

*Mr. W Litson W N 6761
In last Cats. dogs. also Vet.
Phone above*

Animal Welfare League Stays Put

RINGWOOD Auxiliary of the Animal Welfare League has asked the Council to grant permissive occupancy of the property at Canterbury - Heatherdale Rds. corner, for so long as the organisation functions. *Hotel site 1970*

The League is agreeable to any re-arrangement of buildings, at council expense, and suggests a nominal rental of £1 per annum.

When this came under discussion at last week's Council meeting, Cr. A. G. Lavis, following a move by Cr. Horman to grant the request, told councillors about the wonderful job the League was doing down there. The telephone rang from 50 to 100 times a day, he said, and it was the only animal organisation open all the time.

Calls came from as far away as Mornington Peninsula, Braybrook, St. Albans and Healesville, and the fine Scottish couple down there were doing a splendid but thankless job. Strays were always coming in and feeding costs were high. Up to £20 a month went in veterinary expenses, accident cases were taken there, said Cr. Lavis, and all dogs picked up by the ranger.

Even dogs from as far as 50 miles away were taken there and every effort was made to return them to their owners.

Cr. Spencer said that £1565 had been paid for the land and he thought the matter should be deferred for further consideration.

But Cr. Horman said he thought £1 a year was cheap in return for the work done. "Who would want to live in that snake-infested spot, anyway?" he asked.

Cr. Lavis said the League was perfectly willing to cooperate with Council plans for portion of the land so Council, having purchased the land could well go a step further and see about any portion of it which could be used. But £1 a year was a fair thing for the work that was being done.

Cr. Spencer thanked Cr. Lavis for explaining the position and seconded Cr. Horman's motion to grant permissive occupancy.

Cr. H. E. Parker, however, said this should be limited to a three years' term because the land would ultimately have its uses, and would increase in value.

Cr. Lavis pointed out that with the growth of the Borough the animal population would increase as well, and he thought it would be a poor show to throw the League off the land later on.

"But I don't want to eliminate them," protested Cr. Parker. "I am just referring to portion of the land they don't use."

The town clerk (Mr. Alfred Kelly) then suggested that the Auxiliary be granted use of the whole area and improvements until Council has resolved the future use of any portion of the land.

Cr. Lavis finally put the subject in a nutshell: That the Auxiliary continue at a rental of £1 a year until Council decided to use some portion of the land for another purpose. Following which the Auxiliary would be concentrated on a smaller area of it and given permissive occupancy for the life of the organisation. And that seemed to be that.