



**Berkhamsted
Citizens
Association**

NEWSLETTER

March 1993

This is the last newsletter before the AGM and Open Forum on 25th March. Attached to it is the Chairman's Report for the past year.

Additionally this year we are including in the newsletter a policy statement indicating the lines on which the Association intends to proceed in the immediate future. Although these have been clearly set out by the Chairman in the Gazette and elsewhere, it is felt that a focus on them immediately before the AGM would have benefit in indicating to the membership the general direction in which the committee is proposing to proceed.

Policy Statement

Overall the BCA is committed to the idea of Berkhamsted as a small market town with a life of its own, centred round a viable shopping centre with its own schools and appropriate workplaces. The housing should broadly be of the density and mix as it is at present. All of this takes into account its pleasant setting in the Chilterns and near to Ashridge.

To ensure this, the Association aims to contribute to the civic way of life of the town by bringing together people who appreciate the town and its surroundings. We try to bring this point of view to bear by assessing policies and proposals and thereby contribute to the political and planning processes which influence the life of the town. In this task the Committee tries to look at the longer term and broader implications of any proposal.

Detailed policy objectives will, of course, vary from time to time but currently the main items are:

- a) To defend the existing Green Belt boundary - any erosion would be irreversible;
- b) To welcome the by-pass and to work with the Department of Transport, Herts County Council and Dacorum Borough Council to maximise the benefits to the town. In this context, however, the Association is opposed to any development alongside the route;
- c) To accept the need for some development in the town centre to keep it viable and thriving. To achieve this the Association accepts Phase I of the Kingsgate development, the supermarket, but objects to Phase II or to any other development which may lead to the total relocation of the High Street. For the same reason the Stag Lane development is vigorously opposed as being totally destructive of the concept of a reasonably compact, mutually supportive shopping centre roughly located where it is at present.

Editor's Musings

I think the above states quite succinctly what, in the long term, the Association hopes to achieve and, in the short term, how it is going about it, the strategy and the tactics. I doubt if anyone would be a member of the Association if they did not agree with the strategy, although for various reasons there might be different points of view about the tactics from time to time. The differences may be because of an individual point of view (not infrequently related to the proximity of a certain development to the holder

of that point of view and entirely understandable) or, more probably, because the full facts of a situation are not known or the long term aspects not appreciated. The members of the Association are all hell-bent for the same objective. The Committee is there to ensure that we all charge in the same direction. The Committee represents the Association. The AGM is the point when it explains its actions and when the Association, if it so desires, reforms the Committee in its own image.

Let us have a good turnout on 25th March. Remember, new blood is always required, so why not let your name go forward for the Committee?

By-Pass Fun Day

The contractors, Amey, have given permission for the Round Table to organise this on a date yet to be agreed, probably some time in July or August. The idea is to raise money for a local charity or project in the town. The Association is likely to participate but anyone who is interested in participating or wants further information should contact Phil Gibb on Berkhamsted 870302.

Environment Award

A short-list of three main contenders has been made and the final selection will be made as usual at the AGM. These are:

1. A new house called Eco in Castle Hill Avenue
2. Berkhamsted School swimming pool
3. The sports surface at the Youth Club.

Berkhamsted Youth Club

The Gazette is running a community scheme until February 1994 called Gazette It Together. So far there is only one project running in Berkhamsted. Berkhamsted Youth Club is trying to raise 40,000 vouchers for computer equipment. Will you help them to achieve their aim? The vouchers can be found in the Gazette each week and can either be sent to Berkhamsted Youth Club or to the Citizens Membership Secretary, Christopher Talbot-Ponsonby at 38 Kitsbury Road, Berkhamsted, HP4 3EA.

Future Events

Thursday 25th March	AGM, Environment Award and Open Forum. Main Hall. 8.00 pm.
Monday 12th April	Easter Ramble, led by Keith Jenkins, probably to Wigginton. Assemble at 10.30 am at the top of Cross Oak Rd.
Monday 3rd May	Town Walk. Assemble at 7.0 pm, at Water Lane Car Park.
Friday 18th June	Summer Wine. Details issued later.

We apologise for having to cancel the meeting "Our Canal Heritage in Berkhamsted" on 20th January because of the illness of the speaker, Lindy Foster. We hope to arrange this talk at a later date.

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