



The Lymington Voice

The Newsletter of the Lymington Society

Autumn 2005

Lymington Society Saves Unique Local Building

Master's House May Be Register Office

As widely reported in the local press, the Lymington Society has successfully applied to English Heritage for listing of the Master's House in the grounds of the infirmary at East Hill in Lymington.

Originally planned for demolition to make way for afford-

"One possible use that has been discussed it is that of a new Register Office"

able homes as part of the deal that saw Barretts build flats on the Hillcroft site opposite, the most recent plans from the PCT included the likely demolition of the building to create a car park or access road.

Following the submission by the Society of a detailed dos-



The Master's House on East Hill Saved From Demolition

sier on the building to English Heritage on the 3rd of June this year, a rapid visit to the building took place on the 14th of June and the building was officially listed as Grade II on the 20th of July. It is hoped that a suitable use can be found for this important building.

One possible use that has been discussed it is that of a new Register Office for the New Forest. This is based at Ringwood. It is known that

the current arrangements at Ringwood are not totally satisfactory.

Following initial inquiries to the Society on behalf of the Register Office, it is understood that inquiries are being made by the authorities to ascertain if the building could be modified to become the new Register Office.

We would very much support this use which would be in many ways an ideal use for this historic building.



Chairman Clive Sutton

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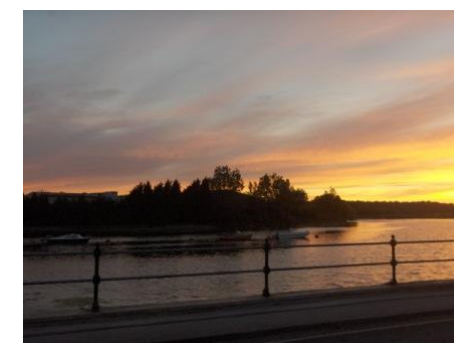
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Chairman's Report Continued

reduce the density of the Site and still maintain a similar profit. The amended plan produced by the Developers to try to satisfy this request creates a little more green space on the river edge and takes away a couple of the blocks of buildings but unfortunately includes a surface car park, where previously car parking was underground. The hotel is to be replaced by an expensive care facility for the elderly.

The Society does not endorse either plan because the original plan was agreed without proper consultation and the overall density is too great and is hardly reduced by the amended plan.



Sunset over the Webb's Site

The Committee believe that in some ways the Town would benefit as much from the £1.5 million previously allocated, being used for Community uses related to the impact of the Development, which would benefit the Town itself as well as the Development. This is a dialogue which the Society would like to start and hear a reaction to from its members. We hope to have a discussion on this at a future meeting and promote our members' views strongly.

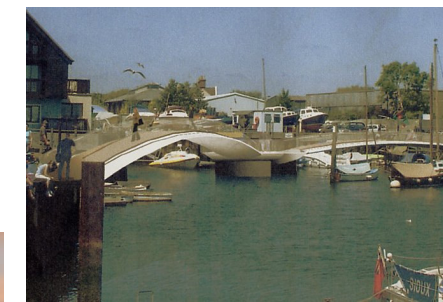
There are many unknown quantities over the Webb's Site development but one issue which seems to be clear is the need for a pedestrian crossing which is a condition of the original planning permission. This was originally to be at the railway station but it looks as if the proposed bridge, for which Network Rail require ramps, does not have enough land available to accommodate ramps and cannot be built there.

Proposed bridge to link site to Quay

This now emphasises a proposed access which the Society has promoted since the Development began, namely a pedestrian access across the harbour and

underneath the railway bridge.

The Society has architectural sketch plans which make it clear that an exciting bridge allowing boat access to the boat yard would be a distinct possibility within the £1 million budget which the Developers have to set aside for it. Both



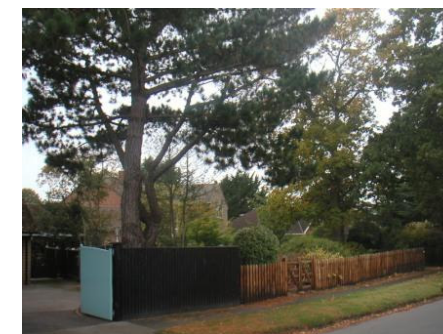
Visual of the proposed new bridge

the Developers and the Council Officers are happy for the Society to explore this option. I hope you will agree that bridges these days can be attractive as it evidenced by the new bridges across the Thames in London. I would hope that if this is realised, the bridge itself would be an attraction as well as an easy means of access between the Site and the Town.

Ongoing Development pressure

The Society's response to large developments continues. Following the success in the refusal of the Avenue Road application, the Society are now contesting the Waterford Lane application where, in anticipation of being granted the application, the Developer has barked several trees which means that they cannot survive even if a Tree Protection Order was imposed on them.

There is also the North Greenland's pro-



Trees at Waterford Lane Site

posal which would change the character of that area, and I hope you will agree

with the sentiments of my letter to the Lymington Times that no one in Lymington is free from the possibility of a neighbouring development and should join the Lymington Society to add weight to its resistance to such developments.

The Old School in Cannon Street

New issues that the Society want to discuss with the Planners include the prospect of dense development on the Old School site in Cannon Street. It seems to

"we should be doing more for our members by way of meetings. We will be having another meeting before Christmas. We would welcome suggestions from members as to what they would like in the way of social events and talks."

the Committee that this is an ideal chance for a discussion with interested parties as to the way in which that part of the Town should be developed in a coordinated way with the possibility of improving car parking, which is really needed by the traders to maintain and improve business in the High Street.

Doing More for members

The Committee are conscious of the fact that, whilst they are continually making representations which we believe are having an effect on the Council, we should be doing more for our members by way of meetings. We will be having another meeting before Christmas. We would welcome suggestions from members as to what they would like in the way of social events and talks. (See news of Appointment of Social Secretary Page 3 Editor)

Proposed Town Forum

Finally, we have tried to engage with the Town Council to discuss matters of mutual interest in a Forum involving the Chamber of Commerce and other interested parties but so far without much success, however, we have good links with the NFDC Planning Department who I believe accept that our responses to planning issues are balanced and objective.

Clive Sutton

Chairman

New Style Newsletter Launched

The Lymington Society is proud to launch itself into the world of desktop publishing with the first issue of a revamped newsletter.

This is intended to be the first of many improvements in communications with

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and services provided for our members. The committee would like to express enormous gratitude to Peter Chitty who

for many years has single-handedly produced the previous editions of the newsletter, as well as looking after the finances of the Society in his role as Treasurer.

The Committee is determined that the newsletter will be produced four times a year. This will fill the gap that currently exists between the extremely busy committee and the membership who have not been kept as fully in the picture as they should have been.

The newsletter will be edited by Committee Member Donald Mackenzie who welcomes any input from members on the type of articles they would like to see.

Please contact him on 01590 678087 or by e-mail at donald@donald-mackenzie.co.uk



Dr Donald Mackenzie

New Social Secretary Announces Events for Winter Programme



Social Sec. Nigel Seth-Smith

The Society is pleased to announce that Nigel Seth-Smith who recently joined the Committee of the Lymington Society has agreed to fill the newly created

post of Social Secretary.

Nigel together with a band of helpers will be arranging a lively programme of social events throughout the year and would be very grateful to hear from members with their suggestions on the

"Nigel together with a band of helpers will be putting together a lively programme of social events"

type of function they would like to see provided by the society. He can be contacted on Lymington 678210 or on his e-mail at nigel@gennum.co.uk

New licensing regime rejects local residents' views

Lymington Society Committee member Nic King and local resident Kevin Curry attended the NFDC licence application hearing requested by The Angel Inn in Lymington High Street, which took place at the council offices in Lyndhurst on 13.09.2005.

The licensees secured the right to stay open on Friday and Saturday nights until 12.30 am the following morning - until 01.30 am on Bank Holiday weekends. Our objections to the extension in licensing hours succeeded only in securing conditions to keep noise levels down.

More than 200 people live within a few hundred yards of The Angel. In preparation for the hearing, we went round ringing on doorbells so we could represent peoples' views: Did they know about the application and did they agree with extended opening hours? We stopped after

20 interviews as we found 95% were against any increase in opening hours.

Almost everyone we spoke to had been victims of some sort of alcohol related nuisance: urine, vomit, broken bottles, noise or intimidation. In their report, the licensing committee says they gave less weight to the views we had collected because none of the residents themselves had made a formal objection. However, 85% of the people we spoke to had been completely unaware of the application.

This seems a very strange way of dealing with objections. We believe that the views of local people should count. We're particularly concerned that the new licensing regime could allow less well-run pubs than The Angel to secure an extension in opening hours without anyone really being aware of it. How-

ever the new regulations allow for reconsideration of a licence following rowdy or noisy behaviour. We invite members and residents to contact us if they feel we need to take action.



Nick King Planning Secretary

Please contact Nick if you wish to discuss important planning issues in the Town on 07808 441 284 or email nicolas.king@dial.pippex.com

Society takes initiative to start "The Lymington Forum"

One of the features of the proposed development of the Webb's Chicken Factory site was that the developers wanted to know the views of local people and were actively prevented from having-discussions with us.

"Lymington Society committee has decided to hold discussions in the Town to obtain a consensus of views amongst interested bodies such as the Town Council,"

Following the open meeting on the Webb Site the developers said they could have accommodated many of the wishes expressed at that meeting if they had been aware of them at an earlier stage.

Because of this Lymington Society committee has decided to hold discussions in the Town to obtain a consensus of views amongst interested bodies such as the Town Council, the Chamber of Commerce and others in relation to other important proposed developments.

For instance there is a significant proposal to develop the old school site opposite Tesco's car park and it might be that, rather than approaching that area of the Town by way of piecemeal development, it can be looked at in conjunction with the future use of other adjoining areas such as the Tesco car park.

As mentioned in the Chairman's report we have sent invitations to attend an informal roundtable discussion on major issues affecting the future of the Town to the Lymington Town Council, Chamber of Commerce and the Community Centre.

Unfortunately as reported in the Lymington Times for the 14th October the Town Council feel they can only deal with discussions with bodies such as the Lymington Society within the formalities of their Town Council meetings which do not lend themselves to an informal exchange of views.

So that our members can understand the background to the report in the Lymington Times on page 2 we show copies of the Chairman's correspondence with the Town Council on the Society Web Site at www.lymsoc.co.uk.

The committee hopes the Town Council will agree to informal meetings on matters of interest at some stage in the future

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Lymington Society Treasurer Handover

After many years as Treasurer of the Lymington Society Lt. Col. Peter Chitty has decided to hand over the reins and has asked the Committee to appoint a new Treasurer.

During his tenure the finances of the Society have continued to prosper as shown by the excellent reserve in the Society's account

We are very pleased to announce that Committee Member Derek Sheffer who has been on the committee for about a year, has agreed to take on this responsibility and will be officially appointed as Treasurer Designate in the near future on an interim basis until his appointment is confirmed at the next AGM.

Peter Chitty has been involved with the Lymington Society for many years in many different capacities more recently as Treasurer and as Editor of the Newsletter. He has also maintained extremely close contact with many of the members.

The Committee has been grateful for his feedback on the concerns that members of the Society have expressed from time to time which has been very useful in

keeping the Committee on the straight and narrow

The Committee of the Society wish to put on record our huge appreciation for his immense efforts on the Society's behalf over many years. We hope we will continue to have the benefit of his advice and experience as a Committee Member into the future.



Lt Col Peter Chitty

Membership Details

New Members are always welcome to join the Lymington Society and existing Members are urged to encourage friends to join.

As well as a professionally produced Newsletter, Members will be able to attend regular social events arranged by the newly appointed Social Secretary. Membership costs £5.00 per member

Please send Completed Membership Application forms which are available on our Web Site to:

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The Chantry
Hollywood Lane
Lymington

Phone: 01590 673740

Email: ivordaphne@easynet.co.uk