

Land between Crabtree Lane (footpath)
and Piggottshill Lane.

"Potted" history over past decade.

Planning.

- 1962/3 Application to build over whole 60 acres. Refused.
- 1963 County zoned northern half (R.19) for residential purposes; southern half (now subject of discussion) as secondary school facilities, including playing fields. Zoned "GB E/S/PF".
- 1965 Landowner sought removal of educational zoning. Refused.
- 1969 Outline application re northern half; local residents queried why this should be granted before the First Review Plan was approved.
- 1970 (autumn) County submitted First Review Plan to Min. Local Govt. & Housing. Copy exhibited in Council Chamber, Harpenden. Objections to go to the Ministry, NOT the County. This Plan clearly showed northern 30 acres still as R.19 and southern half clearly as "GB E/S/PF". (N.B. The separate field between the footpath and the "kink" in Crabtree Lane was marked "E/P/PF"; the playing fields to be some 2 acres or so to the south of the footpath, i.e. out of the R.19 area).
- 1970 County issued its Countryside Plan which, inter alia, strongly deprecates overhanging urban intrusion above the Lea Valley. (At Harpenden Society Lecture 29.11.72 Mr. T. L. Jones, Countryside section of County Planning Office, stressed this document as basic; he knew nothing of the proposed change to Residential.)
- 1971 (autumn) Appln. for outline planning permission re southern half (abt. 30 acres) by Senatorial Property Trading Co. (incorporated 17.2.70, Nom. Cap. £100, Paid-up £10). This was very puzzling seeing that I had been told (verbally) by the County Planning Office that there was no variation in the Green Belt as affecting Harpenden in the approval given by Secretary of State in May, 1971, to First Review Plan.
- Abt. April, 1972. Enquiries at Surveyor's Dept., Harpenden Hall, revealed southern area of land now zoned E/S/PF only.
- 7th July 1972 Appeared before County Planning Ctee Chmn., Mr. W. B. Draper (supported by Mr. H. P. Mills and Mrs. H. J. Doherty) and expressed my views (supported by Mr. Pat Wilson of the Lea Valley Group) on Zoning, Countryside Plan principles, and schooling policy.
- Later 1972. I tried to get a better understanding of the zoning procedure which had been followed and SUBMIT that Mr. W. Bryan Draper's letter (County Hall) 19th Sept., 1972, taken in conjunction with D. of E. letter 20th Dec., 1972, mean that although the area under notice was removed from the Metropolitan Green Belt IT WOULD HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN HERTFORDSHIRE GREEN BELT but for the fact of its concomitant and associated zoning for secondary education purposes, including playing fields.
- It would seem, therefore, that if the County maintains its current stand on lack of educational need, there should be a reversion to County Green Belt which would have the benefit also of conforming to the County's own Countryside Plan, 1970, about avoiding overhanging urban intrusion over the Lea Valley.

"Hertfordshire 1981".

The currency of the present County Plan is 1963-1973, with option to extend to 1981. This option has not been exercised; instead the County has conducted a non-statutory review stated by the D. of E. to have "no force in law" although "open for the local planning authority to take its provisions into account in dealing with applications for planning permission". This would not seem to authorise the County to make a unilateral change in zoning specifically confirmed by the Secretary of State under the First Review.

This poses two questions:-

- (i) what exactly is happening under planning procedure
- (ii) at what stage in preparing Hertfordshire, 1981, was the secondary school zoning proposed to be dropped; and seeing this had been a proposal for nearly 10 years, and various schemes devised, are not parents entitled to be told (e.g. Sec. 13 and possible Sec. 76 of the Education Act, 1944)?