

# The Surrey Advertiser and County Times

September 22nd 1945

## EFFINGHAM VILLAGE AMENITIES

Representatives of various organisations in the village met at the Women's Institute Hall, Effingham, on Wednesday last week to discuss the improvement of amenities. Among those present were Mr. J. Joy (representative on the Rural District Council), Mr. J. Johnson and members of the Parish Council, members of the Women's Institute and Village Improvements Committee, and a representative of the Playing Fields Association.

The proposal that a committee should be formed of public bodies to consider the acquirement of a playing field, the building of a village hall, to cost £6,000, and the ground to be laid out for recreational purposes was discussed, but it was held that, under present circumstances, such a scheme could not be envisaged in the near future. Mrs. Startup was authorised to make inquiries in the village with a view to finding premises that could be used for the general activities of the village. It was felt that a club for the young people was chiefly needed.

The sanitation at the Junior Council School was also discussed.

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September 29th 1945

## EFFINGHAM

### “VILLAGE AMENITIES”

Sir,—There are some inaccuracies and omissions in a report of a meeting held on September 12th and appearing under the heading “Village Amenities” (Effingham) which I feel it necessary to correct.

(1) Mr. J. Joy is not representative on the Rural District Council; (2) no representatives as such were present from (a) the Parish Council, (b) the Women's Institute, (c) the Playing Fields Association; (3) the fact that a committee of management formed from representative associations and elected members in the village has to be created to control the King George V Playing Fields is not a proposal for discussion, but a condition laid down in the trust deeds relating to the administration of those grounds; (4) the erection of a village hall or centre is completely envisaged by the reservation of a portion of the grounds for that purpose. The trustees are engaged in the preparation of the plans and the need to raise funds accordingly; (5) an excellent boys' club is in being at present and was successfully run all through the winter war year of 1944-45 by the Vicar of Effingham. The club covered two age groups of boys and met on two evenings each week, and has continued throughout the summer with swimming at the Lodge Baths. In addition, Mrs. Reynolds runs a club for girls on another evening. Both clubs are continuing this winter.

I attended the meeting of September 12th that I have referred to and gave what I thought was a clear exposition of matters relating to the playing fields, and invited all those who are actively minded on this subject to row in with the team who have carried the project thus far so successfully. Everyone's help will be needed and a united effort will bring to fruition one of the finest of village improvements in the whole county of Surrey.—Yours, etc.,

GEOFFREY JOHNSON,  
Rural District Councillor for  
the Parish of Effingham.

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October 6th 1945

# EFFINGHAM

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## VILLAGE AMENITIES

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*To the Editor*

Sir.—As I was chairman at the public meeting which you reported on September 22nd, concerning which you published, on September 29th, a letter from Mr. G. Johnson stating there had been inaccuracies and omissions in the report, may I be allowed to answer Mr. Johnson's five corrections?

(1) Mr. J. Joy represents the Effingham Parish Council on the Rating Committee of the Guildford Rural District Council. (2) Members of the Parish Council at the meeting, as reported by you, were Messrs. Bull, Henson, Johnson, and Joy. Also present were Mr. Betts, of the Village Improvements Committee, Mrs. Startup, a very valuable social worker in the village, and last, but not least, Mr. Geoffrey Johnson, trustee of the playing fields. (3) The Parish Council has no information from the Rural District Council, trustees of the playing fields, or any other body, that a committee has or will be formed to control a playing field in Effingham. (4) Seven or eight years ago I recollect the chairman of the Effingham Playing Fields Committee (in a letter published by your paper) stating that plans were in hand for the laying out of the playing fields. (5) I was not aware that any club that has been or is being run in the village was criticised at the meeting, or in your report.

In conclusion, may I be allowed to make the following remarks? A number of boys and girls in the village have been sent away for misbehaviour. Unfortunately some girls still in their teens have met worse fate. Parents think if there was a club that could attract these children from the lanes and fields of an evening, it may ease an unpleasant situation.

Some years ago funds were asked for from the public to provide a recreation ground for the village. It was rumoured that local rates may have been used when the land was purchased. Since then we have heard of plans for a beautiful entrance gate, swimming pool, tennis courts, etc., which, I am sure, the village think are connected in this scheme. All that has happened since then is more children being sent away.

Now we are told of a plan to build a village hall on the ground which will cost £5,000 or £6,000 to build. We realize this hall must be furnished, also lighted and heated, and a caretaker provided. We assume it will have to be self-supporting. Therefore, we believe the charge for the hire of this hall would not warrant it to be used as a club-room for the youth in the evenings.

Parents and youths attended that public meeting to try and find a way to improve a social problem. Therefore, before anyone belittles such a meeting, they should associate with and try to understand those whom some of us profess to represent.—  
Yours, etc.,

J. JOY.

“Views,” Effingham, Surrey.

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