SIDCUP FORMS A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At a meeting held on Monday evening at 36, Highstreet, by invitation of Mr. W. S. Whomes, with Mr. Cyril Evans in the chair, the proposal of Mr. W. Carseth Howe, and seconded by Mr. A. Krafft, "That the members present form the members of a Sidcup and District Chamber of Commerce, to promote measures calculated to improve the general welfare of the district," was unanimously carried.

Mr. S. A. Jenkins, of the Bexley and District Chamber of Commerce attended and explained to the meeting the objects obtaining for his association, and replied fully to the questions of all present.

It was shown that the desirability of unity of action among the traders is obvious. Probably few districts have a friendlier feeling than characterises the intercourse of the business men, but it is repeatedly realised that when public action is required—as to lighting facilities, car parking, &c.—narrow fails rather heavily on one or other individual.

The recent successful Sidcup Musical and Industrial Exhibition was an instance of success resulting from the initiative of a single man.

It is hoped that the new Chamber will secure for the district the fullest publicity, and enable Sidcup to keep its place in the forefront as a trading centre.

THE WATER RATE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I am enclosing herewith copy of a letter which has been addressed to the Metropolitan Water Board, and which may be of personal interest to this district.—Yours faithfully,

F. R. ALDERWICK,
Hon. Secretary, Sidcup N.C.U.

Farm House, Lamorbey, Sidcup.

(Copy).

11th December, 1929.

The Secretary, Metropolitan Water Board, Spring Gardens, S.W.1.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the amended accounts which have been sent generally notified to this district, I should be obliged if you would kindly make a reply to the following questions:—

(a) By what statutory authority the revised Charges for Water Rate have been levied.

(b) Can your Board justify the demand for an increased rate from October last when the notice of proposed increased assessment of this district were not issued until November last.

(c) Whether in view of their greatly increased revenue consequent upon the higher assessment your Board will forthwith proceed to reduce the charge for water.

A copy of this letter has been addressed to the Press and also to the headquarters of the National Citizens' Union.—Yours faithfully.

(Signed) F. R. ALDERWICK,
Hon. Secretary, Sidcup N.C.U.

WARING PARK, SIDCUP.

THE PROPOSED LAY-OUT.

A GREAT ACQUISITION

AT SMALL COST TO THE LOCALITY.

PRESENTATION OF TITLE DEEDS.

Few districts are likely to have such an excellent park and playing field at such great cost to the locality as Sidcup will shortly enjoy in Waring Park. How this has come about will be told in the following article, and the ratepayers will no doubt appreciate the public spirited generosity of Lord Waring, who has lived in the district for nearly thirty years.

Waring Park, which is now in course of development, is situated behind Lamborne-road and Birchwood-avenue, closely adjacent to the more thickly-populated areas of the district. It is being laid out so that it shall be of use to all sections and all classes of the community—not only the children and those of an athletic tendency, but the more staid folk who will appreciate its pleasant walks and woodland beauty. It is to be a park for all, and it is hoped that all will use it to the fullest extent.

ORIGIN OF THE SCHEME.

The possibility of acquiring the park originated with the Sidcup town-planning scheme was formulated. Provision was made for certain strips of Lord Waring's estate to be reserved as public open spaces, but Lord Waring objected to these proposals on the ground that they would not provide suitable accommodation for organised games and were generally undesirable.

Negotiations took place between Lord Waring, the Ministry of Health and the Sidcup Council, as the result of which a site having an area of about 13 acres was proposed to be scheduled to be purchased in the future by the Council for the purpose of a public open space. Following this, Lord Waring intimated that it had been for a long time in his mind to present to Sidcup an area suitable for a public park and recreation ground, and offered to give the site and dedicated to the purpose for which it was desired.

There were certain physical difficulties in the way—the unevenness of the ground and, the fact that a public surface water drain discharged on to the site without any means of the water getting away. Part of the ground was farm land, part was woodland, and some had previously been woodland which had been felled prior to the war, and was scrub. After consideration it was ascertained that the Government had a scheme for the employment of men from distressed areas on unremunerative work whereby, provided they were satisfied as to the nature of the works and the public improvement resulting, they offered to advance the necessary sum on loan, and to bear 75 per cent. of the capital and interest, for the remaining period of the loan. Details of the scheme and the work involved were submitted to the Lord Mayor's Committee, who gave it their approval, and the men to carry out the work have been sent from Cumberland, where many had previously been employed in blast furnaces. Approximately fifty of these men have been set to work on the job during the past five months and it is pleasing to learn that several of them have found permanent employment in the neighbourhood.

THE LAY-OUT.

The Council, after ascertaining the wishes of Lord Waring, are laying out the site so that it may be attractive to the older people of the district, by the provision of walks, shelters, and tree planting and improving a large area of existing woodland, while round the remainder is to be a belt about 15yds. in width, which is being planted with a large and varied selection of ornamental and forest trees and flowering and evergreen shrubs, the planting of which is about to be taken in hand. The major portion of the site is being levelled, and will be laid down to grass, giving provision for a bowling green, tennis courts, two cricket squares, pitches for Association and Rugby football and for netball players, while hockey, and foot netball players, while there will be a playground for smaller children and for games not of an organised nature.

Plans for necessary buildings have been prepared, and the erections will include six shelters, groundman and implement store, and the necessary sanitary conveniences. They will be constructed in brick, with Norfolk reed thatching. The entrance will be in Lansdowne-road, what was formerly known as Hazel-road.

COST OF THE WORKS.

The total cost of the proposed works, for which a loan has been approved for 20 years, amounts to the sum of £11,447, of which the contribution direct'y out of the local rates of the Sidcup Council will amount to £180 11s. 11d. per annum, or less than a 4d. in the £ for the first half of the loan, and for this it is anticipated the whole of the necessary preliminary work in the way of lay-out will be completed. There will be further necessary expenditure in the way of equipment for the several games and for the maintenance and upkeep of the park.

Considerable interest has been taken in the proposals, and it seems likely that voluntary contributions will be forthcoming from some local residents, as one gentleman has already offered to the committee the sum of £50 to be expended for the benefit of the children. Another resident has offered a collection of trees and shrubs for planting, and drinking fountains have been offered by the Metropolitan Drinking Fountains Association. It is anticipated that a generous grant will be made by the Carnegie Trustees towards the provision of equipment, such as swings and giant strides for the children. It is also hoped that a grant will be forthcoming from the National and Kent Playing Fields Association, in respect of the additional cost of turfing as against sowing with grass, so making the ground available earlier than would otherwise be possible. Further offers of help, such as seats or equipment, will be eagerly welcomed.

The work of levelling is now nearing completion, and the buildings and planting are about to be commenced. It will be possible to turf about one-third of the area this winter, but the turfing of the remainder is dependent upon the consolidation of the made ground. It is possible, therefore, that the whole area will not be available during the coming summer.

Details of the work on behalf of the Council have been carried out by the Waring Park Sub Committee. The chairman, Mr. J. R. Creasey, has thrown himself whole-heartedly into the project, and his professional knowledge has been of great assistance. The other members of the committee are Messrs. T. J. Robins, H. A. Hill (who took Mr. J. Kerfoot's place when he went abroad), T. G. Galbraith (Chairman of the Council), C. T. Knight and Miss Pillman. Mr. W. A. Pinkham, the Council's Surveyor, has had the oversight of the work, and has found the time to be good workers. Considerable interest has been taken by the National Playing Fields Association, and both General P. Maud, C.M.G., and Mr. Clubb (secretary) have taken personal interest in the scheme, and given valuable advice.

A WANT SUPPLIED.

Although the area of Sidcup urban district is 12,000 acres and the population about 70,000, up to the present there has not been a single public site really suitable for organised games, except that on a small portion of Longlands Recreation Ground games have been allowed. From the plan of the proposed lay-out which appears in this issue, it will be seen that all sorts of wants will be provided for, and it is evident that the park will be a great acquisition to Sidcup.

PRESENTATION OF TITLE DEEDS.

On Saturday last, at Foots Cray Place, Lord and Lady Waring received a deputation of the Sidcup Urban District Council, consisting of Messrs. T. G. Galbraith, J.P., Councils, H. H. Knock, T. J. Robins and J. R. Creasey, for the purpose of receiving the title deeds of the freehold land.

In making the gift, Lord Waring stated that during the many years he and Lady Waring had lived at Sidcup, they had always felt it a pleasure and a privilege to take a keen interest in everything pertaining to the life of the community, and especially to the well-being of the rising generation in Kent.

In presenting this land to the Sidcup Council they welcomed the opportunity that

(Continued in Next Column.)

(Continued from Preceding Column.)

offered itself to preserve the interests of the rising generation by setting aside this property a space where organised sports could be indulged in and facilities given for both the youth and the older people to enjoy these advantages of fresh air, sunshine and room for recreation, which contribute both to improved health and happiness, enabling the district to take its part in the important national movement for providing suitable playing fields and opening a park for the enjoyment of their neighbours.

In making further said that he and Lady Waring appreciated the wishes of the Council that the park should be known as Waring Park, and they were agreeable to that suggestion being adopted.

Mr. T. G. Galbraith, J.P., acknowledged the generosity which prompted Lord and Lady Waring to make such a generous gift to the locality, and expressed the wish that the donors would continue to reside in the district for many years, so that they would see and appreciate the benefit and pleasure their valuable gift would afford to the residents.

(Plan of lay-out on Page 2.)

QUEENSWOOD

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I be permitted the agency of your columns, to notice of Sidcup residents under the condition of their roads are suffering?

A veritable swamp, and with little I may say that it appears of the trouble I experienced France, and Flanders. The cause of great discomfort to tradesmen, postmen, &c. A are prisoners in their homes, unable to attend school, and the road is a source of grave risk to all users, especially as no lighting is provided.

The state of affairs has aggravated as the road has been the route of the main Blackfriars service as there was has to. To make matters worse, surcarted from the construction road and dumped on to the road.

Representation of the conditi has from time to time been Sidcup Urban District Co March last a petition was presented requesting that the road sho up, or at least a footpath provi repeatedly pressed for an petitions, no reply was forthcoming. November, when, the winter the state of the road had become it was impossible for the re selves to improve the condition at last received was that the Council had taken action owing to the property-owners who were dest the road made up under the Works Act. No reply was given as the alternative required for a footpath, if of old tins would from the Council's contrac welcomed, as it would at least enable users to traverse the road dry-shod.

Yours, &c.,

ARTHUR E. MOUNT,
Chaynles, Queenswood-road, Blackfen, Sidcup.

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