

# MOOR POOL *DUCK*

Newsletter of Moor Pool Residents' Association

Issue No 3

March 1996

## **MAJOR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR HARBORNE AREA**

The Transportation Department of the City Engineer's has prepared a comprehensive plan which they consider will improve the traffic flow along Harborne High Street, and reduce the number of cars driving through our Estate. It is part of a £1m environmental improvement scheme, and they are taking a lot of trouble to gather the opinion of Moor Pool Residents.

When the Committee met with members of the Transportation Department, the plans were examined and discussed in great detail. Many points were raised, and the reactions to the proposals were very varied.

There were very mixed opinions on certain aspects of the proposal, especially the drastic measure to make Margaret Grove and Moor Pool Avenue one way, closing off the flow where Park Hill Road meets Moor Pool Avenue. This would greatly increase the traffic on Park Hill Road.

A member of the Committee has agreed to co-ordinate the response of the Association.

The 'DUCK' has identified some of the key issues:

### **THE TRAFFIC HAS TO GO SOMEWHERE**

Many motorists from Harborne and further out travel through the area each morning and evening; for many there are no alternative routes or methods of transport. As part of the overall scheme, bus lanes may be introduced along Hagley Road and along Harborne Road near the White Swan. These will effectively reduce them to single lane roads, and halve the car traffic flow. This will significantly increase travelling time for all motorists going into the City centre. If the flow through the estate is reduced, it will be increased along Wentworth Road and Park Hill Road. Do we want our friends in those areas to suffer yet more traffic?

### **MARGARET GROVE & MOORPOOL AVENUE COULD BE MADE ONE-WAY**

The City Engineer anticipates that as the flow in Hagley Road is to be severely restricted, more

cars might find their way through the Estate in the mornings. A key feature of the scheme is to close the junction where it meets Park Hill Road near the railway bridge. The roads will become one-way; down Margaret Grove and looping back up Moorpool Avenue to Ravenhurst Road. If those two roads are closed to through traffic, then most of the other measures become redundant, as there will be little or no through traffic in the Estate.

### **'RAT RUNNING'**

The City Engineer uses this phrase a lot. But 'rat running' is something that every motorist is guilty of at some time. What it actually means is that we want to be free to drive down someone else's road, but we don't want them to be able to drive down ours. Is that fair?

### **MORE NOISE**

We have not yet been able to try out 'Road Thumps', but we can expect that they will create a significant noise every time a car crosses one.

### **PARKED CARS ALREADY SLOW TRAFFIC**

The proposals make no allowance for the fact that traffic through the Estate has traditionally been slowed by parked cars. Careful use of a very small amount of double yellow lining, after close consultation with immediate residents, would enhance this effective speed reducing device.

### **HARBORNE HIGH STREET**

A further but as yet un-announced part of the full scheme is designed to improve the traffic capacity in the High Street. This is logical, as most other parts of the scheme will restrict traffic movement. What is not clear is how this improvement will be achieved and the effect it will have on commerce in the area.

### **PEDESTRIANS**

The scheme says nothing about pedestrians. The main barrier to children walking to school is Ravenhurst Road. The traffic slowing

measures, there will help, but more positive devices to help everyone cross this road would be popular. Attention might also be given to improving the many walkways through the estate.

### **MUNICIPALISATION vs CONSERVATION**

The Estate is part of a Conservation Area, and the scheme would inevitably lead to changes in its special character. It is understood that the views of the Conservation Officer have not yet been sought. That discussion may lead to changes in the scheme.

### **RESIDENTS OPINION SPLIT**

Opinions which have so far been expressed by 27 Residents show a majority in favour of doing something. 1/3 want the scheme to go ahead in full, 1/3 agree that the environment would be improved if just a few of them were put in place, and 1/3 are against the scheme.

On the specific question of closing access to Park Hill Road from Moor Pool Avenue, 10 were in favour and 15 against.

Some people have provided considered critiques of the proposals, suggesting changes, amendments, etc. The City Engineer values your opinion, so it is important that you let him know what you think before March 31. Please write to him as soon as possible, and send a copy to the Chairman of the Association, c/o the Post Office.

## **SOCIAL EVENTS FOR RESIDENTS**

At a recent Committee meeting, it was agreed that the Association would be happy to support and assist any group of people who might choose to organise social events, such as coffee mornings, for Residents. Anyone who would like to follow up on this idea should contact the Chairman, c/o The Post Office.

## **CLOSURE OF OUR GROCERY SHOP**

All Residents were sad to see the closure of the shop. It provided a valuable service, but turnover had been declining, as Residents are now able to use the bus to go shopping on the High Street.

## **THANK YOU**

Thank you to the man who took it upon himself to sand the road at the junction of Moor Pool Avenue and Ravenhurst Avenue on the very icy morning of January 23rd. He made passage much safer for pedestrians and motorists alike.

## **HARBORNE TENANTS Ltd**

Several points have recently been raised by the Association with HT Ltd, and their responses are summarised below:

**Security On The Estate:** They welcome the proposed re-instatement of 'Neighbourhood Watch' which is being considered by the Committee.

**Lighting Near Garages:** They recognise that this would be welcomed by all users, but it would be very expensive to install. They are seeking assistance from the local authority.

**External Painting:** This has been delayed by weather and other factors. They are doing their best to speed up completion of the work.

**Noise At Moor Pool Hall:** The technical and financial aspects are more complex than originally envisaged, but consultation continues.

**Hedges & Rights Of Way:** Keeping the hedges trimmed is generally the responsibility of the owner or tenant. The annual 'walk' of the Estate by the Directors no longer takes place. That was useful in identifying problems. Your Committee is considering the possibility of doing its own 'walk'. More news in the next 'DUCK'.

**The shop and the Post Office:** The basic problem was that residents didn't spend enough in the shop. Any businessman thinking of re-opening it would have to be confident of a satisfactory level of turnover.

**Tenant House Transfers:** The Estate cannot let property at subsidised rents. Anyone can apply to rent a house, including children of the Estate. The letting criteria remain as before. Interestingly, all recently interviewed and new tenants have been delighted to take 6 year agreements.

This edition of 'The DUCK' is sponsored by:

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**"MOOR POOL DUCK"**

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