



Brentham Garden Estate, Ealing

NEWS

CHAIRPERSON'S NOTES

Planning matters continue to occupy a lot of the committee's time. We have been notified of around 21 applications in the last three months alone. I'm sure that this is an increase over previous years and means that Brentham residents are striving to ensure that improvements to their houses fit in with the architectural principles of the Garden Suburb. It also means that they are avoiding the uncertainty and possible cost of retrospective planning applications. I was cheered to hear that the designs for St. Barnabas Church Hall have received planning permission. We also hear that English Heritage, who have a place on the Listed Buildings Faculty Panel, have approved the designs. These are just two of the many hurdles the Church Hall Committee have to clear and we wish them all the best for the next stages.

We have had some response to the campaign to keep the UPVC double glazing salesmen out of Brentham. But it is a bit like trying to keep slugs off the borders - no matter how many you dispose of, there are always more the next day, willing to try where their colleagues failed. So, if you have trouble with persistent salesmen at the

door or on the phone, let one of the committee know. We'll do what we can. Of course if you know of a reputable company that make double glazed windows that genuinely fit in with the materials and styles of Brentham windows, ask Delphine Nunn to add it to the Society's list of tradesmen.

As you will see elsewhere in this newsletter, the Council traffic planners have some proposals to stop lorries driving through Brentham and a traffic calming scheme for the area to the east of our estate. Our survey of residents' opinions on traffic showed that many people are concerned about many aspects of the traffic debate. The planners and our local councillors have gone out of their way to seek local opinions - now is the time to let them know what you think. We're sure that the response that they get over the next few weeks will directly influence their decisions for future traffic policy in this area.

Finally, congratulations to committee member Philip Sutcliffe and Melanie on the birth of a baby son at the end of August.

Mark Greenwood, Chairperson.

CALM DOWN

The Traffic Planners' ideas for traffic calming were discussed at a noisy public meeting at Montpelier School on 17 July. The meeting, called by our ward councillors Tony Young, Diane Pagan, and Audrey Hider, was to give local people a chance to put questions to them and to Gillian Norburn, Senior Engineer with BRETS, about the proposals.

Mrs Norburn introduced the scheme which she said was designed to reduce the speed and amount of through traffic on Brunswick Road and on Mount Avenue/Birkdale Road/Lynwood Road. The plans were designed to allow local residents full access but to cut the numbers of 'rat-runners' and force them onto the A40. They also aim to stop lorries who ignore the weight restrictions through the Brentham Estate.

They would achieve this by a series of road humps to calm traffic speed and volume and by a width restriction to stop the lorries. At the moment, the only proposal for road humps on our Estate would be on Brunswick Road. There are two alternative sites for a width restriction: one on Pitshanger Lane just east of the Woodfield Road junction; the other on Brunswick Road at its junction with Brunner Road.

Mrs Norburn remained calm in the face of some very intense and aggressive opinions. She and the councillors pointed out that none of these proposals had been adopted by the council and that the opinions of the residents living on and near the affected roads would directly affect the council's final decision. Some of the comments and questions from the floor were from locals clearly very upset at the thought of road humps and other calming measures in

their roads. But there were also many people who thought the proposals did not go far enough and asked for extra measures to be taken.

The direct effect on the Brentham Estate, Mrs Norburn told me, would be to cut the number of heavy lorries illegally using the Pitshanger/Brunner/Brunswick through route. They have suggested two alternative sites for a width restriction. Each would have advance warning signs in appropriate places. Both sites have advantages and disadvantages. The Pitshanger Lane site will tend to force eastbound lorries up Woodfield Road. However this site is easier to circumnavigate by determined HGV drivers. The Brunswick Road site is not so easy to get round, but is less obvious - lorries who ignore the warning signs would drive up to the width restriction and then have to turn around.

The width restriction would take the form of a small central island, and projections sticking out from the pavement on either side. Then there would be three bollards, one on each projection and a collapsible bollard on the island to allow emergency vehicles through.

The planners accept that any calming scheme will push some traffic onto streets which have no humps. Mrs Norburn accepted this could possibly affect Brentham Way, for instance. She stressed that it is impossible to predict accurately what will happen on these streets and that they would monitor the results of any work they do.

She added that these are the first stage of plans for this area. The Planners will be making some suggestions that will further affect Brentham - for instance, possible traffic calming on Brunner Road, Pitshanger Lane and Meadvale road.

If you think these plans are good, bad or indifferent, the Council want to know. Letters must be in by 25th September. Write to Gillian Norburn, Senior Engineer, BRETS; 24 Uxbridge Road, W5 2BP. The councillors also want to know local opinion - write to them at Ealing Town Hall.

Mark Greenwood

A NEW HISTORY OF THE BRENTHAM ESTATE - CAN YOU HELP ?????

In 2001 the Brentham Estate will celebrate its centenary. To commemorate this milestone the Brentham Society hopes to publish a book that will cover the first 100 years of the Estate in words and pictures. With the completion of a group of houses in Woodfield Road in 1901 the ideals of visionary trade unionist Sir Henry Vivian were put into practice. This was the start of the very first cooperative housing scheme in Britain, one that went on to become a garden suburb that has been described as "an icon in the early history of British town planning and housing".

Producing an illustrated history is an ambitious project that will require lots of help. If you think you may be able to lend a hand in any of the areas below, or have any suggestions to pass on please ring or contact Wendy Sender, 50 Denison Road, 997 4123, who has offered to coordinate the project.

Our first tasks to get this book produced are:

1. Sponsorship/fund raising

We need local businesses and charitable trusts to raise sponsorship. We will be happy to discuss what's involved with anyone who may be interested. This is our most pressing

need and we would appreciate help both from experienced fund raisers and those who are new to it (willing to make phone calls and write letters).

2. Solicitors/legal advice

To help draw up a contract for the author.

Over the next few months we will be glad of help in the following areas but we would be grateful if you could let us know **now** which areas interest you.

1. **Picture research.** This involves rummaging through the archives. There is a wealth of material to sort through - Brentham Society's own archives, the archives of Hampstead Garden Suburb, the RIBA library, contemporary newspapers and journals such as the Middlesex County Times and the Brentham Club magazine, the Central Reference library local history collection, David Baker Architects who have their own private collection of early material, the Bradford Property Trust, the collections of the Gunersbury Park Museum, The National Monuments Commission and specialist housing associations. Some photos will be privately owned - by descendants of the architects and by residents living on the Estate. This interesting part of the project could be tackled by several people. Contact Wendy Sender if you'd like to know more about what's involved. The new history would contain over 200 illustrations.

2. **Publicity/marketing/sales.** We are looking for help in promoting the new book which will have a wider market than residents - architects, historians, town planners, specialist libraries and museums throughout the UK.

3. If you have any **suggestions** or can tell us about the early days on the Estate or have any other **anecdotes** to pass on please let us know and we will pass on the information to the author (once

commissioned).

4. **Copy editor.** To copy edit the manuscript.

5. **Proofreaders** - experienced or inexperienced.

6. Photographers to take photographs of the Estate today, including May Day, strawberry tea etc.

If this project seems a little daunting it is worth remembering that we succeeded in raising sponsorship for and publishing The Co-Partnership Suburb. With your help we can do the same for a new history.

STRAWBERRY TEA 1997

Despite the bad weather forecast and threatening skies the annual strawberry tea took place on Sunday June 22nd in Barbara Murray's lovely garden.

We were delighted to see so many residents who braved the weather to enjoy the delicious strawberries and cakes. It was particularly good to see lots of new faces this year as well as many whom we have come to regard as regulars.

Eventually the threatening clouds delivered their load! Some sought shelter in Barbara's lounge whilst a few hardy souls sat in the garden undeterred!

Our thanks to Barbara for the use of her house and garden and to all those who helped on the day by giving time to help and donating cakes and lending furniture. The bring and buy plant sale again generated much interest and a donation of about £20 of Downhurst Residential Home.

Heather Moore

A DAY AT THE RACES

Despite a downpour before lunch typical of the wettest July for many years, and with many better-known sporting events being affected by the British weather at its most unpredictable, the 1997 Brentham Family Fun Day was blessed with a wonderful sunny afternoon.

For me it was a very laid back outing (being heavily pregnant and unable to get up once I was installed under the oak tree!), surrounded by delicious nibbles and refreshments. For the more energetic, ie the children, the course was good to soft but the turnout was excellent. The classic "late for school" race, a well practised event, revealed a few potential Derby winners. The Formula 1 buggy race was a photo finish between the McClaren and Britax teams. There were other sideshow entertainments including a fantastic face painter who transformed all the children - sometimes for the better! And for the adults there was an excellent raffle. All the children won prizes and there was a special prize for the child who tried the most - congratulations to Sian Atkinson.

The event was a success for the hundred or so adults and children who came along - and a racing certainty for a great time again next year.

Melanie Sutcliffe

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE BRENTHAM SOCIETY
to be held on 27
TUESDAY OCTOBER 14TH
8.00pm at
THE BRENTHAM CLUB
Nominations for membership of
the committee should reach
Elizabeth Atkinson 12 Woodfield
Cres. one week before the AGM**