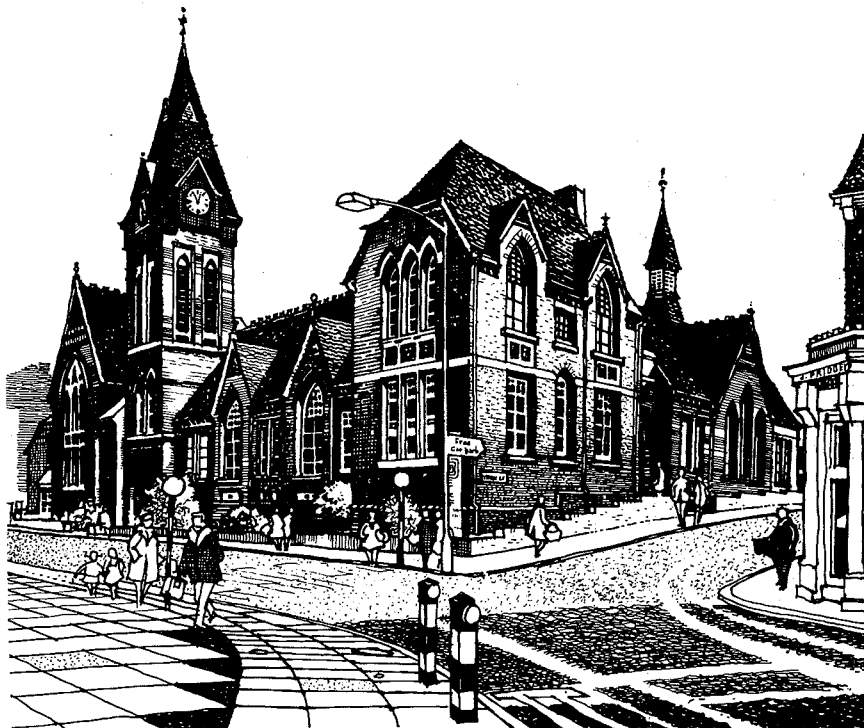


Number
ONE
September
1981

The Harborne Society

NEWS



*THE CLOCK TOWER, Harborne's Community Education Centre
Drawing by James Priddey R.B.S.A., S.G.A., F.R.S.A.*

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Harborne Society was founded twenty-one years ago with the dual aim of encouraging the spirit of community and ensuring that Harborne developed in the best possible way to serve the community.

We have already made considerable progress in representing the interests of Harborne Village and its immediate neighbourhood to those responsible for planning our environment. Much work still needs to be done. Effective liaison has only been achieved by the active participation of nearly 500 members. We are

currently engaged in work on the city's preferred plan for this area and we need all your ideas and help with this vital project.

There is an opportunity for everyone to make their contribution to Harborne. Monthly meetings and social events give our members the chance to make friends and keep up to date with local issues. You may, however, prefer to offer more active help. If you are a busy person one bright idea per year could play an essential part but if you wish to become more involved why not consider serving on one of our working parties which examine and make positive proposals on current events?

GREETINGS FROM THE PATRON

The Rt. Rev. Hugh Montefiore

I send my greetings through The Harborne Society to all those whom this newsheet reaches. I hope that like me you enjoy Harborne and will support the work of The Society in retaining the character of our 'village'.

Hugh Birmingham



Make your voice important to the future of Harborne by filling in the application form on the back page now.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Abbott

Chairman Harborne Society

THE HARBORNE SOCIETY

Founded 4th May 1960

Read on if you care for Harborne.

More than forty people worked in groups during the summer of 1980 to produce OUR LOCAL PLAN – A Response to the City Planners Harborne District Centre Plan – Issues Report.

Based on local knowledge and requirements the plan put forward recommendations and proposals for the High Street, Car Parking, Princes Corner, Amenities and Open Spaces. It was published in September 1980 and attracted widespread praise from local Press, Radio and planners.

As The Birmingham Post commented in a Leader: "There is every reason for the residents and traders of Harborne to want to protect the village atmosphere of their High Street. Most of us can think of examples of "planners' blight" which have resulted in streets which were once attractive being transformed into characterless stretches of glass and concrete"

Other projects in which the Society is involved at the moment include the Hugh Morton Memorial Garden in front of the Clock Tower; tree planting; making representation against the new improvement lines at Princes Corner and the substantial demolition of property this scheme would entail; the retention of the Park Hill Railway Bridge and the development of the Harborne Walkway.

The Society has played a big part in retaining the Clock Tower as a Community Centre in Harborne and endeavours as far as possible to see that all new shopping developments in the area cater for the small trader.

Mrs Jill Knight, M.P., wrote in her Foreword to OUR LOCAL PLAN: "Vandals come in all shapes and sizes. They are not only weird, wild, stupid and undisciplined louts. Some of them are polite and

pleasant men from the Ministries or Council Departments wearing respectable suits and quiet ties who come along and measure the roads and look at the vista through instruments, returning to their offices to make neat maps, plans and suggestions that sound so reasonable that they get through Committees with no trouble at all."

So we need your active membership. Take this opportunity and join The Harborne Society now!



*MEMORIAL GARDEN TO DOCTOR HUGH MORTON – a scheme to improve the entrance to the Clock Tower and to enhance the High Street
Promoted by The Harborne Society,*

The Urban Parish Council.

History

Parish councils are a long established form of grass roots democracy which prior to 1894 were mainly drawn from church and country squires. The 1894 Local Government Act introduced the modern electoral system and a further act in 1933 laid a rather vague duty on County Councils to review parish boundaries and create new parishes. There are now some 8,000 parish councils in England and Wales. Since 1894 they have gained many discretionary powers culminating with the 1974 Local Government Act which removed the limits on a parish council's expenditure. This act also transferred the duty of reviewing the parishes to the District Councils but with the additional power to the Boundary Commission to ensure that reviews did take place. Although the City did carry out a review in 1983 the Commission were not satisfied and instituted their own review in March 1985.

Constitution and Elections

Parish Councils are not strictly a third tier of local government because unlike districts or counties which have many DUTIES parish councils have very few duties but many POWERS. These powers may or may not be used at the discretion of the individual parish council (and it's electors!). Elections are held every four years concurrent with District elections and are the responsibility of the City Council to administer. Candidates must live within three miles of the parish but only require a proposer and seconder to stand. Parish Councillors do not receive an attendance allowance.

Annual Parish Meeting

This must be held between March and May each year and all electors are entitled to attend and submit resolutions (usually in writing). The Meeting will have to be properly advertised beforehand and the chairman of the parish council will present a full report and financial statement. The inaugural meeting would have to elect a chairman, officers and a Clerk. The Clerk to the Council would be the financial officer of the council being employed on a part time basis with pay in line with national guidelines. If the council do not have their own meeting place the city must provide school premises free for them. While non-elected advisors may be on council committees they must not exceed one third of the membership.



POWERS INCLUDE CAR PARKS, LIGHTING AND STREET FURNITURE.

Duties and Powers

The duties are few and apart from the annual parish meeting the Parish council is responsible for cemeteries, allotments, Unclaimed Common Land and the Trusteeship of certain charitable trusts within the parish. These duties could be exercised by the City Council on behalf of the parish. The main powers a parish council may use if it considers it beneficial for the parish are:-

- (1) Parks and play areas
- (2) Street lighting and street furniture (seats etc.)
- (3) Bus shelters and car parks
- (4) Community centres and baths
- (5) Festivals, Arts, Music and "Best Kept" competitions
- (6) It may also spend up to a maximum of 2p in the pound rate on activities it believes to be in the interest of all or most of the residents.

Money!

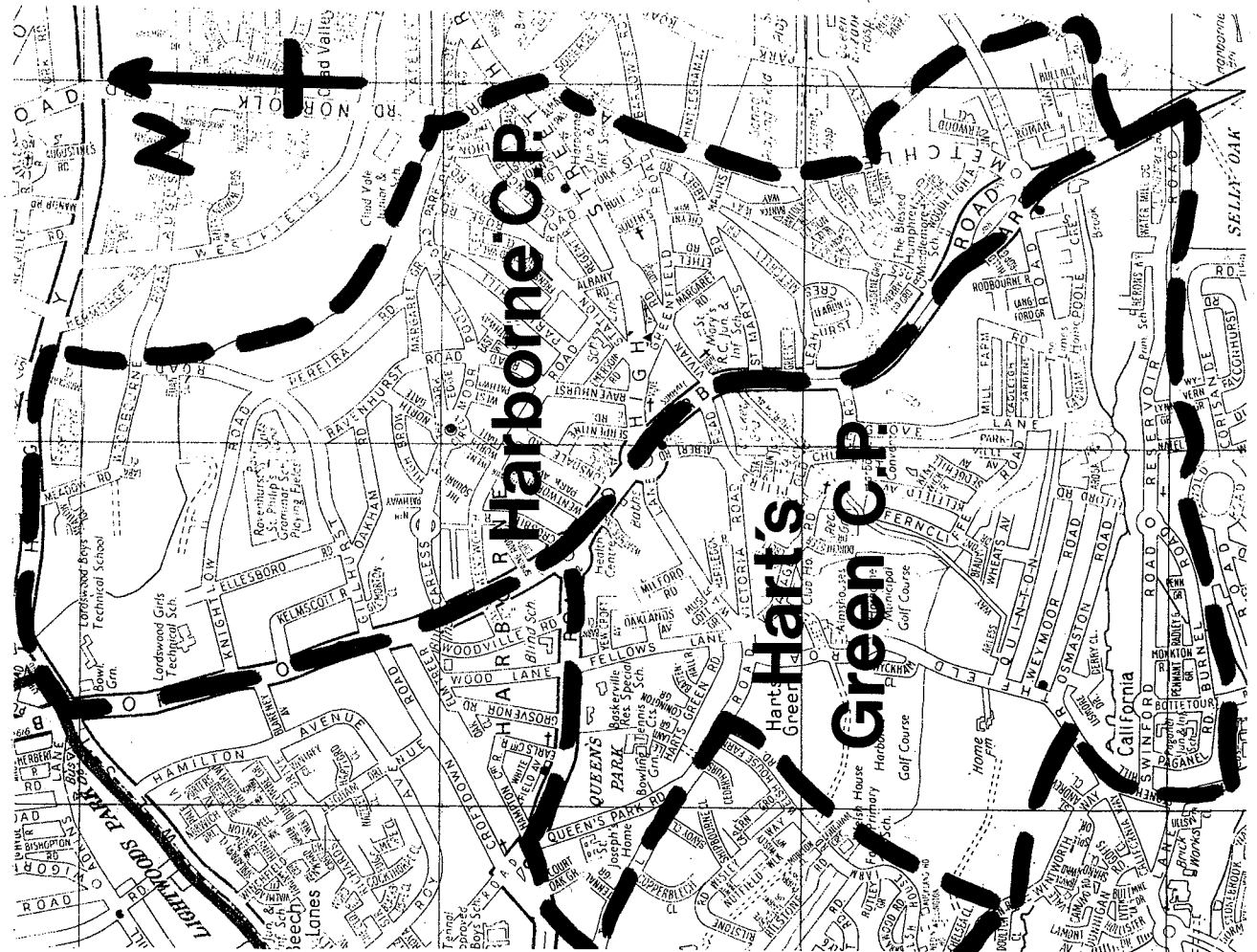
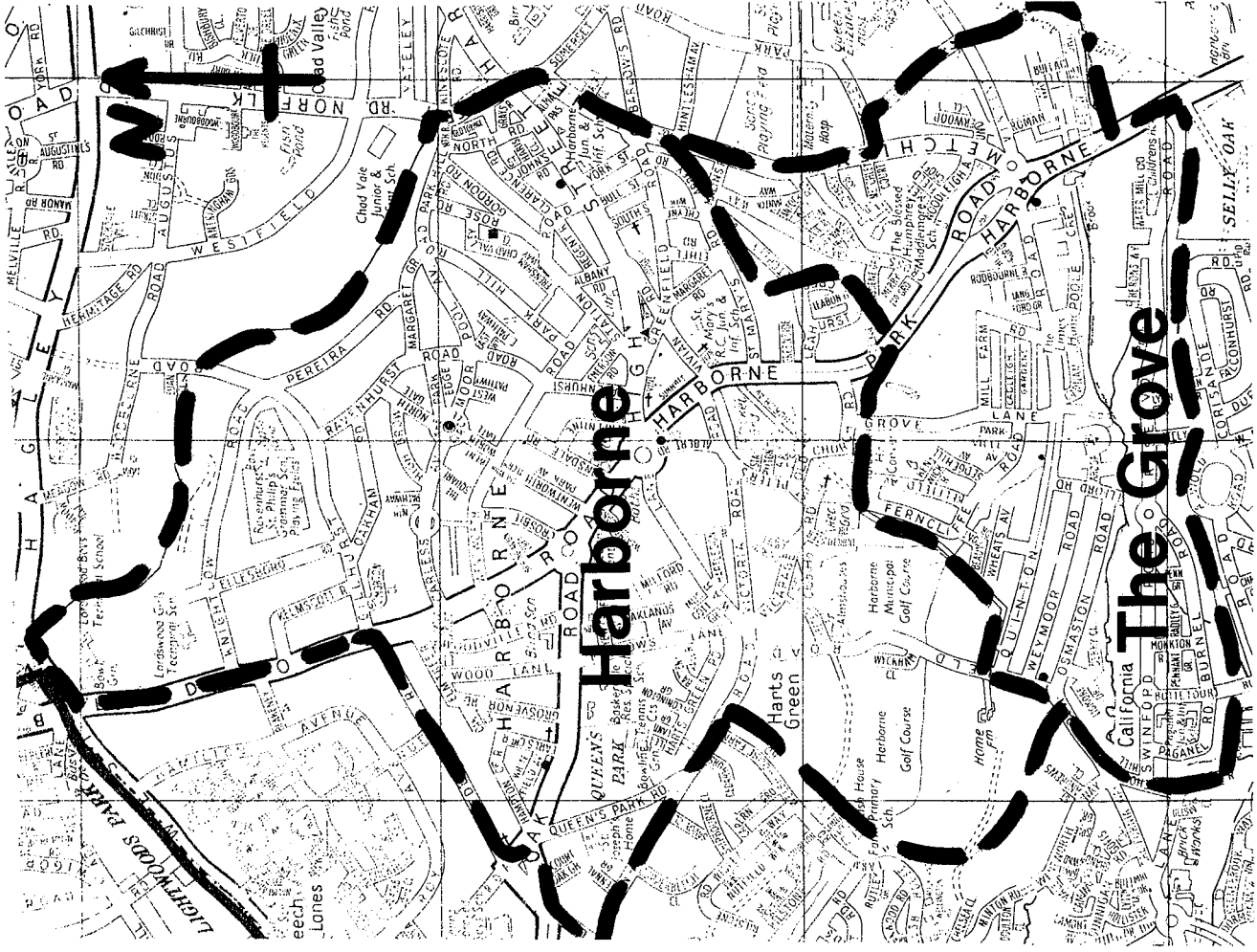
Parish Councils fix their budget early in the year and inform the City Treasurer of the amount they require him to collect as the "Parish Precept" part of the rates. The Parish Council could also borrow from public or private bodies as well as receiving grants from the City and other institutions. It could also enter into

partnerships with private companies, the Sports Council, MSC or voluntary bodies to carry out specific projects. While there are a few high spending councils the national average for a precept is less than 2p in the pound which is about £10 a year on the average Harborne house. All the parish accounts are subject to annual public audit by the Audit Commission exactly the same as the City Council

Liaison with other statutory bodies

The planning authority must consult the parish council on all planning applications within the parish. Also the parish council is entitled to a governor on Primary School Boards and usually has a representative on Secondary School Boards. A close liaison is also possible with the Electricity boards, British Telecom, Health authorities etc. so that a clear picture would be available to everyone through the parish council of any future plans.

Virtually all the parish council meetings would be in public. It is not possible in so brief an article to do full justice to the workings of a parish council but the most important point to remember is that because it is so local; typically only 7,000 to 12,000 electors; it is immediately accountable for anything it does or fails to do.



Parish Review: The City's and the Society's Proposals.

THE HARBORNE SOCIETY COMMITTEE 1981 - 1982

Officers:

Chairman	—	Mrs Mary Abbott
Vice Chairman	—	Mr. Michael Rumball
Hon. Secretary	—	Miss Madeline Aston
Hon. Treasurer	—	Mrs. Mary Martin
Technical Officer	—	Mr. Philip Simpson
Press Officer	—	Mr. Peter Jennings
Social Secretary	—	Miss Ethel Ellis
Membership Secretary	—	Miss Thelma Hadley

and

Mr. E. Abbott, Mrs. T. Bowden, Mr. E. Chitham,
Mrs. J. Curr, Mr. M. Lever, Mrs. M. Lowe,
Mr. R. Miles, Mr. A. Peet, Mrs. J. Wise.



View of Albert Walk and the Harborne Stumps, which will be no more if the County Surveyor has his way!

Advertisement

Harborne Traders' Association

The Association was founded in May 1980 to ensure the proper development, promotion and improvement of trading areas of Harborne compatible with the wishes of the Traders and the people of Harborne and in their long term interests. The Association collaborates with The Harborne Society in the achievement of these aims.

MEMBERS INCLUDE:

W.W. ADAMS LTD

COOK & JAMES

HOWARD GOUGH LTD

HAGWELL HOLDINGS LTD

HEYDON FABRICS LTD

C.W. JENNINGS & SON LTD

CAROLE MASON

OXFAM

STEPHEN VINEY & CO

J. BATTY LTD

JOHN CUNNINGHAM

GUEST CARPETS

HARBORNE ELECTRICS

DIANE LAWSON

MICHELLES RESTAURANT

J.F. SADLER LTD

R. WALBOLD

BROWNS LTD

D. GILL

GWINNETT & BURKILL LTD

HARTLAND TIDD & CO

HILDA CASH SECRETARIAL COLLEGE

G. LONGDEN

H.L. MORGAN

TOBIAS SHOES

WALLIS & FITTER

THE HARBORNE SOCIETY PROGRAMME 1981 - 1982

Wednesday 9th September Harborne Society
Business.
The Local Plan,
Princes Corner.

Tuesday 13th October Heraldry —
Miss Olwen Marlowe

Wednesday 4th November Gardeners'
Question Time.
Dr. Richard Lester,
Mr. Roy Green

Tuesday 8th December Church Imagery
and Symbolism.
Mr. H. Smith.

Saturday 9th January New Year Party
(St. Peter's Church Hall)

Tuesday 9th February (To be arranged)

Wednesday 24th February Annual Dinner
(College of Food & Domestic Arts)

Wednesday 10th March Local History
Mr. Stephen Price
City Museum and Art Gallery.

Tuesday 6th April Designing &
Retailing Gold &
Silver Items. Mrs. Cross -
Jewellery Workshop,
Harborne.

Wednesday 12th May Annual General
Meeting.

August Summer Outing.

Note: All meetings commence at 7.30 p.m. unless
otherwise stated. Tuesday meetings are held at
Onneley House and Wednesday meetings at
St. Peter's Church Hall.

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE HARBORNE SOCIETY

(Membership is open to anyone interested in Harborne)

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE NO:

Subscription rates from 1st September 1981

Family Membership £5.00

Single Membership (Over eighteen) £3.00

Half rates for Senior Citizens and Students.

Total enclosed £.....

Cheques should be made payable to 'The Harborne Society', and sent to: The Hon. Treasurer,
Mrs Mary Martin, 11 Ethel Road, Harborne, B17 0EL.

Signature: Date.....

Projects you would like to see the Society undertake: