

## Observer steps in over buzz

A CONTINUOUS buzzing noise which went on for a whole night and the next day was finally silenced, thanks to the **Observer**.

Brian Fuller, wife Sylvia, daughter Julie and their neighbours in Scott Road were kept awake on the night of January 10 and irritated the following day by the unexplained noise from a skip.

The lockable container was being used by contractors working on behalf of East Herts District Council, which is refurbishing properties.

But despite pleas from Mr Fuller, nothing was done until, in desperation, he rang the **Observer** on January 11.

He said then: "The noise woke us up about 11pm and is still continuing now. It's terrible and somebody should do something."

"It's kept me and my family and several other families awake all night. I've phoned the police and council."

EHDC notified the skip contractor and, soon after, it sent someone to investigate.

Julie Fuller said later: "They came out straight away on Friday. It was a smoke alarm which had been thrown away and was going off and they disposed of it."



**HAVING A BALL:** From left, Esme Willcocks, Clare Shepherd, Eleanor Gardiner, Jaqui Husk, Viv Spalding, Phillipa MacDonald and Sharon Ellaway Photo: SJ9MJKLM-01; inset, Rose Willcocks Photo: FCGCML9B-01

## Rosie fund on a roll!

**THE fund to send Rose Willcocks – Bishop's Stortford's 'Miss Doolittle' – to America has virtually been doubled, thanks to a champagne ball last Saturday.**

The sell-out Rose Ball at Great Hadham Golf and Country Club raised £9,500 to add to the £11,500 that has enabled Rose's parents to book the trip for her to swim with dolphins and undergo intensive therapy to help her speak.

Dave and Esme Willcocks, of The Ridings, Thorley Park, were delighted with the massive success of the event and Esme paid tribute to her co-organiser, Sharon Ellaway.

"I'm still buzzing," she said on Tuesday. "I never thought in my wildest dreams we would have

raised that amount. Dave and I have so many dreams for Rose. We can now go gung-ho without having to worry about how we're going to pay for them all."

Their daughter, who celebrated her fifth birthday last Friday, has a rare genetic condition that means she has never developed speech, but when she is around animals she starts babbling and chattering.

The couple, who also have a younger daughter, Ruby, 2, launched an appeal six months ago and have been overwhelmed by the response, especially since her story was featured in the **Observer**.

In May, they will travel to Water Planet USA centre in Panama City for therapy and for Rose to swim in



the sea with wild dolphins. Esme added: "What could be better than to combine Rose's two greatest passions, swimming and animals?" She thanked her friends and all others who had helped with fundraising. "I never thought in a million years we would get this kind of response from our local community. "We don't expect a miracle cure, but what we do hope is that this experience will help her in just some small way.

"If this therapy is the key to unlocking the door that is stopping her from talking or is simply a starting point along that journey, then we have to take it."

## Appeal for probe into rat-runners

RAT-running through Cradle End and Westland Green at Little Hadham should be investigated, say highways councillors.

No promises were being made, they stressed, but it might lead to the hamlets qualifying for remedial action.

Since last autumn, the parish has been seeking action to prevent drivers from turning off the A120 between Bishop's Stortford and Little Hadham and travelling at speed along the winding country lanes.

October's meeting of the joint county and district highways panel had asked for officers to carry out a traffic and environmental assessment review. That included the option of a peak-hour left-turn ban at the Cradle End turn-off on the A120.

Last week's highways panel meeting was told that any future scheme ranked low, based on vehicle counts, speeds and personal injury accident records, and was unlikely to be selected as a viable scheme. There would need to be a detailed feasibility investigation on the left-turn ban, which would also affect residents as well as rat-runners, it was pointed out.

The county and district councillors decided that, while not wishing to raise expectations, the parish council should be asked to look into the rat-running problems.

# Free business street parking permits 'unfair'

PLANS to give businesses free parking permits for a street in Bishop's Stortford should be blocked in, say councillors.

East Herts District Council's proposal to issue 13 permits to employees of firms at Millars Three in Southmill Road stalled when it was considered by members of the joint county-district highways panel last week.

Workers have lost their parking spaces because of work on installing a new bridge over the River Stort to link Millars Three with the railway goods yard.

The district council has advertised a traffic regulation order for a stretch of South Road, near Havers Park Bowls Club, for the business permit scheme, plus a second for waiting restrictions. Closing date for objections was mid-December.

But Cllr Mione Goldspink said: "I'm unhappy businesses should be offered free parking. That's unfair on the residents and the bowls club. I would like to support a one-hour commuter

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ban – that would be much fairer."

Cllr Robert Taylor added: "The whole of that stretch is a massive parking lot for taxis. To exacerbate the situation, to allow parking permits only for the occupants of Millars Three seems grossly unfair. It doesn't address the problems residents have."

He suggested a small number of permits for householders.

Cllr Bernard Engel said that giving businesses permits to park on a public highway would

prevent residents leaving their cars in front of their own homes.

But Cllr Ralph Gilbert was worried about the implications if the idea did not go through. He queried whether it was part of the planning deal concerning the bridge.

The panel, which is advisory, preferred the idea of a one-hour commuter ban, which an 89-signature petition had called for last October.

Afterwards, an EHDC spokeswoman said that the commuter ban and business schemes were not mutually exclusive.

The panel's views will be considered by the district council's executive on February 4. The issue will go back to the highways panel for further comment before the ultimate decision is by the full council.

Similarly, Herts County Council's proposed commuter ban will be progressed by that authority.

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