

# Developing By-Pass Land A Serious Problem

*-Says Mayor Of Christchurch*

C.T. may 24, 1957

**IN the coming year Christchurch Council will for the first time be building three storey flats, making best possible use of remaining land on the Somerford Estate at reasonable cost, announced Coun. K. L. Smith, when he was appointed Mayor of the town for the third successive year, on Tuesday.**

The Mayor-making ceremony, which has been carried out for over 500 years, was attended by representatives of various organisations and children from all the schools in the borough. The proceedings were opened with prayers by the Mayor's Chaplain, the Rev. W. R. Stokes. Coun. Smith's election was proposed by Ald. T. S. Lander and seconded by Coun. Mrs. E. M. Wallis Power.

A bouquet was presented to the Mayoress by nine-year-old Jennifer Richardson.

**Referring to housing, the Mayor said the Council were pressing on steadily with their programme and last year saw the opening of their first block of dwellings at Strete Mount specifically built for old people.**

Another long awaited development—the Christchurch by-pass— had actually been commenced and they would soon see the shape of the future Christchurch when properties in Spring Gardens, Pound Lane and Bargates were demolished.

## IMPROVEMENTS.

In addition to the by-pass, plans were afoot for the widening of Barrack Road and improvement of the railway bridge.

"Although these improvements will perhaps speed the traffic on its way to Bournemouth, the Council are now very concerned that visitors who approach Christchurch by way of the by-pass shall see something attractive enough to warrant their making a halt in this town," continued the Mayor.

**"How best to develop the land adjoining the by-pass is a serious problem which is now receiving careful consideration by the Town Centre Development Committee."**

Much discussion centred round the sketch plan which had been prepared by the County Planning Officer, and while much of that plan must necessarily be a very long term project, it was likely that those parts which were nearest to the by-pass may be brought into operation at a comparatively early date.

## DISCUSSION.

There was still time for discussion and possibly modification of the original sketches so that they could settle the best plan for all concerned.

**The past year had seen further inroads by the sea on those parts of their coast line which were as yet unprotected by sea defence works, said Coun. Smith.**

The Council had directed that some temporary defences be constructed at Mundeford Sandbank, and hoped that these works would not only preserve the sandbank, but would retain the character of the beach for some time to come.

**The Council had done what they could in the interests of the travelling public by seeking agreement with the bus company for improved services, and by opposing what seemed to them an unfair method of increasing bus fares.**

## REGRETTABLE.

The Government's suggested pattern of re-organisation of Local Government structure, functions and finance was now becoming clear, and it was regrettable that the Government had been swayed towards the view of the County Councils' Association that certain functions should be compulsorily delegated to district Councils instead of being directly conferred upon them.

A civic luncheon followed at the King's Arms Hotel, at which a toast to the Mayor and Mayoress was proposed by Coun. D. Baker.