

MINUTES OF RVPS MEETING
Held on Thursday 4th September 2014
at Bromley Court Hotel



Those present:

Brian Atkinson	Michael Beecher	Christina Brown
Carol Davidson	Heather Dovey	Tony Guyver
George Hamblin	Gail Hamblin	Christopher Jackman
Maureen Johnson	Clive Lees*	Gillian McIntosh
Euan McMaster	Nicola Martin	Linda Müller
Beatrice Osborn	Margaret Payne	Andrew Storey
Leslie Tucker	Pat Tucker	Dave Wiltshire
Monica Wiltshire		

*Chair

1 Apologies:

Cllr Nicola Dykes	David England	Cllr Will Harmer
David Page	Cllr Michael Rutherford	Richard Thomas

2 Minutes of last meeting:

Approved.

3 Finances:

Dave Wiltshire gave the Treasurer's report for the two months ending 31 August 2014.

Receipts totalled £460 comprising members' subscriptions. Payments totalled £8.58 in expenses.

Santander Current Account: £2717.70

National Savings Investment Account: £7953.63

Total: £10,671.33

It is proving very difficult to change the signatories on the Santander Current Account – consider moving the account in due course.

Our insurance has an annual premium of £227.15 – reviewing to check whether it is the most suitable insurance for our current needs.

4 Volunteers for Situations Vacant:

Roads & Traffic – No one has yet volunteered to take on this role. Clive Lees continues to cover any key problems in the short term and we are reporting issues via Fix My Street.

Planning Officers – These posts are still vacant. Clive Lees continues in the meantime.

Road Rep Ravensbourne even numbers – Ann Rowswell has stood down.

5 Feedback on The Newsletter

The new format (four A4 sides, on glossy paper, in colour) proved popular though it was supposed to be just for the annual round up. It is being sent by email to those who have indicated they would like to receive it this way.

The next issue will solicit input from Members. We could also include more general information e.g. details of local councillors. We will repeat password information.

We need to be aware of not disenfranchising those without internet access.

6 Community Projects

Tree Officer: New trees in Farnaby Road: The proposal to replace trees has been very warmly received by home owners. The principal tree officer Julian Fougies attended a meeting and site visit. Work will start in a couple of weeks marking sites, then tree pits will be dug in November and trees planted in January. The tree pits will have root barriers to prevent any disruption. The contractor will water the trees for first year. Any trees which die in the first year will be replaced by the contractor. The trees will be medium to large – lime, birch, oak, maple. Our proposed contribution of £3,000 is not reducing the planned spend of the council. The council will also undertake general tidying of the existing trees and replace any that are diseased. In future, the tree planting could be extended to Downs Hill and other roads. We will advertise in next newsletter that we will take a final decision at the November meeting.

76b The Avenue: A London Plane tree in the street near this property is being cited as causing subsidence. Monica reported meeting with the owners and an independent assessor appointed by Bromley on 15th July but the report not yet been received. Cllr Ticknor has a continuing interest.

2 Kimberly Terrace: A tree is lifting the driveway and permission has been granted to remove it. Is there a condition to plant another tree?

The **Travel Lodge** had a condition on the planning permission to plant a tree – after follow up by Clive, the tree has now been planted!

7 PLANNING ISSUES:

7a Bromley Applications: (Clive Lees)

Upfield, Hillbrow and Sunset Hill, Hillbrow: Nothing has happened yet.

8 Madeira Avenue: A reduced application for 10 apartments was granted but nothing appears to be happening. The property is currently rented. An application to extend the planning permission has been granted.

61 The Avenue: (at the junction with Downs Hill): There is an application to build 8 flats in two blocks in a Conservation area which we are opposing.

28 Downs Hill: This house is in poor condition. The first planning application was refused. A revised application has been submitted.

20 Blyth Road: The leisure centre which backs onto Bracken Hill Lane has been bought ostensibly to be made into a family house. The owners are asking for vehicular access into Bracken Hill Lane which is too narrow for additional traffic. There is concern that the property might be sold and converted to flats.

Oak Dene, Oaklands Road: Planning application not yet decided on by the council owing to work load.

6 Oaklands Road: Car park at the rear is fenced off with a padlocked gate. There is concern that this is in preparation for building work.

7b Lewisham Applications: No new items to report.

7c Joint Working Party for Beckenham Place Park: (Leslie Tucker)

The Heritage Lottery Grant of £4.9M has in principle been agreed. The second detailed stage is to happen next. Earliest start would be in 2016. Lewisham submitted the proposal with the most public support which was the fourth option, removing the golf course entirely and reinstating some of the original features for example the lake. Chair of the Working Party is also chair of the golf club so should probably stand down owing to perceived conflict of interest. The Working Party now needs to focus on the proposed scheme.

8 Transport Issues: No rep at present. No new issues.

9 Councillors' Update: No Councillors present.

10 London Borough of Bromley Residents Federation (LBBRF): Minutes of July meeting not yet received. Date of Next Meeting: 18th September 2014

11 Bromley Safer Neighbourhood Board: 1st meeting 9th July 2014 – items of crime prevention and community engagement. Crime Summit 27th Sep 9:30 to 13:00 Bromley Civic Centre. (Contact kate.lymer@gmail.com)

12 Any Other Business

Venue Discussion: The cost of refreshments for our meetings appears to have risen from £37 to £55 but is still considered by most as good value. The location is convenient and provides good disabled access. [Post meeting update: the £55 charge for refreshments was the standard rate whereas we are usually charged £37, the conference rate. The charge for the September meeting reverted to £37.]

Social Event: It is proposed to have an event to thank the Road Reps and Officers for their work. The potential for a garden party in the summer was discussed.

AGM speaker: Gavin Plaskett gave a very good talk this year on the development of Beckenham Place Park – we agreed to invite him to return to give an update.

Membership is currently 501 members with 233 having provided email addresses (46%). We could look at accepting subscriptions via electronic funds transfer.

The **25 year anniversary booklet** is very much appreciated by new residents (so there are advantages to paper).

Japanese Knotweed in Millwall training ground & Beckenham Place Park. The council have purchased stem injection kits.

13 Next meeting:

Thursday 6th November 2014, 8p.m. at Bromley Court Hotel