

THE INAUGURAL MEETING

On 5th March some 60 local people met to found the Society, the broad aims of which are:-

"To make every effort to maintain and improve upon the natural beauty of the village and to liaise with the Council for the Preservation of Rural England and the Civic Society to protect the area from unsightly and unnecessary development."

It was standing room only and a really representative and keen meeting. Some 15 letters of support were received all of which should add up to a solid membership. The meeting resolved to form a Society, (annual subscription 10s. 0d per household) and to ask for the decorative island, recently placed in the pond, to be removed. Members urged the committee to press for regular cleaning and maintenance of the pond, and discussed problems such as litter, "wirescape", trees and traffic.

Your elected officers are:-

Chairman	-	Mr. L. Samphia
Secretary	-	Mrs. J. Litschi
Treasurer	-	Mr. E. Saunders
Public Relations Officer	-	Mr. G. Shires

Your Committee members are:-

Mr. F. Branton	Mr. V. Hunt	Mr. R. Read
Mr. C. Fullford	Mr. A. Litschi	Mrs. J. Shires
Mr. P. Henshaw	Mrs. M. McDonald	Mr. E. Stillwell

Councillor Taylor has since kindly agreed to serve as a co-opted member.

You are urged to keep the committee aware of your views, grumbles and creative suggestions please!

The Island: Committee members met the Parks Superintendent on site and the Society's views were made quite clear. Mr. Saville stated the island should help to prevent silting by speeding up the water flow, and suggested that it should be tried for one year. The committee have asked, therefore, by letter to the Town Clerk, that the island should be removed if it does not solve this problem of silting. We have since heard that the C.P.R.E., the Civic Society and the Hardy Committee have made strong protests about the island so the matter may be by no means settled.

The Pond: We have urged for regular cleaning and maintenance of the banks with attention to seepage round the seat. We rejected the proposal for oak posts and chairs as unsuitable and unnecessary, but have welcomed the promise of 3 teak litter bins, and have suggested the second seat be sited on the pond verge opposite the Hotel.

Development Plan: We have had discussions with local planning officers and councillors, have made up a map showing the development plan for the village, and will keep the Society informed as to future developments.

Other projects are in hand, e.g. a Society notice board, trees, sign posts etc., will be reported. A visual survey is a future possibility, and as a longer term item, the possible designation of Sutton Poyntz as a "Conservation Area".

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Meet your planning officers

TUESDAY 30th APRIL at 7.30 p.m. at the MISSION HALL

The Borough Engineer, Mr. Housego, has very kindly agreed to speak to us on planning in Sutton Poyntz, and we hope to have a visitor from Dorset County Planning Office. This is a splendid opportunity for us to hear their views and express our own.

We are making a display board for this meeting and would welcome the loan of any old or recent photographs or prints. Please pass to Mr. Shires.