

The “Forgotten People” of Mudeford Form Resident’s Association

To Ask Council About Future Development Policy

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The “forgotten people” of Mudeford made themselves heard at the inaugural meeting of the Mudeford and Stanpit Residents’ Association on Friday.

This description was given by one of the residents attending the packed meeting at Mudeford Primary School. Many who were unable to get into the schoolroom listened from outside through open windows. “As far as the Borough is concerned we are forgotten people,” he said. “Most people regard Mudeford as just a road to reach the sea. You have only to see the floral display in Christchurch recreation ground, and then compare it with Mudeford Rec., where there is not one flower planted,” he pointed out.

OBJECTS

The meeting was unanimous in wanting to form an association. The objects are to preserve the amenities of the area and to safeguard the interests of the residents. To promote close and friendly cooperation between members by means of meetings for discussion, and social activities. To establish and maintain contact with similar associations within the borough and as far as possible, work in conjunction with them in all matters of common interest. Main topic of discussion was the proposed flats development in the area. It was decided to write and ask the Council what its policy was regarding future applications for the development of Mudeford. Mr. R. Owen, chairman, said many developments had taken place which should not have done. He pointed out that with an association they could keep in touch with the planning authority. They were not opposed to all development so long as old buildings were replaced by ones of the same height.

NOT UNREASONABLE

“We don’t want to be unreasonable, but the Council can carry a lot of weight with the area planning committee regarding future development” he added.

Mr. Owen said a petition had been sent to the Town Clerk, Mr. J. Macfadyen, asking for deferment of certain projects. A reply had been received that consideration of plans for flats development had been deferred. The letter also stated that outline permission for the use of land at the Mudeford Road junction with Falcon Drive for the erection of one two-storey block of four flats was granted by the development sub-committee on April 6. A plan for an additional storey of eight flats at “Green Loaming” was considered by the sub-committee and it was decided to refuse permission. Reason being that the proposal constituted over development.

One resident asked how the planners came to their decisions on various development and what policy they worked to.

Coun. A. E. Toombs, one of several councillors present, said when any plan came before them the first thing considered was would it be detrimental to the neighbourhood as a whole.

NOT MORE THAN 2-STOREY

One should not confuse purchasers of plots with Town Planning. It was not the duty of the planning authority to uphold any agreement made by the vendor and purchaser. He pointed out that no plans for two-storey blocks of flats had been approved, in the ward at the moment. In any case the final word rested with the Minister all the time.

He added that plans could always be inspected at the Town Hall, and all development followed the usual planning procedure.

In answer to a resident about the Green Belt, Coun. A. C. Tarnow said as far as he knew it went alongside the harbour side and included the foreshore up to the buildings.

As regards the flats he did not see what they could do, "We must do all we can to protect amenities, but we have got to face up to realities."

Coun. Tarnow said that the Highcliffe Citizens' Association had fought six or seven planning appeals and had won them all.

SMALL DEVELOPMENT

He added that development in Mundeford was very small. Main development in Hampshire was at Highcliffe, New Milton and Fareham.

One member of the audience said no-one had commented on the possibility of loss of life if flats were allowed to go too high. "I live on the edge of Christchurch airfield runway and the jet aircraft only just clear bungalow roof tops. But they may not clear big blocks of flats resulting in great loss of life," he added.

Other councillors who spoke on development problems were Coun. Miss M. Vernon, Coun. Mrs. I. A. Stevenson, Coun. B. E. Mulhall and Coun. E. Spreadbury, who was the inaugural chairman.

Several other matters were raised which the newly-formed association is to look into.

One was alleged noise at the Mundeford coffee bar, caused by youths with their motor-cycles. Coun. Miss Vernon said the police had visited the coffee bar, but at no time was there any signs that the law was being broken.

One resident said that if the police set up a speed trap for the youths in Bure Lane they could reduce the borough rate by 6d. within three weeks. Another person asked if a business premises were the cause of disturbance and spoilt amenities of the area wasn't there anything the Council could do about it.

PIGGERIES AT PUREWELL

The piggeries at the corner of Purewell also came "under fire." Coun. Miss Vernon said complaints had been received about this from time to time. The sanitary inspector had visited the place and found it kept satisfactorily. About the alleged smell, Miss Vernon said in law a smell did not constitute a public nuisance. Other complaints were "disgraceful" toilets at Mundeford recreation ground, alleged noise and smell at a light industrial works and weeds on Council land.

It was decided to fix a nominal entrance fee of 2s. 6d. until the annual general meeting in October, Subscriptions would then be 5s. a year.

Membership of the association would be confined to residents in Mundeford and Stanpit and the adjoining area east to Mundeford Lane.

STEERING COMMITTEE

A steering committee elected were: Chairman, R. Owen; secretary, E. N. Collington; treasurer, M. Parker; Mr. Tyler, Mr. Pitman, Mr. Bridges, Mr. Mitford, Mrs. Macevoy, Mr. Stevens, Capt. Weston.