

NEWSLETTER

2/2003

April 2003



EDITORIAL

The recent AGM was very well attended, aided no doubt by the weather and the members' curiosity about what our guest speaker would have to say about the new Farnborough Hospital.

Mr. Goddard, the Estates Director for Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust, began his talk by reminding everyone that, within the month, Bromley Hospital would close and its activities would be transferred to the new Princess Royal University Hospital at Farnborough. He then gave the background to the decision to build the new hospital on the site of the existing Farnborough hospital. The Trust's preferred site had been on Bromley Common which would have been better served by public transport and, being a "green field" would have avoided the significant disruption and expense of building on the Farnborough site while still keeping the existing hospital in operation. The Bromley Common site created considerable opposition because it was part of the Green Belt. Bromley Council had supported the proposal and incorporated in the, then, draft Unitary Development Plan. However at the UDP Planning Inquiry the proposal was rejected by the Inspector.

The second choice of site was Farnborough and we were shown plans of the new building plus an explanation of how the layout would facilitate the smooth working between the different departments. About one third of the beds in the new building would be in single rooms with en-suite bath and the rest would be four bed units - all being organised in discrete groups of no more than 20 beds.. All beds would have their own telephone and interactive TV, (what he did not say and one of our members has found out the hard way, was that these were not free but could only be used, even for incoming calls by purchasing an access card - even then the calls cost up to 49p a minute). The medical imaging equipment was among the latest and most powerful, reducing the need for patients to be transported to another hospital for any investigatory procedures. Although the new hospital would be operational in March, the car parking would be much as the recent past - in Sainsbury's car park.

Until the old hospital buildings have been cleared away and the landscaping done there will be virtually no parking spaces within the hospital site. Although no decision had been made there is a strong likelihood that parking within the site (and probably in Sainsbury's area) will be charged for as it is at many other hospitals

Of the other hospitals in the Borough, Bromley will be closed and the site disposed of for housing, Orpington would be improved to provide overflow beds and operating theatres for elective treatments and Beckenham will be given new and improved facilities including those for primary care..

After refreshments the business of the AGM was dealt with expeditiously. The key decisions were:-

- The Officers filling the posts of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Auditor were all re-elected. Although Elizabeth Davies, our excellent chairman, had expressed a wish to stand down; to everyone's relief she had been persuaded to continue and was prepared to do so.
- Subscriptions remain unchanged at £5.00 a year per household. Senior Citizens and members in special financial circumstances may subscribe as they think fit.
- The Treasurer's Report confirmed that our finances were still healthy and that led to confirmation that we continue with our community projects.
- Special thanks were also recorded to Miss Frenkel for her continued support and allowing us to use the facilities of the Bromley Court Hotel.

In the last Newsletter we sought a volunteer to deal with Road and Traffic issues. Happily, Arthur Barwell has volunteered, he hopes it will fit in with his Tree Warden work. Thank you Arthur.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thursday 1st May, Members' Meeting 8.00pm, Bromley Court Hotel

Thursday 3rd July, Members' Meeting 8.00pm, Bromley Court Hotel

Peter Pain (Editor)

TRANSPORT

Local Road works:

We have learnt from Bromley of several road works during the summer and at least one of them will impact on this area.

Gas Main Replacement:

The roads affected are Westmoreland Road, Queen Anne Avenue, New Farm

Avenue, Cameron Avenue and Hayes Road.

Transco are replacing cast iron gas mains with plastic. The Health and Safety Executive require Transco to replace all iron mains within 30 metres of housing and the mains in the above roads have all suffered a number of leaks recently. Work has already started and Westmoreland Road is closed in both directions except for access. A diversion is in place using Hayes Road, Hayes Lane, Mead Way and Pickhurst Lane. Work on the mains will probably finish late May. It will then be necessary to go back over the route to make the service connections to both sides of the road. Temporary traffic lights will be much in evidence causing delay to the flow of traffic, but the only scheduled full closure is the section of Westmoreland road between Durham Avenue and New Farm Avenue. Later it is likely that Westmoreland Road will be resurfaced, including the pavements. A firm date for this has not yet been fixed.

Shortlands Road Bridge

Very much closer to home is the replacement of the road bridge over the culverted River Ravensbourne at Shortlands. The bridge is built with sandstone and cast iron and is no longer strong enough for the traffic currently using it. It will be replaced by reinforced concrete and we have been assured that the present cast iron balustrades will be refurbished and reinstated on completion in order to retain what remains of the village atmosphere at Shortlands.

Work is scheduled to start on 1st July and will take at least 3 months - ie - until the end of September. It will be done in two halves and temporary traffic lights will control the short shuttle across the bridge. Both of the existing sets of traffic lights will be switched off and Ravensbourne Avenue will be closed at the junction with Beckenham Lane. Station Road becomes one way up to Martins Road and traffic coming from Bromley via Glassmill Lane and Queens Mead Road will have to turn right into Martins Road in order to join Beckenham Lane.

Traffic using Shortlands Road to join Beckenham Lane will be faced with "Give Way" signs instead of traffic lights, trusting in the willing compliance of drivers.

While the work continues it sounds like a junction to be avoided.

Railtrack (Now Network Rail) Shortlands Junction Grade Separation

The Civil Engineering work has now been completed and only some new track laying and signalling remains to be done. The new tracks should be taking trains by June. Landscaping work will continue through to the planting season at the end of this year. In view of the coming road disruption at the junction it is as well that the railway work is virtually complete.

R.V.P.S. OFFICERS (April 2003)

Chairman	Elizabeth Davies, 12 Ravensmead Road, BR2 0BT
Vice Chairman	Peter Pain, 74 Madeira Avenue, BR1 4AS
Secretary	Tom Griffin, 9 The Chestnuts, Oaklands Rd. BR1 3SJ
Treasurer	Brian Sanders, 41 Farnaby Road, BR1 4BL
Auditor	Wally Carlross, 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.	Arthur Barwell, 14 Grasmere Road, BR1 4BA
Tree Warden	Arthur Barwell, 14 Grasmere Road, BR1 4BA
LBRRF Delegate	
Police Consultative Com. Rep.	Kay Lincoln, 12 Ravensmead Road, BR2 0BT
PPP 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, BR1 3BZ
Downs Hill / Crab Hill	Barbara Brown, 34 Downs Hill, BR3 5HB
Elstree Hill / Erin Close / Hillbrow	Gordon Rowlands, 15 Inglewood Ct. Oaklands Road.
Oaklands / Spencer Rds.	Daphne Robeson, 2 Lynton Court, London Rd.
Farnaby Rd (1-108)	Audrey Burford, 90 Farnaby Road, BR1 4BH
Farnaby Rd (109 +)	Maureen Johnson, 69 Farnaby Road, BR1 4BN
Madeira Avenue	Brian Atkinson, 94 Madeira Avenue, BR1 4AS
Ravensbourne Ave. (evens)	Ann Rowswell, 164 Ravensbourne Avenue, 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, BR1 4BS