

THE BURY ST. EDMUNDS SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1 OCTOBER 1971

Chairman
DAVID DYMOND M.A.
Grundle House,
Stanton.

Hon. Secretary
Mrs. S. Hall
45 Westgarth Gardens
Bury St. Edmunds (62873)

NEWS LETTER NO. 4
April 1973

1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will be held at Everard's Hotel, Bury St. Edmunds on Tuesday
22 May at 7.30 p.m. (Doors open at 7.00 p.m.)

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
3. Chairman's Report
4. Financial Report
5. Election of Officers
6. Appointment of Auditor
7. Election of Executive Committee
8. Any other business
9. General Discussion

Local Authorities

The Chair will be taken by our President, the Mayor of Bury St. Edmunds.

IMPORTANT: NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MUST REACH THE HON. SECRETARY BY 14 MAY.

2. SUB-COMMITTEES

These have been set up to deal with

1. Planning Applications
2. Social events
3. Action on matters of immediate concern

The Secretary will be pleased to hear from members willing to serve
on any of these Sub-Committees.

3. MORETON HALL DEVELOPMENT

Members will be glad to know that our concern, and determination to
oppose parts of this development, even at a late hour, bore fruit. The Society's
protests that buildings should not be placed on the hillside visible from the
town, were supported in letters to the Times from many eminent people.

The BBC were sufficiently interested to ask for our views, putting out
a programme on "Look East". Mr. J. Bird and Mr. H. Thomas being interviewed
on our behalf. Finally a munificent gift of £100 from a well-wisher enabled
your Committee to arrange for publicity and for a public meeting.

As a result the Minister of the Environment decided that further
consideration must be given to the scheme. He invited your Society to send
delegates to London, together with those from the Suffolk Preservation Society.
This official recognition is most gratifying and leads us to hope that our
views will always be considered in the future.

The remainder of this gift will pay for our contribution to the cost of
a Report by Colvin and Moggeridge, commissioned jointly by the S.P.S. and
ourselves. This report, copies of which have been sent to all Councillors,
reinforced our views on the imperative need to preserve the unique view of this
lovely hillside which brings the country into the heart of the town. We,
together with the S.P.S. and other interested people, will have another chance
to put our views forward when Lord Sanford visits the town on behalf of the

Ministry of the Environment when he will consider the compromise plan submitted by the Borough Council and discussed at the public meeting on 29 March. Members and supporters of this Society were present and put forward many sensible suggestions.

4. THE CHURCHYARD

We continue to be vigilant and are glad that the Diocesan Board oppose the latest proposals from the Borough Council. The future of the facade of the Abbey seems to be in question again; we will of course watch this too. We must see that the excellent decision to retain all but one of the houses in the West Front is not sacrificed for the sake of a debatable sum of money. Copies of the Report prepared by our special study group on the Churchyard can be borrowed from the Hon. Secretary. It is already in the hands of the Diocesan Authorities and the Borough Council.

5. THE UNITARIAN CHAPEL

We raised no objections to a plan for converting the building into a small concert hall but we understand that officials of the Historical Monuments Commission are unhappy about some features of the plan, in particular the removal of original seating, the blocking of some windows and alterations to the roof structure.

6. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN WHITING STREET AND HATTER STREET

The original application for houses and an underground car park was rejected by the Borough Planning Committee as it entailed making a large break in the line of buildings in Whiting Street. Your Committee is always glad to see good residential development in the town centre, so they hope that a solution to the problem can be found. They do, of course, agree that the first plan was unacceptable but hope that the needs of the Conservation Area would enable access to be possible without too rigid an adherence to road engineer's dogma (splays, pavements etc.)

7. PLAYING FIELDS

The Committee is very anxious that the decision of the Authorities not to buy the East Anglian Playing Fields should be reconsidered. They have sent a letter to the County Planning Officer urging second thoughts about this. The town is growing and it certainly seems short sighted to abandon these mature playing fields. They should not be destroyed when the need for recreational facilities both for the schools and the public is bound to increase. They would also help to insulate this part of the town from the By-pass.

8. WHITING STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CAR PARK

There has been a proposal to make a car park in the garden adjoining the Church. The Society opposes this, as it involves the partial demolition of an attractive flint wall and the removal of some trees which are a feature of the Street.

9. GENERAL DEVELOPMENT

All plans submitted to both the Borough and the County Councils are considered by your Committee. They welcome observations from interested members and hope that their attention will be drawn to any matters of concern.

10. The Society is sponsoring a weekend effort to clear part of the River Linnett of rubbish. This will be on Sunday 8 April. We hope to be joined by the newly formed Habitat and Wildlife Keepers Group.

Members wishing to take part please meet between the bottom of Westgarth Gardens and the Spread Eagle at 11.30 a.m.

11. MEMBERS MEETING

The Committee was delighted to see so many people at the meeting at the Athenaeum on 15 February. Further gatherings on these lines will be planned. Mr. Andy Rutter gave an excellent talk on members' participation in the Harwich Society. As a result the Committee hopes that members will have suggestions to bring forward at the Annual Meeting.