

*outline planning permission*

THE WIVENHOE SOCIETY

Chairman:  
Dr. E.G. PALMER  
  
Treasurer:  
Mr. N.I. CARTER

Secretary:  
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NEWSLETTER: Spring, 1969

As the time comes again for the Annual General Meeting it seems a good opportunity to take stock of what the Society has been doing and to look at its future.

Wivenhoe has continued to expand over the last year. The Wivenhoe Wood site is nearing completion and the Park Road site is well under construction. The Society has been active over both these developments in an attempt to save as many trees as possible and obtain the best development possible. It is difficult to judge the results but I think some progress has been made. There are two further housing developments due in the near future, i.e. the Vine Farm and Broomfield extensions, but no details have yet been published. The situation of Wivenhoe Wood is serious as the continual destruction of parts of it for the purpose of laying drains etc. will result, in the end, in there being little left to preserve. The Council are partly responsible for this and are certainly not taking a strong enough line in stopping this destruction and making sure that there is proper replanting of trees.

The increase of industrialisation consists mainly of the future plans of Glikstens (see below). The possibility of their making efforts to develop over the rest of the marsh if they can close the road over it seems to have become a probability. This would leave the way open to considerable satellite industrialisation with all the increased traffic in the High Street which that would cause.

The Society is also trying to keep open the road across the marshes owned by Glikstens, as we feel that any erosion of amenities and rights without very good reason should be resisted. This same argument is the reason for objecting to the proposed building of houses on the site of the tennis courts.

At times we have to take physical action, as with the footpath on the river wall towards Colchester. This is unfortunately breaking down again but arrangements with Colchester Civic Society have been made to get an engineering opinion on what should and can be done next.

The Society has no authority of its own and can only act through making sure that the appropriate authorities (i.e. the County Council Planning Department) and the local public are well aware of what is going on. The Annual General Meeting is the time for suggestions on the future and questions on our past activities. This is also the time for electing a new committee and officers.

E. G. PALMER, Chairman

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## Conservation Area

Those of you who attended the last A.G.M. will remember that the County Planning Authorities were proposing to conduct a survey of Wivenhoe during 1968, with the object of setting up a Conservation Area in the town. This was done, and the County's proposals are at present being considered by the Urban District Council.

At the same time Mrs. Margery Dean, acting on behalf of the Wivenhoe Society, herself prepared a detailed report on all the features of architectural and historical interest in East Street, Anchor Hill, the Quay and the High Street, as well as several Victorian buildings in Park Road and Alma Street, and the White House. This report is being sent, at his request, to the Assistant to the County Planner.

We hope to have a map of the Conservation Area on display at the Annual General Meeting, and Mrs. Dean will be available to answer any questions on it after the meeting.

## The Rowhedge Ferry Road

As this Newsletter goes to press J. Gliksten & Son Ltd. have applied to the Minister of Transport for permission to close the Rowhedge Ferry Road, and it is the intention of the Wivenhoe Society to resist this closure with all its vigour.

Glikstens, probably the largest hardwood importers in the country, finding that they were overflowing their London premises, bought the Wivenhoe Shipyard site and the adjacent marshes towards Colchester in 1966. The total area involved was 35 acres and the application by Glikstens for permission to store timber in the open on the entire 35 acres was supported by the Wivenhoe Urban District Council at the end of 1966. Subsequently, at the request of the Wivenhoe Society, this matter was debated by the appropriate Committee of the Essex County Council who forwarded the details to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The Ministry agreed with the County Council that "permission should be given for the open storage of timber on about 10 acres of land adjoining Wivenhoe Shipyard but that permission should be refused for the remaining 25 acres of land included in the application."

Whilst appreciating the value of this land for future development by Glikstens, one cannot disregard its value now and, more obviously, in time to come, to the residents of Wivenhoe.

The open space of the Saltings with the unrestricted view across to Rowhedge is a valuable amenity both visually and, because the Rowhedge Ferry Road allows access to the water and the ferry, as a practical asset also.

With the inevitable infilling of houses, shops and offices in Wivenhoe, as well as light industrial premises which are bound to be attracted to the town in the next few years, amenities such as the King George V playing fields and the Saltings are the town's insurance against becoming just another overcrowded, claustrophobic, characterless suburb.

The Rowhedge Ferry Road has been a public thoroughfare for generations. It has proved itself indispensable in the past and will certainly do so again. The right of way for vehicular traffic exists now and it is therefore not up to Wivenhoe residents and ratepayers to prove its need. J. Gliksten & Son Ltd. have to prove that it should be closed.

The reason advanced for its closure has been the fire risk owing to the proximity of an open timber storage area to a public vehicular thoroughfare. Yet the thoroughfare existed long before the arrival of the timber created any hazard.

Even if the Rowhedge Ferry Road were to be closed and a public footpath substituted for the thoroughfare for vehicles which now exists, a determined arsonist would have no more difficulty in scaling alternative fences than those already separating the timber from the road. Furthermore, it is difficult to understand the argument that Glikstens' timber should be more attractive to a fire-raiser than any of the open storage yards at the Hythe.

Far from creating a fire hazard, the Rowhedge Ferry Road surely constitutes a considerable safety factor. In the first place, assuming that, eventually, Glikstens will gain permission from Essex County Council to extend the storage of timber to the north-west (Colchester) side of the Rowhedge Ferry Road, then the road will act as a natural fire break. Secondly, in the event of an outbreak of fire, it would afford a first-class access for fire-fighting appliances.

Is not the real reason for wishing to obtain closure of the Rowhedge Ferry Road the acquisition at no extra cost of a few additional acres of land whose benefit and use are the undeniable birthright of all Wivenhoe residents present and future?

J. Gliksten & Son Ltd. have long enjoyed a reputation for friendly relationships and co-operation with the communities in which they establish their commercial premises. We feel that they have an opportunity again to demonstrate their goodwill in this instance.

Since the site was first acquired by Glikstens, the Wivenhoe Society has been active in trying to foresee and forestall any adverse effects which their operations may have on the community, and have been in frequent correspondence with the County Council and the Urban District Council about the fate of the Saltings, the possible traffic problems created by the timber lorries and the proposed closure of Rowhedge Ferry Road. We have now written to the Minister of Transport to give him our views on the latter subject.

#### Miscellaneous

The Committee were very sorry to lose the services of Mr. Tatam who left Wivenhoe last December.

Representatives from the Committee attended the Civic Service in December and the Annual Dinner of the Colchester Civic Society in January.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE PUBLIC HALL AT 8 p.m. ON TUESDAY, 18 MARCH, AND IT IS HOPED THAT THE ATTENDANCE WILL BE AS GOOD AS LAST YEAR'S. APART FROM ROUTINE BUSINESS, ELECTION OF OFFICERS, QUESTIONS AND GENERAL AIRING OF VIEWS, THERE WILL BE AN ILLUSTRATED TALK BY Mr. JOHN DONNELLY ENTITLED "VOYAGE OF THE CAP PILAR".

THE TREASURER WILL BE AVAILABLE TO TAKE SUBSCRIPTIONS AND ADMIT NEW MEMBERS.

It would be appreciated if you would pass on your copy of this Newsletter to anyone outside the Society who might be interested. Extra copies can be obtained from the Secretary or Committee members, whose names are listed below.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Dr. E.G. Palmer	"Ten Acres", The Avenue	WIV.	209
Treasurer	Mr. N.I. Carter	"Willow Place", School Lane, Lawford, Manningtree	MAN.	2664
Secretary	Mrs. D. Gibson	16 Valley Road	WIV.	8289
Committee	Mr. F.A. Brown	"Aluric", Queens Road	"	751
	Mrs. D. Clarke	"Gurney Vale", Belle Vue Road	"	547
	Mrs. M. Dean	"The Old Rectory"	"	523
	Mr. J. Donnelly	15 East Stockwell Street, Colchester	COL.	78066
	Mr. C. Hughes	"Riverview", Ballast Quay	WIV.	459
	Mr. C. Josephs	"Oak Lawn", Belle Vue Road,	"	514
	Mr. D. Mason	Rutland Cottages, Park Road	"	8274
Mr. H. Naylor	Wrawby House, Park Road	"	430	
Mr. J. Worsp	Quayside Cottage, The Quay	"	235	

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