



**Berkhamsted
Citizens
Association**

NEWSLETTER

December 1993

Editor's Musings

As Christmas approaches once again, I am reminded that another Newsletter is due. I need little reminding since the weather as I write is almost Christmassy in its rather premature unseasonal coldness. Of course, by the time you receive it you might be sweltering in an unseasonal heat-wave. Who knows, in our climate?

Whatever the weather you will be warm and cheered by our Christmas Celebrations in the Town Hall on 17th December. Do be there. The Dacorum Concert Band will provide music for carols which you will be invited to bellow most lustily - when not consuming mince pies and mulled wine. The committee will serve your every need and the chairman will beam benignly upon you. What could be better than that?

But before we let our hair down - to business.

Love it or loathe it, but Kingsgate is still with us and the latest suggestion appears to have achieved the impossible. They have unified the conflicting views at least so far as the existing proposals are concerned. Let me make one thing clear - an outline planning permission for a store already exists. All the Association can do is to review proposals and make suggestions to maximise the advantage to the town. At present the proposed store appears to be located too far back, the ratio of dedicated parking spaces to general parking seems to be too high, pedestrian access from and to the High Street, is inadequate and will do nothing to achieve the unity with the High Street which is essential and the store may, in fact, be facing the wrong way. The Association will be making appropriate representations.

30-40 members attended an interesting talk by three representatives of the Three Valleys Water Co. at the beginning of November. You will all be glad to know that supplies are at a high level of very good quality. Questions were interesting and well dealt with. The one serious problem highlighted was that of the cloud the water imparts to whisky by one of the questioners. This was of sufficient magnitude that one of the speakers said he would give it his personal attention. I am not surprised. (It was solved the following day.)

Residents in the Northbridge Road area will be pleased to know that the plans for the proposed "household waste transfer point" have been withdrawn. Household waste transport point! I ask you, they mean the "dump" don't they? However, we must anticipate an "improved" scheme on the same site.

You will be pleased to know that following a complete sell-out of the book of local walks there has been a reprint and copies of this useful document are now available again.

The calendar moves inexorably on and I have been asked to draw your attention to the need for submissions to the annual Environment Award to be made now ready for due consideration prior to the award being made at the AGM in March. This is a worthwhile endeavour to try and improve the quality of our environment and is well worth supporting.

News in Brief

Rex Cinema - this 1930s grade II listed cinema is to be converted into offices by Hawkins Brown after a five year planning battle against conservationists. The firm won planning permission for the £3.2m. scheme after agreeing to retain art deco features such as the foyer and auditorium, which includes original light fittings and pink shell decoration.

Almshouses - York stone steps on these venerable buildings have been replaced by concrete which is not considered suitable.

By-Pass Action Group - demonstration project work is under way and the traffic calming proposals area now being reviewed area by area.

Security at the Sports Centre - there has been some concern on this score and it is reported that more light has been provided and more staff are now on duty at the weekends.

Alsford's Wood Yard - proposals for 30 x 1 and 2 bedrooms flats have been received - it seems a reasonably acceptable use for the site, particularly as the totem pole is to be retained.

Vets at St. Johns Well Lane - some objections have been raised to the colour of the bricks.

Kings Road/High Street traffic lights - approaches made to see if light sequence should be changed in view of different traffic flows now prevailing.

Subscriptions become due on 1st January. Over the past few years, the practice of enclosing renewal slips with the December newsletter has proved successful. Of our 617 members, 264 are due to pay this year. If you are one of them, your deliverer will have your renewal form.

Future Events

17th December	8.00 pm Christmas Celebrations in the Town Hall.
1st January 1994	10.30 am New Year's Day Ramble to Aldbury led by Fred Taverner. Berkhamsted Station.
10th February	8.00.pm I'm a journalist : talk by Jean Francis.
4th April	Easter Ramble
2nd May	Town Centre Walk
17th June	Summer Wine

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