commitment.

I would / would not* be interested in participating in a Loudwater social function. For such a function, I would suggest —

- a sherry party ___
- a dinner ___
- a dinner dance ___
- a wine and cheese party ___
- some other possibility:

Name Address