

Approval Secured For Nine New Shelters

WORK TO BEGIN WHEN TENDERS ACCEPTED

MR. DENNIS W. MORGAN NEW COUNCILLOR FOR No. 3 WARD

C.T. October 19, 1940

ALDERMAN J. W. Tucker, Chairman of the Emergency Committee, informed the Council on Thursday evening that approval had been secured that day by telephone, subsequently to be confirmed by letter, for the building of nine Surface Shelters on specified sites throughout the Borough. Each shelter will accommodate 50 persons, and as tenders have already been invited, the work will be put in hand without delay as soon as possible after the 23rd October, which is the latest date for the receipt of tenders.

When the nine new shelters are built, accommodation will have been provided for 1,395 persons in the borough.

An additional proposal was carried that further consideration should be given to the question of securing authority for more underground shelters. This authority is now to be sought.

The new brick surface shelters will be situated at: —

1. Jumpers Corner.
2. Allotment bus station, Fairmile Road.
3. Plot adjoining No. 167, Barrack Road.
4. Plot adjoining 25, Fairmile Road.
5. The Quay.
6. Plot adjoining Campbell's Garage, Purewell.
7. Mudeford Lane, Stanpit Junction.
8. Site adjoining the London Central Meat Company's premises, Lymington Road, Highcliffe.
9. Corner of Heath Road and Ringwood Road, Walkford.

Lack of Suitable Sites.

In the course of his report to the Council, Alderman Tucker said the Emergency Committee had been very concerned with the problem of shelter accommodation; but the difficulty had been to find suitable sites. On the 2nd September, 1940, they had addressed an application for the reconsideration of a site at Purewell Hill. In a reply, dated 28th September, it was indicated that surface shelters to accommodate 50, or a maximum of 100 persons, would be approved. Immediately on receipt of this information, instructions were given to the Borough Engineer to prepare plans and specifications for the approval of the Regional Authorities.

Application had been sent up on the 12th October and he had been notified, earlier in the day that approval had been granted. "Immediately the tenders have been dealt with," said Alderman Tucker, "the matter will be put in hand."

Highcliffe Will Have Three Shelters.

It was also reported that work was progressing favourably on the Highcliffe Recreation Ground shelter and completion was to be expected in a week or ten days' time. Even in its present state, the shelter was usable.

During discussion, Councillor Laphorne said that whilst he was glad to hear about the surface shelters, he thought they were only the second best and he urged that efforts should be persued to get more underground ones. He thought it ought to have been possible to find some alternative underground site in Highcliffe.

Alderman Tucker replied that the matter had definitely been explored and that the Recreation Ground was the only possible position. The very fullest investigations had been made.

Water At Two Feet.

The Borough Engineer, Mr. E. B. Wise, explained how a site, originally approved, at the corner of Waterford and Stuart Roads, was eventually unobtainable. The High Street was obviously the best place for a site; but it was there that sub-soil water was most difficult. Next to the London Central Meat Co.'s premises water was met 2ft. below the surface; even in the Recreation Ground it had only been possible to sink the shelter trench 4ft., which was the minimum depth allowable by the authorities.

In reply to a question by Councillor Northover, Mr. Wise said that Gordon Road was unsuitable because of springs.

A Change of Official Policy.

Councillor McArdle pointed out that the public's demand was really for underground protection; but his Worship the Mayor, Councillor T. Markham, said that in a recent Home Office letter it was stated that it was more usual now to construct surface shelters than trench shelters. This, said the Mayor, was the opinion formed by the Government after a study of recent air raid developments.

Councillor Laphorne wondered whether this coincided with reports of the statement in the House of Commons made yesterday by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Home Security, when she indicated that, whilst surface shelters would be approved, underground ones were to be preferred.

Subterranean Caverns.

A suggestion that tunnels should be bored in St. Catherine's Hill was made by Councillor Newman, where, he said, "great caverns could be made, sufficient to accommodate all the people in Christchurch.

In reply, Alderman Tucker said that shelters were primarily for the use of people caught out in the street. He considered we should take a level-headed view of the primary needs first and deal later with demands for protection of any other kind. It was after Councillor Laphorne had mentioned that he considered, owing to the peculiar geographical situation of Christchurch, we could probably secure authority to provide shelters to accommodate more than 8 per cent, of the population, that the resolution was passed agreeing to seek such authority.

Councillor Clarke Resigns.

The resignation of Councillor F. Clarke from the Council was placed before the meeting in the form of a letter from the Councillor, explaining that, on doctor's orders, he was no longer able to attend meetings at night. He wrote kindly of the memories of the work he had been able to do with his colleagues.

His Worship the Mayor said that Mr. Clarke was first elected to the Council on the 16th April, 1912. In 1924 he was made an Alderman, and in 1930 was re-elected Alderman, which position he retained until 1932, when he was elected a Councillor on the extension of the borough. Altogether, except for one short break, he had served the borough for 28 years.

Alderman Barnes paid testimony to Councillor Clarke's honesty of purpose. During his own years as Mayor, he had found Councillor Clarke extraordinarily generous, and he deplored his resignation. Alderman Galton associated himself with these remarks. It was resolved that the resignation should be accepted with regret and that a letter of high appreciation be sent.

Two Nominations for Vacancy.

There were two nominations for the vacancy, which was filled by the Council under their special emergency powers.

In proposing Miss Mildred Blofeld, of the Old Vicarage, Mundeford, Councillor Lane referred to the dignity brought to the Council Chamber by Alderman Miss M.B. Robinson in the past. Miss Blofeld, he said, was a lady of good judgment and a good speaker, and he was quite sure she would bring with her that dignity which was so becoming in public affairs. Furthermore, better representation would be given to the large proportion of women in the electorate.

The nomination was seconded by Councillor Laphorne.

Mr. Morgan Elected.

The other proposition, made by Councillor Stevens, was that the seat should be allotted to Mr. Dennis W. Morgan, of the Anchorage, Friars Cliff. Mr. Morgan, he said, had lived in the ward for several years; he was a retired business man with time to devote to the borough's affairs, and had been president of a section of the Birmingham Chamber of Trade.

Seconding, Alderman Barnes said he knew him to be level-headed, active and straightforward. Alderman Tucker also testified as to his integrity.

The election of Mr. D. W. Morgan was carried.

Sanitary Inspector Resigns.

Another resignation before the Council was that of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Crowther. Alderman Tucker said it was a matter for great regret that Mr. Crowther's health would not permit him to carry on his work.

"We all appreciate what he has done for the local authority and he has our good wishes," he added.

It is understood that Mr Crowther's resignation will be accepted as from one month after the appointment of a successor.