

NEWSLETTER

2/97

April 1997

EDITORIAL

A month has passed since the Annual General Meeting-and now seems like a good time to review what happened.

Once again we were fortunate to be able to hold the AGM in the comfort of the Wellington Rooms at the Bromley Court Hotel. Remarkably there was no rain or snow this year. As a result, or more probably in anticipation of our guest speaker, we had a very good turnout. Very few seats were left unoccupied. Those that made the effort were not disappointed. Peter Mawson, the Principal of The Bromley Youth Music Trust, gave us an extraordinarily good start to the evening. Not only is he a good speaker in his own right, but he brought along with him 5 students to illustrate the skills attainable by pupils at the Trust. They formed a brass quintet and played 4 or 5-short pieces at virtually professional standard. Not to put too fine a point on it they made the evening. By comparison the business of the AGM, which followed refreshments, must have seemed pedestrian.

Nevertheless it was, like last year, an important AGM, as the Chairman had served for 5 years and in accordance with the Constitution was required to stand down. Fortunately we did not have the same problem as last year when the AGM failed to elect a Secretary. Elizabeth Davies who is our representative at the Bromley Federation of Residents' Associations agreed to be the new Chair. However, she wants to give up the "Federation" and we need a volunteer to attend their bimonthly meetings. These are usually held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Keston village hall.

If anyone is prepared to take on this job, please contact the Secretary - Roy McCarthy on 460 7417. I should add that although not everything reported at the Federation meetings applies to us, much of it does. Moreover, they gave us their full support at the Beckenham Place Park Inquiry and that undoubtedly strengthened our position when we were giving evidence.

So come on, a volunteer for 6 evenings a year

ELECTION OF OTHER OFFICERS

Roy McCarthy, Brian Sanders and Wally Carlross were each re-elected as Secretary, Treasurer and Auditor respectively.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

It was again agreed that our subscriptions should be held at £5 per household except for senior citizens and unwaged who have the option to pay between 5p and £5.

THANKS

The Society's thanks were formally recorded to Miss Frenkel for the continuing use of the facilities at the Bromley Court and to Quinny Lawrence for the layout of and the masters for our Newsletter.

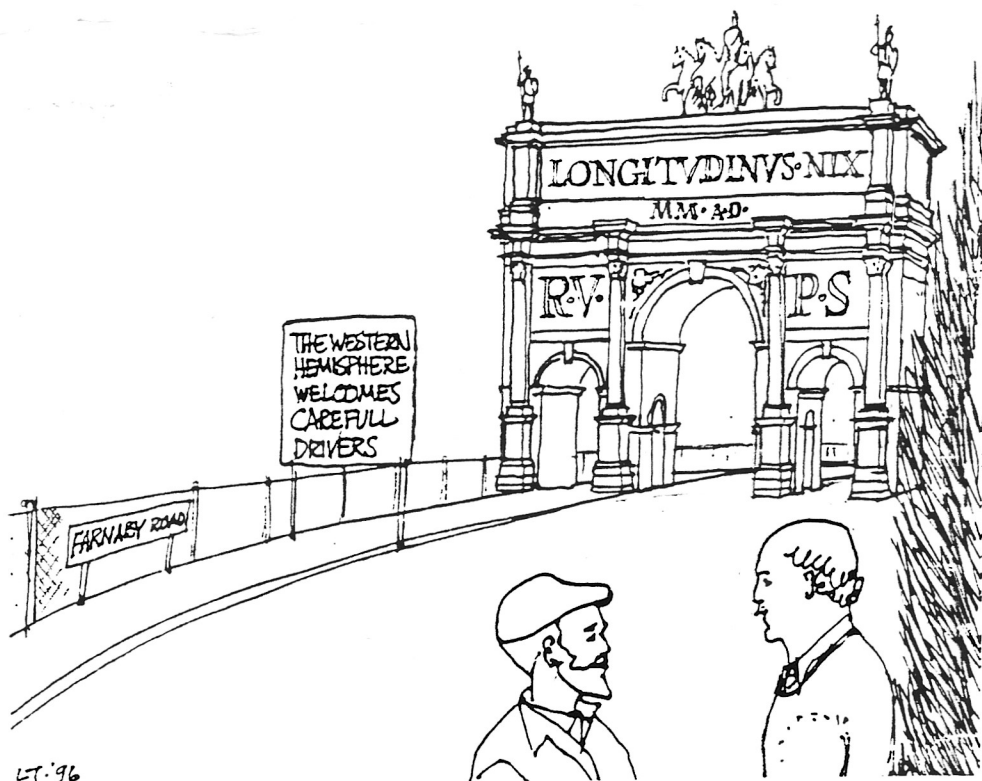
CHRISTMAS COMPETITION

Some will remember that the Christmas Newsletter included a competition based on a cartoon by Leslie Tucker. The competition was for :

1. The best suggestion on how the Society could make a contribution to the locality and
2. The best alternative caption for the cartoon.

Regrettably no-one responded to the first but, we did get entries for the second. The winning entry was by David Young in Coniston Road who gets a £10 Marks and Spencer voucher.

To refresh your memories here is the cartoon and David's winning entry:-



“I hope you’ve remembered the high lorry diversion route signs.”

DATES FOR THE DIARY

The next 2 Members Meetings will be held at the Bromley Court Hotel at 8.0 p.m. on Thursday the 1st May and the 3rd July.

The “activity” board in the foyer will show which room we are using. Please make a note of these dates and come along.

PETER PAIN (EDITOR)

PLANNING ISSUES

LAUNDRY SITE - MARTINS ROAD / STATION ROAD

This recent Planning Application proposes replacing the old Laundry with a 3 storey block occupying about half the site, the remainder being a garden for the use of the residents and 3 parking bays off Station Road. The accommodation is 10 bedsitting rooms each with a kitchenette and bathroom for the homeless. There is an office, communal laundry and meeting room on the ground floor. There appears to be no planning issues which would justify the Society objecting to the proposals. The applicants are the South London and Crystal Palace Housing Association.

After the AGM Leslie Tucker our Planning Officer for Bromley, was asked to find out more about the management of the new building. The principal questions were: would the building be permanently staffed and would there be a changing population? He has spoken to the officer in charge of the project and understands that staff would attend daily and perhaps would sleep on the premises on occasions but would not normally be resident. The Housing Association would continue to be responsible for running the house and could always be contacted, if necessary. The building would be used as an assessment centre for homeless people pending their re-housing. Individuals would not be expected to stay there for long. If anyone has further queries or concerns, the Housing Association contact is Fiona Aston and her telephone number is 0181-768 0890.

BECKENHAM PLACE PARK

At the AGM it was reported that Issue 2 of the Management Plan was well under way. Since then it has been learnt that although all of the amendments consequent on the wide consultation on Issue 1, had been sent to the Chairman and Editor of the Management Plan Sub-Committee, he had been unable to process them due to pressure of work from his normal job. From our standpoint this is particularly regrettable as it introduces an unfortunately long delay between the completion of the amendments and their publication. As one might expect, the pressures for completion have been coming from the voluntary sector rather than Lewisham.

This delay means that the public meeting which was expected to be held in the Spring is now likely to be put back to the Summer or possibly early Autumn.

BROMLEY LOCAL AGENDA 21 (LESLIE TUCKER)

Way back last year, in Newsletter 5/96 the Editor wished you all a happy Christmas and I made a rash promise. It was that I would, in a future Newsletter, tell you more about that action plan for sustainable development into the 21st Century known as "Local Agenda 21". In that Newsletter the whole programme was outlined based on the reports then available by the various groups who had each addressed a particular topic. Further work has since been done by the Steering Group and a new document called "Blueprint for a Better Bromley" has been prepared for Council approval during April and then publication. Any future reports will relate to this later document which will be available in our libraries. In the meantime here is a little more about the first topic from the original report which was:-

TRANSPORT:

THE PRESENT SITUATION:-

Although the population of Bromley has declined slightly in the last 15 years, car ownership has increased by some 25% and is now one of the highest of all London Boroughs. We all know how difficult it is to find a parking space amongst the 4,300 off-street and 3,000 on-street spaces provided in the Town Centre, especially during busy periods. The increase in local car journeys is not just to the shops but is also due to many parents taking their children to and from school when, a few years ago, they would have walked or gone by bus. Whether the reasons for this are justified or not is open to debate but they are understandable. They begin with concerns on personal safety and are followed by road safety worries. Ironically the road safety concerns are increased by the extra traffic generated by these same school taxi runs.

Public transport is not seen as being reliable, convenient, or safe enough to be universally acceptable at all times of day by all age groups. The general increase in private car traffic has obviously contributed to the unreliability of bus timings and has also discouraged alternatives like cycling which has decreased by 50% in the last 10 years.

The over-use of private cars is not the only factor which clogs our roads and pollutes our atmosphere but it is probably the most important. Certainly, in Bromley, road traffic emissions are the main cause of poor air quality.

Of course we know all about this, it is not just a local problem but applies to most developed countries. It is likely to get worse before it gets better. The point is, how much worse can it be allowed to get and what can be done about it ?

THE AGENDA 21 "VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY":

The study Groups have attempted to predict the future, I am sure they would agree that they may be wrong in some, or even all of their forecasts. But these are clearly not just what they expect to happen by the middle of the 21st Century but what they perceive should happen if life on this planet - and in Bromley in particular, is to be sustainable.

It is suggested that technology will enable more people to work, shop, and bank from home. With the reduction in private journeys, fewer families will need to own more than one car. The road space released will enable more frequent and more reliable public transport to be provided which would further reduce the need for local private car travel. It is also thought probable that, with electronic shopping from home, more goods will be delivered to our doors.

The necessary improvements in public transport are expected to take the form of more tramways and supervised interchanges between trains, trams and buses. For short distances it is hoped that legs, originally invented for walking and cycling, will be re-discovered. Less busy roads and secure cycle parking facilities would encourage the latter.

"INDICATORS":

We can all see that such idealism will be difficult to achieve and this is recognised by the authors of the reports. There would have to be political and personal commitments at all levels and it will take a good deal of time to arrive at an adequate consensus. In order to monitor success over time a series of "indicators" are listed.

There are too many for me to list them here. If I say that many of the questions would be answered by normal census reports plus detailed traffic surveys readers will understand that trends could be analysed.

The report concludes with eight pages of detailed tabulations of aims and actions. These indicate who might be expected to initiate what actions, what the time-scale would be, and what the main obstacles are. Words like "public awareness" "public attitudes" - "cost" feature repeatedly in the "Obstacles" column, with "cost" appearing most frequently.

It is easy to be sceptical about all of this. Sustainability may not be achieved in the way these reports expect, technology may open up new unforeseen paths. Whatever our views, it is clear that there will have to be serious political decisions taken to divert the path of our collective life-style from its present course and the fact that these volunteers have spent a lot of time thinking about the issues deserves praise as a step in the right direction.

It is now up to all of us to think before we go - to think how we go and to think if we go - for the sake of our grandchildren.

MISCELLANY

(Seen in a Doctor's surgery by one of our members.)

WHY WORRY

There are only two things to worry about:

Either you are well or you are sick

If you are well, then there is nothing to worry about;

If you are sick then there are only two things to worry about,

Either you will get well or you will die.

If you get well, there is nothing to worry about.

If you die then there are only two things to worry about;

Either you will go to Heaven or you will go to Hell.

If you go to Heaven, there is nothing to worry about.

But if you go to Hell, you'll be so busy saying hello to old friends,

You won't have time to worry.

August

R.V.P.S OFFICERS (APRIL 1997)

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer
Auditor
Planning Officer-Bromley
Planning Officer-Lewisham
Membership Secretary
Newsletter Editor
BR Link / Bromley Committee Rep
Roads & Traffic Rep.
Tree Warden
LBBRF Delegate
Police Consultative Committee Rep.
BPP Joint Working Party Rep.
Hon Legal Adviser

Elizabeth Davies, 12 Ravensmead Road
Roy McCarthy, 16 Ravensmead Road
Brian Sanders, 41 Farnaby Road
Wally Carlross, 28a Parkhill Road
Leslie Tucker, 5 Bromley Avenue
Paul Bennett, 12 Elstree Hill
Paul Bennett, 12 Elstree Hill
Peter Pain, 74 Madeira Avenue
George Hodson, 20 Ravensbourne Avenue
David Young, 101 Coniston Road
Arthur Barwell, 14 Grasmere Road
Kay Lincoln, 12 Ravensmead Road
Peter Pain, 74 Madeira Avenue
Richard Thomas, 118 Ravensbourne Avenue

ROAD REPRESENTATIVES

Bromley Ave./ Karen Ct. /
Grasmere / Highland Rds.

Coniston Rd / Ullswater
& Hawkshead Closes

Downs Hill / Crab Hill

Elstree Hill / Hillbrow /
Oaklands / Spencer Rds.

Farnaby Rd (1-108)

Farnaby Rd (109 +)

Madeira Avenue

Ravensbourne Ave. (evens)

Ravensbourne Ave. (odds)

Ravensmead Rd

Warren Ave./Calmont Rd.

Leslie Tucker, 5 Bromley Avenue

Barbara Price, 85 Coniston Road

Barbara Brown, 34 Downs Hill

Daphne Robeson, 2 Lynton Court, London Rd

Audrey Burford, 90 Farnaby Road

Maureen Johnson, 69 Farnaby Road

Ray Terrett, 70 Madeira Avenue

Ann Rowsell, 164 Ravensbourne Avenue

Ann Huntley, 155 Ravensbourne Avenue

Kay Lincoln, 12 Ravensmead Road

Alan Weatherley, 50 Warren Avenue