

30 Years Ago – Reepham in 1954

Traders' duty "to help bring Reepham back to life"

At a meeting of the Management Committee of Reepham Chamber of Trade and Commerce last night, Mr. Ben Stimpson reported on the reaction of three students at Liverpool University who made a survey of Reepham in the summer. He said they were "appalled" at the lack of sewerage and piped water, and they considered the town "half dead".

Mr. Stimpson considered it was the duty of the Chamber to help to bring Reepham back to life, and without water and sewerage no industry or private housing was likely. Reepham had plenty of space and suitable sites without taking up agricultural land. There were a number of empty houses that could not be hired and a number of condemned houses all over the town.

'Parlous state'

Their main industry was agriculture, and he observed, "What a good thing it would be if we could attract to Reepham, say, a quick-freeze plant or canning factory, which would benefit the whole community. This vision was impossible of fulfilment without water or sewerage.

"Here we have empty houses, an empty garage and vacant building plots, and unless something is not done soon the tradespeople will have empty pockets."

As it seemed Reepham would never have sewerage and water without "creating a hell of a fuss about it", he moved that letters be sent to their MP, their county councillor, their four representatives to the RDC, and the parish council, drawing attention to the parlous state in which Reepham found itself through lack of those essential modern amenities.

Could take light industry

The letters will point out that Reepham had electricity, roads and sites that could accommodate light industry and houses at considerably less expense and without defacing a Norfolk beauty spot, as was proposed in the Stratton Strawless scheme.

The motion was carried unanimously.

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