

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

REGISTERED WITH THE CIVIC TRUST

CHAIRMAN and Correspondence SECRETARY Mrs. Margaret Dales

Sands, Warnham, Horsham, RH12 3SO Telephone 01403 254 843

Dear Member,

Enclosed are the agenda and papers for the Autumn Meeting and Annual General Meeting .

If you wish to nominate a potential Committee member, please contact me, having ascertained the nominee's willingness to stand.

The subject chosen is regional development, and our speaker is a member of the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA). Although not directly concerned with planning and housing development, clearly any plans for regional economic growth must have an impact on the demand for housing. The formation of Regional Development agencies and regional assemblies (ours is SEERA), also raises the question of the future of local government, particularly at County level. We hope to learn more about the role of SEEDA, and hope that Jeff Alexander's talk will generate questions and discussion from members.

A few members have failed to respond to the Membership Secretary's reminders for payment of their subscriptions for 1999–2000. If you think that this might apply to you, perhaps you could see Robert Courtier on 12th October. Alternatively put £3 (£2 for single membership) through his letterbox at 11 Friday Street.

Subscriptions for 2000 – 2001 can be paid at the Autumn Meeting. As the Treasurer will explain at the AGM, it will be necessary to raise subscriptions to £4 per household (£3 single membership), the first rise in the Society's history.

We hope to meet you on 12th October.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Dales, Chairman.

**Annual General Meeting to be held at the Warnham Village Hall
on Thursday 12th October 2000 at 8pm**

AGENDA

1 Introductions and apologies for absence.

2 Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14th October 1999 and discussion of any matters arising. (minutes are enclosed).

3 Receipt and approval of the Accounts from 1st October 1999 to 30th September 2000. (Copies of the audited accounts will be available at the A.G.M.).

4 Election of a Committee to serve for one year. The Constitution specifies that the Committee shall consist of not less than eight and not more than twelve members.

5 Report by the Committee on the past year and matters arising from this report, a copy of which is enclosed.

6 Discussion on any other matters that members may wish to raise.

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 12TH OCTOBER 2000
REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE ON 1999–2000

Meetings

There have been six committee meetings and two open meetings.

Autumn Meeting and Annual General Meeting 14th October 1999.

The A.G.M. is recorded in the minutes accompanying this report.

The evening's speaker was Mr. Reg Melhuish, "long-time Warnham Resident, Society member, artist and architect". His illustrated talk on " Buildings – The Warnham Heritage" drew attention to the wealth of features of Warnham's buildings and other structures, such as simple picket fences, which contribute to the special character of the village.

Spring Meeting 9th March 2000

We had hoped to continue the theme of provision of local services with a talk by the West Sussex Fire Services. Unfortunately, on the day of the meeting we received the news that the service could not spare anybody to talk to us. We therefore extended the social part of the evening, and then the Chairman spoke on the work of the Society and the floor was open to comments and questions by members.

Affiliation to other organisations

The Society continues to be affiliated to the Civic Trust, the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign (GACC), the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) and has rejoined the Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies. Through our membership of these bodies our subscriptions are enabling effective representation on issues of importance to communities such as Warnham, to be made at the highest levels of decision making and government. We receive newsletters and circulate these among the committee, before putting them on file.

MAY 2000 Traffic Survey

A copy of the traffic survey has been sent to all members of the Society, and to a number of organisations and individuals. The survey, with records of individual car movements, gave quantitative support to the observed opinion that the volume of traffic had increased considerably since the survey carried out in 1985. Furthermore this increase was evident in the volume of through-traffic. Analysis of the entry and exit route for each vehicle indicated that drivers were choosing a route through the Warnham lanes and roads, rather than a main road route involving intersections on the A281, A24, and A264 routes. That they are doing so now indicates the

inadequacy of the road system for current traffic volumes. This emphasises the need for road improvements to be made, whether or not any proposed major housing developments are implemented. The WSCC Transport Planning Services plan to add the traffic survey to their database for future reference. Response to our Traffic Survey by the Civic Trust is the inclusion of the survey material on their website (www.civictrust.org.uk). The Trust also " would strongly support your view that adequate investment in the local transport system must accompany any new development, and not be carried out in a laggardly and piecemeal manner...."

Housing Development

The Society's response to the Horsham District Council's Consultation Document was circulated to members, with the copy of the Traffic Survey. While noting the Society's support of the rejection of certain sites such as Kingsfold, Andrews Farm and the Station region and sites in Warnham, the Society rejected the proposals, as development on greenfield sites formed the greater part of the Council's sites for consideration. We also thought that proposals for development on land to the west and south of Broadbridge Heath included a road network which beggared belief, while attempting to link a housing development with a railway station that is in the wrong place. We expressed concern that the "Crawley Option" had not been considered.

We sent our response to Horsham District Council on 1st August.

The "Crawley Option" Consultation Document is now available and the Committee is considering its response to this paper. At £4 per copy we cannot supply it to members, but the Document can be consulted in the HDC Planning Office in Park House, North Street. The Committee would welcome comments on the Council's Document, either directly, or as copies of letters which members have sent to the Council or to other bodies. The Horsham District Council's Draft Plan will appear in due course, and we intend to respond . As always we shall welcome comments from members on the plan, the essential features of which are likely to appear in the West Sussex County Times, with the actual documents being available for consultation in the HDC Planning Office.

Other Planning Matters

We have continued to check the list of planning applications made to Horsham District Council. We objected to the application for a telecommunication mast, with cabin and receiver dishes, sited close to Tillett's Lane. HDC rejected the application, but it has now gone to appeal. The result of the appeal is awaited.

A24

We are still waiting to see whether the A24 dualling will be allocated money by the County Council. The minor improvements in imposing speed limits and warning signs on the Great Daux to Capel section have been carried out. We are trying to obtain comparative figures on the accident rate before and after the work had been undertaken.

Traffic calming

The evidence of our Traffic survey, the increase in the number of vehicles entering Church Street from Warnham Court School, and the possible planning application for houses at Warnham Court Farm, give urgency to the need to plan and implement a scheme which will enable pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians and vehicular traffic to co-exist harmoniously and safely both within the built area of the village and in the surrounding lanes. We hope to be instrumental in bringing about some improvements.

An appeal to members

Please write letters, to our MP, to the Secretary of State for the Environment, to the County Council, to the District Council, and to the Press to let your views be known. We are a relatively small society, in a small village and our voice may not be heard. If you have views on, for example, development at Kingsfold (part of Warnham Parish) or on the responsibility of the County Council, and not a developer, to provide a safe and adequate road system, or if you have comments to support or reject the "Crawley Option", please make your opinion known to somebody who can do something about it.

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting - 12th October 2000

Treasurers Report

Notes on Balance Sheet

Membership numbers and subscriptions stay almost as last year - £700 less

Unfortunately we have spent considerably more than our income. Some of this is due to additional costs incurred in keeping up to date with the housing proposals and producing our report for members.

Also we have now taken out Public Liability Insurance to cover ourselves should somebody be unfortunate enough to have an accident at one of our meetings. This costs us £40.00.

There are some fixed annual costs in fees to The Civic Trust, Gatwick Area Consultative Committee, Council for the Protection of Rural England, The Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies and the Horsham Society. All that lot comes to £80.00

The hall charges have been increased and will cost us £60.00 for the forthcoming year.

If we allow a further £50 for administration costs (this covers postage, photo copying etc) our projected expenditure for this year is around £230.00.

This then leads me to the subject of subscriptions. Based on the membership numbers for last year and a subscription income of £145.00, the Committee agreed to increase the fee to £400 and £300 as intimated in the invitation to this meeting. However again based on the membership numbers of last year this will bring the subscription income up to £198.00 - still short of our projected expenditure. So - in order to avoid a further increase next year to cover our costs perhaps we can increase our membership ?

A. George Brand

Hon. Treasurer

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

ACCOUNTS 1st OCTOBER 1999 TO 30th SEPTEMBER 2000

Balance brought forward
from Accounts at 30th September 1999

Cash £ 7.99 .
At Bank £ 470.20 .

£478.19

Income

Subscriptions:-
Cheques £ 37.00 .
Cash £ 108.00 .
Donations £ 16.00 .
Surplus from refreshments £ 3.45 .
Bank Interest (Gross) £ 1.63 .

Other
Public Liability Ins.(Refund) £ 60.00 .

TOTAL £226.08 .

Expenditure

Hire of village Hall (AGM) £ 25.00 .
Hire of Hall (Spring Mtg) £ 25.00 .
Public Liability (Covering Premium) £ 100.00 .
Refreshments(Spring Meeting) £ 8.48 .
Administrative Costs £ 55.99 .
Printing & Distr of Report £ 55.14 .
Purchase of Crawley Option £ 4.00 .
Subs.to other organisations:-
Civic Trust £ 28.50 .
G.A.C.C £ 10.00 .
Council for the Protection
Of Rural England £ 17.50 .
Fed.of Sussex Amenity Socs. £ 20.00 .
Horsham Society £ 5.00 .

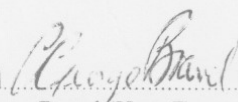
TOTAL £354.61

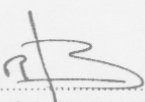
Excess of
Expenditure over Income £128.53

FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD

Cash £ 2.32
At Bank £ 347.34

TOTAL £349.66

Signed  Date 1/10/00
A. George Brand (Hon. Treasurer)

Signed  Date 1/10/00
R.J. Boud A.C.I.B. (Hon. Auditor)

THE WARNHAM SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 12TH OCTOBER 2000

1 Apologies for Absence were received from Chris and George Elliott and Martin Rogers

2 Approval of Minutes of the AGM of 14th October 1999. Acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by Janet Lee and seconded by Shelagh Dutton. Matters Arising were discussed under item 5 apart for one Item, where Elizabeth Bridges appealed for material for the Millennium Box.

3 Receipt and Approval of Accounts for the year 1/10/99 – 30/19/2000 Copies of the accounts were distributed, with the Treasurer's Report and notes on the balance sheet. The funds carried forward were £349.66 (£478.19 in the year ending 30/09/99). Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Jean Burnham, seconded by Philip Lee and carried unanimously. The Chairman expressed the Society's sincere thanks to Mr R Boud for auditing the accounts.

4 Election of the Committee for 2000–2001 All members of the current Committee were willing to stand for re-election. There were no further nominations. It was proposed by Philip Lee and seconded by Janet Lee, that the committee should all be re-elected. These proposals were accepted unanimously. Thus the members of the Committee for the year 2000–2001 are: Mr A G Brand, Mrs J Burnham, Mr R Courtier, Mrs M Dales, Mrs S Dutton, Mr G. Elliott, Mr R Newman, Mr R. Purcell, Mr M Rogers, Miss V Ronaasen, and Mrs O Thornton.

5 Report by the Committee on the year 1999–2000 This had been distributed to all members of the Society in the last week of September, and was taken as read.

The following Matters Arising were considered:

a) Traffic Survey May 2000 The extent of its distribution was noted. Among the responses had been encouragement from the Civic Trust who had included information on its website.

b) Housing It was reported that the Society had commented on the HDC consultation paper on the "Crawley Option", the gist of this response consisting of encouragement to pursue the policy of planning housing development close to jobs, Crawley/Gatwick being the major focus of employment in NW Sussex.

c) Telecommunication mast. The Vodafone planning application to build a mast at Sands Farm was upheld on appeal, after permission had been refused by HDC.

d)A24 Though some improvements had been made on the A24 Great Daux to Capel section, there was no news of planned major work.

e) Traffic Calming The Committee planned to continue investigation into the measures which might be taken to improve the situation both within the village and the access lanes.

6 Members Questions and Discussion

Comments and discussion centred on roads. The possibility of imposing a 40mph speed limit on the Broadbridge Heath Road was raised; the problem of enforcement was identified; The erosion of verges and the widening of lanes as they were patched with tarmac was noted, with the observation that these factors reduced road safety as vehicles were driven at greater speed along the widened roads, pedestrians particularly were at risk. The present condition of Bailing Hill was commented upon; lorries associated with the Warnham Court School development were eroding the banks, and eroding verges in Robin Hood Lane.

The Chairman asked for suggestions for topics and speakers for future meetings. The AGM, which was held after the lecture, started at 9.10 and finished at 10.00pm