

## THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday,  
23 January, 1979 at 7.45 pm. at Harpenden Hall

Present: Mr. Paul Usher in the Chair  
Mr. Ward, Mr. Powlesland, Mr. Barnes, Miss Haberer,  
Mr. Haggard, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Suitters,  
Mr. Wilson

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. A. Evans,  
Miss Ashford, Mrs. Comer, Mr. Harrison, Mrs. Johnstone,  
Mr. Pattison, Mr. Rees, Miss Spurr

1. MINUTES of the last meeting held on 28 November, 1978 were approved and signed.

2. REPORTS OF GROUP CONVENORS

- (a) COMMON

In the absence of Mrs. Johnstone, Mr. Ward reported favourably on the progress of the clearance of East Common by the District Council men. He also described the progress on the Rovers Football Club changing rooms and car park and stressed the need for the enforcement of the agreed planting of a screen of trees.

- (b) PLANS

Mr. Smith reported on several planning applications, supplemented by notes from Mr. Rees presented by Mr. Ward. After discussion, it was agreed that the Society should support the Town Council's request to the District Council to reduce the number of detached houses proposed at Faulkener's Field from four to three, or if four were allowed, to improve the layout of the site. It was also agreed that the Society should oppose outline planning permission requested for a house in "Green Belt" land at Bamville Farm.

The Group was asked to monitor developments on the new Railway Station as the Committee felt that traffic at the bridge would probably prove a major problem, which perhaps would only be solved by widening the road under the bridge.

Mr. Haggard reported that the new footbridge over the railway from Carlton Road to Thompson's Close needed a handrail at a lower level, and that the steps, which were open with no risers, made negotiation with a shopping trolley impossible. The Secretary was asked to write to British Rail on these two points, and to suggest that something be done to discourage graffiti on the paintwork, perhaps by the use of a colour other than the present light grey or by the painting of a "mural" by schoolchildren.

- (c) LEA VALLEY GROUP

The Secretary asked the Group to monitor the progress of the work at Batford Mill.

- (d) SCHOOLS LIAISON GROUP

Mr. Wilson reported that plans were in hand for a number of "Green Walks" round and about Harpenden, for which guides would be printed.

3. MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS

Mr. Powlesland reported that funds had increased by nearly £200 in the current year, due mainly to Mrs. Suitters' efforts in collecting overdue subscriptions. The financial relationship between the Society and the Lea Valley Group had now been clearly defined. Mr. Barnes suggested that subscriptions might be paid by direct debit forms, and Mr. Powlesland agreed to look into the matter. He would also enquire into and report on Mr. Haggard's suggestion of a five-year membership subscription. Mr. Powlesland said he had applied for charitable status for the Society in order to be eligible for Income Tax concessions. It was agreed that the Society should pay £25 for the use of the room at Harpenden Hall for 1979.

Discussion took place on a membership appeal but it was decided to leave a decision until Mr. Evans was present.

4. FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Arrangements for the Annual General Meeting on 13 March were discussed. It was decided to serve coffee at 7.45 pm. As a subject for a talk after the business meeting, Miss Haberer suggested "Rothamsted and Harpenden" and Mr. Barnes agreed to find a speaker. The Secretary appealed for help in organising the Society's stand for the "Spotlight on Leisure" Exhibition. He had also had no success in borrowing stands but had found a firm who would supply six 6ft by 3ft stands for £60., and would try to inspect them as soon as possible.

Mr. Barnes, on behalf of Rothamsted, invited the Society to send a representative to the "topping out" ceremony for the restoration of the Clock tower at Rothamsted Manor on 26 January. Mr. Ward said he would be pleased to attend.

5. SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary read a letter from St. Albans Civic Society inviting the Society to send a delegate to regular liaison meetings with the Civic Society and the Redbourn Association. The Committee felt it would be preferable to send a delegate to meetings on specific issues such as Childwickbury or the Toxic Waste Dump, and the Secretary agreed to inform Mrs. Godfrey, the Civic Society's delegate, who lives in Harpenden.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 20 February, 1979 at 7.45 p.m. in Harpenden Hall.

Paul Vane.

20/2/79.



# The Harpenden Society

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
to be held in the Small Public Hall  
on Tuesday, March 13th at 8.0 p.m.

Coffee will be served from 7.30 p.m.

## A G E N D A

1. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held on March 13th, 1978.
2. To receive and consider the report of the Chairman of the Executive Committee.
3. To receive and consider the Treasurer's report.
4. To elect the officers of the Society.
5. To elect not more than 4 members to the Executive Committee in place of Miss Ruth Spurr (who retires under Rule 7 and so is not available for re-election), Mrs. Marguerite Johnstone and Councillors Mike Harrison and Malcolm Parsons who have, regrettably, tendered their resignations. The names and addresses of members nominated to fill vacancies should be sent to the Hon. Secretary 14 days before the Annual General Meeting, the consent of the nominee having first been obtained.
6. The Society's Award for the new or renovated building or buildings which contributed most to the Harpenden scene in 1978. Spokesmen for the panel of judges will present their findings and announce their recommendations.
7. Mr. Pat Wilson (Vice-President) will report on recent endeavours (through the medium of the 'Schools Liaison Group') to interest young people in the aims and objects of the Society.
8. Any Other Business.

\*\*\*\*\*

## WINE AND CHEESE PARTY.

In response to demand from members, it has been decided to hold a Wine and Cheese Party in the Large Public Hall. Please note the date of Wednesday, May 2nd., and the time, 8.0 p.m. Price of tickets will be £1.50 and they will be on sale at the A.G.M. as well as from Committee members. If you wish to pay by cheque, especially if you intend to make up a party, please send your cheque to the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. Norman Powlesland, 9 Alders End Lane, Harpenden). During the course of the evening it is hoped to present the commemorative plaque to the winners of the Society's Award Scheme. We hope that this occasion will prove as festive and enjoyable as last years highly successful event.

\*\*\*\*\*

Please send me ..... tickets at £1.50 each for the Harpenden Society's Wine and Cheese Party on Wednesday, May 2nd. I enclose cheque for .....

Name ..... Address .....

.....

(Cheques payable to 'The Harpenden Society')



## THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday,  
20 February, 1979 at 7.45 pm. at Harpenden Hall

Present: Mr. Usher in the chair

Mr. A. Evans, Mr. Ward, Mr. Powlesland, Miss Ashford,  
Mr. Barnes, Mrs. Comer, Miss Haberer, Mrs. Suitters,  
Mr. Weston. Mrs. Godfrey, a delegate from St. Albans  
Civic Society, attended by invitation

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Harrison,  
Mrs. Johnstone, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Smith, Miss Spurr, Mr. Wilson.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 23 January, 1979 were approved and signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Mr. Ward reported that he had written to British Rail about the footbridge from Carlton Road to Thompson's Close, and had sent a copy of his letter to Harpenden Town Council. He read a letter from the Clerk of the Town Council strongly objecting to the Society's action in writing directly to British Rail instead of channelling its criticisms through the Town Council. The Committee unanimously opposed this view and the Chairman was asked to write to the Clerk telling him that the Society wished to continue to act separately in such matters, but would always support the Town Council on questions of mutual concern.

3. GROUP CONVENORS' REPORTS

- (a) COMMON

Mr. Weston reported that the trees bought with the balance of the Jeakin's Bequest had now been planted by the Town Council at Jockey Meadow and various sites on the Common.

Mrs. Comer reported that car parking was damaging the grass on the Common in front of Pimlico, and the Secretary was asked to write to the Town Council about the matter.

- (b) LEA VALLEY GROUP

Mr. Wilson had agreed to prepare an exhibit from the Group for the Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition.

- (c) TRANSPORT

Although Herts. County Council had voted unanimously to declassify the A6129 to B status, Mr. Weston said this would take some time as a report on alternative routes for heavy traffic had first to be made.

4. MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS

Mrs. Suitters reported that 18 new members had joined since November. The Committee agreed that all Harpenden Schools should receive the Newsletter and meeting notices irrespective of whether they paid a subscription.

Standing Order forms for the payment of subscriptions through Banks would be sent out with the next Newsletter.

The question of a membership appeal was again discussed, and it was agreed to put an insert in the Review with an article in the same edition. This would cost about £80, plus the cost of the inserts, and would have a circulation of 9,000. Mr. A. Evans agreed to get in touch with the Review to find out how soon this could be done.



5. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Notices of the Annual General Meeting had been circulated to members. The following nominations for the Committee had been made:-

Mr. G. Price	Proposed by Mr. Wilson,	seconded by Mr. Ward
Mr. MacInnes	"	" Mr. Usher,
Mrs. R. Nuttall	"	" Mr. Usher,
Mrs. Godfrey	"	" Mrs. Comer,
		" Miss Ashford

Three nominations had been received for the Society's Award, and would be judged by a Panel consisting of Mr. Curl, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Usher, Mrs. Comer and Miss Haberer.

Mr. Wilson would speak on recent endeavours through the Schools Liaison Group to interest young people in the aims and object of the Society.

Arrangements for the Wine and Cheese Party on 2nd May were in hand.

Mr. Ward reported that he had ordered a stand consisting of five frames for the Society's exhibit at the Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition. The Lea Valley Group, the Schools Liaison Group, the Local History Society would contribute material and other subjects would include the Society's Award Scheme, the aims of the Society and photographs of past and present Harpenden.

6. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Ward reported that he had received a letter from Aldwickbury Residents' Association saying that the Association had been wound up and they wished to donate the balance of their funds amounting to £18 to the Harpenden Society. The Committee asked him to acknowledge the gift with thanks and appreciation.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Powlesland suggested that the Society should look into the possibility of beautifying Harpenden High Street with hanging flower baskets. Difficulties of maintenance and cost were envisaged, and Mr. Ward agreed to make enquiries and then write to Mr. Pringle, Chief Recreation Officer, St. Albans District Council.

Mr. Weston said he had been asked by the Town Council to arrange for the Harpenden Arms sign near the entrance to Rothamsted Park to be re-painted, and would appreciate suggestions as to who would undertake the work. Miss Haberer suggested that the Hertfordshire College of Building, St. Albans, would probably be able to provide someone with the necessary skill.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 20 March, 1979 at 7.45 p.m. in Harpenden Hall.

*Paul Usher,*

*20/3/79.*

## THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday,  
20 March, 1979 at 7.45 pm at Harpenden Hall

Present: Mr. Usher in the Chair  
Mr. Ward, Mr. Powlesland, Miss Ashford, Mr. Barnes,  
Mrs. Comer, Mrs. Godfrey, Miss Haberer, Mr. Haggard,  
Mr. MacInnes, Mr. Price, Mr. Rees, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Smith,  
Mrs. Suitters, Mr. Weston.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. A. Evans  
and Mr. P. Wilson

The Chairman welcomed the new Committee members. Mrs. Godfrey  
would act as Liaison Officer with St. Albans Civic Society  
and Mr. MacInnes as Events Secretary.

1. MINUTES of the last meeting held on 20 February, 1979 were  
approved and signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Chairman

The ~~Secretary~~ read an acknowledgment from the Clerk to the Town  
Council of his letter about the relationship of the Society to  
the Council.

Mrs. Comer again raised the subject of car parking on the Common  
outside Pimlico, and it was agreed to contact the Town Council.

Miss Haberer suggested that the newly purchased exhibition frames  
might be hired to other organisations to help towards the cost.

Mr. Powlesland reported that he had been in touch with Mr. Roberts,  
St. Albans District Council, about hanging flower baskets in the  
High Street, and he was looking into the matter.

3. REPORTS OF GROUP CONVENORS

- (a) PLANS

Mr. Rees gave details of two planning applications - one for light  
industrial units with access to the Southdown Industrial Estate  
and the other for nine light industrial units at Batford Mill.  
It was agreed that both would be detrimental to the surrounding  
residential areas and the Secretary was asked to make objections.

- (b) TREES

With the retirement of Miss Ruth Spurr, another Convenor was needed.  
Mr. Barnes agreed to become a member of the Group and to report to  
the Committee until a new Convenor was appointed. Trees would be  
planted by the Society to screen the Rugby Club buildings in  
Redbourn Lane, and the Secretary reported that Dr. Salt of Rothamsted  
was making a plan for tree planting on the opposite side of the lane.  
Mrs. Russell had reported that the tulip tree planted in Bowers Way  
had died but it was decided not to replace it until nearby building  
activities were completed. Two pyracantha bushes near the swimming  
pool also needed to be replaced, but would be left until the autumn.

- (c) COMMONS

Mrs. Comer agreed to act as Convenor in place of Mrs. Johnstone.  
A suggestion to combine the Group with the Trees Group was  
discussed but not adopted. Miss Ashford reported on the appalling

- 3.(c) state of the beginning of the footpath from Pimlico to Hatching Green after the installation of new water and gas mains. A part of the Common and roadside had also been left in a very untidy state. The Secretary agreed to write to the District Council, who were responsible for surfacing the footpath.
- The Secretary read the reply from the Clerk to the Town Council about the acquisition of manorial rights on parts of the Common, saying that the matter was being pursued.

3.(d) LEA VALLEY

Mr. Haggard reported that work was progressing on the sluice gate.

(e) SCHOOLS' LIAISON

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. Wilson asking if three members of the Committee would volunteer to become members of the Group. Miss Haberer, Mr. Price and Mr. Rogers agreed to do so.

(f) TRANSPORT

Mr. Barnes reported that the Hertfordshire County Council had issued a questionnaire inviting comments on public transport in connection with a survey of employment possibilities. It was agreed that the Society should take part, and Mr. Barnes agreed to send a copy of the questionnaire to Mr. Pattison.

4. MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS

Mrs. Suitters reported that 190 subscriptions for 1979 had been received so far and 41 new members had joined since November, 1978. Charity status had been applied for by the Society but Mr. Powlesland reported that the Commissioners needed written assurance that the Society would not take part in lobbying. After discussion it was agreed that the assurance should be given.

5. PRESS AND NEWSLETTER

Mr. Usher gave particulars of an insert inviting membership of the Society that would be sent out with the Review on 12 April. An article on the Society written by Miss Haberer would be published in the same issue.

The next Newsletter would be published in early May. For convenience of reference, it was decided that issues should be numbered in future.

6. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Mr. Ward reported on arrangements for the Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition on 29, 30 and 31 March, and asked for volunteers to man the Society's stand. The new exhibition frames would be used to mount the exhibit. Mr. Haggard suggested that the Society applied to the St. Albans Lottery organisers for a grant to cover the cost of the frames as it was understood that money was available for single projects.

Arrangements for the Wine and Cheese party on 2nd May were in hand.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Miss Haberer said she had been approached by a member of the Harpenden Photographic Society, who were holding a competition



for photographs and slides of Harpenden. They had asked if the Harpenden Society would like to join with them in an exhibition in the library after the competition. The Secretary agreed to get further details of the proposal from the Secretary of the Photographic Society.

Mr. MacInnes said he had been approached by Mr. Johnson of the Cross Keys about the future of Rose Cottage, which was now unoccupied. The Plans Group was asked to look into the matter.

Mrs. Godfrey reminded members of the present exhibition in St. Albans in connection with the Chequer Street development and hoped members would complete the questionnaire that was being issued.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 24th April at 7.45 p.m. in Harpenden Hall.

Paul Vane  
24/4/79

## THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday,  
24 April, 1979 at 7.45 pm at Harpenden Hall

Present: Mr. Usher in the Chair  
Mr. A. Evans, Mr. Ward, Mr. Barnes, Mrs. Comer,  
Miss Haberer, Mr. Haggard, Mr. MacInnes, Mrs. Nuttall,  
Mr. Price, Mr. Rees, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Suitters,  
Mr. Weston.

Apologies for absence were received from Miss Ashford,  
Mr. Pattison and Mrs. Powlesland. Mrs. Godfrey was  
representing the Society at a public meeting in St. Albans  
on the Chequer Street Development.

The Chairman welcomed Mrs. Nuttall to the Committee.

1. MINUTES of the last meeting held on 20 March were approved and signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman announced that the St. Albans District Council had made a grant of £50 towards the cost of the display stands. In reply to a question about the response to the insert in the "Review" and the Spotlight on Leisure Exhibit in the Public Library, Mrs. Suitters said that to date 85 new members had enrolled. £105. had been received in subscriptions but it would be necessary to put a reminder about payment of subscriptions in the next Newsletter. It was agreed that new members should be sent a copy of the questionnaire about the help they could offer to the Society.

3. GROUP REPORTS

- (a) TREES

Mr. Barnes reported that Rothamsted had planted new trees in Coach Lane, and would later plant opposite the Rugby Club in Redbourn Lane. The rubbish left by builders alongside the new squash courts was deplored by several members and Mr. Rogers, Mr. Evans and Mr. Ward agreed to take up the matter with various contacts. Mr. Usher reported that hornbeams and red oaks had been planted alongside Amenbury Lane car park, thus completing the tree planting there. Trees had also been planted in Stewart Road and in Wheathampstead Road.

- (b) PLANS

Mr. Rees reported on various planning applications and suitable comments were approved for submission to the District and Town Councils. The Committee was concerned that car parking at the rear extension proposed at Anscombes would present problems, but Mr. Rees said this was the responsibility of the Highways Committee. It was reported that preparatory work had begun at Southdown Supermarket and Bull Road roundabout. The matter of Rose Cottage was again raised but both Mr. Rees and Mr. Smith felt that further objections to the developer's plans were not feasible.

- (c) COMMON

A new convenor would have to be found shortly as Mrs. Comer was leaving Harpenden. Mr. Weston agreed to inspect the place where works by the Gas Company had damaged the protective banking in

- 3.(c) Cravells Road which was being used by cars to gain access to the Common. Mr. Weston reported that car parking on the Common outside Pimlico was under discussion by the Town Council and negotiations were proceeding with the Gas Company about damage to the footpath to Hatching Green. Members expressed concern about damage to the Common by the unprecedented invasion by cars visiting the Fair at Easter. It was agreed that some compromise and tolerance of the public's wishes were needed but Mr. Ward undertook to try to secure photographic evidence of heavy parking at the next Fair on the Common on 28 May. Concern was also felt at the slow progress of the Rover's Football Club pavilion and car park and it was agreed that Mr. Usher should speak to Mr. Ian Fulton, ~~Chairman~~ of the Rover's Football Club before taking further action.

*President*  
(d) LEA VALLEY

Mr. Haggard reported that work on the sluice gate and waymarkers was continuing and the recent flooding had now abated.

(e) SCHOOLS' LIAISON

The Honorary Secretary reminded members of the change of date of the next meeting to 10 May.

(f) TRANSPORT

Mr. Ward reported that Mr. Pattison had written to Herts County Council giving the Society's full support to Rothamsted's replies to the questionnaire on public transport sent to local employers.

Discussion then took place on the proposal to form a small study group on "Re-cycling of Waste". It was agreed that one should be formed and Mr. Usher, Mr. Ward, Mr. Rogers, Mrs. Suitters and Mrs. Nuttall (Convenor) agreed to serve.

4. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Mr. Evans reported that it was necessary to sell 50 more tickets for the Wine and Cheese Party on 2 May to ensure that expenses were covered. Complimentary tickets would be sent to the Mayor and Mayoress of St. Albans, the Chairman of Harpenden Town Council, the Clerk to the Council, the Chief Technical Officer, St. Albans City Council and the Press.

A visit to Warren Springs Laboratory was suggested and the Honorary Secretary was asked to write to the Director.

The following dates for public meetings were announced:-

Wednesday, 12 September; Tuesday, 13 November; Monday, 10 December (with mincepies and punch); Tuesday, 11 March, 1980 (Annual General Meeting). The Public Hall had also been booked on Tuesday, 7 May, 1980 for a Wine and Cheese Party (or other event) at which the Society's Award would be presented.

The following subjects for meetings were suggested:- Transport and Roads; House and Building developments; the County Structure Plan; Railway Electrification; and the Honorary Secretary agreed to approach the appropriate bodies concerned for speakers, *Secretary*.

A joint meeting with the Local History Society would be held in October with the Greater London Council's Conservation Officer as speaker.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Concern was once more expressed at the garish and excessive poster display in the windows of Macmarket and the Honorary Secretary was asked to write to the District Council on the matter.



5 cont. The Honorary Secretary was asked if the feature in the Spotlight on Leisure exhibit had prompted any suggestions for dealing with the tree outside Woolworths. He replied that nothing new had been suggested and it had been agreed with the Town Council to wait for signs of survival before proposing any further action.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 22 May at 7.45 p.m. in Harpenden Hall.

Paul Urne

22/5/79.

## THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday,  
22 May, 1979 at 7.45 pm at Harpenden Hall

Present: Mr. Usher in the Chair  
Mr. A. Evans, Mr. Ward, Mr. Powlesland, Miss Ashford,  
Mrs. Godfrey, Miss Haberer, Mr. Haggard, Mr. MacInnes,  
Mrs. Nuttall, Mr. Price, Mr. Rees, Mr. M. Smith,  
Mrs. Suitters, Mr. Weston, Mr. Curl

Apologies were received from Mr. Barnes, Mr. Pattison  
and Mr. Wilson

MINUTES of the last meeting held on 24 April, 1979 were approved  
and signed.

### MATTERS ARISING

Mr. Ward reported that the Director of Warren Springs Laboratory  
could not arrange a visit for a party from the Society this summer.  
Several members felt that an alternative summer outing should be  
organised, but no decision was reached.

It was decided that the Secretary should now write to St. Albans  
District Council about the slow progress of the work on the Rovers'  
Football Club pavilion and the failure to plant the screen of trees

Mr. Ward read a letter from Mr. McKenna, St. Albans District Council  
saying that MacMarket had agreed to tone down the colouring of their  
window advertisements, and saying that those advertising late  
opening would soon be removed.

Mr. Evans reported that the Cheese and Wine Party had been very  
successful. 160 people had attended and a profit of about £120  
had been made. It was agreed that a report on the Society's award,  
made at the party, should be sent to "Civic News". Miss Haberer  
agreed to write the report which would be accompanied by photographs.  
Mr. Weston proposed that a letter of thanks should be sent to  
Mrs. A. Russell for her work in organising the food and wine for  
the party.

### REPORTS OF GROUP CONVENORS

#### (a) PLANS

Mr. Rees read a letter objecting to a housing development at  
Causwell Farm, Lower Luton Road, which ran counter to the Secretary  
of State's recent ruling on the Green Belt. He also proposed that  
the Society should object to an extension to Newman Communications,  
151, Lower Luton Road, and to developments at Green Lawns Service  
Station, Luton Road. The Committee agreed that all three objections  
should be made. In the case of the latter proposal, there was  
infringement on common land at Kinsbourne Green, which the Committee  
also felt should be strongly opposed, and Mr. Evans agreed to speak  
to Mr. Blair of Annables Farm, who owns the manorial rights over  
the Common.

Concern was also expressed at dangers to users of the footpath  
between Piggotshill Lane and Crabtree Lane since the Wimpey Estate  
had been built. People gained access to Crabtree Lane through hole  
in the hedge, and there was no footpath on that side of Crabtree  
Lane. It was agreed that the District Council should be approached  
in an effort to remedy the situation.

3. (b) TREES

Mr. Ward reported that the silver birch trees supplied by Rothamsted had now been planted by the Rugby Club buildings and the Club had promised to remove the pile of builder's rubbish.

(c) COMMONS

Mr. A. Evans agreed to act as convenor of the Group in place of Mrs. Comer, who was leaving the district. In doing this, he wished to relinquish the post of Press Secretary. Mr. Usher agreed to take over this work.

(d) LEA VALLEY GROUP

Mr. Haggard reported on the progress of the sluice gate and the waymarkers on the through walk, which were almost complete. The Group had also apposed the proposed development at Causwell Farm. Mr. Clive Norman, Chairman of the Group, had asked for volunteers to formulate a plan for cleaning up Sewer Lane. Mr. Smith, Mr. Powlesland, Mr. Usher, Mr. Ward, Mr. Evans and Mrs. Nuttall agreed to take part.

(e) SCHOOLS LIAISON GROUP.

Mr. Price reported on the last meeting of the Group, where details of the various information folders being compiled, were discussed. Miss Haberer had also attended but felt the meeting was not well conducted. Mr. Price thought that the children should be actively engaged in the work of the Society and the Chairman agreed to propose to Mr. Wilson that a meeting should be arranged to discuss how this could be done.

(f) TRANSPORT

Mr. Usher reported that the Society had supported the proposal of the St. Albans Road Traffic Association to exclude heavy through traffic from local roads, as under the Windsor Cordon Scheme.

(g) RECYCLING GROUP

A meeting of the Group was arranged for Tuesday, 5 June at 8 pm at 9a, Coleswood Road.

4. MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS

Mrs. Suitters reported that membership had increased by 147 since the Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition, making a total of over 600 subscribers. £320 had been received in subscriptions.

5. PRESS AND NEWSLETTER

Newsletter No. 2/79 had just been published. It was agreed that the heading was unattractive, and Mr. Usher agreed to design a new one.

6. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Secretary reported that the Harpenden Civic Service would be held on Sunday, 10 June at St. Nicholas Church. Mr. Rees agreed to represent the Society.

The Annual Town Meeting would be held on Monday, 4 June in the Council Chamber, and it was hoped that members would attend if possible.



6. The Secretary agreed to represent the Society at the Annual General Meeting of LADACAN to be held on Monday, 18 June at 8 pm in the Council Chamber.

A speaker from Hertfordshire County Council on the County Structure Plan had been booked for the Society's meeting on Tuesday, 13 November.

The Secretary read a letter from the Chairman of the Town Council inviting the Society to take part in a group to be formed to organise the links between Harpenden and Alzey. Although sympathetic to the town twinning, the Committee did not feel that the Society should become involved.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Godfrey reported that the result of the Survey on the Chequer Street Development would be known at the end of May.

Miss Ashford asked if the Committee felt that any action should be taken on the proposal to close the "Nicky Line" as this would mean more heavy goods traffic on the roads. It was agreed that more information was needed before any action could be taken, and Mr. Ward said he would try to obtain further facts.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 19 June at 7.45 p.m. in Harpenden Hall.

S. P. H. W.  
19/6/79

## THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday,  
19 June, 1979 at 7.45 pm at Harpenden Hall

Present: Mr. Wilson took the chair in the absence of Mr. Usher and Mr. Evans  
Mr. Ward, Mr. Powlesland, Miss Ashford, Mr. Barnes,  
Mrs. Comer, Mrs. Godfrey, Miss Haberer, Mr. Haggard,  
Mr. MacInnes, Mrs. Nuttall, Mr. Rees, Mr. Smith,  
Mrs. Suitters, Mr. Curl

1. MINUTES of the last meeting held on 22 May, 1979 were approved and signed.

### 2.(a) REPORTS OF GROUP CONVENORS: (a) COMMONS

Mr. Evans had asked Mr. Ward to report that he felt that the common was being well managed by the Town Council and the role of the Society should be supportive.

Mrs. Curl, Chairman of the Town Council Commons Committee, had reported a proposal to erect a notice board on the new "triangle" carrying a map and the byelaws relating to the common, to be paid for out of the Jeakins Bequest. The suggestion was warmly approved, and Mr. Haggard suggested that there should be two boards which should be sited near car-parking areas. Mr. Ward agreed to pass on the views of the Committee to Mrs. Curl.

Miss Haberer suggested that when the new Railway Station was completed, the Society should reinstate the poster once displayed showing a map of the district and welcoming people to Harpenden.

Miss Ashford reported that at a meeting on the site on 8 June of the Commons Committee of the Town Council and the residents of Pimlico, it was decided that residents' cars should be allowed to park on the Common opposite to the cottages, provided reasonable care was taken not to injure the grass.

### (b) PLANS

The committee agreed

~~Mr. Rees recommended~~ that objections should be made to several planning applications: - A garage at 52, Highfield Avenue, which would be in a dangerous position on a blind corner; alterations to a cottage at Bamville Farm, which needed clarification; a garage extension at 46, Stewart Road, which could adversely affect adjoining property; eight flats at 94-96, Luton Road, which needed careful vetting to make sure that the Local Authorities' standards for residential development were met; A 4-bedroom house at Granby Avenue, which might not conform to the County Council standards of privacy for adjoining houses.

On the question of the proposed closure of the "Nicky Line", Mr. Ward reported that he had written to Hemelite Ltd. but had obtained no satisfactory information. He agreed to write again to the firm and to British Rail.

### (c) LEA VALLEY

Mr. Haggard reported that work on the sluice gate was now finished. Mr. Wilson reminded the Committee that the Group made its own comments on planning proposals to the Council, and it was agreed that he should receive copies of any objections made by the Plans Group and that the two Groups should consult one another on controversial issues.

The Group had asked for a meeting with the Plans North Committee of the District Council to discuss policy on development in the

2.(c) Lea Valley area.

Mr. Haggard reported on the visit by the Hertford Civic Society on 7 July, and invited Committee members to join the party. Mr. Ward reported that a Working Party to make plans for tidying up Sewer Lane would meet at the Marquis of Granby at 7.30 p.m. on 22 June.

(d) SCHOOLS LIAISON GROUP

Miss Haberer gave a report on a meeting of the Society's members of the Group, which was seeking ways to interest young people in urban development. Three suggestions had been made: (1) the formation of a panel to discuss urban studies with children; (2) a project showing the development of Harpenden; (3) a town trail, showing places of urban development as well as of historic interest. It was felt that there was insufficient interest among Harpenden schools, and Mr. MacInnes suggested that an appeal be made for their co-operation in the next Newsletter. This was agreed.

(e) TRANSPORT

Mr. Ward reported that Mr. Pattison had compiled a local bus timetable which was exhibited on the notice board near Lloyds Bank. The Honorary Secretary had received a request from the National Council of Women asking for the Society's support in trying to get a better taxi service. It was agreed that the present service was extremely poor and Mr. Ward was asked to take the matter up with the St. Albans branch of the Taxi Proprietors' Association.

(f) RE-CYCLING GROUP

Mrs. Nuttall reported on a meeting of the group. It was hoped to get a scheme organised for the re-cycling of bottles, and Mr. Ward agreed to get in touch with the Town Council. The Group also hoped to compile a directory of collectors of material for re-cycling. Mr. Curl said that at the Town Council depot in Dark Lane, metal was now being separated from general rubbish and used engine oil was disposed of separately.

3. MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS

Mrs. Suitters reported that 155 new members had joined since the Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition. The Honorary Treasurer announced that the Society had been granted Charity Status. He produced a budget for the year 1979 which showed that after transferring £102 from the Upper Lea Valley Group funds to reserve, the expenditure in 1979 to date had exceeded income by £9. So far approximately £340 had been received in subscriptions and a further £200 was expected. It was proposed that of the £190 revenue still to come, £90 would be required for running expenses, £50 would be allocated to the Lea Valley Group and £50 transferred to reserve. Discussion took place on ways to obtain more members and a higher income. Mr. Rees suggested that the membership fee be raised, that life membership be introduced and that contributions to the Society should be sought. Payment of subscriptions by Deed of Covenant at a fixed annual subscription was also suggested. The Treasurer and Membership Secretary were asked to consider the matter further and put some definite proposals before the next meeting of the Committee.



#### PRESS AND NEWSLETTER

Miss Haberer reported that she had sent material to the Civic Trust Newsletter asking if they would publish a report on the Society's Award to Rothamsted for the restoration of the Manor clock tower. It was agreed that the Society should send a copy of the Civic Trust Newsletter to the Public Library.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Mr. MacInnes reported that Mr. B. Ashley Barker of the Greater London Council would speak on "The care of historic buildings" at a joint meeting with the History Society on 1st October.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Ward had attended the Town Meeting of the Town Council on 4 June, where action had been promised on the footpath from Piggotts Hill Lane to Crabtree Lane.

Mr. Wilson suggested that a small group be formed to consider questions of footpaths, but it was agreed that the Committee should liaise with the St. Albans and District Footpaths Society.

Mr. Rees and Mr. Ward had attended the Annual General Meeting of LADACAN.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Curl reminded members that 1980 was the Golden Jubilee year of the Society. It was suggested that this could be the theme of the next Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition, but a full discussion of the matter was deferred until the next meeting of the Committee.

Mrs. Comer, who was leaving Harpenden, asked the Committee to accept her resignation. She was thanked for her services.

The Committee approved a suggestion from Mr. Wilson that Mr. Derek Prag, recently elected as Hertfordshire's member of the European Parliament, should be sent a copy of "One Europe, one Environment", published by the Civic Trust.

#### DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 17 July at 7.45 p.m. in Harpenden Hall.

Paul Viner.  
17/7/79.

## THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday,  
17 July, 1979 at 7.45 pm at Harpenden Hall

Present: Mr. Usher in the chair  
Mr. A. Evans, Mr. Ward, Mr. Powlesland, Miss Ashford,  
Mrs. Godfrey, Mr. Haggard, Mr. MacInnes, Mr. Pattison,  
Mr. Rees, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Suitters,  
Mr. Weston, Mr. Wilson.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Barnes,  
Miss Haberer and Mrs. Nuttall

1. MINUTES of the last meeting held on 19 June, 1979 were approved and signed, subject to an amendment to the report of the Plans Group.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Mr. Weston reported that although a fence had been erected along the footpath from Piggotshill Lane to Crabtree Lane, there was still great danger to children, who could run straight into the lane from the exit at the north end. The Secretary was asked to propose to the Council that a stile and barrier be erected at the exit. Mr. Ward said he had discussed with the Chairman of the Commons Committee of the Town Council the proposal for a noticeboard carrying a map and the byelaws relating to the Common. He agreed to put to the Chairman the Committee's suggestion that the best site would be near the baalamb trees and to stress that the board should be strongly constructed and the printing protected from the weather. The Golden Jubilee of the Society in 1980 was discussed and it was agreed that it could be publicised at the Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition, the Cheese and Wine Party and in the Press.

3. REPORTS OF GROUP CONVENORS

- (a) PLANS

The Committee agreed that objections should be made to the following planning applications:- A renewal of request for permission to develop the site of Putterill's old workshop and shops in Bowers Parade as a retail store, on the grounds that the target figure in the County Plan for shops was already exceeded in Harpenden and a large store on this site would be out of scale and character with its surroundings; a renewed application for the erection of a detached house and garage in Langdale Avenue, which would offend the standards of distances between adjoining properties; a two-storey extension at 2, Sun Lane for commercial use which would be out of character of the original premises which adjoined the conservation area.

- (b) TREES

It was noted with regret that trees in Leyton Road and Amenbury Lane Car Park had recently been damaged by vandals.

- (c) COMMON

After discussion it was agreed that there was no need for the Society to have its own management plan for the Common which Mr. Evans said was being well looked after by the Town Council's Commons Committee. He asked for the Committee's approval to contact the Council's

- 3.(c) Commons Committee on any matters that the Group thought important.  
cont. Mr. Usher was concerned about problems of car parking on the Common, and Mr. Weston asked Committee members to be vigilant during the holiday period and report any infringements of permitted parking places.

Mr. Weston reported that the Harpenden sign would be removed for renovation in the autumn and replaced in the spring.

(d) SCHOOLS LIAISON

Mr. Wilson asked if the Society could make a grant towards the cost of the Group's projects. A grant had been promised by the Environmental Organiser of the County Education Department and a donation had been received from Wood End School. The Committee agreed that a grant should be made to the Group and that any money received for the projects should be paid into the Society's account.

(e) LEA VALLEY

Mr. Haggard reported on a successful meeting on 22 June to plan the tidying up of Sewer Lane.  
The visit of Hertford Civic Society on 7 July had been much enjoyed and a vote of thanks was made to Mr. Barnes for organising the visit to Rothamsted Manor and providing tea.  
The Annual General Meeting of the Group would be held on Thursday, 6 September at All Saints Church Hall, Batford.

(f) TRANSPORT

Mr. Pattison was very pleased to report that Herts. County Council had made a grant of £4,360 to Kinsman Coaches to continue the bus service from Aldwickbury Crescent and Cross Lane to the centre of Harpenden.  
He had made enquiries into the poor taxi service in Harpenden, and had found that local firms were mainly occupied with airport and long distance journeys, and short local journeys were not lucrative. There seemed no immediate solution but he suggested that a subsidised taxi service could perhaps be asked for when the new railway station was completed.

(g) RECYCLING

In Mrs. Nuttall's absence, Mr. Usher reported that she had not yet heard from the Glass Manufacturers' Federation about the proposal for a bottle bank. He said that the co-operation of the local authorities was essential as a site and skips costing £650 each were needed.  
The preparation of the Re-Cycling Directory was going ahead and he had received many helpful suggestions from members of the ~~Society~~.  
Public.

4. MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS

Mrs. Suitters reported that she had sent reminders and Bankers Order forms to all members who had not yet paid their subscriptions.

5. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Mr. MacInnes reported that Mr. G. A. Griffiths of Herts County Council Planning Department would speak on "Rural aspects of Herts County Council Structure Plan" on Wednesday, 12 September at 7.30 pm. Coffee would be served before the talk.



It was agreed that the Society should continue to develop contacts with other amenity societies, but that an offer by the Threshold Group of St. Albans to give a talk on the Chequer Street development should be declined.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Ward reported that the mural painted by Manland School children on the walls of the tunnel in Station Road had been completed. He agreed to pass on the Committee's appreciation of their work to Mr. John Miles, the Art Master and to the children. Mr. Haggard suggested that the School be asked to decorate the two blank walls at the ends of the tunnel at some later date.

Mr. Ward read a letter he had written to the Chief Technical Officer of St. Albans City Council about the sale of Limbrick Hall, asking him to give special vigilance to any future development of the site.

Mr. Haggard said there had been another accident at the junction of Sun Lane and Carlton Road, and the Secretary was asked to write to the District Council to ask if something could be done to make the junction less dangerous.

He also expressed concern about the future of the area of Station Road adjoining the Railway Station, and Mr. Ward agreed to ask the District Council for information on the revised plans.

Mr. MacInnes deplored the amount of litter left on Church Green and the Secretary was asked to request the District Council to supply more litter bins.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 21 August at 7.45 pm in Harpenden Hall.

Paul Vane.

21/8/79.

## THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday,  
21 August 1979 at 7.45 pm at Harpenden Hall

Present: Mr. Usher in the Chair

Mr. A. Evans, Mr. Ward, Mr. Powlesland, Mr. Haggard, Mr. Rees,  
Mr. Rogers, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Suitters, Mr. Weston, Mrs. Nuttall,  
Miss. Haberer, Mr. Barnes.

1. MINUTES of the last meeting held on 17 July, 1979 were approved and signed, subject to an amendment under Recycling "for members of the Society" read "members of the public", and under Any Other Business the Art Master mentioned was Mr. John Miles, not Mills.

Mr. Ward suggested that the Committee should send some flowers to Miss Ashford who was in hospital at the time of the meeting. A collection was made and Mr. Evans agreed to organise the spray of flowers to be sent.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Secretary confirmed that he had written the following letters arising out of the minutes. All to St. Albans District Council.

- (a) A further letter to the Council concerning Limbrick Hall.
- (b) A letter concerning the poor junction at Sun Lane and the Carlton Road Bridge.
- (c) A letter concerning the proposed junction at the new station with Station Road.
- (d) A letter concerning Mud Lane.

Secretary confirmed that to date he has had no acknowledgement or reply to any of these letters.

REPORTS OF GROUP CONVENORS

(a) PLANS

5/0329/79. The Group reported that a revised layout had been submitted for the parking to the proposed extension to Anscombes Store and that this was an improvement and contained additional details of tree planting.

5/1007/79. The Group reported that an application had been deposited for consent to build twelve two bedroomed flats, (the building to be three storeys high) on the now vacant doctors surgery site at 2 Kirkwood Avenue. Further proposals were to be deposited relating to this application. No action at the moment.

5/1043/79DC. The District Council had themselves made an application for Planning Consent in outline for residential accommodation to be built at Northfield Road, Batford. The Committee raised no objection to this.

5/1068/79. The Committee discussed the proposal to build eighty luxury homes on 17 acres of green belt land in Harpenden by Croudace Limited. Secretary confirmed that he had written to the Local Authority objecting and also to the golf club pointing out how this would affect the club. It was understood that the District Council, Planning Committee would refuse this application. No further action could be taken at this time. When and if an appeal against the refusal was lodged the Society could take further action.

5/1103/79. The Group confirmed an objection to an access to a garage site to 10 High Firs Crescent which would cut across a wide protected green verge.

Cont/.....

It was noted that a lorry barrier had now been erected across the entrance to the Amenbury Car Park.

(b)

#### TREES

The Group will have a meeting early in September to discuss further plans for tree planting.

The Group would welcome suggestions from members of the Committee and Society on further sites for planting trees.

It was noted by the Group that the elm trees on the north end of the High Street were now dying and would eventually need replacing.

Rothampstead now had plans for planting along the Redbourn Lane, opposite the Rugby Club.

The question of the dead Elm tree on the Woolworth concourse was raised. Mr. Ward suggested that to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Society the Society should offer to replace this tree with a mature tree (possible expense £500.00). Mr. Evans agreed to make some enquiries as to the cost and type of tree that might be suitable.

Mr. Barnes reported that the horse chestnuts in the paddock, Limbrick Lane, had been damaged by caterpillars and squirrels but that in his opinion the trees would recover.

(c)

#### COMMON

The Group reported that a letter had been written by Mr. Evans to Harpenden Rovers Club offering to assist in planting the landscaping around the car park to the proposed changing rooms on the Common. The Rovers had asked for a meeting in September when their Chairman would be back from his holiday.

A meeting had been arranged for 14th September between the Commons Group of the Society and the Commons Sub-Committee of the Town Council for a general discussion.

A discussion took place on a proposal for hanging baskets either on lamp posts or buildings in the High Street. It was agreed that enquiries should be made by Mr. Powlesland into the possibility of providing occupiers of buildings in the High Street with hanging baskets and brackets and offering to fix these in the hope that the District Council would plant them and the occupiers of the building would maintain them.

(d)

#### UPPER LEA VALLEY GROUP

Mr. Haggard reported that the recent gales had caused damage to the Lea Valley area and, in particular, blown a tree down across the sluice. Normal working parties were to be resumed to clear up the gale damage and continue with the maintenance and development of the Lea Valley area commencing 8th September (2.00 p.m. on Saturdays, 10.00 a.m. on Sundays and these will be held fortnightly).

The Hyde Mill had been drawn to the attention of the Bedfordshire Conservation Officers (the mill lies on the boundary between Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) who had written to the Central Government asking for the Mill to be added to the Statutory Preservation List.

It was announced that the Annual General Meeting of the Upper Lea Valley Group would be held on 6th September.

It was confirmed that the Treasurer had issued a cheque to pay for the licencing of the dumper truck used by the Upper Lea Valley Group.

(e)

#### SCHOOLS LIAISON

The next meeting of the Group would be held at 7.30 on 20th September. The Secretary reported that a letter of resignation had been received from



G. Price from the Group and from the Committee of the Harpenden Society. This was due to a change of employment. It was suggested that Mrs. Anne Godfrey be formally requested to join the Schools Liaison Group. Secretary to write and ask her.

(f) TRANSPORT

The Group reported that no taxi service would be available in the Town until the new station was completed. A taxi rank might then be part of the new station if this was subsidised by the Council.

Mr. Peter Rogers proposed that the Council be asked to provide a motor cycle park in the Town Centre. The ideal site for this was adjacent to the Woolworth concourse opposite the Methodist Church. The proposed motor cycle park would take up one or two car spaces. Secretary to write to the District Council and the Town Council.

(g) RECYCLING

The Group reported that the recycling of glass would appear to be an uneconomical proposition. Mr. Scowan, a member of the Society, had suggested that a lot of household containers, such as margarine jars, could be used for use in the garden, such as containers for nurturing new plants.

4. MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS

Mrs. Suitters reported that there were now 694 names (households) on the membership list. 181 had not paid their subscriptions for 1979 and 27 of those had not paid for 1979 or 1978. A general discussion took place on the falling membership and it was agreed that more publicity was required and that the Society was not getting across to the people of Harpenden the work that it was doing.

5. NEWSLETTER

The Chairman agreed to design the new heading for the newsletter immediately. It was hoped to get a newsletter out during September.

Miss Haberer confirmed that a picture of the renewal of the Rothampstead Manor Clock Tower by Rothampstead Experimental Station had been included in the August edition of the Civic Trust News.

It was agreed that the deliverers of the newsletter should be asked by the Chairman if they would be prepared to call on those members of the Society who had not paid their subscriptions and request payment when delivering the newsletter. Mr. Powlesland to let the Chairman have a list of subscriptions outstanding under the heading of each deliverer.

6. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Secretary expressed concern that the organisation of Forthcoming Events was still some way from complete. The first meeting was due to be held on 12th September. However, it was felt that publicity for this would now be difficult and, if possible, this meeting should be postponed. Secretary agreed to speak to the District Council concerning the postponement of this and to Mr. MacInnes concerning the remainder of the meetings.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Haggard raised the question of the roundabout at the top of Piggotshill Lane again and asked the Secretary to write to the District Council. Mr. Evans pointed out that if the roundabout at the bottom of Piggotshill Lane did not need all the signs on it then why did the one at the top?

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

~~Monday 17th~~ September 1979, 7.45 pm, Harpenden Hall, Harpenden.

Tuesday 18th

Paul Viner 18/9/79.

## THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday,  
20 September, 1979 at 7.45 pm at Harpenden Hall

Present: Mr. Usher in the chair  
Mr. Ward, Mr. Powlesland, Mrs. Godfrey, Miss Haberer,  
Mr. Haggard, Mr. Rees, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Smith, Mr. Weston,  
Mr. Curl.

Apologies for absence were received from Miss Ashford,  
Mr. Evans, Mr. McInnes, Mrs. Nuttall, Mr. Pattison,  
Mrs. Suitters and Mr. Wilson

1. MINUTES of the last meeting held on 21 August were approved and signed.

2. REPORTS OF GROUP CONVENORS

- (a) COMMONS AND TREES

The Chairman reported on a meeting he had attended with <sup>The Vice Chairman</sup> the Secretary and representatives of the Town Council's Commons and Greens Sub-Committee, ~~Mr. Evans~~ and Mr. Weston. He had offered the Society's help with tree planting round the Rover's Football Club changing room and car park and this had been accepted.

Mr. Evans submitted sketches and an estimate of cost of the Society's tentative proposal to replace the concourse elm with a mature <sup>tree</sup> to mark the Society's Jubilee. The Councillors warmly approved in principle and agreed to keep the matter confidential until investigations into cost and feasibility were completed.

The Committee then discussed fund raising to replace the old elm, and proposals were made to use the project as the main exhibit at the Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition, with an appeal for money. It was also proposed to make a street collection on a Saturday in April, 1980 for which the Secretary would seek the District Council's permission. It was agreed that Mr. Evans should be asked to head a Sub-Committee to organise the project.

The possibility of planting on Bull Road roundabout was discussed. It was agreed that shrubs would be more appropriate on the islands than trees, and that the Tree Group should keep the matter under review

- (b) PLANS

The Committee discussed the excessive use of over-sized street furniture on local roundabouts. It was agreed that more information was needed on regulations before protests could be made. The Honorary Treasurer agreed to obtain the relevant manual from H.M.S.O.

Mr. Rees drew attention to an outline planning application for residential development between Brackendale Road and Roundwood Lane. He recommended that the Society should write to the District Council suggesting the application be refused as the area is shown as agricultural land on the Structure Plan, and countryside where there is a presumption against development would be invaded. The Committee agreed.

Mr. Rees also reported on an application to use parts of Limbrick Hall as offices. He said this was a legal matter at present outside the scope of the Society, but on which it could, if necessary, comment at a later stage. This was agreed. It was not thought necessary to comment to the District Council on a proposal for access to the site of a new bungalow in Coleswood Crescent, using Coleswood's access to Limbrick Road.

2(c) UPPER LEA VALLEY GROUP

It was reported that the new footbridge was now in position and the next major task was the removal of the old one. Work on the weir and steps continues.

3. MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS

The Treasurer reported a poor response to the Bankers' Order forms that had been sent out. The need to raise the subscription should be considered urgently.

4. PRESS AND NEWLETTER

The ~~Chairman~~ <sup>Meeting</sup> welcomed the Chairman's Press Release (to be called "Bulletin from the Harpenden Society") on behalf of the Trees Group and warmly approved the content and design for the heading of "Harpenden Society News", to take the place of the Newsletter. The Chairman's offer to re-design the Society's letterheading to a larger sheet size was gratefully accepted.

5. FUTURE EVENTS

The programme of meetings until December was approved and it was agreed that special efforts should be made to get a speaker from British Rail early in 1980.

6. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary read the draft of a letter he proposed to send to the District Council and appropriate public bodies and voluntary organisations proposing that if the present closure of the "Nicky Line" becomes permanent, it would be desirable if it could be converted into a public path. The Committee approved the draft letter and the circulation list.

The Secretary reported on a useful offer received from the Town Council to display the Society's notices, where appropriate, on the Council's notice board.

A letter from Mildred Ashford was read expressing thanks for the flowers and greetings sent by the Committee during her recent stay in hospital and apologising for her absence.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members reported that the Crabtree Lane footpath was still in an unsatisfactory condition and that the overgrown hedge needed attention. The Secretary agreed to discuss possible improvements with the Town Council.

The appearance of offensive graffiti on the Carlton Road/Bowers Way footbridge was reported, also defacements of the tunnel mural. The Secretary agreed to raise both matters with the Town Council.

In connection with the proposed extensions to Anscombes shop, Mr. Wilson had suggested that the Society put in a plea for the preservation of the overhead cash railway. The Treasurer to approach Mr. Pamphilon on the matter.

It was agreed that the possible implementation of the 14-point plan for improvements to Sewer Lane should be discussed by the Secretary and Mr. Wilson.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 23 October at 7.45 pm in Harpenden Hall.

*Anthony Sam*