



**Berkhamsted  
Citizens  
Association**

# NEWSLETTER

December 1988

## A host of golden daffodils?

In the last Newsletter we asked for members' suggestions as to where we should plant more bulbs. Two people took the trouble to phone, and we were encouraged by their interest.

Alas - the story has a sad end, because the bulbs were not available and so we shall have to wait another year before planting.

## Footpath Little Gaddesden No. 7 - a victory!

At a recent public enquiry, the Department of the Environment Inspector decided not to confirm the Order to upgrade Footpath Little Gaddesden No. 7 to a bridleway, the Citizens' Association, together with other organisations including the Little Gaddesden Parish Council, the National Trust and The Chiltern Society, made objections to the Order, and is pleased that the Inspector shared its views.

## More planning matters

Environment Award - We are coming close to the time when we will be considering entries for the 1988 Award. Nominations should be made by 8th January 1989. If you want to nominate a project or item, please inform a member of the Committee prior to that date. Entries must have been completed during 1988. The main criteria for assessment include quality of design and construction, compatibility with, and relationship to, the immediate environment, durability and benefit to the community. Illustrations of those short-listed will be presented at our AGM on 22nd March when the results will be announced. Last year the plaque was awarded to the National Film Archive for their Phase II development, and since the award scheme was introduced earlier in the 80's, there have been a number of commendation certificates issued in recognition of conservation or other worthy achievements.

## Are we becoming too dense?

One might ask this question using both senses of the word. We tolerate planning guidelines which appear to be less stringent than they used to be on control of density of development. Infilling is not the only way of increasing housing density. In fact the number of 'demolish and new build' schemes is very much on the increase in the town. Some well known buildings, such as Rothesay School, are now reduced to rubble.

Planning authorities have to adhere to central government guidelines, even when there is considerable local opposition to a scheme. There is no real incentive for the planning authority to hold out against marginal applications when they know that, on average, about two out of every five appellants will get their way when an Inspector is appointed by the Secretary of State for the Environment to give a decision after an appeal hearing. Furthermore, an appeal hearing which involves high powered lawyers is both costly and demanding of planning authority staff time.

The proposed Ashlyns Road development is just going through this appeal process and we now await the Inspector's decision with interest.

## Membership

A BCA leaflet was attached to the last Newsletter. Have you passed yours to a non-member neighbour or friend?

Some members obviously have, because we have gained 14 new members. Member households now number 500, 156 have chosen to pay a 5-year subscription. You may wish to consider a 5-year subscription when the new year arrives.

## The Post Office

Some of may have, read an article in the Herald outlining substantial changes to Berkhamsted Post Office. The Citizens' Association Committee is following up the matter and will keep you informed through the Newsletter.

## Dates for your Diary

Friday 16th December	Christmas Social and Carols (invitations attached)	The Old Hall Berkhamsted School 8.00 p.m.
Sunday 1st January	New Year Ramble	Meet at Berkhamsted Station 10.30 a.m.
wednesday 22nd March	Annual General Meeting	Sessions Hall 8.00 p.m.

\*\* NEW \*\*

No doubt you have opinions, grumbles and ideas about Berkhamsted. Please share them. We should like to hear from you and print them in the Newsletter under a regular item 'Citizens' Comments'.

Phone Jackie Boulter on Berkhamsted 865592 or write to her at 11 Berkley Court, Berkhamsted.