



NEWS SHEET March 1st, 1988

Our First AGM.

Some seventy members attended the meeting at the convenient and attractively arranged room at the Midland Bank Sports Club on Friday, 19th February 1988. Paul Sharrock, our Chairman, opened the meeting with the excellent news that our campaign against the planned development of a block of flats at Cedarhurst, Elstree Hill was successful. The Department of Environment rejected all three plans and noted the points made regarding the special character of the area.

Paul then went on to introduce the guest speaker Mr. Colin Moynihan, Minister of Sport and M.P. for Lewisham East. Considering he had flown in from the Winter Olympics at Calgary only a few hours before, he gave an interesting insight to his parliamentary duties within the Department of Environment other than sport.

First of all he congratulated us on the effort over this past nine months in setting up the Society. He advised us to contact other similar societies to exchange knowledge and experience where possible. Within the DOE he has responsibility for every aspect of the environment except planning, but nevertheless he congratulated us on the Cedarhurst success. He then expounded on various environmental concerns affecting not only this country but world wide problems ranging from the disappearing rain forests in Panama to the effect of acid rain in Scandinavia. He then explained what has been achieved here in reducing sulphur emissions from power stations, the need to find a safe location for the disposal of nuclear waste, and campaigned strongly for members to use unleaded petrol in their cars. His speech was warmly received and in the interval that followed many had the opportunity to ask informal questions to Mr. Moynihan who we must thank for his interest and support.

Following the break we then proceeded with the main business of the meeting. The 1987 accounts were approved. The Committee was elected unopposed and the road representatives were identified. There was a debate over the renewal amount, but as most members had already indicated that the £5 amount was appropriate this was eventually decided upon. So be ready with your money when the road representatives come to collect in the Summer months! Anyone wishing to join the Society should contact the Secretary, Paul Bennett, on 466-1091.

Paul Bennett began 'Any Other Business' by discussing our future activities. He stated that the major effort will still be related to planning matters. Although the Cedarhurst campaign was a success, unfortunately both blocks to be developed on Oaklands Road have been approved by Bromley. This signals the possible opening of the flood gates for further redevelopments on this road, and without a strong campaign by residents it is hard for the Society to resist this change. It is imperative that all those that are concerned should write to Councillors Walker and Wilkinson and express their views, because currently these Councillors appear to acquiesce to developers requests without noting the concern of residents who are their constituents.

Away from planning, the traffic survey on Calmont Road and Warren Avenue has been taken seriously by both the police and Lewisham Traffic Department. The police will be patrolling more frequently particularly at peak times, and Lewisham have suggested the installation of low-graded road humps, but would require Bromley's involvement in the scheme. We therefore need to consider what actions should be taken to put our views on Farnaby Road and Warren Avenue to Bromley. Paul then mentioned that we have been given permission to put up a poster at Ravensbourne Station and also that British Rail would be interested in the Society maintaining hanging baskets and flower beds to brighten up what is potentially a very attractive station.

Several members then raised questions which included -

- whether there had been any Neighbourhood Watch schemes set up. Bob Deller explained how he had initiated the Calmont Road scheme and that it depended on the coordinator. A scheme would be welcome for the Beckenham Lane end of Ravensbourne Avenue.
- litter at Crab Hill, what can be done?
- dumping of garden waste etc. in the River Ravensbourne. It is somewhat unbelievable that residents should use the river as a tip!
- getting trains to stop at Ravensbourne Station after 8p.m..

The meeting concluded with a request to invite another speaker in six months time and Anne Rowswell of 164 Ravensbourne Avenue offered to be the road rep for the end nearest Farnaby Road.