



NEWSHEET August 1st, 1987

Welcome

The first newsheet is the result of holding a meeting of potential Committee members on July 28th. It was felt that although the canvassing for membership is not complete, it was time to take stock of the situation with a selection of members. The meeting proved successful in stimulating those present to meet again. Anyone who feels they have something to contribute, please contact the secretary.

Membership

Currently, we have 159 paid up members including 32 senior citizens. Canvassing for members will continue on the remaining roads to be covered - Farnaby Road, the North side of Beckenham Lane, and the remainder of Madeira Avenue and Coniston Road. Individual membership cards will be sent to all those with a receipt for payment plus senior citizens. If there has been any discrepancy or if anyone wishes to become a member please contact the Secretary.

Meeting of July 28th

Following an introductory statement from the Secretary, the Treasurer gave details of the current membership and finances. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the selection of Committee members and the aims of the society. Other than the main aim of monitoring planning applications, an open discussion covered topics mentioned in the questionnaire at some length -

- a. the speed of traffic along Farnaby, Warren and Calmont Roads and similarly along Ravensbourne Avenue, Downs Hill and Coniston Roads.
- b. Neighbourhood Watch.
- c. noise of cars leaving functions at the Bromley Court Hotel (see below).
- d. the noise level of the recent function at the old Times Sports Ground.
- e. litter at the Beckenham Lane end of Ravensbourne Avenue.
- f. possible social / community activities... any suggestions?

The last part of the meeting discussed the pending public enquiry for the proposed development of a block of flats at Cedarhurst, Elstree Hill (see below). The meeting was concluded with the demand to keep the large quorum present for the next meeting to be held on August 25th. This will discuss the public enquiry and decide on actions to be taken for some of the points above.

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Bromley Court Hotel

The hotel has been made aware of complaints from residents in Coniston Road, and a reply detailing several steps that have been taken has been received. The main points are that most functions finish no later than 11 p.m., guests are constantly reminded to leave quietly and that there has been a major double glazing programme this year. The hotel also points out that the private drive to Bromley Hill is for hotel use only.

Cedarhurst DOE Public Enquiry

At the meeting it was agreed to fight the possible development of a block of flats and you are requested to write expressing your views regarding this to the DOE. Please read the enclosed sheet of suggested observations. As many people as possible should attend the public enquiry to be held at the Civic Suite, Lewisham Town Hall, Catford at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 18th August. Those prepared to speak will have an opportunity to do so. A petition is also being circulated.

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO HELP PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT WE LIVE IN.

Committee Members

Chairman	- position vacant
Secretary	- Paul Bennett, 12 Elstree Hill
Treasurer	- Arnold Cranford, 25 Elstree Hill
Legal Advisor	- position vacant
Publicity Officer	- position vacant

Road Representatives -

Downs Hill / Crab Hill	- Barbara Brown, 34 Downs Hill
Ravensbourne Avenue	- Pam Brook, 111 Ravensbourne Avenue
Ravensmead Road	- position vacant
Warren Avenue (odd nos)	- Steven Gaskell, 3 Warren Avenue
Warren Avenue (even)	- John Ealey, 24 Warren Avenue
Calmont Road	- Trevor Lowe, 87 Calmont Avenue
Elstree Hill / Hillbrow	- George Davidson, 27 Elstree Hill
Coniston Road	- Marcus Oliver, 135 Coniston Road
Madeira Avenue	- position vacant
Bromley Avenue	- Leslie Tucker, 5 Bromley Avenue
Farnaby Road	- position vacant
Oaklands Road	- position vacant
Beckenham Lane	- position vacant

Any comments or suggestions regarding the newssheet will be welcomed by the Secretary.

DOE Letter Reasons for Objection.

Address:- Secretary of State,
Department of Environment,
Room 13/19,
Tollgate House,
Houlton Street,
Bristol BS2 9DJ.

Ref:- APP/C5690/A/87/64688
Proposed Development at Cedarhurst, Elstree Hill,
Bromley, Kent.

Points to Note:-

1. A skyline development of four or five storeys will be an unacceptable eyesore being visible as the Cedar tree is now by many across the Ravensbourne Valley.
2. Out of character with the neighbourhood - Elstree Hill is all two storey detached except for one semi-detached.
3. The high density and type of housing will set a precedent which will lead to further developments in an area dominated by well maintained houses and gardens.
4. The planned development does not provide garages. This is definitely not in keeping with any property in the area. The inadequacy of parking will force the excess onto Elstree Hill.
5. Elstree Hill is a semi-rural road, much admired by walkers along the Green Chain Walk. By doubling the number of residences with this development the excess parking will spoil this environment.
6. Insufficient amenity space for the number of dwellings on the site. The developer plans to 'rejuvenate' the woodland to provide for this. Many trees in this natural woodland are covered by the Tree Preservation Order of 1966. Several trees covered by this order are to be removed by the development and this rejuvenation will doubtless remove more, plus the effect on the local wildlife (foxes, jays, doves, crows, etc.).
7. Overlooking and loss of privacy of neighbours on all sides.
8. Possible damage to the Lebanon Cedar tree - a local historical landmark more than 200 years old.
9. The top of the hill is composed of shale. A building with deep foundations will have unknown effects on the water table affecting the structure of neighbouring properties. A spring emanates from this site flowing down Elstree Hill.