



"Evenin' lads"

Homeless until debt is paid

LIVERPOOL Corporation are refusing to put a homeless family on their housing list.

Mrs Shirley Parkinson, mother of two children, has been told by housing officials that she cannot be put on the list until she repays the £53 she owes a building society.

The housing department are acting as debt collectors for the West Bromwich Building Society because it is council policy not to house people who are in debt to mortgage companies.

So now Mrs Parkinson, her husband and their two young children, are sharing a two-bedroom council flat with her parents in Netherley because they have nowhere else to stay.

The corporation have now told Mrs Parkinson's parents, who are the tenants of the flat in Langshaw Lea, to evict their daughter and her family.

ESTATE AGENTS

'It's a terrible situation', said Mrs Parkinson. 'There just isn't room in the flat. We have put our name down with almost all the estate agents, but we haven't been able to find a house or flat.'

'Until six months ago we had our names down on the housing list for fifteen years, and we don't owe the Corporation a penny.'

The Parkinsons' troubles began when they were evicted from their own home in Salisbury Road, Everton, because they fell three months behind with their mortgage repayments.

They bought the house eight years ago for £1,300 but could not go back, even if they paid off their debt, because it is now derelict.

The council seem more concerned with helping building societies and mortgage companies than helping people in distress. And so the future for the Parkinson family looks grim.

District centre plan attacked

A 25-ACRE SITE in Toxteth is to be turned into a district centre with almost 90,000 sq ft of shopping space.

But many residents are upset that they haven't been consulted about the plan until recently — although building is due to start next year.

And there is a growing feeling that the district centre scheme is designed for developers and shoppers with cars rather than for local residents.

The centre is planned to serve about 50,000 people in an area extending to Grassendale and Arundel Avenue.

Multi-storey car parks are to be built. In addition there will be local authority buildings — a Social Services office, day care centre, police station, swimming pool and youth and community centre.

REHOUSED

Many residents feel the centre is far too large for the needs of Toxteth. All around they see small shops being allowed to close, as their business dies when families are rehoused outside the area.

For many years the Corporation has stood and watched this, but has now come forward with a plan which will favour large national stores and commercial developers rather than local traders, as rents are certain to be high.

Comet Radio, a national firm already want to take a lease on half an acre at the centre. No doubt

SERIOUS

Appeal judges ordered ICI to pay Mr Cassidy £6,000, and Mr Christopher Wright, a former rubber worker at Speke, £10,000 (his condition is more serious).

And Dunlops were told to pay both men £1,000 because they had not at first screened all their workers employed before 1949 as ICI had recommended.

No doubt ICI and Dunlops are thinking of appealing because this case opens the way to hundreds of further claims. These claims



The proposed Toxteth District Centre

a vast range of electrical equipment will draw customers from the wealthier parts of the city.

The 1966 Census showed that in some areas of Toxteth only 6% of households had cars, and yet the centre has been designed for the use of car owners.

Mr Jim Hart, a local youth worker and former town planner, feels that local people want local shops, not a huge commercial playground for supermarket owners.

Toxteth Community Council are considering alternative plans he has drawn up for the Park Road site.

These plans suggest the social, welfare and public facilities should be built, but only a small area should be provided for commercial developments.

This would leave half the 25 acres available for high-quality terraced housing.

Many of the objections to the Corporation's scheme concern the lack of space for decent homes in Toxteth.

Toxteth, says Mr Hart, is one of the most congested areas in the city. Space, particularly for housing, is short and large numbers have reluctantly been rehoused away from the area. If 25 acres are taken up by a shopping centre, the shortage would become more severe.

Between 1971 and 1981, 160 acres will be cleared, but only 52 of these will go for housing, compared with 65 for open space and 25 for the centre.

The planners, in the 1966 Toxteth Draft Plan, say there will be an average of "140 persons per acre, with high density peaks of 200 persons per acre..." in the redevelopment areas.

This density means the Corporation will have to build more of the hated tenement type flats, or maisonette flats.

Wade's empire spreads

THREE months ago a man called at five neighbouring houses in Sandhurst Street, Aigburth and collected their rent books.

He returned them a few days later, with the name Standfield Properties stuck on the front.

Since then the tenants have been subjected to the usual Standfield/Realmeal tactics.

The tenancies are rent controlled until the present tenants can be persuaded to leave. So Standfield representative Miss Ann Mitchell stepped in to wave the money about: £400 to tenants who agree to leave, or the chance to buy the houses at £4,000 each.

Miss Myfanwy Williams, aged 64, has lived in Sandhurst Street for 21 years, sharing the house with a friend, Miss Southern, who died in August.

Unfortunately Miss Southern's name was on the rent book and Standfield are refusing to transfer the tenancy to Miss Williams.

They have told her to find somewhere else to live and they refuse to accept any rent from her.

When Miss Williams visited Standfield Properties with a neighbour to complain, they were told to write to Mr James Standfield Wade at Henglow Investments.

Henglow, based in Edmonton, London, was set up in 1961. Since then it has changed hands a few times but did little trading until April this year. The managing director is Mr Wade, his wife is the company secretary, and between them they hold the ten shares that have been issued.

Yet another front for Mr Wade's unsavoury property empire.

Hello, is Bill there please

Red faces at St Michael's Ward Labour Party. They've printed Alderman Bill Sefton's private phone number in 'Spotlight,' the ward's Labour newsletter.

The newsletter explains that although the ward has no Labour councillors, two party members "have offered to take up matters that anyone living in the area asks them about". And there it is... 727 3900 (the Labour leader's ex-directory number). Residents who tried to telephone with problems received a none-too-comradely reply.

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Cancer claim: 7 year wait

IN 1965 Mr Thomas Cassidy, of Speke, was told he had caught cancer of the bladder through being exposed to a dangerous chemical at work nearly 20 years earlier.

During the seven years which have since passed, Mr Cassidy has suffered much discomfort, has been off work for many months, and undergone numerous hospital tests.

But even today he does not know whether he will receive any compensation.

Both ICI, who made the chemical, and Dunlop, who used it at their Speke factory where Mr Cassidy worked, have spent over £100,000 and many hours in courtrooms trying to avoid paying damages.

And now they are considering appealing to the House of Lords after the Appeal Court awarded damages against them.

Recently ICI documents were produced at the Appeal Court which proved the company actually knew in 1943 that an impurity in the anti-oxidant 'Nonox S' could cause cancer. But they did not stop selling it until 1949.

By this time thousands of chemical and rubber workers had been needlessly exposed to a grave cancer hazard. About 500 workers are believed to have caught cancer, including 30 at Dunlop's Speke factory.

Hundreds of other workers may develop cancer some time in the future, because tumours can appear more than 45 years after first exposure to the chemical.

could amount to £5 million.

Both companies could afford to pay. ICI is Britain's fourth biggest company, and last year made £192 million profit. Dunlop Holdings' profits soared to £51 million in 1971.

One of the most disturbing aspects is that neither Mr Cassidy nor Mr Wright are thought to have handled the chemical Nonox S, which was put into rubber to stop it rotting.

Mr Cassidy at the time was a storekeeper and worked in a building near the 'mill' where crude rubber was heated to be made into other compounds, and where the Nonox S was added.

Mr Wright was a maintenance worker and only occasionally worked in the 'mill'.

Both men are believed to have caught cancer of the bladder from vapours in the air, which were given off when the chemical was mixed in and heated with the rubber.

About 800 of the 3,000 workers at Dunlop's factory in Speke started work there before 1949 and the chemical impurity in Nonox S is so

dangerous — especially when heated — that many could develop cancer of the bladder in future.

Between 1945 and 1964 this cancer, which is known as papilloma, caused the death of 65 cable workers and 118 workers in the rubber industry. Many of their widows are awaiting the outcome of the Wright-Cassidy case before putting in a claim.

Judging by Mr Cassidy's story they may have a long wait.

CHECK-UP

Said Mr Cassidy: 'It is terrible that such an important case took so long before it got to court. I first discovered I had caught the cancer when I saw blood in my urine and went to the doctor for a check up. That was in 1965.'

'With the help of the union our claim was made in 1966. It took until November 1970 before it even got to court.'

'And now nothing is definite because I understand Dunlops and ICI are thinking of appealing.'