

(xiii)  
(xiv)

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Committee Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 16 January 1985 at Harpenden Hall  
at 7.45 p.m.

---

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of previous meeting.
3. Matters arising.
4. Reports from Groups:-
  - Plans
  - Commons and Greens
  - Transport
  - Environmental
  - Southdown
  - ULVG
5. Harpenden Sign.
6. Eric Morecambe Memorial Trust.
7. New Committee Members 1985/6.
8. Bus shelters. To consider the attached Report and Cost Estimates.
9. Any other business.
10. Dates of next meetings.

## THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of a Meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday, 28th May, 1985

---

Present: Mr. K. Jennings, in the Chair

Mr. S. Bastow, Mr. J. Bush, Mrs. J. Clitherow, Miss I.M. Leek,  
Mr. L.G.J. Matthews, Mrs. P. Mowbray, Mr. E. Truslove,  
Mrs. M. Waldren and Mrs. L. Wang.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. W.G. Haslar, Mr. A. Mellody,  
Dr. F.J. Moore, Mr. I.D.G. McNicoll, Mr. M.F. Vincent and Mr. E. Ward.

### 19. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 29th April, 1985 were approved as a true record, subject to the inclusion of the following amendments:-

- Item 10(e) - paragraph to be amended by the inclusion of the word "office" before "buildings".
- Item 11(b)(i) - paragraph to be amended to read "..... Town Council's Commons and Greens Committee had decided ....."
- Item 11(b)(ii) - paragraph to be amended to read "Dr. Moore had made, on behalf of the Society, requests for the gorse, ....."
- Item 11(b)(iii) - paragraph to be amended to read "..... off oil, although the District Council ....."
- Item 11(d)(i) - paragraph to be amended to read "The District Council stated that ..... carpark is the responsibility of Sainsburys, there were no funds, ....."
- Item 11(f) - final paragraph to be amended by the addition of the words "with the intention of considering the Society's sponsorship".

### 20. MATTERS ARISING

#### a. Meetings (Minute 10(d))

Mr. Truslove said that he had reactivated contact with the Batford Methodist Church and he hoped that their interest would produce some tangible results in the form of speakers for the Batford meeting.

It was noted that the Batford meeting was intended to be additional to the Society's standard programme.

Mr. Truslove said that he was also seeking a speaker for the February 1986 meeting. It was suggested that Dr. Moore might be asked to talk on the management of the Common and it was agreed to consider the matter further later in the year.

b. Harpenden Town Sign (Minute 10(b))

It was reported that a number of members had attended the Acceptance Ceremony on the 11th May and that a cheque for £300 had been handed to the Chairman of the Town Council.

c. Plans (Minute 10(e))

The Secretary reported that his letter to the District Council had been acknowledged only at the present time.

d. May Walk (Minute 10(h))

Mrs. Wang reported that on a cold day some twenty members had attended, some of whom were new. Two separate circular walks had been enjoyed.

e. Newsletter - Ice (Minute 10(i))

The Secretary reported that the District Council had provided the form of words as promised.

f. Waitrose (Minute 15)

The Chairman reported that thirty-five members had attended the presentation of the Society plaque. A letter of appreciation had been received from Waitrose Ltd.

g. Programme Cards (Minute 17)

The Secretary reported that printing was in hand.

h. ULVG (Minute 10(f))

The Chairman reported that he had attended the meeting of the ULVG Committee and had been impressed by their unabated enthusiasm. The Committee had appeared to be happy to have the Group's work recognised publicly and had made the suggestion that the weir could be named 'Wilson's Weir'.

Mr. Ward said that Mrs. H. Catterfeld, Mr. P. Usher and he would be meeting the next day.

i. Ware Society (Minute 14)

Mr. Truslove reported that he had been unable to contact the Secretary by telephone and would therefore write to remind the Society of the outstanding invitation.

21. REPORTS FROM GROUPSa. Plans

5/0405/85

The Pitts, 102 Grove Road - use of premises for storage and distribution.

Objection has been made on the grounds that the depot is out of character with the surrounding residential district. However, if planning permission, which may be to regularise a contravening use, is given, constraint should be placed on the hours of business and nuisance from noise and restricted to a maximum of five years.

5/0319/85

2 High Street - redevelopment by Colin Grant International to provide ground floor new car showrooms, offices on first floor, 2 flats on second.

Deferment of a decision had given the opportunity for further comment. While urging the Council to stand firm under the multiplicity of schemes submitted, the Society recommended a building which would retain the feeling of spaciousness, would not dominate The George and was not bulky or ugly. Further some unobtrusive off street parking should be provided.

It was understood that, apart from car parking, the current plan had been accepted. The problem of inadequate car parking provision had been referred to the main Planning and Development Committee.

Mrs. Wang said that she had written personally to The Herts Advertiser and to the District Council reiterating the importance of the site. Although the ridge had been lowered and the tower abandoned, the proposed building was still three feet higher than The George and the hard standing of the forecourt encroached on to the publicly owned green. The trees were still not correctly plotted on the plan and the horse chestnut would require lopping for a two storey building. The Committee had said that as the tree was outside the plan area it could not interfere. The Town Council had been asked to investigate both the encroachment on the green and the fate of the tree.

5/0487/85

9 Meadow Walk - erection of detached bungalow and integral garage by E.E. Beatty Estates.

Objection has been made on the grounds that the proposed bungalow with integral garage appears to be too large for the site.

4.

5/0489/85

Moreton End School, 53 Luton Road - erection of a single storey cloakroom block.

The proposed building replaces a portacabin which appears to be used as a classroom at the present time.

The loss of six conifer trees is regretted.

5/0490/85

Little Fold Cottage, Hatching Green - erection of garage by Harpenden Projects.

A garage more in keeping with the area, with a pitched roof, would be preferred.

5/0547/85

18 Station Road - British Shoe Corporation, change of use of part of first floor from residential accommodation to retail shop.

The loss of residential accommodation should be resisted and the application refused.

5/030A/85

1b Leyton Road - Timpsons, alterations to interior of premises, provision of external sign.

The proposal for the new sign does nothing to improve the appearance of this building.

5/0567/85

The Spinney, West Common, land adjoining.

Objection has been made to the development of a bungalow in the rear garden of 42 West Common on the grounds that no plan has been provided to indicate existing trees and landscaping; double banking and development of backland is unsatisfactory and creates a hazard in the event of fire; and there should be no further crossings of the common land, access in the event of the development being allowed being by way of existing entrances for either no. 42a or 42.

5/1019/84

Junction Roundwood Lane/Luton Road - erection of warden-assisted flats.

The appeal against this refusal to allow the development has been allowed by the DOE, subject to no tree or hedge being removed without consent, the provision of a scheme for landscaping and all landscaping to be completed in the first season of occupation.

The Secretary said that publicity had been given at the District Council meeting to DOE circular no. 185, which gives examples of conditions which are considered unreasonable in dealing with planning applications.

b. Transport

Mr. Haslar's written report was read to the meeting:-

(i) Bus Shelters

The High Street shelters had both been sanded, the one on the west side oiled and the one on the east side cleaned ready for oiling. Time tables, posters and boards had been obtained from Garston Garage to be affixed after oiling.

The Southdown shelters had also both been sanded, the one on the east side oiled and the seat repaired. The unsafe condition of the shelter on the west side was reported to the Town Council, who have put repair work in hand. When this work is completed the shelter will be oiled and time-table boards affixed.

Weather permitting, volunteers are sought to join in work at Southdown from 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 29th May.

Mrs. Wang questioned the method of communication between the Transport Group and the Town Council. It was agreed that it was essential for points of agreement to be contained in correspondence and not simply to be the subject of verbal contact.

c. Environmental

Mrs. Wang reported:-

(i) Rear Arden Grove

Mr. J.D. Peters, a director of Jarvis, had written to disagree that the proposed development would affect the mature trees. Following a meeting on site, Mr. Peters had given reassurances regarding the possibility of trees being felled in years after completion of the development following complaints regarding the restriction of window light.

(ii) Vaughan Road

Mr. Peters said Jarvis was hoping to redevelop in this location and to improve the street scene. Residential occupation had not been revealed on the planning application and although officially this amenity should have been replaced, the occupant had been satisfactorily re-housed.

(iii) 12 Park Rise

The occupant had sought the Society's assistance with a litter problem on the footpath from Roundwood Park school to Luton Road. It was agreed that the Society would write to the headmasters of all local schools in due course.



(iv) 40 Luton Road

This matter was being followed up.

(v) Shepherds Way

The occupant was advised to write personally regarding the felling of mature trees.

(vi) Work Party

The weeding of the fronts of the Police Station and the Further Education Centre was nearing completion. The litter outside The George had been picked up and, although the landlord's help had been enlisted, his co-operation was unlikely.

(vii) Lower Bowers Way car park boundary fence

Sainsbury have denied responsibility. The matter has been left to the District Council and Sainsburys for resolution.

(viii) Overstone Road/Gilpin Green

Following a telephone call to the managing agents of Groundrent Securities, the freeholders, to enquire if anything could be done to improve the site, the agents had suggested that the Society should buy the land. They had been informed that the Society was a charity without funds or facilities for land purchase or on-going maintenance.

An unsolicited offer of a Licence for the Society to look after the property had been received from the freeholder's solicitors, together with a bill for professional services. The Secretary was instructed to reply that the Society had made no requests for legal action nor had it given these solicitors any instructions in the matter and to return the professional account.

It was noted that a letter had been received from a local resident stating that, having brought the matter to the attention of the managing agents, permission had been given for local residents to clear the site if they so wished.

Mr. Jennings said that a disabled pavement slope would be beneficial by The George bus shelter. It was noted that, while this was the responsibility of the District Council, the existing ramps had been installed by the Town Council during the Year for the Disabled.

d. Southdown

Mr. Truslove reported:-

## (i) Green

Following a meeting with a representative of the District Council on site it was ascertained that large pebbles were not popular owing to the risk of pedestrians slipping on them. The District Council suggested pea shingle. Although it was thought that pea shingle would spread on to the road, collect dirt and litter and compact, and, resembling a footpath, would attract pedestrians, the District Council's suggestion was accepted as better than no action at all. It was agreed that part of the length would be surfaced as a trial for twelve months and the rockery would be continued round the corner to protect the shrubs.

The District Council suggested that there might be a case for a permanent official footpath across the Green.

## (ii) Road Sweeping and Maintenance

The District Council agreed that it was their responsibility to cleanse around the Cravells Road Garages and Dark Lane and that these matters would be attended to.

The Society had been advised to write direct to the Director of the District Council regarding road sweeping services between Fine Fare and the Tip.

## (iii) It was noted that occupiers of cottages at the lower end of Cravells Road on Grove Road had received letters from a developer seeking to buy their properties.

## (iv) Rear of Shops

Efforts would be made to discover the ownership of the old communal air raid shelter in order to deal with its removal.

## (v) St. John's Footpath

It was evident that this development was being well used.

c. ULVG

Mr. Haggard's written report was read to the meeting:-

- (i) Following the re-siting by the Council of the memorial seat to Mrs. Powlesland in the Marquis Lane Playing Field beside the footpath leading to the river, users have had to negotiate a steep bank between the seat and the footpath. The Group had constructed three steps and provided a hand-rail.



- (ii) A party of volunteers from the YHA in Luton had replaced the barrier below the footbridge which raised the level of the cress bed and cut down and tidied up broken branches of trees along the line of the cress bed between the footbridge and All Saints Church.

It was noted that following the theft of over £100 worth of tools, efforts would be made by the Secretary to include the replacements on the Society's insurance policy.

It was agreed that Mr. E. Ward (substitute Mr. E. Truslove) would attend the meeting called for the 12th June, 1985.

22. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

While over ~~three~~<sup>two</sup> hundred subscription reminders have had to be sent out in July for the past three years, the current number of unpaid subscriptions was one hundred and fifty-five.

23. DISTRICT COUNCIL MINUTES

Items of interest lifted from the Minutes of the District Council Sub-Committees presented to the District Council Meeting on the 24th April, 1985 were noted.

24. HIGHFIELD OVAL

The Society had received details of a proposal for conversion of the facilities of the Highfield Oval for use by the disabled and elderly and for recreational use by the residents of North Harpenden following the sale by the National Children's Home. The proposal contained no suggestions for financing the project.

Mrs. Wang said that she recommended that the Society should write to the District Council to express concern about the future of the land and the use to which it may be put and to support the development proposal.

It was agreed that, although it was difficult to make constructive comments until there are feasibility details, the Society would write to the proposers expressing an interest in further details as they may become available.

25. ERIC MORCAMBE MEMORIAL TRUST

It was agreed that a donation of £300 be given to the Trust immediately.

26. B.R. QUESTIONNAIRE

An interest was expressed in the response to the B.R. questionnaire, regarding a through-London railway, which had been completed at Spotlight.

27. CIVIC SERVICE

An invitation had been received from the Town Council for a representative to attend the Civic Service on Sunday, 16th June, 1985.

28. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was called for Tuesday, 25th June, 1985.

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

*Minutes of  
28/5 attached*

*(XV)*

Committee Meeting to be held on Tuesday 25th June 1985 at Harpenden Hall  
at 7.45 p.m.

---

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of previous meeting.
3. Matters arising.
4. Reports from Groups :-
  - Plans
  - Commons and Greens
  - Transport
  - Environmental
  - Southdown
  - ULVG
5. Environment Week 1985.
6. Litter - District Council Meeting.
7. Any other business.
8. Date of next meeting.

HARPENDEN TOWN CENTRE INSET MAP

Minutes of Meeting: 10 a.m. Thursday 25 October 1985  
held at the Harpenden Outdoor Bowls Club  
Spencer Road, Harpenden.

Present:

John Chapman            )  
                              )  
John Hoad                )     S.A.D.C. Local Plans Team  
                              )  
Anne Davies             )

Representatives of the Harpenden Society

-----

1. Introduction:

- 1.1 John Chapman opened the meeting by explaining the background to the preparation of the inset maps and their relationship to the District Plan.
- 1.2 The programme of work was briefly explained leading up to the major public participation exercise on the Draft Inset Map which will be held in June/July 1985.
- 1.3 It was stressed by all present that this should occur prior to the school holidays for maximum participation. It was explained that an exhibition concerning the Draft Inset Map will be held in Harpenden - venue as yet to be decided. Harpenden Society (thereafter referred to as H. Soc) Members stressed need for a good central location e.g. Methodist Church or possibly the Public Hall: good advance publicity and directional signs in the town are most important.
- 1.4 H. Soc offered to help with publicity: SADC accepted gratefully.

2. Issues:

- 2.1 The following issues were raised by the H. Soc for discussion and on items to be considered in the preparation of the inset map.

2.2 Harpenden Lodge Site:

H Soc members expressed great concern about the future of this site. S.A.D.C. reps concurred. This site is part of inset map area and a detailed study is intended. Some of issues discussed e.g. some residential development some open space - many possibilities for site.

2.3 Transport/ Car parking:

- 2.3.1 Harpenden Station/Goods Yard: Station currently being refurbished: use of station generates high car parking (400 cars parked on 23.10.84 according to survey by H Soc) and traffic movement problems. Possibility of an additional access/exit point from Crabtree Lane (adj Aysgarth Close) discussed - also pedestrian access only from Crabtree Lane and Milton Road. However this may generate more parking on the surrounding residential roads by station uses and therefore create further problems of safety and congestion.
- 2.3.2 St Johns Road/Cravells Road: traffic uses these as short cut to Southdown - creates general build up of traffic - however not part of inset map area.
- 2.3.3 National Childrens Home will close in 1985: H Soc concerned that any further private housebuilding would increase traffic/congestion in the town centre.
- 2.3.4 Concern about general level of congestion, traffic, car parking in Harpenden Town Centre.
- 2.3.5 Question raised of roundabout at Station Road/High Street junction could ease congestion: would closure of slip road adjacent to Harpenden Motors help.
- 2.3.6 Arden Grove used as a "rat run" to evade the Station Road/High Street junction: should this continue?
- 2.3.7 Waitrose Impact: more traffic in Leyton Road but parking and circulation generally working well - new car park spreads the parking problem: free parking is advantageous: some problems of servicing by artic lorries - need review of parking restriction by entrance/exit to Waitrose due to visibility difficulties.
- 2.3.8 H Soc asked whether income from Bowers Way car park had dropped due to use of Waitrose car park: suggested that this would be better as a free car park, could attract B Rail commuters: (JC indicated that generally a review of parking charges is necessary) also question of purchase of International site by Bejams, could this create further parking problem.
- 2.3.9 Amenbury Lane car park discussed: H Soc said not well used - possibility of checking discussed: JC pointed out problems involved particularly cost.
- 2.3.10 Suggestion by JC that part of Harpenden Lodge site should be used for a car park.
- 2.3.11 Cyclists: need racks: requirements should be incorporated in car park layouts: racks could be provided adj. to Wellington House instead of part of the landscaping.
- 2.3.12 Bowers Parade: no additional problems from new industrial units to the rear.
- 2.3.13 Lower High Street (ie outside Ketts etc) flooding problems/very narrow pavement causes problems for pedestrian. Widening of the pavement would ease this problem.

- 2.3.14 H Soc not in favour of pedestrianisation because the slip/service roads are useful.
- 2.3.15 Full traffic/parking survey to be carried out March 1985.
- 2.4 Shopping:
- 2.4.1 H Soc asked whether there was sufficient retail floorspace particularly non-food floorspace in Harpenden. JC explained the problems of the calculation of the appropriate level of retail floorspace. Agreed that whilst there probably is a lack of non-food floorspace, this provision was solely a matter of market forces.
- 2.5 Environment/Conservation:
- 2.5.1 H Soc welcomed the Shopfront Design Guide produced by S.A.D.C. but concerned about those items which cannot be controlled e.g. bills on shop windows, plastic fascias, advert boards on the pavement and resulting obstruction.
- 2.5.2 Street furniture: can there be consultation before furniture/signs are put in position.
- 2.5.3 In full development: mature planting should be retained: planning applications do not adequately show existing planting. Retention of trees and hedges in the town is very important.
- 2.6 Office Development:
- 2.6.1 H Soc identified a need for small offices for local uses: important that local offices and services are retained: ideal use for historic buildings: however despite local need, still support policy to retain residential use (at first or second floor level) in conjunction with commercial use in town centre).
- 2.6.2 H Soc suggested that vacant units at Batford Mill could be used for offices. JC pointed out that industrial land in Harpenden is limited: S.A.D.C. would not be happy to support this.
- 2.7 Elderly Persons Dwellings:
- 2.7.1 Harpenden Lodge site suggested as a good location for single storey EPD.
- 2.7.2 Concern expressed about level of car parking for EPD schemes. AD explained S.A.D.C. view and the new study to be started on all residential parking standards county wide.
- 2.8 Other Points:
- 2.8.1 Southdown should be included in study area since the need for policies is similar. JC explained that at the present time the St Albans and Harpenden Inset Maps had priority - but this did not preclude a study in the future.



2.8.2 H Soc expressed concern that those people resident in the extended part of the Harpenden Conservation Area were not totally aware of the obligations that this imposed. It was suggested that perhaps a separate note outlining the implications of the Conservation Area status could be delivered with the Town Forum newsletter. H Soc members indicated that they could help with this. S.A.D.C. reps agreed to check what efforts had been made to notify the relevant residents.

AD/sjl  
7.11.84