



**Berkhamsted  
Citizens  
Association**

# NEWSLETTER

May 1988

This is the first newsletter since our Annual General Meeting at the end of March. You will find attached to it the list of names and addresses of people on the new Main Committee and also the names of people who are on the various sub-committees or who represent the BCA on other bodies. Please do detach this list and keep it in a safe place! You may want to contact individuals during the year. We would welcome more direct contact from members.

## Planning

The past few months have seen major decisions on issues that will be shaping the future of our town as far as facilities and character are concerned. The Bourne Centre development has been approved in principle by the planners, a major change has occurred on the sports hall proposals, and British Rail are refurbishing the station buildings and car parks. Furthermore, the A41 bypass enquiry is now well under way and we all hope that the right conclusion will be reached, even though we might individually disagree on what this should be. The future of the Rex cinema continues to look uncertain although there is now perhaps a greater chance of its survival following the surprise last minute listing of the building.

The aim behind all of these proposals and activities is, of course, to improve our town whilst, at the same time, in most cases, giving economic benefit to the perpetrators. Nearly all are controversial in some measure and debates will continue on facts, half truths and imagined aspects until realisation will prove the case one way or another (or more likely in between the two!). BCA committee members have tried on the above issues to keep the membership informed of proposals and information so they can voice their own individual opinions, as it is impractical to ascertain the majority view of the membership or of the town residents. As a result exponents of both opposing views can unjustifiably claim that they have 80%, 99% or whatever percentage of the town behind their cause. Such figures ignore the "don't know" views which regrettably are suspected of representing a much larger proportion of our townsfolk than we would like to think.

## Actions you can take on planning proposals that affect you

The last six months has also seen the build-up of more pressure on infill sites and the relatively new feature of planning applications that are based on the demolition of recently built sound buildings in excellent condition in order to increase the site density. Apart from putting a strain on neighbourly relationships, this has led to a number of questions being asked on just how and to whom one should express objections. Our guidance is as follows:

1. Write to The Chief Planning Officer at Dacorum Borough Council at The Civic Centre, Hemel Hempstead HP4 1HH with a copy to The Town Clerk of Berkhamsted Town Council.
2. Lobby your representative councillor and if appropriate also send him/her a copy of your letter to D.B.C.
3. Contact others who are likely to hold the same views as yourself with a view to corporate action on item 1. above.

4. Last, but not least, contact a member of the Association Committee and put forward details of your case. It is more than likely that the application will have been looked at by a committee member during a Tuesday afternoon when the details of applications for Berkhamsted and Northchurch sites are available for examination at the Civic Centre in Berkhamsted. We try to keep informed on all applications this way, and write as a body when we feel, the interests of the town are significantly threatened. It should be noted that the somewhat difficult task of trying to follow the town community's interest in some cases leads us to a differing conclusion than might be expected from an individual who considers, that a neighbour's application could lead to development that would be very detrimental to his own personal interest.
5. You can save on postage if you use the letterbox built into the left-hand side of the Berkhamsted Civic Centre frontage, from which there is a daily collection for Decorum Borough Council mail.

Finally, it is worth noting that whilst our Town Council considers applications and thus expresses a view to Dacorum Borough Council, the executive authority lies with the latter body who make the decision that prevails.

#### The Environment Award for 1987 and the Summer Wine 1988

Few, if any, will not have seen or heard of this year's winner, the Phase 2 development of the National Film Archive centre at Kingshill Way. It normally involves a particular effort to get to see at close quarters the buildings in which fascinating and important work is carried out. It is particularly fitting that this year our Summer Wine event will be held at the centre, by kind permission of the National Film Archive, on Wednesday 15th June from 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. The cost will be £2.00 payable at the door. There is plenty of car parking, but anyone who has no transport can contact Lovell Feil on Berk. 5752, who will try to make arrangements for them.

Members will be shown round the centre, so do take the opportunity to look round, and also to tackle Committee Members on the issues you weren't able to raise at the AGM because of the lack of 'Open Forum' time, while enjoying our annual summer social occasion.

#### Book of Walks

We are pleased to know that our new Book of Walks is selling well and people are enjoying the walks. David Sherratt has given us a very kind review in the Berkhamsted Review (p. 19), though there are 6 walks, not 4, David!

If you have not yet bought your copy, the sales points include The Bookstack, W.H. Smith, The Country Shop in Aldbury, and several other newsagents around the town. The cost is £1.75p.

#### Litter

At our AGM in March 1987 this subject was specifically mentioned as a matter of great concern to the town. At our recent AGM this year we invited participation in three of the litter sweeps that had been planned along the canal on three specific days in March and April. We were most impressed by the efforts of two of our lady members who not only attended on these occasions but who applied additional effort over the Easter Holiday. Those who have walked along the towpath north west from the Lower Kings Road bridge will have seen a marked improvement if they are at all observant. Apart from this outstanding input, the participation was non-existent. However, we are aware that a number of our members are constantly picking up litter as a matter of routine on everyday outings.

### Annual Meeting with Dacorum Councillors and Officers

This took place on the evening of March 30th and covered a range of items with prime attention on the proposed Sports Hall and Indoor Swimming Pool at Lagley Meadow. The dramatic change raises many questions and Dacorum gave us their views at the meeting. It does look as if the current plans give considerable extra benefit to the town, with the possibility of leisure facilities being incorporated within the pool.

Other topics discussed were conservation, traffic, litter, planning strategy and the bypass.

### The Future of your Library Service

This is the title of a leaflet, available at Berkhamsted Library, which outlines the Government's proposals for charges in the financing of library services. The County Council is very anxious to know library users' views by 1st June so that they can respond appropriately to the Government. As the proposals, if adopted, could result in radical changes to the kind of service we currently enjoy, make sure you make your views known.

Dates for your Diary

### Dates for your diary

Summer Wine	Wednesday 15th June 1988 at the National Film Archive. 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m,
October Ramble	Sunday 16th October 1988. 10.30 a.m. (Meeting point in next Newsletter)
November meeting	Watch this space
Christmas Social and Carols	Friday 16th December 1988.

Watch this space

### Representatives on other bodies

Citizens Advice Bureau )	Norman Williams
Crime Prevention Panel )	Norman Williams
Berkhamsted & Northchurch Community Council	Hilary Talbot-Ponsonby
Town Hall Trust	Mike Prentice
Library	Margaret Phillips
Arts Trust	Hazel Ward
Youth Club	Jackie Boulter
Road and Home Safety	Keith Jenkins
Ladacan	Peter Braybrooke
National Trust	Lovell Feil
Chiltern Society )	Keith Jenkins
Hertfordshire Rights of Way Association )	Keith Jenkins

BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION

<u>Committee Members 1987/8</u>		<u>Tel</u>
Chairman	Lovell Feil, 13 Upper Hall Park	5752
Vice-Chairman	Ken Davies, 57 Kings Road	6359
Treasurer	Peter Braybrooke, 16 Castle Hill Ave.	4955
Secretary	Miranda Cummins, 27 North Road	6075
Membership Secretary	Margaret Phillips, 133 Cross Oak Rd.	73713

Committee

Gerry Atkinson	47 Lombardy Drive	4372
Jackie Boulter	11 Berkley Court	5592
David Brunt	50 Castle Hill	73198
Giles Clark	The Bothy, Berkhamsted Place	74347
Valerie Clark	329 Bridgewater Road, Northchurch	2613
Eric Drake	18 Holliday Street	73122
Keith Jenkins	6 Castle Hill Close	2750
Joan Palmer	Handsworth, Cross Oak Road	3700
Hazel Ward	Old Orchard, Braziers End, CHESHAM	024 029 287
Norman Williams	23 Castle Hill Ave	5291

Sub-Committees

Activities

Eric Drake - Convenor	Miranda Cummins
Peter Braybrooke	Valerie Clark
Jackie Boulter	Margaret Phillips

Country Amenities

Keith Jenkins - Convenor	Gerry Atkinson
Miranda Cummins	Ken Davies
Eric Drake	

Town Amenities

David Brunt - Convenor	Margaret Phillips
Gerry Atkinson	Ben Tewson
Ken Davies	Hilary Talbot-Ponsonby
Keith Jenkins	Robert Walden
Norman Williams	

Publicity & Newsletter

Gerry Atkinson	Joan Palmer
Eric Drake	Margaret Phillips
Jackie Boulter	Hazel Ward