

LOUDWATER RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION CHORLEYWOOD

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TROUTSTREAM WAY GATE

After a campaign lasting some five years, the gate at the Sarratt Lane junction of Troutstream Way is now closed. Last year, after our approach in the Autumn to the Estate Company on behalf of the massive vote at our AGM in favour of closure, a group of shareholder residents, rallied by resident Mr David Barber, felt that there should be no more delay and called a special meeting to put a proposal for closure. The Estate Board very fairly included the resolution in its agenda at its AGM on December 17. Before the meeting, the Board did its utmost to ascertain feeling throughout the Estate by circulating a questionnaire to all residents, not just shareholders, asking their views. 163 letters were sent out - 111 (68%) replied. Of the replies, 78 (72%) were in favour, 31 (28%) were against, with one "don't know". The only road returning a majority opinion against closure was, understandably, Loudwater Heights. When the AGM of the Estate Company voted, of the 50 shareholders possible, votes were cast by 36, some half dozen being away or in process of having shares transferred. Of those available to vote, 35 (80%) were in favour, 10 (20%) did not vote. One vote was cast against. On February 28 the gate was closed. Residents in Loudwater Heights are protesting at present to the Estate Company Board.

THREE RIVERS WATCHDOG COMMITTEE

With the Herts CC rate rising still (18% for 1977/78), a non-political Committee has been formed by local Residents' Associations to monitor and, where necessary, challenge County and District Councils' spending of your money. It is a sign of the LRA's new importance that it was speedily invited to join the committee, along with representatives from Carpenders Park, Chandlers Cross, Chorleywood, Croxley Green, Heronsgate, Moor Park, Rickmansworth and Abbots Langley (part).

Several meetings have been attended by John Watkiss and Jim Watkins for the LRA. In January the Committee met Cty. Cllrs. Cogan, Nemeth and Purkiss (Con.) and Robinson (Lib.). Despite invitations, no Labour Cty Cllr attended. The councillors were questioned about staffing levels, staff Christmas holidays and overmanning of the Planning Dept (which was admitted), also education, school meals provided free for teachers and ancillary staff, better use of school facilities, economic use of school books and low attendance at evening classes, as well as public transport subsidies and methods of scrutinising expenditure.

While sympathising with the Council's dilemma because of the £12 million cut in the Government rate support grant and its problems in cutting staff in the context of existing union agreements, the Committee told the Cllrs. excessive increases would eventually lead to substantial withholding of rate payments. The Cllrs. promised to keep the Committee's points in mind.

The Committee is now investigating specific areas of expenditure. Your representatives have been asked to look into the problem of "Watersmeet" which is currently losing over £100,000 per annum. Whilst the Ginger Group

Committee has no official standing, it is determined to be heard over extravagance and inefficiency in Local Government. If you have any evidence or points that you think the Ginger Group should know, please contact John Watkiss or Jim Watkins.

FROM THE ESTATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are asked to remind residents that, while the Board is grateful to all residents who make a special effort to keep verges tidy and undamaged, rocks, tree trunk pieces, etc., must not be placed on verges unless residents have filled in a form (available from the Company Secretary) indemnifying the Company from any liability in case of accidents caused by such obstructions.

Similarly, the Company, while welcoming the endeavour by residents who prune trees on their verges, ask that anyone wishing to do so obtain permission first from the Secretary, and that any major work should be done professionally.

Lastly, both the Company and the LRA have had further complaints of an Alsatian dog roaming the area and attacking other dogs. Any evidence of this will be welcomed by the Board.

COMPANY SHAREHOLDING

One of the most discussed rules in the area is the issue of shares in the Loudwater/Troutstream Estate Company. It is not for us to comment on this but it may help if the system is explained. To obtain a shareholding, you must write to the Company Secretary and ask. The issuing of shares, when available, is at the Board's discretion but, other things being equal, shares will be issued to those applying first and with longest residence on the Estate. Any shareholder leaving the district and ceasing to own property on the Estate is obliged to surrender the shareholding, which does not pass with the property but is then reissued to a new applicant. Only shareholders may vote at meetings of the Company.

NEWS OF THE L.R.A.

Our Garden Party, which was such a success last year, is going to be held this year, too. Note the date - Sunday, July 10. More details later.

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 15 at 8.30 pm in Chorleywood House. Nominations for members of the committee are welcome.

The Vice-Chairman of the L.R.A., John Jarrett, has been elected nem. con. to the Board of the Loudwater/Troutstream Estate Company in place of John Sullivan, who has retired.

Apart from those listed in our heading, the other members of the L.R.A. Committee are John Jarrett, Derek Speight, Barnaby Usborne, Jim Watkins and John Watkiss.

MISCELLANY

The grounds in front of Loudwater House, which we mentioned in our last Newsletter as being up for sale, have in fact been sold to a buyer at present undisclosed. We are watching developments. Mr G. Symondson, the seller, has left the district.

Negotiations are almost completed for work to begin on the demolition of the garage and for the subsequent replacement of the old condemned structure.

There has been a distinct lessening in the amount of rubbish dumped around the garage site and we have been asked to thank residents for their co-operation.

We mentioned in our last letter that a billboard had appeared in the woods on the west side of Loudwater Lane, offering building plots for sale. The billboard has now come down. However, the Three Rivers Planning Committee on Feb. 8 this year agreed to a variation in the Tree Preservation Order for this site to the effect that some 87 trees could be taken down subject to replanting on a one-for-one basis. Any sign of any cutting should be reported to the LRA or the Planning Officer.

A Tree Preservation Order has also been placed on 'Ghyllwood', Loudwater Lane.

"The Watford Observer" on March 18 reported that a resident in Troutstream Way had for the second time within 15 months been ordered to keep an Alsatian under control. Costs of £79 were ordered.

NORTH ORBITAL

Members will have noted that the acoustic fence on the West Side of the road is still not completed. We understand that the Eastern Road Construction Unit went out for new tenders but had not issued orders before the Government moratorium on new orders was issued last December.

A strongly-worded letter was sent to the Director of the ERCU, taking exception to the long delay between the agreement to the scheme, which was in September 1976, and the ordering of the work, and insisting that this moratorium be not considered to affect such cases. This has produced a reply, promising that work will proceed and that a contract will be placed.

MEMBERS? MEMBERS? MEMBERS?

A very satisfying number of residents responded to our appeal to join the LRA but there are still a fair number of houses where no membership exists. Please don't delay—£1 is not much to ask to support your Association in its efforts on behalf of every resident in the Loudwater area. We are again putting this Newsletter out to all houses in the area in the hope of getting the message across, but we will not be able to do so much longer unless funds keep coming in.

DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Plot 7, Lower Plantation — Detached house for Robert Construction Co. 8/122/77.

"Appleton", Troutstream Way — Single storey side extension. M. Tucker. 8/694/76.

"Grayling Cottage", Bridle Lane — Single storey rear extension. Andrews. 8/710/76.

"Chess Lodge", Trout Rise — Single storey rear extension. Sanderson 8/772/76.

Land adjoining Lower Plantation, Sarratt — Detached house. D. Hill. 8/115/77.

To: Cyril Brine, Hon. Treasurer
LOUDWATER RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Arlesey House, Rooks Hill

Please enrol me as a member of the Loudwater Residents' Association.

I enclose £1 for a year's subscription.

Name

Address

.....

Telephone

.....

Signed

All news items will be gratefully received for consideration
by the Editor of the Newsletter
John Jarrett, Marha's Vineyard, Violet Way