

AMENITIES IMPROVED AT BOVISAND PARK

Bovisand Park Bovisand Nr. Down Thomas

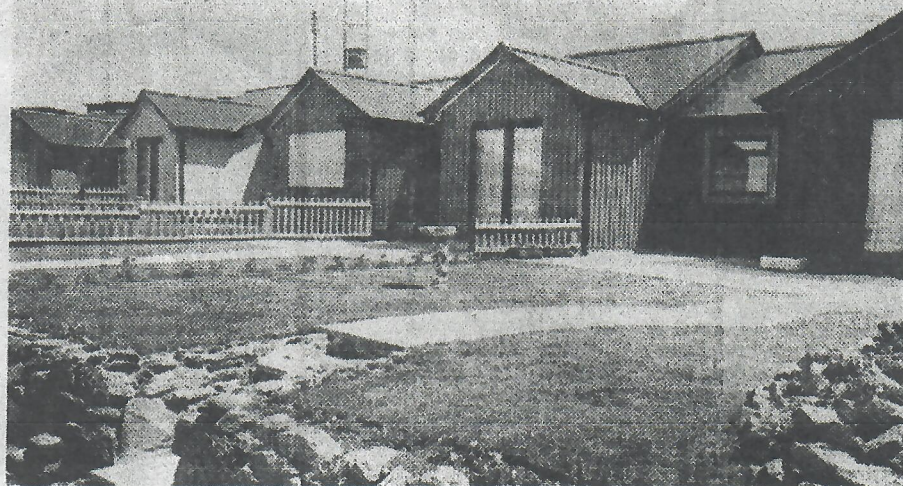
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The new executive-style chalets at Bovisands.

BOVISAND is one of the most attractive spots around Plymouth. The sparkling blue sea, rugged coastline and views clear away to the Sound and the Approaches are enhanced by the amenities offered to the visitor.

The main car park has space for at least 100 cars with another overspill car park at the west point which can take considerably more.

Bovisand is the nearest sandy beach to Plymouth and, what is more, it holds the distinction along with Bigbury and Wembury of being approved by the EEC; it meets all their standards.

The foreshore comprises three sandy beaches, safe for children, leased to Bovisand Park Ltd, by the Duchy of Cornwall. No charges are made to use these, although they are kept clean and tidy at all times. The only charge is for the car park.

Apart from lots of coastal walks in both directions there are plenty of other things to do at Bovisand. It is an ideal wind-surfing beach, there is fishing, both rock and sea, and a diving school close by.

Landscaping

Two new picnic areas have been created. Barbecues are allowed provided application is made to the warden of Bovisand Park Ltd.

A full-time handyman is employed to keep the grass tidy, keep litter down and the car parks in good order.

Many more improvements are planned soon, the whole area will be landscaped; over 2,000 trees and bushes will be planted.

There will be a putting green and a special children's play area. A large space will be flattened with plenty of seats which should appeal to senior citizens.

In fact, what was formerly

a shanty town is now a modern, tastefully-built little village of bungalows and shops.

All of this is due to the vision and foresight of one man, A. T. Bignell, better known to all as Tom.

As far back as 51 years ago tents, caravans and chalets on 121 sites were to be seen at Bovisand. Ten years later Tom Bignell arrived and pitched his tent. He gravitated to a bigger tent, then a caravan and later a chalet.

In those days there was no running water, only a stand pipe and no main drainage.

In 1969 Tom Bignell got into a dispute with the council over the caravans, the council wanted them out.

That done, it was only about six years later that the council then indicated that they wanted to clear the site of all the existing chalets.

Advertising Feature

A Residents Association was formed with about 90 members and a lot of money was subscribed to form a fighting fund.

After a series of meetings with the council the residents were asked to form themselves into a limited company, so Bovisand Park Ltd, headed by Tom Bignell, was formed in 1983. By then Tom had given up his job with Farley Health Products Ltd, to take on this project full time.

By then many discussions had taken place on the future of the estate and in 1984 a lease was signed with South Hams District Council. This was a 7½ year development lease whereby Bovisand Park Ltd, had to complete the development as agreed with the Planning Application Dept.

An architect was employed

to make a comprehensive survey and then several site plans were submitted until one was finally accepted by the District Council.

A firm of local builders and contractors, Beed & Newham excavated for the first foundations and built in a complete sewage system which eliminated the possibility of any sewage going into the sea.

Million

After this work was finished Pinewood Structures supplied the timber frame buildings, which comprise two bedrooms, lounge, kitchen and bathroom with all mains services, electricity and water.

Bovisand Park Ltd had tried to keep the cost of all this down to a minimum. The company developed the estate itself in three phases with all the members paying an initial £1,250. This gave them approximately the £100,000 needed to start the project.

By now this development has cost in the region of £1m, all paid for by the original Residents Association.

It was done slowly, in three stages, mainly to avoid upsetting the pleasure of all those who love to visit Bovisand.

If, at the end of the 7½-year development lease everything is completed according to plan, a 45-year lease will be granted to Bovisand Park Ltd. The project is well ahead of schedule and should be completed long before the time is up. Eighty-one bungalows have been completed and sold.

Tom Bignell, who has devoted 40-years of his life one way and another to the project, confidently predicts that by the time everything is finished the whole area will be a credit to the South Hams.

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