

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

MINUTES of a meeting of the Committee held on Thursday,
14th January 1982, at 7.45 p.m. at Harpenden Hall.

PRESENT:- Mr. Powlesland in the Chair,
Lady Bawden, Mrs. Bush, Mr. Bush, Mr. Gaubert,
Mrs. Godfrey, Mrs. Stuart, Mrs. Withers, Mrs. Wang.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Jennings,
Miss Pratt and Mrs. Rogers.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on the 19th November were approved and signed by the Chairman after the following amendments were made :-

- a) Omission Insert after BRITISH RAIL -"The Society's plan, with accompanying details, for the retention of the remaining Victorian buildings was submitted to British Rail. The toilets would be retained, although the Ladies resited. An increased sales area for the newsagent would be created, with a wide counter to the ticket hall and a small one onto the station platform. The waiting room would revert to the original setting. Present access and exits to the building to be retained. This contrasts with British Rail's proposals to demolish half the buildings, retaining only a ticket hall and small kiosk for the newsagent." (supplied by Mrs. Wang)
- b) Amendment Page 4 3f "The Society would prefer other uses than "offices" .."
- c) Amendment Page 4 Commons & Trees Group "At the last Governors' meeting of St. George's School, 'as a result of an enquiry' , also "silver birch trees".

MATTERS ARISING

1. British Rail
Mr. Powlesland is writing to British Rail. Lady Bawden has been told that the manager of J.C.R. News supports any improvements to the station and would like to see our plans. A copy will be provided by Mrs. Wang.
2. District Plan
Mr. Roger Evans said he would be pleased to get in touch with Mrs. Wang. Mrs. Wang to send in form agreeing with the Council's proposals for Green Belt boundary.
Mr. Comblin is appealing against decision not to redesignate Kinsbourne Green Green Belt land for housing.
Copy of summary of the Society's comments to be sent to Town Council by Mrs. Wang. Ambrose Lane Residents have been in touch with Mrs. Wang re N.C.H. building, also Riverford Close Residents and the Lea Valley ^{Assoc.} Association. ~~Assoc.~~
Lady Bawden asked if anything has been heard about Akrill House.
3. Questionnaire
Thirty two replies had been received so far and these had been analysed and classified by Mrs. Handford with many suggestions and praise for the Society. Letter of appreciation to be sent to Mrs. Handford for her work. It was suggested that a reminder about questionnaires be inserted in the next newsletter.
4. Bankers' Orders
It was pointed out by Mrs. Bush that Bankers' Orders are being sent in at the old rate but a letter reminding members who paid in that way of the change for 1982 was being prepared.
5. Next Newsletter
 - a) Mr. Powlesland agreed to write the introduction. Items required by the 25th January by Mrs. Withers.

continued ...

b) Future meetings

3rd February - Civic Trust film "The making of Kent" prepared by the Kent County Council will be shown.

3rd March - A.G.M. -

5th May - Wine and Cheese

It was suggested that we make it clear that all meetings (unless otherwise specified) commence at 7.30 p.m. with coffee for an 8 o'clock start.

and the location.

The Upper Lea Valley Group Public Meeting is on Tuesday, 30th March, at 8 o'clock at All Saints' Hall, Station Road. The subject is "The Upper Lea Valley - a long view" - speaker Mr. Richard Brown, Herts County Council.

c) Street name plates

d) The railway station and a town trail.

e) Mr. Bush will write about Spotlight on Leisure.

f) Plans generally.

Upper Lea Valley Group to be asked for display of what ~~we~~ ^{they} have done.
~~Centers End Farm could be used for an expedition.~~

Suggestions for speakers :-

Mr. Richard Brown would be willing to speak on the function of the local authority and countryside.

Suggested speaker for September - Mr. Paul Arnold, arborist, re pruning of ornamental trees.

For October possibly Mr. George Atkinson (ex Chairman of the St. Albans Civic Society) on Childwickbury.

Idea for December, with the punch and pies, Dr. Eileen Roberts (of St. Albans) on Harpenden *Libra Buildings*.

6. Mr. Powlesland to approach Miss Pratt re postcards.

7. Topstreet Farmhouse

Mr. Powlesland has been invited to look round.

8. Gritting

It was agreed that Mr. Powlesland would write to the Council on behalf of the Society.

9. Southdown

Mr. Gaubert advised that Mr. Bacon had sent a plan and asked for our comments. A meeting has been arranged.

The suggested cycle rack should be sited adjoining Finefare.

Mrs. Wang attended the Town Meeting on the 13th January when it was reported that the Highways Committee accepted some recommendations and rejected others. The Council are going ahead with zig-zag parking and cobblestones when the Society had expressed a strong preference for a plainer layout.

Mr. Jennings has heard from Mr. Bacon that the footpath on the St. John's side will be implemented quickly once the Hertfordshire County Council authority is given.

Lady Bawden asked for information as to whether any of the Carpenter's Arms' land is incorporated in the present Cravells Road car park.

10. Parking on pavements

Mr. Simon Cotton has sent a letter to the Town Council complaining about parking on pavements and proposing a concerted campaign to discourage this offence. It was agreed this should be supported in principle. It was suggested that this information is put in the newsletter.

11. Bull Road Roundabout

Mr. Bob Raw will be asked to report at the next meeting on the position of the chevrons which currently impede vision.

12. Plans

- a) Harpenden Lodge. Mr. Murray and Mrs. Wang have consulted. The Town Council is adamant that this property should be looked at as a unit. The Society supported their attitude. Mrs. Wang reported that renewed applications have been put in and the position must be constantly under review.
- b) Anscombes and Wellington House. It was said that retention of the building was being insisted upon; although the shop front is not at present listed, this is to be requested. An overall scheme for the whole site should be the only basis on which plans are considered.
- c) Threshers' proposed sign was mentioned.
- d) Batford Nursery Scheel site. Mrs. Wang said a very poor plan had been submitted.

Generally Mrs. Wang said she would welcome the help and opinions of Committee Members or other members of the Society when considering plans.

- e) Lady Bawden said that the scrub has been cleared under the trees by the cricket ground and a great improvement effected. Details of a machine used on her own premises will be obtained as the Society might consider purchasing one for the Council.
- f) Mr. Weston has stated that the damaged trees in Bowers Way Car Park will be replaced when the weather is suitable.
- g) Mrs. Wang suggested that perhaps in the Spring working parties could do small jobs around Harpenden, with the agreement of the Council.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING Thursday, 18th February, at 7.45 p.m. at Harpenden Hall.

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N.J. Pawlisland
18 February 1982.

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

MINUTES of a meeting of the Committee held on Thursday,
18th February 1982, at 7.45 p.m. at Harpenden Hall

PRESENT:- Mr. Powlesland in the Chair,
Mr. & Mrs. Bush, Lady Bawden, Mr. Gaubert, Mrs. Godfrey,
Mr. Jennings, Mr. McNicoll, Mr. Pepper, Miss Pratt (part time)
Mr. ~~Rogers~~, Mrs. Stuart, Mr. Ward.

Dixon

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Wang and
Mrs. Withers.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Corrections as follows :-

Page 2 Suggestions for Speakers - Dr. Eileen Roberts would speak on
listed buildings

Future Meetings - 3rd Feb. was the talk on Windsor. The Kent film
would be after the A.G.M.

For all meetings add "at the Small Public Hall."

c, d & f items for Newsletter.

POSTCARDS

Miss Pratt produced some coloured photographs as alternatives to the black
and white pictures originally selected, Mr. Gaubert had become involved
in the project and received two quotes - coloured approximately 10p each,
B/W approximately 3.5p each. The minimum quantity which had to be ordered
was 4,000 in total (1,000 of each). Some local shops were willing to sell
them. The council had reaffirmed their willingness to act as our agents.
However, in view of the price which would have to be charged, approximately
15p coloured/8p B/W, the Committee felt it was prudent for us to await the
new coloured range in the shops before we made a decision. It was agreed
that the principal object of the project was to provide a good selection
of cards for Harpenden and, if commercial companies could do this, it was
not necessary for the Society to be involved. *All prices exclude VAT.*

NEW COMMITTEE FOR 1982/3

Miss Pratt tendered her resignation with regret due to pressure of other
commitments. Mrs. Rogers has retired for personal reasons. Miss May Turner,
who is employed at Luton Airport, and Mr. Peter Finch, who works at Rothamsted
Farm, offered their services on the questionnaire and this offer has been
followed up. Mr. Ernest Truslove and Miss Ashford might also be interested.

The position of Minute Secretary was discussed and the possibility of paying
an honorarium. A volunteer, preferably with a knowledge of shorthand, might
be sought through the next Newsletter.

CYCLEPATHS

in accordance with a letter he received in August 1981

Mr. Pepper said that conversion of the A.1081 into a cycleway was to have been
put into operation in ~~August 1981~~ *under the current financial year* but the Council have been "too busy" and the
project will have to be postponed to the financial year beginning April 1982.
He has put forward suggestions to the County Council which have been ignored.
It was stated that it was essential that copies of letters to the County Council
be sent to the ~~County~~ Council.

Distinct

continued ...

LP It is understood that the future of the Nicky Line is still in abeyance awaiting the outcome of litigation instituted by Hemelite but this could be a suitable subject for the new Government initiative to convert disused railways. Mr. Pepper said he would endeavour to get an article published on the subject.

DISTRICT PLAN

Mrs. Godfrey reported that at the Council meeting on the 17th February no new matters were discussed. Of interest to the society were the objections noted below :-

1. The Society had recommended that small scale and light industrial activities carried out in any residential area should not be to the detriment of its amenity. This recommendation was not accepted.
2. Baulks Build^{ERS}ing Yard, 175 Westfield Rd. It was recommended and accepted that the boundary be altered to place the whole of the yard in the Green Belt.
3. Luton Airport. It was recommended that the plan should read "no development should take place which would result in more noise nuisance."
4. There was a suggestion that a bye-law be passed re hedges and trees.
5. National Children's Home. There was a recommendation from the N.C.H. that the Green Belt boundary be moved so that 100 acres of farmland including the Oval were to be taken out of the Green Belt. We will write a letter to our members in the area asking them to help the Ambrose Lane/North Harpenden Action Group in a Campaign. The Group have a ~~planner on their Committee~~ ^{member} who would be willing to help.

LW
AB As there are four or five areas around Harpenden under attack, it was suggested that we should be professionally represented at the inevitable Enquiry, possibly by Mr. Roger Evans. It was agreed that the Society's funds should be used to support the Campaign and to have a Fighting Fund if necessary.

NAME PLATES

NP Two letters of complaint had been received but the note in the Newsletter had referred to missing plates without adding "damaged plates."

HIGH STREET SHOPS *Harpenden Centre Award 1982*

NP Two recommendations have been received, namely the Video Shop opposite Anscombe's and Murphy's in Thompson Close. It was suggested that the panel of judges be Mr. Curl, Mr. Wilson, Mrs. Wang and Mr. Powlesland and the Mayor be asked to present the plaque if an award is made.

AIRPORT LIAISON COMMITTEE

BS The North West Essex and Herts Preservation Association have asked whether we could nominate a member to attend their meetings. In view of the travelling involved, it was felt we had to decline but would like to receive details of their meetings and support their aims.

SPOTLIGHT ON LEISURE

JB Mr. Bush said that Mr. Wilson had told him that the Upper Lea Valley Group would like to fill two panels and could fill another if required. It was suggested that we have photos of award nominations and possibly emphasise matters of concern on the District Plan. Mr. Ward suggested a black and white plan of Harpenden showing danger spots. Stand to be erected on Thursday, 25th March, from 10 a.m. Mrs. Wang to be asked to do lettering and perhaps the plan.

continued

TOPSTREET FARMHOUSE

MB

Mr. Powlesland had visited the farmhouse. They would be willing to have a summer function there and show people around. Lady Bawden said she would also visit. It was felt that this function might have to be in the summer 1983.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Nicoll said we had had a good year. At the end of 1981 the balance to hand was £1,183. Mr. Bush reported that about half of our members had paid their subscription for 1982.

PARKING ON PAVEMENTS

This matter has now been mentioned on the radio and offenders can be reported to the police.

COMMONS GROUP

MB

Lady Bawden has had correspondence with Harpenden Council about the Society's financial support for the erection of sign boards on the Common at a cost of about £300 each. It was suggested that we might offer to contribute a third of the cost but that a map of the Common on formica should accompany the bye-laws. Mr. Curl to be asked about this. The site suggested was near Southdown Road but one near the Baa-Lamb Trees might be preferable; copies of the bye-laws/ways might also be displayed at the cricket club and the football club. *It was agreed that a contribution of £100 would be made*

BS

The Secretary has had a letter from the Town Council asking if the Society would like to have an observer at the Commons & Green Committee Meetings and Lady Bawden agreed to represent the Society.

SOUTHDOWN

Mr. Jennings had had regular telephone conversations with Mr. Bacon and Mr. Skeet of the District Council. The following action was reported :-

St. John's footpath - It has been agreed in principle and the decision will be made in April but, because of cutbacks and overspending, implementation may be delayed.

Pedestrian crossing - Decision will be made in April, possibly also delayed by shortage of money.

The Green - The plan is out to tender, more or less as the Society would like. 26th February is the deadline for return of tenders with start date in March.

Car Park Cravells Road - a survey confirmed it is necessary. The co-operation of the brewers is to be sought before enhancement of the area can be organised.

Finefare - has been fairly tidied up.

believed to be in

Bottle bank Cravells Rd. - designated in the Cravells Rd. car park. The Society consider that Finefare car park might be a more suitable site. Mr. Bacon would welcome a letter from the Society to confirm their views.

KJ

Further developments - The green on the corner of Piggotts Hill and Grove Road will be improved.

Mr. Jennings said he recommended that the Group have another public meeting.

LORRIES

Mr. McNivoll reported he had had a reply from Mr. Victor Goodhew about the heavier lorries proposed which was not very constructive.

Dates of next meetings

Friday, 12th March 1982

Tuesday, 20th April 1982

For your diary

Public Hall Bookings

1982 Wed., 22nd September

Wed., 27th October

Wed., 8th December - Punch & Mince Pies

1983 Tues., 1st February

Tues., 1st March (A.G.M.)

Tues., 10th May (Cheese & Wine)

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Naran Powlesland

12. March 1982.

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Friday, 12 March 1982 at 7.45 p.m. at Harpenden Hall.

Present: Mr. N. Powlesland in the Chair.
Mr. & Mrs. J. Bush, Lady Bawden, Cllr. C. Curl, Mrs. A. Godfrey,
Mr. K. Jennings, Mrs. P. Morwood, Mr. L. Pepper, Mrs. B. Stuart,
Miss M. Turner, Mrs. L. Wang and Mr. E. Ward.

Apologies for absence received from Mr. I. McNicoll.

MINUTES OF MEETING 18 FEBRUARY 1982

Attendance: Mr. Rogers should read Mr. Dixon.

Postcards: The cost stated excluded VAT.

Amendments arising - Cyclepaths: On the subject of the A1081 cycleway, H.C.C. had written the Society in August 1981 that plans would be submitted for the conversion, hopefully to be completed in the current financial year. Correspondence now received put the project in the financial year 1982/3

District Plan/National Children's Home: Mr. Powlesland had written a letter to the Society's members in this area asking them to assist the Ambrose Lane/North Harpenden Action Group.

High Street Shops: The correct title for this item should be "Harpenden Society Award 1982".

Commons Group: Lady Bawden pointed out to the Committee that agreement to the expenditure of £100 had previously been given.

Southdown, Bottle bank, Cravells Road: Contact by Mrs. Wang with Mr. Bacon, District Council, confirmed that there would not be a bottle bank at Cravells Road. The suggested site was Bowers Way car park.

MATTERS ARISING

1. Postcards. The Society's involvement postponed. Coloured cards to be available for sale in the shops will be examined.

2. Cyclepaths. Mr. Pepper had had lengthy correspondence with H.C.C. on these proposals. Mr. Ward proposed sending copies of the correspondence to the District Council to facilitate progress. The Committee felt this was a cause that might be undertaken by Chiltern Radio with inclusion of the footpath between St. Albans and Luton as its first feature.

3. Harpenden Society Award 1982. A panel to inspect plans of the two nominees - Video Shop Leyton Road and Murphy's in Thompson's Close would meet on 13 March to decide whether there was merit for the Award this year.

CHEESE & WINE PARTY - 5 MAY 1982

This should be given as much publicity as possible and every effort made to sell tickets. The cost would be kept at £2, although it was probable there would be little or no profit. The Sub-Committee for this event would consist of Mr. Bush, ~~Mr. Ward~~, Mr. Gaubert, Mr. Jennings and Miss Turner. An approach would be made to Gillian Gregg to prepare a quiz and Mr. Pepper

would ask a Mr. and Mrs. Kelly if they could give a short musical entertainment.

SPOTLIGHT ON LEISURE

Mr. Bush said the Society's stand would be in the same position as other years, one double-sided stand, top, bottom and sides would be completely filled by U.L.V.G. and necessary arrangements made with Pat Wilson. The Exhibition would be opened by County Cllr. Mrs. G. Humber at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday, 25 March, open Friday 10.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. and Saturday 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Sufficient helpers had been recruited to assist. He would require help with the erection of the stand on 25 March, also the dismantling on the 27 March. A Sub-Committee would attend of Mrs. Wang, Mr. Bush and Mrs. Godfrey. Mr. Ward would assist, but unable to serve on the Committee.

Mr. Gaubert would be asked to assist Mrs. Wang to produce a map showing areas which were "at risk". A special feature could be made of the effects of closure of the Dark Lane Civic Amenities Dump.

NEWSLETTER

Unfortunately Mrs. Withers was not at the meeting but the next issue would be at the end of March, deadline for material 25 March. Mr. Bush would contribute two items, the Chairman on the District Plan and Mr. Jennings suggested that the Committee's last minutes on Southdown could be incorporated with the exception of the item on Fine Fare. A second item on street nameplates should also be included, and an item on tree planting by the U.L.V.G.

DISTRICT PLAN

The date for the Inquiry was 5 May 1982 and the Chairman expected to hear as to representation next week. He was meeting Roger Evans on 18 March and all material for use at the Inquiry should be forwarded to him. The matter of a "fighting fund" should be postponed until the next meeting on 20 April. If necessary, the Society should band with other organisations, who have the same objectives, to lend force to the opposition. Mrs. Wang would attend, as possible, but would be on holiday at the beginning of the time.

MEMBERSHIP

No report.

GROUP REPORTS

U.L.V.G. Mrs. Wang announced her resignation from this Group, and would be unable to act as a link with the Committee. The Group provided and carried out tree planting at Lower Luton Road beyond "Green Acres". Infilling has been completed in the river area where vandalised. There will be a Public Meeting on 30 March at All Saints Church Hall when the speaker will be Richard Brown on "The Long View" giving an illustrated talk covering life in and around Batford.

Common. The Chairman said that the firm of London Laminations would place the plan in a double sided sealed edge pack for approximately £10. The Town Council are to be given this information as they are the authority concerned. Suggestions for the placement of unframed copies were the Cricket Pavilion, Golf Club and Football Pavilion. Mr. Ward added that as none of the suggested sites would be seen by horse riders an additional copy be placed at Bamville Wood Cricket Pavilion. The acceptable site for the non-framed map and the byelaws was thought to be in the parking area opposite the Silver Cup.

The Pensioners' Workshop could probably assist with the unframed copies; the Society might make a contribution in addition to the £100 already agreed.

Cllr Mrs. Curl, Mr. Ward and Lady Bawden had inspected the Common. It was a useful meeting, but there were some very muddy areas. Two places were Crabtree Lane across the Common and the path between the two lines of trees near Cross Lane. It was also suggested that Harpenden Town Council, through the District Council, could cut back the undergrowth thus widening the paths.

Schools. No report.

Plans: Green Lawns. The Society made objections to the District Council on the application for a new forecourt and for the garaging of motor caravans, pointing out the increased activity which would be generated at a dangerous road junction, proximity to the Green Belt, visual impact, dense parking, and that additional parking will be encouraged on the approach to the Common. The triangular area included was Common land. It was recognised that an area was required for the 321 bus service to turn.

Thompsons Close, Putterills Yard. Elevations of a proposed office block are unrelated to adjacent buildings in the area, the third storey forming a semi-circular tower in the roof. Plans for the cottage adjacent should be linked with the new development. The Society had been contacted by the owner of 28 Thompsons Close as to loss of light from the west if approval were given on the application as submitted.

Lawrence & Co. The proposal was for a 3-storey 'L' shape building at right angles to Sun Lane and was not in scale with 71/73 High Street. Three storeys were felt to be too dominating, completely dwarfing the surrounding area, and should be reduced. The frontage to Sun Lane is particularly obstructive and should be set back. Demolition of cottage outbuildings should be reconsidered.

Red Cow. The Society opposes yet another application for this site. It was noted that the area covered by the application had increased since 1977.

Former H.C.C. Nursery School. The original proposal by Aldwyck Housing Association was for 5 semi-detached houses with gardens fronting Station Road. The re-submission showed a marked improvement and the Society had made only minor modifications.

Batford Mill. This application was not yet before the District Council, but the Society was putting forward its objections to the retailing of Land Rovers and Range Rovers which it was felt would create an undesirable precedent. U.L.V.G. and local residents will also be opposing the application.

Bottle Banks. Two bins were proposed for the site in Bowers Way car park, instead of triple bins which were not acceptable to the Society. Parking for off-loading bottles could be a problem and relocation of the bins should be considered. This would involve the loss of 3 car park spaces with possible difficulty in collection of the bins.

Name plates.

Clarence Road (both sides)	}	Damaged and illegible
Moreton End Close		
Southdown Road (outside Moat House))	Stand only. A better position would be against wall.

Birch Way

) Now in order.

Transport: No report.

Southdown: It was felt to be too early to organise an "Action Group". The situation was as at last Committee meeting.

PROGRAMME FOR 1982/83

Wednesday, 22 September	- Paul Arnold	- Pruning and maintenance of ornamental trees.
Wednesday, 27 October	- Paul Camp	- Childwickbury.
Wednesday, 8 December	- Mr. Jarvis	- In and around Harpenden for 30 years, with particular reference to elm trees.
Wednesday ^{Tuesday} , 1 February	- Dr. Eileen Roberts	- Listed buildings (if possible).

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Civic Amenity Dump. Members were disturbed to read in the local press about possible closure of this refuse tip. Cllr. Curl informed the Committee that the H.C.C. were the responsible authority, but were trying to pass this to the District Council. The District Council were both reluctant and unable to accept liability. The Chairman would make representation to the County Secretary setting out the effects of closure on the district.

BUPA. Mrs. Wang produced photographs illustrating the view from Batford. It was felt that this angle had been overlooked at the time of the application and subsequent approval. Lady Bawden suggested these photographs be part of the Society's display at the Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition.

Sancellia House. The Managing Director had apologised for the untidy state of this garden area. Work had been carried out but a considerable amount of rubbish remained. Further contact to be made.

Round Table. An invitation had been received to take part in the Table's annual event. The Committee felt unable to accept this year.

Harpenden Society Award. Lady Bawden explained that the award should be for all types and size, including even road improvements. Her comment was agreed and noted.

Miscellaneous. Two letters had been received by the Society:-

Mr. Martin of Tuffnells Way enquired whether the trees at Harpenden Lodge were protected by a Preservation Order. Mrs. Wang had asked for a 'blanket' Order - to date no reply had been received.

Mrs. Francett of Park Avenue wrote on lopping of trees in gardens. Generally these were unprotected.

The Committee were informed by Lady Bawden that Linden Motors were no longer carrying on business in the High Street.

DATES FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday, 20 April
Tuesday, 18 May.

original

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday, 20 April 1982 at 7.45 p.m. at Harpenden Hall.

Present: Mr. N. Powlesland in the Chair.
Mr. & Mrs. J. Bush, Mr. R. Dixon, Mr. S. Gaubert, Mrs. A. Godfrey,
Mr. K. Jennings, Mr. I. McNicoll, Mrs. P. Morwood, Mr. L. Pepper,
Mrs. B. Stuart, Miss M. Turner, Mrs. L. Wang and Mrs. C. Withers.

Apologies for absence received from Lady Bawden and Mr. P. Wilson.

MINUTES OF MEETING 12 MARCH 1982

Amendments arising - Cyclepaths: The financial year for the conversion of the A1081 cycleway should read 1982/83.

U.L.V.G.: The correct title of the illustrated talk by Richard Brown is "A longer view of the Upper Lea Valley". At this meeting there was also a film given by the U.L.V.G. secretary.

Cheese & Wine Party, 5 May 1982: Mr. Clough should be excluded as a member of this Sub-Committee.

Plans - Former H.C.C. Nursery School: Minute should state original proposal was for 5 semi-detached houses with back gardens fronting Carisbrooke, Langdale and Station Roads.

Bottle Banks: The site in Bowers Way car park was a verge site and not acceptable to the Society.

Any Other Business - Sancella House: It should be recorded that a new lessee was imminent.

With these amendments the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 1982 were confirmed.

MATTERS ARISING

Cheese & Wine Party - 5 May 1982. The Sub-Committee meets on Thursday, 22 April. The Society's Newsletter will give publicity to the event. Mrs. Stuart is arranging Press publicity and Mr. Bush stated that posters were ready for display in local shops and offices. Wine had been ordered and table plans prepared for the Public Hall caretaker. Mr. Jennings would be pleased to receive articles for raffling with agreed cost of tickets at 10p. A free advertisement would appear in The Review and the Press had agreed that a photographer could be present for the handing over of the Society's cheque, for the notice boards on the Common, to a representative of the Harpenden Town Council.

Mr. & Mrs. Kelly (owing to the incapacity of Mr. Kelly) were unable to give a short musical entertainment.

DISTRICT PLAN

Mrs. Wang reported that the Plans Group had met representatives of the District Council planning team and summarized the issues which the Society is pursuing. It had not been possible ^{subsequently} to meet with Roger Evans, although the District Council were aware of his involvement. Mrs. Wang had indicated dates when she would be able to attend the Inquiry. From the Society's summary of issues supplied to the Inspector he would be familiar with the areas where the Society supports the District Council.

The Society supports:-

Environmental guide lines with regard to new houses and landscaping; motorsports - hours of use and restricted areas; Red Cow Yard - whole area of site to be designated green belt to enable control of the whole site; N.C.H., Falconers Field, Cross Farm - to protect loss of agricultural land and rural amenities, overloading of facilities and services, traffic problems, coalescence with adjacent areas.

The Society's objections are:-

Omission of Batford Springs as a site of nature conservation, in particular protection of wild life and birds; Kinsbourne Green Common from the list of commons; Luton Airport Noise Policy Intention as being too limited; protection for residents from commercial and industrial disturbance, an inadequate safeguard; permission for uses other than housing should only be given when compatible with housing environment, such as small scale commercial and light industrial activity.

A further objection is the exclusion from MGB of Pinney's Garage, car park etc., All Saints Church, Batford Mill industrial site, Forge Cottages and The Forge.

Cycleways should be mentioned in the District Plan, having received County support.

The immense amount of work carried out by the U.L.V.G. could be completely negated unless these areas were included in the M.G.B., and a summary of the Society's objections has been forwarded to the District Council.

The Society notes the omission of the new Harpenden Station and is asking the District Council to include this within the boundary of the Inset Map.

The Chairman recorded a vote of thanks to Mrs. Wang for her very hard work in the detailed presentation of the Society's views and aims on the District Plan.

NICKY LINE

Mrs. Stuart and Mr. Pepper informed the Committee that residents in this vicinity had noticed the rails being lifted. Mr. Curl had been approached to try to ascertain the responsible body, but was unable to assist. Mr. Pepper contacted Mr. D. Lane of the District Council who confirmed that the Nicky Line was one of 19 projects awaiting completion, but the Council had not received notice of the removal of the rails. It was thought that either Richard Brown, Countryside Officer, or Michael Hardy, both H.C.C. officers, should be approached by the Chairman for their reactions, and assistance.

Two further suggestions from the Committee were for contact to be made with Mr. Sanders of B.R., who met with the Plans Group to discuss the new station buildings, and an article be placed in the Herts. Advertiser on the 'history' of the Nicky Line.

LORRY PROPOSALS/CYCLE ^{WAYS} ~~PATHS~~

The Committee were presented with the H.C.C. consultative leaflet on the proposed St. Albans lorry controls. Insufficient copies were available to attach to the Newsletter. The aim should be maximum coverage and distribution at the Cheese & Wine Party with remaining copies to the Library was agreed. The Transport Group would be responsible.

ways
CYCLEPATHS

Mr. Pepper had now received the plan from H.C.C. for the A1081 cycle/pedestrian footpath. Copies had also been submitted to the District Council and Harpenden Town Council. The plan provides for the use of the existing footway with "crossovers" at the Harpenden Road/St. Albans Girls School Pelican crossing (the existing bus shelter being moved) and at a central refuge on the Harpenden side of Beeson End Lane. These proposals were warmly welcomed and approved by the Committee and Mr. Pepper would write and thank H.C.C. It was assumed by the Committee that the cycleway would exclude all motorised "cycles".

PROGRAMME 1982/83

Wednesday, 27 October. The speaker would be Paul Camp not Kemp.

Wednesday, 1 February should read TUESDAY.

Referring to this last meeting date the Chairman informed the Committee that Dr. Eileen Roberts, the proposed speaker, was not available, but had suggested two possible speakers, both county officers, namely Mr. Craig and Mr. Dodd, who would be able to talk about the criteria for listing buildings, with particular reference to the Harpenden area.

MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS

Mrs. Bush reported to the Committee that there were 287 membership subscriptions outstanding. This figure included those who, due to the increased subscription, had not amended standing orders to banks. It was agreed to leave any further action until after circulation of the Newsletter.

NEWSLETTER

Discussion took place as to whether, in future, an item "NEWS IN BRIEF" should be included, and letters on topical subjects should be invited. Both suggestions were adopted.

The present edition was complete and ready for distribution. Mr. Bush asked for assistance with stapling.

GROUP REPORTS

Schools: Mrs. Godfrey reported there would be a meeting at the end of May and a trial walkabout - probably next term.

Transport: Mr. Pepper, no report. Mr. McNicoll had been in touch with Sir Victor Goodhew M.P. on the subject of heavy lorries.

Plans - Akrill House: Mrs. Wang reported that plans for the redevelopment provided for the retention of the existing house with new flats on the lower part of the garden. It was noted with regret that this involved the loss of trees. Recommendations had been made to the District Council.

Websters Yard: This application for expansion would involve the acquisition of land of the Gibraltar P.H. This land provided a vital screen for the existing builder's yard and was visually very important. It was of concern that there should be replacement planting. Consultation is taking place with the District Council.

Halifax Building Society (formerly Budgens): The sign was much too large, and the Society wished to retain present symmetrical arrangement. The H.C.C. booklet on shop fronts should act as a guide line.

Green Lawns: Ownership of the garage had changed and encroachment was again taking place in the areas of the Orchard to the rear and the "turn around". The application included common land. Representation to the District Council had been made in detail.

Putterills Yard: The application now included a scheme of two blocks for offices in the area of the previous saw cutting shed. The Society's views had been submitted to the District Council.

Commons/Trees: Mr. Gaubert, in the absence of Lady Bawden, submitted a report. Lady Bawden attended the Sub-Committee of the Harpenden Town Council on 29 March. The Common Byelaws, first drawn up in 1934, were being ~~revised~~ ^{renewed}. The Chairman of the Town Council had asked for estimates for construction of additional notice boards and Lady Bawden had informed the Sub-Committee of the Society's wish that the Senior Citizens' Workshop should be considered for this work. A letter from the District Council had been received by the Town Council that some work would be carried out to the ponds on the Common and the sealing of the Old Cock Pond.

Concern was expressed about the Common Golf Club's planting of trees. A letter to the Club had been drafted by Lady Bawden pointing out that the areas of planting were walking routes, that the Common was registered in 1965 as common land for use by the public for air and exercise. The Committee were agreed that the Golf Club should be reminded of the terms of their lease and the rights of walkers on the Common.

Mr. Jennings added that golfers should be discouraged from parking their cars in unauthorised areas.

Southdown: Mr. Jennings had made contact with the District Council (Mr. Skeet). Tenders received for the improvement work to the Green were too high. Modifications were being made, and it was hoped that the District would "afford" lesser works. No further comment could be made until sight of the modified scheme.

Work to the St. John's footpath could not be undertaken this financial year, due to the high cost of other roadworks following the severe winter.

There is to be a meeting with Watney Mann and District Council about improvements to the Cravells Road carpark.

An approach had been made to a former tenant of empty shop premises with a view to "cleaning up" the appearance generally.

Much of the litter at Southdown was thought to be caused by rocks and dogs, scattering the contents of wastebins. Otherwise there is some evidence of better attention to appearance by the property owners.

U.L.V.G.: An explanation of the aims of the Harpenden U.L.V.G. was submitted to the District Council together with the Society's comments on the District Plan.

Following the resignation of Mrs. Wang as a link with the Society, the Committee were asked to appoint a replacement. The Newsletter would ask for a volunteer member, preferably living within the area of the Upper Lea Valley to act as liaison officer.

PUBLICITY

The Chairman asked the Committee to consider the election of a publicity officer to speak on the Society's behalf. The proposal was accepted in principle and, if he was agreeable, Mr. Paul Usher was nominated, though he should be a coopted member of the Committee.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Secretary read two letters received by the Society. Mr. Ross of Connaught Road wrote on the provision, and suggestions for, road and street signs. It was a legal requirement to provide these and most suggestions were acted upon.

The Chief Executive Officer of the District Council extended an invitation for nominations of the Society's members to attend the luncheon (£6 each), the welcoming ceremony and the service in the Abbey, on the occasion of the dedication by H.M. The Queen of the new Chapter House on 8 July 1982.

The Committee agreed to ask the Society's President, Judge Dow, if he would attend. Mrs. Godfrey and Mrs. Stuart expressed a wish to be present.

Harpenden Station Buildings: A further letter had been sent to British Rail asking for a decision, at the same time pointing out that the old Station buildings were in the conservation area, with a copy to Mr. Bacon, District Council, and the Harpenden Town Council.

Harpenden Lodge: Mr. J. Barnes, caretaker, felt there had been misrepresentation by the Society as to removal of trees. No trees had been cut down. Mrs. Wang had arranged for two members to inspect Harpenden Lodge. Mrs. Godfrey would attend with Mrs. Wang as the Society's representatives at a conveniently arranged date.

Bowers Way Car Park: The dead tree should be replaced.

Harpenden Trust Centre: An improvement could be made to this triangle of land.

Civic Pride: Mrs. Godfrey brought to the Committee's attention a "clean up" campaign organised for St. Albans. Perhaps Harpenden could also take part. St. Albans Civic Society were proposing to "counter" replacement windows etc., but this was not felt to be a matter for this Committee.

North West Essex and Herts Preservation Association: Mr. McNicoll distributed a letter from this Association asking for support when their case against the proposed Stansted Airport is heard at Saffron Walden on 11 May 1982.

District Council Minutes: The subscription to receive one copy of these to be arranged by the Society's Treasurer.

DATES FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday, 18 May
Thursday, 24 June.

Nanar Powlesland
18. May 1982.

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday, 18 May 1982 at 7.45 p.m. at Harpenden Hall.

Present: Mr. N. Powlesland in the Chair.
Lady Bawden, Mr. & Mrs. J. Bush, Mrs. A. Godfrey, Mr. K. Jennings,
Mr. I. McNicoll, Mrs. P. Morwood, Mr. L. Pepper, Mr. B. Raw,
Mrs. B. Stuart, Miss M. Turner, Mrs. L. Wang and Mr. P. Wilson.

Apologies for absence received from Mr. R. Dixon and
Mrs. C. Withers.

ACTION

MINUTES OF MEETING 20 APRIL 1982

Amendments arising - District Plan, p.1. Reference to the meeting with Roger Evans should be amended "It had not been possible subsequently to meet with Roger Evans".

Cyclepaths, p.2. To be known as
Pedestrian/Cycleways.

Commons/Trees, p.4. Common Byelaws,
first drawn up in 1934, were being REVIEWED.

With these amendments the minutes of the meeting held on
20 April 1982 were confirmed.

MATTERS ARISING

1. Pedestrian/Cycleways. Noted by Lady Bawden that pupils of St. Albans Girls School were using the cycleway "to be". When the Cycleway was "official" appropriate notices would be posted.

The Chairman reported to the meeting that Councillor Parsons, a member of Harpenden Town Council, was objecting to the proposal which may delay its introduction.

2. Civic Pride. Mr. P. Wilson suggested that the Society might liaise with the St. Albans Civic Society in the drafting of a leaflet setting out historical facts of buildings and showing their design, which could be handed to prospective developers, particularly in Harpenden, who were lodging planning applications for alterations, particularly of the small cottage type (e.g. Cravells Road). Similar leaflets/books had been prepared by other authorities. These have been aimed at suggesting to developers/owners how improvements can be made with an awareness of period and original design. The leaflet would include the District, but the Society would wish to ensure that specific reference was made to Harpenden, suitably illustrated.

The Committee expressed enthusiasm and, as a first step, Mrs. Godfrey would approach the Civic Society to ~~ascertain~~ ^{ensure} if their ~~existing~~ ^{proposed} leaflet incorporates Harpenden, and thereafter the District Council's planning representatives for their cooperation.

Mrs. A. Godfrey

Harpenden Town Council would be asked for their support, while recognising that it had no statutory authority.

ACTION

3. Newsletter. It was put to the Committee that there should be a "copy date" for material to be included in the Newsletter, together with the name of the Committee member concerned. Items are to be sent to Mrs. Stuart.

Mrs. C. Withers
Mrs. B. Stuart

4. U.L.V.G. Mrs. Bush would prepare a list of members residing in the area of the Upper Lea Valley, with a view to appointing a replacement for Mrs. Wang as Liaison Officer with the Group.

Mrs. S. Bush

5. Harpenden Station Buildings. A reply had been received from British Rail that the Board is still formulating its plans, to be finalised shortly. The work that had been carried out by British Rail on the concrete gullyway is at the same level as existing buildings, thereby confirming the feasibility of the Society's views.

6. Harpenden Lodge. Mrs. Godfrey and Mrs. Wang reported on their meeting with Mr. Barnes, "caretaker", and subsequent tour of the grounds and house. Mr. Barnes said that no trees have been felled other than those which, unfortunately, were dead; the house had been seriously vandalised, to the extent of complete fireplaces being removed, and has easy access, ensuring continued vandalism; further plans for development have been submitted.

Mrs. L. Wang

Mrs. Godfrey has written a detailed letter dated 7 May 1982 to Mr. J.W.B. McKenna of the District Council, putting on record the Society's very great concern as to the future conservation of existing trees, replacement of the Yew recently felled and the dilapidated condition of the house. A reply is awaited.

Mrs. A. Godfrey

WINE & CHEESE PARTY - 5 MAY 1982

The Chairman recorded a vote of thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Bush. Sale of tickets approximately £210, £35 for the raffle and £10 bar sales were received. After all expenses a profit of approximately £50 was expected.

PUBLICITY OFFICER

The Chairman, owing to other pressures, had not approached Mr. Paul Usher, but felt that due to business commitments he would be unable to assist the Society.

Lady Bawden was pursuing another avenue, and would report to the next meeting.

Lady Bawden

This Officer would represent the majority views of the Committee.

NICKY LINE

The County Planning Officer had replied to the Society's letter; a report on disused railway lines as pathways is to be submitted to the County Planning Committee in October.

A reply had been received from British Rail that, with

ACTION

other interested parties, contact should be made with the Manager of the B.R. Property Board. Ambrose Lane Residents' Association had expressed concern over the future of the Line/land area occupied by Brambleton Model Railway Club; this wooded area was of visual importance. If the Inquiry 'finds' for the inclusion of Highfield Oval outside Harpenden Green Belt, this Line/land would ~~be an~~ have added development value, perhaps creating pressure on the N.C.H. to purchase.

DISTRICT PLAN INQUIRY

The Society have been allocated the morning of Friday, 21 May 1982 at 10.00 a.m. The District Council has accepted and acted upon some of the Society's proposals.

- (a) Omission of Batford Springs as a site for nature conservation. A reservation of some kind has been accepted.
- (b) Cycleways. Inclusion of this modification agreed.
- (c) Luton Airport Noise Intention Policy. District Council agreed Society's modification, in that the Policy was too limited.
- (d) The Society still pursued the inclusion of Batford Mill etc. in the MGB as a protection for the Valley.
- (e) District Council did not consider the exclusion of the Harpenden Station from the Conservation Area valid.
- (f) Kinsbourne Green Common, which is of conservation and wild life interest, should not be excluded. The Common was not thought to be registered. It is the intention of District Council Officers to undertake a survey of 7 commons in the District, of conservation interest.
- (g) Small commercial and industrial units should be encouraged in residential areas provided there is no unacceptable disturbance. The word "unacceptable" should be deleted to protect residents.

MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS

Following circulation of the Newsletter, payment of overdue subscriptions had been disappointing. A follow-up letter, with S.A.E., would be sent to defaulting members (approx. 200). Committee members would assist with addressing.

To increase membership, Miss Turner would investigate an organisation "New Neighbours", with the aim of using their mailing list to contact new residents.

Mrs. S. Bush

Miss M. Turner

ACTION

GROUP REPORTS

Schools. Mrs. Godfrey confirmed the meeting of the Liaison Group to be held next week. Difficulty was being experienced due to lack of active members. Owing to other commitments she requested a replacement Convenor.

The Group is working on producing a trail and "card" with questions for children to answer.

An appeal for a representative would be placed in the next Newsletter.

Mrs. C. Withers

Transport. The questionnaire attached to the H.C.C. Consultative Leaflet - St. Albans Proposed Lorry Controls - would also be returned on behalf of the Society, though directed at individuals. Mr. Raw to report to the next meeting.

Mr. R. Raw

Plans - 2-storey building (adjng. existing) 1A Vaughan Road. Well-designed frontage, harmonising with existing property. Society concerned about loss of car parking spaces, future provision and delivery vans. There is severe congestion now at this junction.

Terrace of 3 houses, with garages - 41-47 Crossway. Society recommends refusal on the grounds of being too cramped and does not harmonise with adjacent properties. The earlier application 5/1265/81, in the Society's view, was acceptable.

General observations on new shop fronts, fascia boards etc. The standard in Harpenden had deteriorated; the town's general appearance was very dependent on the appearance of its shops and advertisements. Views have been sent to the District Council.

Akrill House. Lowering of roof line is an improvement. Third floor windows require further attention.

Grazing building/stabling - field off Cranbourne Drive. Important details have been omitted. Further consideration will be given.

Change of Use - Car Sales - Bowers Parade. It is not clear whether existing buildings are to be converted for retail sales, or used for servicing. The application needs careful consideration.

Plant Nursery - Leyton Road. A retrospective planning application has been made, but retail activity is already established. The Society is of the view that unless decisive action is taken by the District Council, as Planning Authority, other enterprises will proceed without necessary approval.

There should be no further cutting or lopping of established trees, or extension of car parking. Space for 42 cars is disproportionate.

ACTION

Green Lawns. A considerable number of building bricks have been delivered to this site.

As future policy, on contentious issues, a separate letter for each matter expressing the Society's views would be sent to the District Council, but a hand written summary on NCR paper might be submitted for general comments on planning applications. This approach might ensure that our letters received a reply which at present they rarely secure.

Mrs. L. Wang

Commons/Trees. Lady Bawden will be requesting of the Town Council a sight of the Lease to the Harpenden Common Golf Club.

Lady Bawden

A Sixth-Former at Roundwood School had, as an A Level subject, carried out a survey of Harpenden Common. This student had been invited to attend a Harpenden Town Council meeting when Council members had expressed appreciation of her work.

Chippings had been placed on the muddy areas, previously reported, of the Common.

Southdown. Councillor Mrs. Curl had approached Mr. Jennings with regard to the crumbling bank near Walkers Road Bridge; he had personally carried out the necessary work.

U.L.V.G. No report

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Transport. A letter had been received from Mr. A. Bunting of Ridgewood Drive offering to speak to the Society on the subject of heavy lorries. The Committee thanked him for his offer, but a convenient date was not available in the current year.

Mr. R. Raw

Mr. McNicoll did not agree with the opinions set out in Mr. Bunting's letter.

Civic Service. An invitation had been received from Harpenden Town Council for a representative to attend the Civic Service on 6 June. Lady Bawden was attending in another capacity and would also represent the Society.

Lady Bawden

Hospice of St. Francis. Notice had been received of a Private View of Paintings, with a Reception, by Meryl Parker, in aid of the Hospice on 28 May 1982, 7.30-9.30 p.m., tickets £1.

Dark Lane Civic Amenity Damp. Concern was expressed by Mr. McNicoll on the hours of opening of the Depot on Bank Holidays, and asked whether members could undertake some of the hours of manning. This was not thought to be possible because of insurance, Union policy etc.

ACTION

Further enquiry would be made of the County Council as to longer opening hours and discussed again at the next meeting.

Mr. I. McNicoll

Road Name Plates. The collected comments would now be submitted to District Council.

Mrs B. Stuart
~~Mrs. L. Wang~~

Committee Meetings. The suggestion was made that these meetings should take place 3-weekly. This was not agreed. However, detailed reports on agenda matters could be submitted to committee members prior to the meeting to facilitate limited discussion at the meeting.

A further suggestion was that Group Convenors meet with the Chairman on complicated issues prior to the committee meeting, and this was agreed.

Postcards. There was criticism of the limited range of the new series of postcards (4) now on sale. Detailed discussion would take place at the next meeting on 24 June 1982.

Miscellaneous.

A letter was received from Mr. T.A. Pye of Park Mount supporting the Society's views on the MGB, but sympathising with the N.C.H.'s need to raise money and suggesting a fund to compensate the Home for loss of revenue. A reply will be sent emphasising the sum (£2m) required.

An offer of typing assistance had been received, via Councillor S. Vass, by Miss Clancy of Southdown.

DATES FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Thursday, 24 June
Thursday, 22 July.

Ann Godfrey

24.VI.82

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on Thursday, 24 June 1982 at 7.45 p.m. at Harpenden Hall.

Present: Mrs. A. Godfrey in the Chair (in the absence of the Chairman at the commencement of the meeting).
Mr. & Mrs. J. Bush, Mr. R. Dixon, Mr. S. Gaubert, Mrs. P. Morwood, Mr. N. Powlesland, Mrs. L. Wang, Mr. E. Ward and Mrs. C. Withers.

Apologies for absence received from Mr. I. McNicoll, Mr. L. Pepper, Mrs. B. Stuart and Miss M. Turner, *Lady Bawden, Mr K. Jennings.*

ACTION

1. MINUTES: Of the meeting on 18 May 1982 were agreed with the following amendments:-

Civic Pride, 2nd paragraph. ".... Mrs. Godfrey would approach the Civic Society to ensure their proposed leaflet incorporates Harpenden"

Nicky Line, 2nd paragraph. " outside Harpenden Green Belt this Line/land would have added development value "

Any Other Business - Road Name Plates. Mrs. B. Stuart was nominated for action (not Mrs. L. Wang).

2. MATTERS ARISING

1. U.L.V.G. No replacement Liaison Officer had yet been found. It was agreed that attendance at our Committee meetings was not necessary, but that minutes would be supplied. Mr. J. Haggard would be approached.

S. Bush

2. Harpenden Lodge. S.A.D.C. had replied to our letter. Mr. Arnold would inspect site prior to T.P.O. on important trees.

3. Publicity Officer. No report due to absence of Lady Bawden. It was agreed that designation should be Press Officer.

4. Road Name Plates. The List had been sent to S.A.D.C.; a copy should be sent to Harpenden Town Council.

N. Powlesland

5. Transport. Mr. Ward regretted that Mr. Bunting's talk could not be included in the current programme.

6. Postcards. It was agreed that Mr. Gaubert should write to Photocolour expressing the Society's disappointment at the quality of the views suggesting more suitable subjects for the next printing.

S. Gaubert

7. Kinsbourne Green Common. Herts & Middlesex Trust had written that the Common was of little scientific interest. Letter to be passed to Mr. McNicoll.

L. Wang

ACTION

3. PROGRESS REPORT ON PUBLIC INQUIRY

Mrs. Wang had presented the Society's representations on 21 May 1982 and subsequently accompanied the Inspector to Baulk's site, Pinneys Garage, All Saints Church and Batford Mill and Forge. She was pleased to report that in the Batford Mill estate the landscaped area was within the Green Belt.

Mrs. Wang hoped to attend the postponed hearing of the N.C.H. representations. The N.C.H. now wished to exclude only the Oval and adjacent recreation ground from the Green Belt. It was agreed that the Society should still oppose this and its implication of residential development. It was noted that Mr. Roger Evans was unwilling to present the Society's views at the Inquiry.

L. Wang

4. NEWSLETTER

Copy date for the next Newsletter was to be 2 July.

It was agreed that Mrs. Withers should consult the Resources Centre about busy periods in October, January, April and July so that future Newsletters could be less rushed.

Items for inclusion - Harpenden Lodge, young members, Group Convenors' notes (Mr. Powlesland to contact Mr. Raw).

N. Powlesland

5. NICKY LINE

Reports had been received of dumping and of land being offered to adjoining owners. It was noted that although H.C.C. had 'first refusal' on the land, they were short of funds and their most recent similar purchase had cost £4-5,000 per mile. After discussion it was agreed that the Society should, if necessary, raise funds to help H.C.C. acquire the Line as a footpath. Mr. Powlesland should write to H.C.C. about the possible piecemeal sale of land and our willingness to assist with purchase: copies to be sent to Dacorum D.C. and S.A.D.C. and Harpenden Town Council.

N. Powlesland

6. GROUP CONVENORS' REPORTS

1. Schools Liaison Group. No report.

2. Transport. No report. It was noted that Hollybush Lane residents were again petitioning S.A.D.C. against heavy traffic.

3. Plans. Mrs. Wang had written to S.A.D.C. stating the need for basic information on all planning applications: currently badly presented and inadequate information is debated.

ACTION

Comments had been made on the following applications:-

5/162/82 Offices, Corner Sun Lane; 5/217/82 Green Lawns Service Station; 5/568/82 Cafe, Thompson's Close; 5/593/82 Flats, 84A Cravells Road; 5/607/82 Offices, rear of 41 High Street; 5/656/82 Starter Homes, rear Cowper Road; 5/715/82 Factory subdivision, 42 Coldharbour Lane; Harpenden Lodge appeal.

4. Commons/Trees. No report.

5. Southdown. No progress had been made on the site adjoining the Carpenters Arms. Work had started on the Green to a simplified, more suitable scheme.

7. PROPOSAL FOR ORGANISATION OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mr. Pepper had now detailed his proposals. The Committee agreed to ask him to undertake the preparation of the agenda for the September meeting as a 'trial run'.

8. MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS

No assistance would now be required with the addressing and posting of the letter to defaulting members. Members who did not respond would not be contacted next year.

S. Bush

Miss Turner had obtained the address of "New Neighbours".

Concern was expressed at the lack of young members; talks to schools and work-parties/'campaigns' were suggested as "attractions".

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Work Parties. Mrs. Wang & Helpers had improved untidy areas particularly in Vaughan Road.

2. LADACAN - A.G.M. would be held on 30 June. Mr. Raw to be asked to represent the Society.

N. Powlesland

10. DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Thursday, 22 July
Friday, 10 September

N. Powlesland