



NEWSLETTER

3/2002

August 2002

EDITORIAL

This is not the best time to write a Newsletter - in the holiday season - but there has been progress or change on several issues and an update to Members is timely.

Please note that this is also the subscription collecting season. Some Road Reps have already started, but others may be waiting for a few weeks until the majority of holidays are over. If you are not in when the Road Rep calls most of them will put a reminder slip through your letterbox. Please respond to it. Seventy percent of subscriptions are collected quite easily, the remainder can be frustrating and take an inordinate amount of time and effort. Please cooperate as all of the Road Reps are volunteers and sometimes it can be a thankless job.

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 5th September, Members' Meeting, 8.0pm. Bromley Court Hotel.

Thursday 7th November, Members' Meeting, 8.0pm, Bromley Court Hotel.

The booking schedules for the next 5 Members' meetings show us as using the Shakespeare 4 meeting room, but, as you know there can be last minute changes so please check the Activity Board in the Hotel foyer.

Peter Pain (Editor)

BECKENHAM PLACE PARK

At the last meeting of the Working Party which was at the end of June, the preferred bidder Dr Shin of the Royal Victoria Hotel Group (RVH) was scheduled to talk to the Working Party about his intentions and take questions. Unfortunately he did not attend. This was the second time he had not responded to an invitation to meet the Working Party.

Contract Progress

Clearly the final contract should not be completed until all the planning consents have been obtained for the renovation and internal modification to the Mansion, for the hotel and golf buildings on the Homestead / Stable Block site, for the golf practice area/driving range and for part of Common to be used for golf. The overriding reason for that is that Lewisham do not want another David Lloyd situation.

However talks were taking place with the aim of the RVH running the Park and its facilities pending planning consent. Since the local elections and other recent internal changes at

Lewisham, the Mayor and cabinet decided that RVH should not operate on site until all planning consents had been granted. Because of the lengthy time scale for that, it is unlikely to be acceptable to RVH. As a consequence the situation is fluid in that the officers have been asked to continue negotiations and recommend a course of action acceptable to all. In the meantime Lewisham will continue running the Park.

Summerhouse Field

At present FC86 have a "Tenancy at Will" on the field with the remit to provide sport (football) for youngsters. Events have moved forward somewhat in that there are now proposals for FC86 to have a 25 year lease so that they can obtain funding from Sport England (part of Lottery monies) in order to rebuild the pavilion and make other improvements. The Working Party, although not against sport, has not been impressed with FC86's custodianship of the field. Matters such as continued public access, emptying of waste bins, careless parking and non-ecologically friendly activities like close mowing all over and the use of inappropriate herbicides and fertilisers are all cause for concern. There was also a proposal that Lewisham's Education Dept would assume responsibility for the field. The Working Party objected to any division of responsibility for the Park. It was agreed that Annette Stead or Lesley Trim (officers responsible for the proposal) would attend the next meeting.

Open day

A date has been "pencilled in" for Sunday 22nd September to have an open day at the Mansion with displays on the work of the Friends of the Park, the long term proposals and guided tours. The Working Party AGM will follow.

Bat Walk

If anyone is interested, the Friends of the Park are organising a bat walk for Friday 23rd August, meeting at Ravensbourne station, Crab Hill at 7.45pm.

TRANSPORT

Shortlands "Dive Under"

Railtrack held an open evening on the 15th August so that residents could view the main box structure before it is pushed into place over the Bank Holiday weekend at the end of the month. Residents in Ravensbourne Ave, Downs Hill, Crab Hill and part of Farnaby Road were notified individually.

351 Bus Route

On the 6th July the old 351 bus route became the 354 and the previous "hail and ride" will be dropped in favour of fixed bus stops. But not yet. There seems to be a lack of funds to provide hardstandings for passengers where these are needed. However we have received letters from our Councillor and London Buses which confirm that a fixed stop will be near our seat.

Traffic Calming Warren Avenue/Calmont Road

Although Bromley, as an adjacent borough, delayed Lewisham's plans for traffic calming

in Calmont and Ashgrove Roads, they have now marked out Warren Avenue for two more cushions and a red warning strip.

PLANNING

212-214 Ravensbourne Avenue: A proposal for 6 town houses in place of the existing 2 houses has since been modified by reducing the size of one of the town houses to keep it further away from the river. The height of this new terrace is virtually the same as the existing terrace which it will adjoin (Note, the plot is to the right of the entrance to Summerhouse Field). The application has been approved.

4 Highland Road: An application has been made to replace the existing house with a new block of 8 flats. We have written objecting that: although described as 4 storeys, the plans show 5 storeys and the building would be out of keeping with its neighbours in terms of height, bulk and materials. (The finish is cement rendered whereas most existing properties are in red facing brick).

28 Highland Road: (The Reform Synagogue) A new application amends earlier approved applications and should be a happier solution as it retains most of the existing building and still keeps within the overall area of the last proposal which was for a complete rebuild.

44 Coniston Road: A proposal for five 3 storey town houses took no account of parking needs, especially in Belgravia Gardens. Over 80 letters of objection plus a petition were sent to Lewisham. Lewisham have written to the developers to say that they must incorporate the existing parking spaces in any proposal. So far there has been no response from the developer.

CONFIDENCE TRICKS

We have had reports from both Neighbourhood Watch and the Bromley Chamber of Commerce about 2 scams that are causing problems in Bromley. They are both made by telephone.

Postcode: This appears to target women. A telephone call is received allegedly from the Post Office. They are asked to confirm their postcode. When this is given they are told that they are eligible for gift vouchers for their cooperation and are then asked for their home address in order to receive the vouchers. Most of the people who have done so have then been burgled whilst they were at work. The police are aware of the scam and the Post Office has confirmed that it is not running any postcode survey. Do not give your address in these circumstances.

Telephone: This one involves a caller, allegedly a service technician from AT&T, who says that they are conducting a test on the line. They then ask the person answering to key 9, 0, and then # and hang up. This gives the caller access to your telephone line allowing them to make long distance, international and chat line calls which are then billed to your account. The police suspect that these calls originate from local prisons. Do not key 9, 0, # under any circumstances.

R.V.P.S. OFFICERS (August 2002)

Chairman	Elizabeth Davies, 12 Ravensmead Road, BR2 0BT
Vice Chairman	Peter Pain, 74 Madeira Avenue, BRI 4AS
Secretary	Tom Griffin, 9 The Chestnuts, Oaklands Rd. BRI 3SJ
Treasurer	Brian Sanders, 41 Farnaby Road, BR1 4BL
Auditor	Wally Carloss, 28a Parkhill Road, BR2 0LF
Planning Officer-Bromley	Leslie Tucker, 5 Bromley Avenue, BR1 4BG
Planning Officer-Lewisham	Paul Bennett, 12 Elstree Hill, BR1 4JE
Membership Secretary	Paul Bennett, 12 Elstree Hill, BR1 4JE
Newsletter Editor	Peter Pain, 74 Madeira Avenue, BR1 4AS
Railway Rep.	George Hodson, 20 Ravensbourne Avenue
Roads & Traffic Rep.	
Tree Warden	Arthur Barwell, 14 Grasmere Road, BR2 4BA
LBBRF Delegate	
Police Consultative Com. Rep.	Kay Lincoln, 12 Ravensmead Road, BR2 0BT
BPP Joint Working Party Rep.	Peter Pain, 74 Madeira Avenue, BR1 4AS
Hon. Legal Advisor	Richard Thomas, 118 Ravensbourne Ave, BR2 0AX

ROAD REPRESENTATIVES

Bromley Ave./Karen Ct./ Grasmere / Highland Rds. Brackenhill Lane	Leslie Tucker, 5 Bromley Avenue, BR1 4BG
Consiton Rd / Ullswater & Hawkshead Closes	Barbara Price, 85 Coniston Road, BRI 3BZ
Downs Hill / Crab Hill	Barbara Brown, 34 Downs Hill, BR3 5HB
Elstree Hill / Erin Close / Hillbrow	Gordon Rowlands, 14 Inglewood Ct. Oaklands Road.
Oaklands / Spencer Rds.	Daphne Robeson, 2 Lynton Court, London Rd.
Farnaby Rd (1-108)	Audrey Burford, 90 Farnaby Road, BRI 4BH
Farnaby Rd (109 +)	Maureen Johnson, 69 Farnaby Road, BRI 4BN
Madeira Avenue	Brian Atkinson, 94 Madeira Avenue BR1 4AS
Ravensbourne Ave. (evens)	Ann Rowsell, 164 Ravensbourne Ave, BR2 0AY
Ravensbourne Ave. (odds)	Ann Freiter, 128 Ravensbourne Avenue, BR2 0AX
Ravensmead Road	Kay Lincoln, 12 Ravensmead Road, BR2 0BT
Warren Ave./Calmont Rd / Ashgrove Rd./Belgravia Gdns	Alan Weatherley, 50 Warren Avenue, BRI 4BS