

Barnet wins appeals against residents who flout planning laws



A number of recent appeals against Enforcement Notices issued by the London Borough of Barnet have been turned down by the Secretary of State for the Environment. Perhaps residents may in future be less willing to flout the strict planning laws which govern the Suburb. In many cases this can turn out to be a very costly exercise for the resident.

One case in point relates to a house in Meadway which had changed its front door and garage door without consent

from Barnet. The front door was totally out of keeping with the Suburb and the Secretary of State upheld the local authority's Enforcement Notice. A similar case was upheld in Willifield Way, where the owner has to reinstate the original front door. PVC windows are without doubt not acceptable, as a resident in Rowan Walk recently found out to his cost. Other cases recently upheld include the removal of a satellite dish fixed to the corner wall of a house in Oakwood Road and the extension of a

hard-standing driveway in Kingsley Way.

Residents are often of the opinion, and wrongly so, that Barnet will not take enforcement action against them for minor items such as doors, windows, satellite dishes or hard-standings. Residents are very misguided if they believe this to be the case. These recent examples show that Barnet will take appropriate action to remedy infringements.

The Suburb is a Conservation Area designated as being of **Outstanding Architectural and**

Historic Interest and it is our **Area of Special Character of Metropolitan Importance**. It is the precise detail of architecture of each individual property that makes up the very nature and special character of the Suburb. It is this detail therefore which must be preserved for the future. As such, it is hoped that all residents will heed these cases.

Congratulations are in order for the Planning Department of Barnet for taking the lead in these cases.

Mervyn Mandell

Suburb traffic slowing plans

One day it will be as socially unacceptable to drive through residential areas at more than 20 miles per hour as in the same way we no longer contemplate drinking and driving or offer a friend 'one for the road'. Attitudes do change, and the RA and the Trust hope that their new traffic study will lead to this. It is being carried out by Colin Davis, and his interim report recommends that the overall plan should 'as far as possible appear to be part of the original design of the Suburb rather than added as an afterthought'. Fine words, you may say, but if we do not start with the right approach the Suburb could be ruined for the sake of those drivers who are anti-social and drive too fast.

English Heritage are helping us with this and Barnet Council have accepted the proposals in

principle. We now have to work out ideas for slowing traffic without inconveniencing residents, otherwise they will not receive support. Consultation with residents is essential, especially if we are to apply for lottery funding, which is likely to be necessary as so little is available nowadays from local authority budgets.

Whatever happens, this is the best opportunity we have had for years, Colin Davis really knows what he is doing. He is held in high regard by his peers and has first-hand knowledge of traffic solutions used successfully in other countries; also he has worked with English Heritage before. The support of English Heritage is vital, and we must all make sure that the high regard they have for the Suburb is not wasted.

David Rapson

LETTERS (continued)

5 March

Dear Sir,

In the "Suburb News" edition Winter '96 I was surprised that, in Chris Stephen's article, "The Suburb Arms?", he was not aware that for over 12 years there has been a fully fledged pub on Hampstead Garden Suburb! It started off as a 'wine bar' serving food but now sells a full

range of spirits, etc. The place adds to the 'atmosphere' and 'colour' of the area; why, several years ago someone was stabbed, and for days afterwards you could still see the bloodstains on the pavement where the unfortunate patron ran out for help! I am sure this was not in Henrietta Barnett's vision for her Garden Suburb!! Yours Edna Weiss

New Charity Committee for the Trust

In this article the Chairman of Suburb Charities outlines how the new Charity Committee of the HGS Trust will function. This will replace the present separate Charitable Trust.

Reasons for change

The HGS Trust decided to become a Registered Charity for financial reasons and this raised the question of the need for a separate Charitable Trust. Originally the separate Charity was funded from any excess income generated by the Main Trust. For a number of years there was no surplus income followed by the period when the HGS Trust was buying out Ashdale's interests. So the Charitable Trust appealed directly for donations from residents on the Suburb and has managed, by means of generous donations, to meet the needs of residents, organisations on the Suburb and also to make a contribution to Toynbee Hall for educational purposes.

However the requirements of Suburb residents are not very great and once the Main Trust had the power to make charitable donations by becoming a Registered Charity it seemed to be pointless to continue to run a separate Company.

Timetable for action

At the last AGM in September 1995 I gave notice that the Council would be presenting a motion to wind up the Company at the next AGM in September 1996, provided that the HGS Trust had become a Registered Charity and would modify its Memorandum and Articles of Association to include the provisions for giving that appear in the current Charitable Trust Memorandum and Articles of Association. I undertook to keep everyone informed about the proposal for change and that is the purpose of this article.

Progress to date

The Council of Suburb Charities has prepared proposals for the operation of the new Charity Committee. These proposals have been discussed and agreed with the HGS Trust Council and presented to the March meeting of the RA Council for comment. The proposals are as follows:

1. **Size and composition of Main Trust's Charity Committee**
 - 1.1 Proposed to be 6 in number: could meet easily and likely that 3 could meet if necessary, otherwise requests could be dealt with by telephoning.
 - 2 nominated by HGSRA,
 - 1 Trust Council Member,
 - 1 further Trust Council nominee, 1 from the University of London,
 - 1 from Toynbee Hall.
 - 1.2 The Secretary of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust to act as Secretary of the Committee.
 - 1.3 Chairman elected from members of the Committee annually.
2. **Functions of committee**
 - 2.1 Operates at arms length from the main Trust Council to maintain confidentiality.
 - 2.2 Meets at least once a year and when a request for help is received by the Secretary of the Trust which cannot otherwise be dealt with by the Chairman ringing members of the Committee.
 - 2.3 Chairman to report monthly to the Council meetings even if it is a nil return and actions noted in the Council's Minutes.
3. **Functions of Trust**
 - 3.1 Trust undertakes to make an initial sum of £5000 available for charitable purposes topping up the amount as necessary. The

size of the fund to be reviewed annually and increased as necessary. (At least in line with inflation).

4. Changes to these arrangements in the future

- 4.1 Any changes in the composition of the Committee or its functions to be agreed by the current members of the Committee and agreed with the current Trust Council.
5. **Use of existing funds**
 - 5.1 The present Council will allocate any existing funds for charitable purposes on the Suburb.

The sum of £5000 noted at 3.1 represents a reasonable working sum. The annual turnover in recent years has been about £2500 for Suburb Charities. You will see that there is provision for varying this amount in the light of actual demand.

The money given by the HGS Trust for charitable purposes can only arise from amounts earned independently of the Scheme of Management. There would be nothing to prevent the Main Trust from appealing for additional funds for charitable purposes if this proved to be necessary. Currently the HGS Trust believes that it will have sufficient funds to meet the likely demand.

Comments

If there are any queries about the above proposals I would be grateful if you write to me, or the Chairman of the Main Trust, Eddie Caplin, at 862 Finchley Road, NW11 6AB. It would be very helpful to have these comments as soon as possible in order to deal with the necessary detail before the AGM in September.

John Freeborn
Chairman, Suburb Charities

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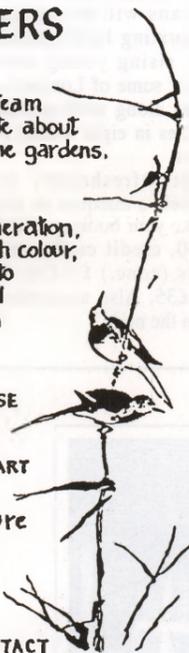
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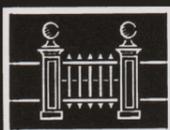


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