

The Watermead Village Newsletter

Watermead North Abandoned!

AVDC's Strategic Planning and Development
Committee on 4th
September 1997 voted to throw out the proposal for additional homes at
Watermead North, which would have included a second access road off the proposed Aylesbury
Northern By-Pass.

The prediction in June's emergency View that AVDC would try to go for more than the 140 houses initially proposed proved to be correct and officers put an option to the SPDC for no fewer than 270, which would have been built on 'infill' land between

the extended Kestrel Way and the A413. The larger figure which Lakeside Land Ltd calculated could be built on that land did not allow for the new 'lagoon' north of Watermead which it seems will be needed as part of drainage works associated with the bypass.

The issue will now go to the planning inspector, who will hold a public inquiry in 1998 before making recommendations to the Secretary of State concerning the new Local Plan. It is unlikely that Watermead North will be resurrected.

The future of the 8 acres continued on page 4...

Cathy Elliott of Kittiwake died in June following a tragic accident.

Cathy moved to Watermead in 1989 when the original village concept was very much alive and quickly became a fervent supporter of the principal of a modern village. When the formation of a residents' association was proposed Cathy joined with the other like-minded people to promote the village spirit and work for the benefit of the community.

During those days Cathy would always be found in the forefront of organising social events such as the family fun day, barn dances, fetes and bonfire nights. Her fervour continued as she became involved with all aspects of social and community life; she produced several editions of the first village magazine; helped to set up and run the youth club; managed the village hall for four years; was the treasurer for the first cricket club, and helped with the neighbourhood watch group.

Cathy leaves two children, Lorraine, 33, and Mark, 31, and her husband Alan, to whom she had been married for 37 years. She will be sadly missed by them and by her many friends on Watermead.

Christmas Carol Concert

Saturday 20 December 1997
In the Piazza from 6 to 7pm
Live music and carol singing
Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

Vicar of Bierton

Father Christmas will find time in his busy schedule to drop in and see the children bearing gifts!



Village View on the Internet



Web Address to be Advised

Editorial Mailbox - jbray@dge.ceo.dg.com



Michael Shrimpton appearing on BBC Newsnight (By kind permission of the BBC)

AVDC's abandonment of Watermead North is as much to be welcomed as their asinine decision to turn down the original Watermead Homes proposal is to be deplored. It is to be hoped that the planning inspector will show more sense (and try to persuade the Secretary of State to scrap the silly northern bypass scheme whilst he is about it).

The dereliction of Watermead Cricket Ground is only one aspect of the penalty our community is having to pay for the short-sightedness of AVDC. I continue to believe that the ground has tremendous potential, which would have been unlocked by the new pavilion. There it is. These matters will have to await the decision of the Secretary of State. Let us hope that we do not have to wait as long for the cricket club to fulfil its undertaking to cut the grass!

I am sorry that we missed the last issue of the View - we have a good team of volunteers, but are still short. Ideally we need to expand the regular team from 4 to at least 6 - the trouble at the moment is that we cannot cover absences on business and holiday etc. We would love to hear from anyone with desktop publishing, PR, advertising, computing or

CHAIRMAN'S VIEW

graphics skills. Thanks to our loyal advertisers for bearing with us - I have been working for three years towards a position where we have a stable editorial board and can keep to regular publication dates announced up to 12 months in advance.

I am sorry that Richard Crake has to step down from the Board due to altered business commitments and I am grateful to him for his efforts, particularly on Fireworks Night 96. The Board needs strengthening, ideally with at least two new directors. If you feel you can contribute to your community in this way please let myself or another director know.

Speaking of Fireworks Night you will know by now that we had to cancel the 97 night - the decision was in fact taken some time ago and would have been announced in the summer issue of the View had it gone to press. There was little support for an event this year, by which I mean business sponsorship. The money was not available this year to subsidise the event from company (ie community) funds. We have an indication that a 10k sponsorship package may be on offer for 98, which would certainly allow us to go ahead. A provisional date has been set for Saturday, 7th November 1998.

I am very occasionally asked why we do not have more events on Watermead - the short answer is that by and large people do not want them and will not support them. The Charity Auction in 1995 attracted about 25 residents and this year's Summer Ball organised by Chris Floyd and David Skinner about the same number, which I thought was poor reward for all the effort they put in, for which I am grateful.

I am aware that some residents have objected to the noise from across the water but there has been a constructive response from Captain's Cabin, which I welcome - a balance has to be struck between the proper interests of the community, who are entitled to a good night's sleep, and the entirely legitimate commercial interests of Captain's Cabin Ltd and the Boathouse Restaurant, who have made a substantial investment in Watermead.

Scottish and Newcastle have also been investing - I hope I will be forgiven for commenting that it was overdue. I was pleased however with their response to our concerns about the Watermead and I was glad of the opportunity to meet with their senior management earlier in the year. I think everyone agrees that there has been a vast improvement and I wish the Watermead well.

I hope to see as many shareholders as possible at the AGM on December 11th, when constructive criticism of the directors' efforts will be welcome and offers of assistance even more welcome.

Michael Shrimpton, Chairman, Lakeside Land Ltd, Watermead's Community Company

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Easter - 21st March Summer - 25th July Autumn - 3rd October Christmas - 12th December

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Please arrange advertisements at least 3 weeks prior to publication date

If you have any suggestions for content/articles please contact any member of the editorial board

CO-ORDINATES URGENTLY REQUIRED

Watermead has the most successful Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the Thames Valley Police area with the lowest crime rate in Aylesbury. All this has been made possible by the work carried out by the present co-ordinators and the community.

Unfortunately unless new co-ordinators are found this may all come to an end.

But don't panic! If you are interested in being a new a co-ordinator, the required time commitment is not high as the foundations have already been established.

We need people urgently who are:

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If you feel you care enough about your area, would like to know more or would like to to discuss this with an existing co-ordinator then please contact Mike & Sandra Gowling

Tel: 420956

REMEMBER Neighbourhood Watch success depends on the police and the community working together at all times.

......(which would have formed part of Watermead North) remains unresolved. Residents will know that it was always intended that there would be 80 acres of residential development on Watermead and that only 72 acres have been developed. The infrastructure is well able to take the additional 72 houses that Watermead Homes intended to put on that site. The Lakeside Board backed that scheme because the housing would have been sited so as to turn the access roads into the site into cul-de-sacs, so protecting Watermead from future expansion towards the bypass (to which the Board is opposed), the Buckingham Road or Bierton. The houses would also have been designed to be in sympathy with the original development and there would have been substantial planning gain for our community including a new pavilion. Responding in part to concerns from the Board about the number of houses Watermead Homes have now come up with a revised scheme of 60 houses, again sited so as to block off all further development. This revised scheme will be urged strongly on the inspector.

AVDC were warned by the Lakeside Board of the risk that rejection of the Watermead Homes scheme would lead to the cricket ground becoming derelict. The Board was aware that the Cricket Club committee had effectively collapsed in November 1995 and was concerned about the ability of the Cricket Club to maintain the ground. Those concerns seem to have been justified and every resident will be aware of what an eyesore Watermead Cricket Ground has become. The denial of access to the original Pavilion held back cricket and sports development in general on Watermead. The Board had hoped that the new pavilion would inject life into the cricket club, as well as providing for youth sports in the winter and much-needed community meeting rooms. Apart from the excellent facilities offered by the proposed new Pavilion the Board realised the importance of an attractive appearance to this prominent site near the entrance to Watermead, passed by every car coming in to the village. Lakeside Land Limited does not own the cricket ground and has no right to maintain it. Sadly AVDC's obstinate refusal of an excellent scheme means that cricket is unlikely to be played on Watermead next season and it is wholly unclear as this issue goes to press what proposals the cricket club has to maintain the site. The Board is willing to take the site over and maintain it but that would require either the agreement of the cricket club or the approval of a judge, the land being held in trust for its intended purpose as a cricket ground for the local community.

Any resident willing to help in the preparation and presentation of Watermead's case to the inspector should contact Lakeside Land or a member of the Planning Group. Mike Liston has had to stand down as convenor of the Planning Group due to business commitments and a replacement is needed urgently.

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Rolf says "HI!" to the

residents of Watermead

Greetings from Australia July '97

Yes folks, I'm actually in "Skippy Land" visiting my family, lovely to see them again and I'm enjoying my visit -It's an amazing country - although I can't quite get used to seeing Pelicans perched on the street lamps, makes a change!

Quite coincidental that I should meet with Rolf Harris whilst he was filming "Animal Hospital" at

Watermead, he kindly agreed to let me take some photographs of him feeding

the ducks, unfortunately they were off nesting so there was little activity on the lake except for a very large. Pike which really startled him when it appeared like "Jaws" to take the bread.

Anyway, back to business, George and Lady hatched their cygnets early May, they were successfully rearing four when some 'Morons' threw stones at the family, badly injuring one of the cygnets, St. Tiggywinkles took it to their hospital but sadly it had a fit and died, I'm sure you all feel as I do sickened by this despicable act - we can only hope that these thugs will be brought to book.

Henry and The Duchess hatched a month later and were proudly escorting their five cygnets around the lake, Henry hasn't been quite himself lately, even allowing a young pair to nest on one of the Islands, I think they were playing house as nothing came of it. Maybe the 'old boy' is mellowing, it would be quite nice if he allowed the other



LADY in nest with cygnets

swans to land.

The Mallards produced quite well, one duck hatched and reared 12! Quite a feat considering the hazards out there. The Coots also bred on both lakes. the young look quite weird with their tuft of red hair.

Sorry this is short, I hope I haven't missed any rare sightings, I'll be back by the time you read this and hopefully 'In the swing of things'.

The W.I. asked me to speak at one of their



meetings (hope it wasn't too boring) they kindly gave me a donation for St. Tiggywinkles which I sent along with my own cheque (proceeds from calendars) and I received a very nice letter thanking us for the donations.

November '97

Hello Again!

Not much to add to the above I'm afraid. The young swans are practising 'take off, and landing'. The duck population has swollen in numbers, with a mixture of breeds, I'm wondering if some have been put on the lake. You may have seen the news item about "Duck Dumping". A lady who lives near a pond woke early one morning to some very loud quacking. The reason for all the noise was soon

Baby Coot

apparent - Call Ducks (incidentally the noisiest ducks!). Someone, possibly a breeder, had obviously off loaded them during the night. They were creating quite a problem and the lady in question was "not amused" quickly pointing out

that it was illegal to release domestic

ducks into the wild.

Here at Watermead we get visitors from other areas who fly in, decide to stay (they know which side their bread is buttered!), so I think we have some voluntary and involuntary feathered friends. Fortunately they all seem to settle in fine.

Talking of bread, with Winter upon us, it is helpful to the birds at this time to feed with mixed corn, wheat and of course WET bread, especially when the "Big Freeze" comes. Hopefully it will not be to severe for all our sakes!

Bye for now Linda Jones



"Did you see that?" Rolf startled by the big Pipke



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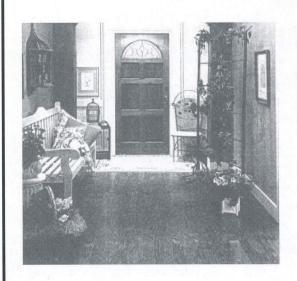
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Christmastide at St. James the Great, Bierton

One Of the doubtful advantages of a computer is that it allows you to see what you wrote one, two or even three years ago. I have just read what I wrote last Christmas. I said in part "... as I get older, the days seem to hasten even more each year." I see no reason to say otherwise this year, although it has been a momentous on for me personally, as far as the church is concerned.

So what can we welcome you to this year as St. James? We really get going with our Family Service at 11am on Sunday 21st December, which includes the Sunday School Nativity Play. On the same day at 6 o' clock we have our Carol Service. Fairly traditional, but with some 'modern' touches. Then on Christmas Eve at 5 o' clock we have out Christingle Service. I used to that this was a modern innovation, but it actually dates back 250 years. The children will love it, and we find that what children are enjoying, adults invariably do as well!

Our Midnight Mass starts at 11:30pm on Christmas Eve, and for a more informal 'all-age' Family Communion, you could come along at 9am on Christmas Day.

If you miss the Carol Service on the 21st, there is another one at 6pm on the 28th at All Saints Church, Hulcott. Please ring if you are not sure how to get there. (There will be no service at St. James the Great this evening).

There are some other quieter services over Christmas to which you are welcome: please telephone if you are interested.

Other News

This time last year we were holding our breath, wondering if we could ever start building our Toilet and Kitchen facility in the church. Now the work is all done, and we only have a small amount of outstanding debt to clear. We hope to do this after our Christmas Fete, which is held a Bierton School, Parsons Lane on Saturday December the 6th from 11am until 2:30pm. You can buy all manner of goodies, including Christmas cards and table decorations, jewellery, cakes, books, etc. Do come, it's great fun.

My own good news is that I was admitted as a Reader (lay minister) in Christ church Cathedral, Oxford on the 28th October. After three years of training, I am very happy to have complete the course and made the grade.

If you have known sorrow this year, you may find comfort in sharing in one or more of our Christmas services, which not only celebrate a Birth, but also acknowledge sadness and in which you may find warmth, love, hope and even joy.

May Christmas bring peace, quiet, and happiness to all residents of Watermead, those of any faith and those who acknowledge none. A kind word and help with service time awaits anyone who rings either of the number below. May God bless you.

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Lakeside Land Chairman Honoured

MICHAEL SHRIMPTON

On Saturday 28th June 1997 Lakeside Land and LCAM Chairman Michael Shrimpton was presented with Honorary Life Membership of Bomber Command Association by its President Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Michael Beetham GCB CBE DFC AFC FRAeS (Chief of the Air Staff during the Falklands War). In an address to the Association Michael praised the courage of all associated with Bomber

Command and the vision of its great wartime leader, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Arthur Harris. He condemned those in the media who have treated the Command and its veterans unfairly and spoke of the responsibility of the younger generations to see that the sacrifice of those that flew and did not return is both remembered and honoured.

Michael has also recently been invited to join the Atlantic Council of the United Kingdom. He continues to make waves beyond Watermead!

Watermead Community Forum

Earlier this year I became a director of Lakeside And Limited. I have maintained my position as Chairman of the Community Forum although there has been little activity on this front for some time.

During the past few months I have received a number of general enquiries from residents about certain aspects of the Community at Watermead and some requests for help to solve 'neighbour problems'. I am sorry that I cannot get involved in neighbour disputes. However, I will always offer advice or suggest someone who may be able to help.

Many residents seem unaware if various covenants covering our properties at Wateremad. Here are some examples:

"We are not permitted to change the colour of our front doors!

"Any hedge surrounding your front garden should not be more than two feet high.

"Bushes/plants should be replaced if they die where originally planted in front gardens.

"It is the responsibility of the owner of a property to cut the grass verges in front of their property.

"You need to obtain permission before erecting a fence around your front garden.

"The road space in front of your house is for your visitor to park. Flat owners as given a specific space for parking with more communal spaces for their visitors.

"TV aerials/satellite dishes are not permitted outside the house.

More complaints have been received about litter around Watermead and particularly around the lake areas. I am sure that most of this is produced by visitors but it is up to us to do what we can to remove it. I know there are a number of people who regularly pick up other people's rubbish - these are usually walkers both with dogs and without. Some time ago a resident suggested we have a litter clear up day - any volunteers?

There are still dog owners not picking up their dog's mess. I even see dog owners who have children with the who do not pick up their dog mess!!!. This seems ironic because a lot of complaints about dog mess refer to this problem with particular reference to the danger to children.. Dog owners take heed - I recycle the plastic bags used for veg/fruit from the superstores, careful though Tesco bags have holes in them!!!!!

The matter of converting the Bandstand Island into a bird sanctuary is still outstanding. Any comments on that would be of interest. I feel strongly that the pathways around the lakes should be attended to . We don't currently have enough money to deal with this. Any suggestions to raise the cash? If so, are you prepared to organise the occasion?

If you would like to become involved with the Community Forum please let me know. If you have comments to make about the environment around Watermead I would like to hear from you. I am your voice on the Board of Lakeside Land and unless I know what you want or would like changed I can do nothing.

Once again this year we are holding a Christmas Carol Concert in the Piazza on Saturday, 20th December from 6pm to 7pm. There will be live music, Carols, Mulled wine and mince pies with the Vicar of Bierton attending. Father Christmas has also promised to drop in. I look forward to seeing you all there.

A very happy Christmas to all at Watermead and a prosperous new year.

Mary Singleton Chairman Watermead Community Forum

Bandstand Convertion on the Lower Lake?

A proposal has been put to the Board of Lakeside Land Ltd to turn the large island on the small or ornamental lake into a sanctuary for our water birds. Its present state could not be described as aesthetically pleasing and the bandstand has become the target of vandals, large sections of the balustrade having been kicked away and graffiti is now appearing.

The proposed scheme includes the planting of wild flowers, varieties to attract butterflies and climbing plants around the base of the bandstand to grow up the supporting ports. A variety of rushes and grasses around the edge of the island would provide much needed habitat for the birds to rest and raise their young.

Our own pair of nesting swans are greatly in need of a safe permanent site to protect them from disturbance by humans and animals alike. To this end it would be necessary to remove the small bridge leading onto the island. I have contacted the appropriate departments of AVDC, namely, Legal, Planning and Footpaths and Rights of Way and have received written confirmation from all three that they have no objections and this is not a matter requiring their involvement. I feel therefore that this proposal should be decided upon by a note from the shareholders.

The question of money raises its ugly head, but this time Watermead has been promised help, both financial and physical from Lesley Davies, Countryside Management Projects Officer for AVDC by way of the plants, shrubs etc required, plus working party to get the project off the ground.

You can be involved, volunteers will be needed initially and for maintenance work, but would only be required at most twice a year. If you are willing, please phone Gloria Baker on 432479.

Gloria Baker

The Board by a comfortable majority has rejected this proposal, having received an number of letters of objection and an unofficial petition in support..

The Board's decision can of course be overruled at the Annual General Meeting on Thursday the 11th of December, provided always that all shareholders are put on notice of the resolution. Any shareholder wishing to put down a resolution need only contact Len Staines, the Company Secretary, for advice and assistance. The importance of proper notice cannot be over-emphasised, as every shareholder is entitled to know the business of the meeting in advance.

The planting scheme is to go ahead - this was an excellent idea and all credit to Mrs Baker for suggesting it. This will improve both the appearance of the island and the natural habitat.

The swans have an existing nesting site and can not be told where to nest - they are wild creatures and they will nest where they want.

Lesley Davies has advised the Board against removing the bridge, which advice has been accepted. It is a popular feature, loved by many residents. It is also important to maintain public access in accordance with the spirit of the Watermead development scheme.

Tenders are already being received for the refurbishment of the damaged bandstand. The answer to vandalism is not to deprive the community of the facility but for residents to report incidents of vandalism to the police and the board.

Michael Shrimpton

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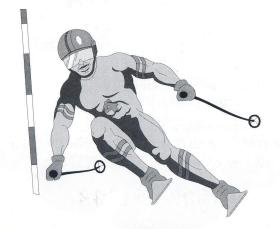
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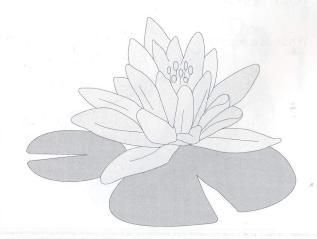
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Childrens Corner









Bit of a Difference!

There are 8 differences between the 2 cartoons. Can you spot them?



Just for a Laugh

Which Letters of the alphabet are bad for your teeth? D $\mathbf K$

What can a whole orange do that a half orange can't?

It can look round!

Where do martians go for a drink?

To a Mars Bar!

What do you call a three barrelled rifle?

A Trifle!

What does divine mean? It's what da grapes grow on!

Art & Picture Competition

Why not send your pictures and art of Watermead to the Village View Childrens Editor Care of Jason Bray, 9 Owl Close.

We will show the best selection in each issue and you never know, bu next issue we could have a prize or 2 to give away!

Childrens Page Editor: Ken Hirons

A Playground For All

The Watermead Playground Committee has been working towards the establishment of a playground on Watermead. After much deliberation it is felt that a playground on Watermead would need to reflect all age group's and not just the under five's as previously suggested. It is to this end that approaches to Aylesbury Vale District Council Leisure Services have been made. The council's leisure services have made clear that total funding of a playground is not possible until after the year 2000 as priorities for funding have already been decided up to then. They have suggested that funding could be available under their Leisure Check scheme which is essentially 50/50 funding maximum of £10,000 for any one phase of a proposed scheme. Under this scheme the council would then take over the land and the playground on a minimum 25 year lease and provide insurance cover and maintenance. The council would also ensure full consultation with all residents.

Given the size of Watermead, the number of families with children and the wide age ranges within the community a playground would need to be of sufficient size and quality to provide adequate play facilities. The site proposed is the first grassed area on the left after crossing the stepping stones from the Watermead Inn.

The Playground Committee have approached four manufacturers to provide quotes and plans of proposed schemes. The plans of all the manufacturers have common features such as the area being fully fenced to keep children in and dogs out, play areas for under five's, juniors, seniors and outside the fenced area basketball hoop and seating for teenagers, However all manufacturers have their own style, equipment and presentation, so in order that the right scheme for Watermead can be chosen the plans were available to view, in the village hall on Wednesday 30th July and Thursday 31st July and on Saturday 2nd August.

Playgrounds are not cheap!! (Please sit down before continuing reading) It is estimated that the total cost (divided into 3 stages) will be in the region of £60,000 this leaves Watermead with the task of raising £30,000.

HOWEVER to put this into context it would cost each household on Watermead a donation of just £30. This would be a very easy way of raising the money, saving effort on organising fund-raising events and meaning the playground could be installed within 3 to 6 months. BUT realistically this is unlikely to happen, so fund-raising events will have to be organised, the first ones being 2 children's discos. These were held at Watermead Village Hall with all the proceeds going the Childrens Playground Fund. We ill update you with the results in the next issue of the Village View

Approaches will also be made to other organisations, such as the National Lottery for funding but it is really up to the residents of Watermead as to whether or not a playground is installed. It is not possible or economically viable to deliver leaflets advertising events to each household so posters will be put up around Watermead. Watch out for these and support the events.

REMEMBER NO FUNDS NO PLAYGROUND

Donations can be made to THE WATERMEAD PLAYGROUND PROJECT at 14 Willowherb, Watermead. Please write your name and address on the back of the cheque.

If you have any comments or feel you can help in anyway please contact Diane Sullivan on 397475.



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A MEERY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL RESIDENTS OF WATERMEAD



FROM ALL THE MEMBERS
OF THE WATERMEAD
COMMUNITY GROUPS AND
COMPANIES



The Village Square Watermead Aylesbury HP19 3FX

Telephone: 01296 330700

Opening times

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New residents to
Watermead are warmly
welcomed. Visit us for
your next check-up; we're
right on your doorstep

Lakeside Land Ltd is the Watermead community company representing the interests and views of the Watermead community as a whole. To this end we have included the published mission statement below to underline that commitment.

LAKESIDE LAND LTD MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of Lakeside Land Ltd to:

- * Represent the interests of the whole village as Watermeads Community Company
- * Encourage positive development in keeping with the unique character of Watermead
 - * Provide a forum for community involvement

and feedback

- * Support and encourage local enterprise
- * Protect and enhance Watermead's natural envioronment
- * Manage the company's assets efficiently and maximise revenue for the benefit of the community

NB: Nothing in the above shall conflict or take precedence over the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company

LAKESIDE LAND BOARD MEMBERS

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