

Your Planning Authority has produced a consultative document, DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES FOR WEYMOUTH, which sets out the main possibilities for the future of the area. Of this village it has to say:-

"In respect of Sutton Poyntz, the area to the west of Sutton Road lies in a deep bowl, overlooked by the high mass of Chalbury to the west and the chalk hills to the north. It is, potentially, a very attractive residential area of some 80 acres lying on the lower and middle slopes of the hill. Such development, however, with the necessary access roads, would overwhelm the present intimate, semi-rural character of this conservation area. It may be that at some future date the development potential of this area may have to be exploited. For now, and probably for many years to come, it is suggested that the balance is in favour of conservation."

Your Committee believes that the key to the beauty of Sutton Poyntz, as of other similar communities, lies in it having remained a definite "place", rather than an amorphous "area". We believe that any large scale development, as opposed to judicious in-filling, would indeed overwhelm, and in fact destroy, the unique character of the village. It would produce not a large Sutton Poyntz, but an entirely different area, changed in essential characteristics. We believe that the value of the remaining villages which really "hold together" visually and retain their charm is being increasingly recognised, and that the balance should be for ever in favour of conservation, the alternative being destruction.

The document is detailed, and we are sure all members will wish to do their homework and study the copy now with Mrs. Litschi, or obtain a copy from the library or the Town Hall.

UNSIGHTLY WIRESCAPE

This has been deplored since the formation of the society members. A representative of the G.P.O. was persuaded to visit the village recently, and, while emphasising that the G.P.O. has no funds for tidying, he promised that the visual factor would be incorporated as far as possible in work in progress. We hope you all appreciate the recent disappearance of almost half the tangle of wiring in the pond area. We intend now to tackle the Electricity Authority, but in the meantime, could we improve our own skyline by tidying our "television ariel-scape"? Suppliers tend to instal the new simplified fittings alongside the old but we have several worthy members willing to remove obsolete fittings for those unable to tackle the job. Take them up on the offer!

THE POND

Perhaps we will never be satisfied entirely with its state, any more than with the weather, but your committee feel that at least, after some years of negotiation, we are beginning to achieve our aims of a clean pond, with a reasonable head of water, no intrusive island, and some nice ducks!

WILD FLOWERS

Members are reporting the gradual loss of wild flowers around the village. A small notice is to be erected asking visitors not to pick them and we are sure members will discreetly discourage further loss.

Your 1975 COMMITTEE MEMBERS are:-

Chairman - Mr. B. Fenton.
Vice Chairman - Mrs J. Litschi.
Treasurer - Mr. E. Saunders.
Secretary - Mrs M. Hanson.

Committee Members

Mrs. M. Brown.
Mrs. B. Harrison.
Mrs. Hunt.
Mr. F. Litschi.
Mrs. G. Loveland.
Capt E. Martin.
Mrs. A. Medcalf.
Mrs. V. Morris.
Mr. G. Shires.
Mrs. J. Shires.
Mrs. M. Wherrett.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Still frozen at 35p. per family! We are sure members will show their appreciation of this fiscal miracle by paying up with a smile when committee members come collecting shortly.

SUTTON POYNTZ PLAYERS

They again came up with another astonishing success at the A.G.M. and gave us a dramatic glimpse, through Thomas Hardy, of the life lived in Dorset before our time. Their plays were also performed at Herrison Hospital, Chalbury Lodge, Owermoigne and the Pavilion Theatre, with such success that they will now establish a permanent Drama Group separate from, but affiliated to, the Sutton Poyntz Society with the emphasis on plays by Hardy. Their first meeting is to be on Friday, 4th July at 8.00 p.m. at the Mission Hall Lane church room. Anyone interested please go along. We wish them continuing success.

RECENT EVENTS

There were two good Social Evenings this year, and Carol Singers raised £18.80p. for a fund which provides those little extras for long stay Herrison Hospital patients now finding their feet in homes in the community. The Jumble Sale produced £17.00 for our funds, thus enabling us to keep membership fees down, and two lectures were well attended, one full of rural anecdote by Mr. Barry Poole, and the second on the History of Portland by Mr. Durston. All these events involve willing work by many members, too numerous to name, but upon whom the life of the society depends.

FUTURE EVENTS

Ladies Walk. This truly charming event to Osmington will take place on Friday the 20th June. Ladies to await their escort, Mr. Saunders, at the pond at 7.30 p.m. gentlemen to proceed to the Sunray Hotel to await their eventual arrival.

Waterworks Visit. On Friday, the 27th June, members of Weymouth Civic Society are joining us to visit our waterworks and to stroll to the spring source if it is fine. We will assemble at the waterworks at 7.30 p.m. Members who missed the last visit should not miss this one.

Tea on the Lawn. This year with a kind invitation from Mrs. Anne Medcalf at Springfield Cottage is on Saturday the 5th July at 3.00 p.m.

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Coach Outing. Those who enjoyed our coach outing to Lulworth Castle have urged for another and plans are being made for a visit to ~~Forde Abbey~~ later in the summer.

WILTON HOUSE