

Anyone browsing through local bookshops at the moment must be struck by the prominence given to books on "The Spirit of Place" - titles describing locations both at home and abroad. It is appropriate, therefore, that in Weymouth Civic Society's 40th anniversary year beautifully presented books on the town's history should be in eye-catching positions on the shelves, alongside descriptions of more exotic places. We send the Civic Society (to which we are affiliated) best wishes on this occasion and we hope ourselves to be able to help in a small way by contributing to their forthcoming exhibition at the Nothe Fort.

Sutton Poyntz residents returning home after their travels have a great deal to be thankful for. The village has managed to preserve at least something of its essential character over the years. The Springhead renovation and the redevelopment of the Mill show that change can be handled with sensitivity and due care for the local environment. But such careful development cannot be taken for granted. Proposals for new buildings are fairly regularly presented to the Borough Council. Recently the Dorset County Surveyor saw no reason to object to a proposed new house in Plaisters Lane, despite objections on several counts relating to access and likely traffic hazards. Initially the Borough Council refused permission but later withdrew their refusal; we cannot but regret the County Surveyor's view.

Plans for another possible development are worrying. We do hope for a sympathetic response to proposals relating to a bit of the village no less crucial than the pond/Silver Street area, namely the first phase of building on part of the late Henry Diment's land at Sutton Farm. A year ago the Borough Council gave outline planning permission for the erection of four dwellings and "conversion of the old barn to residential use"; with the safeguards specified and as the Dorset structure plan included residential development on this land, we did not dissent. However, new proposals submitted in December envisage the demolition of the barn. We have told the Borough Council of the strong objection to such a major departure from the approved outline plan and we await developments with considerable anxiety.

An application to build houses on the land used by Miss Pitman as riding stables came before the Council's Planning Committee recently and was refused. We had again informed them that we are very unhappy about possible development on "white land".

It is pleasant to report some positive recent events. First, we welcome Ossie and Moira Noble and their staff to the Springhead and thank them and the Directors for an excellent reception for members of the Society on

P.T.O.

SUTTON POYNTZ SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE 1984/5

NOMINEE:
(who has agreed
to serve)

Name
Address

Proposed by:

.....
(Name) (Address)

Seconded by:

.....
(Name) (Address)

(Forms to Mr. W.H. Mercer, Bellamy Cottage, by 10 April 1984)

19 December. A most enjoyable cheese and wine party was held at the Springhead on 21 February, thanks to the landlords' co-operation. There were fine talks by Mr. Wiggins (with "before and after" slides) in November, and by Linda Poulson of the County Museum in February. Reverting to the Mill - hearty congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Wallis on gaining Weymouth Civic Society's annual award for the renovation work. At the presentation the owners welcomed representatives of the Civic Society and local residents at the Mill, which was open for inspection. The Dorset Evening Echo published a photograph.

We have reason to be thankful to the Wessex Water Authority for dealing speedily with an oil spillage into the pond during the work at the Springhead and also to the Borough Council for being in a position to paint the long-awaited double yellow lines at the Sutton Road/Preston Road junction, thus doing away with a serious traffic hazard (to which we first called attention many months ago) when vehicles are parked opposite the Ship. Coupled with this are proposals for double yellow lines around the bus terminus area near the Springhead. We think these are undesirable in a conservation area and not necessary now in view of the considerably increased parking facilities at the pub; it will be easier for all concerned to judge the position after the holiday season.

Residents of Puddledock Lane and Seven Acres will no doubt be relieved that Dorset County Council will now be making up part of the highway - at the County's expense.

The local WI, with the agreement of St. Andrew's PCC, are providing new curtains in the Mission Hall. The Society has assisted by buying the necessary battens and curtain rails; our Chairman put in a great deal of time and effort in fixing them.

Lastly, our Annual General Meeting will be held in the Mission Hall on Tuesday, 17 April at 7.30 p.m. Do come along to put views on any aspect of our work or village life, or just to gain information about the Society. The Committee will, as usual, be elected at the AGM - overleaf is a nomination paper. Completed papers should please be handed or sent to the Chairman, Mr. W.H. Mercer, at Bellamy Cottage by 10 April.
