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STOP PRESS!

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The Yateley Society

Latest News on the Local Interest Issues currently being worked on by members:

Mushroom Farm - The Public Meeting on 9 September was more entertaining than the last night at the Proms - if you weren't there or left early, you even missed the Lady Mayoress in full and passionate flow. A steady stream of visitors to the exhibition and a packed Frogmore Hall reflected the strength of feeling of the residents. Subsequent to the meeting members of the Planning Subcommittee met the planning officer handling this application to emphasise that all the planning constraints agreed by the Local Plan Inspector should be taken into account when Hart's Planning Committee determine this outline application. In later correspondence we have challenged Hart regarding the desirability of preserving both the setting of the listed buildings and the character of the Darby Green Conservation Area. Consequently the Society's letter of objection will still be advocating smaller, domestic style buildings, rather than the huge head-office style buildings in the developer's illustrations.

Yateley Green Conservation Area - there are now no less than 3 planning applications under way which could adversely affect the Yateley Green area.

Robins Grove Park, seeking permission for 7 houses,

Heath Cottage (the Dental Surgery) for demolition to be replaced by apartments, and

The White Lion. Bass are now changing their focus from Yateley Lodge to the White Lion -- another Listed Building. Again the Society has been asked to provide historical research assistance to Hart. Richard Johnston will carry out a full measured survey.

These new applications, together with the general 'clutter', are typical of the creeping changes to the character of the Yateley Green Conservation Area since the Society suggested it twenty years ago, when the character was decidedly *rural*. Now the 'Green' is being referred to as the 'Park', and the character has become decidedly *urban*. The groundsman's building has become the Town Council Offices and the cricket pavilion has become a public house. A small petrol station has expanded with an enormous lit canopy. Landscaping outside Forge Court now partly obscures the buildings, 2 for 1 steak dinner adverts litter the front of the White Lion, and litter bins (not entirely patronised) litter the landscape. The latest urbanisation is 'sponsored' roundabouts -- need I say more!

What's a Town Council? - Apparently, at last months Yateley Town Council Meeting, there were no members of the public present. If you want to find out what the Town Council is doing, feel free to go along to The Tythings at 7.30pm on Monday 16 October 2000.

Minutes of sub-committee meetings and meeting dates are also available from the Council offices opposite The Tythings - on Yateley Green.

