

## Document of the Month

Long before 'Go Green' became a buzz-word, the planners of Godrej Industrial Township meticulously inked a landscape that was healthy and beautiful for its residents. The erstwhile Baithi chawls or single-storeyed cottage houses constructed in the first phase and designed in the classic English Garden City concept, were flanked on the front and the rear by little plots of land meant for gardening. Subsequent beautification was taken up by the newly formed 'Garden and Farm Committee'. The committee chaired by Mr. S P Godrej and comprising of Mr. N B Vinod and Mr. K N Mowdawalla among others was to undertake planning of gardens and lawns around the factory area.

The final document in the Document of the Month - 2011 series dedicated to '60 Years in Vikhroli', reveals some of the members of the committee and provides a glimpse into the committee's workings.

43(113)  
19th April, 1955.

VIKROLI GARDENS COMMITTEE

The following names were suggested by Mr. Vinod to Mr. S.P. Godrej for an unofficial committee to be formed for the purpose of improving the appearance of the Godrej Quarters at Vikhroli :-

Mr. Miachand Chhagan  
" C. N. Gandevia  
" Mansukh Jivram  
" H. D. Mehta  
" K. M. Mowdawala  
" Shanker More  
" P. V. Subramanyam  
" Vaman Vinayak  
" Vinod

A meeting was called on 19th April, 1955 when all except Messrs. Gandevia and Vinayak, were present. The meeting was first addressed by Mr. S.P. Godrej. After discussions, the following was agreed upon:-

There should be a fencing round the compound enclosing the entire area covered by blocks 1 to 20. Gates should be kept closed as far as possible. There should be a small 'U' type entrance beside each gate. This will stop all stray animals from entering the compound and destroying lawns, plants etc. While this may take some time, a small wooden gate is to be fixed so as to stop stray animals entering the front side of block No. 11.

The company will supply red or black earth and bricks at nominal costs. Where possible, hedge cuttings will also be supplied.

Mr. Vinod is to suggest names of suppliers of crazy paving stone and gravel.

Mr. Vinod has kindly offered to help tenants in planning and execution of gardens.

With a view to encouraging tenants, seedlings may be supplied at nominal cost, wherever possible.

Trees are to be planted, one per tenement in blocks where the tenants undertake to water the trees regularly and as required. Only one type of tree is to be distributed to the tenants of a block, though different trees may be planted in different blocks.