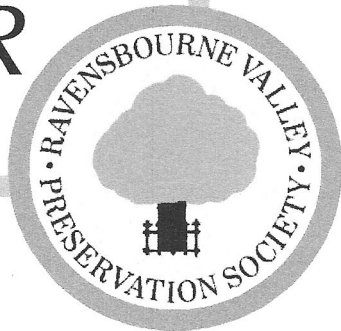


NEWSLETTER

2/2004

May 2004



EDITORIAL

The recent AGM was not attended as well as it might have been and certainly not as well as last year. Presumably the choice of guest speaker must have played a part, which is pity because the GLA impacts on us locally to a greater extent than its predecessors, the GLC and the LCC ever did. Whatever the reason, non attendees missed an interesting and informative talk.

Mr. Neill explained that the powers of the Mayor of London were greater than those of any other mayor in Britain. The Mayor has all of the executive authority and cannot even delegate planning decisions. In fact there is an 8 page amendment to the Town and Country Planning Act which lists all of the types of planning applications which have to be referred to the Mayor. In addition his staff have to produce a Planning Strategy for London and all Boroughs must conform to it. The Mayor also has a direct impact on roads and transport, policing and the fire services.

The weakest element in the Mayor's powers is that he cannot raise money - ie, by a tourist tax, as in Paris, or borrow against future income as in New York. Instead a precept is levied on all London Boroughs and this is paid via our Council Tax (23% for 2004-5). The actual Assembly's functions are to scrutinise the activities of the Mayor and "hold him to account" - although Mr. Neill did not enlarge on the mechanisms for that. He went on to say that the outer London boroughs did not get as much consideration as those in Inner London. He cited several examples, such as the recent requirement to increase the density of new built housing which potentially could destroy the open character of much of outer London. He finished with an open invitation to the Society to raise issues with him at City Hall.

After refreshments the business of the AGM was dealt with expeditiously.

The main decisions were:-

- ☐ The officers filling the posts of Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Auditor were all re-elected.
- ☐ Subscriptions remain unchanged at £5 per household. Senior Citizens and members in special financial situations may subscribe as they think fit.
- ☐ Our finances remain healthy and the continuation of community projects was confirmed.
- ☐ Special thanks were recorded to Miss Frenkel for her continued support in allowing us to use the facilities of the Bromley Court Hotel.

Our thanks must also go to Roger Legg. In the last 2 Newsletters we have appealed for a replacement Road Representative for Elstree Hill, Erin Close and Hillbrow.

Happily, after the AGM Roger came forward and volunteered.

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 6th May, Members' Meeting, 8.0pm, Bromley Court Hotel

Thursday 1st July, Members' Meeting, 8.0pm, Bromley Court Hotel

Peter Pain - editor

TRANSPORT

Bus Stops - Route 354

In the December Newsletter we wrote some scathing comments about the positioning of some of the new fixed bus stops. One of the more nonsensical examples - the one in Downs Hill where there is no pavement - has now been rectified. It has been removed to round the corner into Ravensbourne Avenue to the very place where the buses used to stop before. The 2 stops in Farnaby Road have yet to be moved away from the resident's parking bays where the buses are now forced to stop in the middle of the road near the junction with Beckenham Lane.

Parking in Oaklands Road

Since the completion of the Care Home at the junction with Grasmere Road, parking in this part of Oaklands road has not improved. Consequently we wrote to the relevant transport Engineer in Bromley suggesting a survey to establish the views of residents about extending the residential parking zone to include at least part of Oaklands road (Grasmere Road is already included). However, the reply was a disappointment. Bromley has no funding allocated by the GLA for new parking schemes in the year 2004-5. Consequently they do not want to canvas residents' opinions as that would raise expectations which could not be met. They also have other potential schemes in the pipeline and no timescale could be given.

The next issue to press is the poor lines of sight when exiting from Grasmere Road into Oaklands. This has been raised with them at least twice before.

PLANNING

Unitary development Plans - (UDP's)

Both Bromley and Lewisham's UDP's are in their final stages of review. In Bromley's case the Inspector's report is due and in Lewisham's case the Inspector has reported. Lewisham's responses have been published and adoption is expected mid 2004. However, these may be the last UDP's. From mid 2005 work will begin on a "Local Development Framework" (LDF) which is intended to supercede UDP's. The LDF is expected to be a much smaller document and it will be reviewed annually. In theory it will produce a quicker response to changing government requirements. Our fear is that the result will be a less specific document and it could end up as a developers' charter.

Planning Applications

Bromley: Since the December newsletter the only two local applications which have interested us has been 64, Madeira Avenue where it was proposed to change the use of a house to become a dental surgery and the submission currently being considered by Bromley for replacing a bungalow in Downs Hill with a block of six apartments, each with three bedrooms. The dental surgery proposal has been rejected by Bromley. We trust that they will also reject the Downs Hill proposal as this is within the Conservation Area and would set a dangerous precedent.

Lewisham: There has been a recent application to erect a 15 metre (50 feet) mobile phone mast on the corner of Avondale Road and Bromley Hill. This is being opposed by local residents as inappropriate in a residential area and would be substantially higher than surrounding property. Lewisham have not yet considered the application, but if our experience of mobile phone masts in Bromley is anything to go by, one way or another it is likely to get the go-ahead.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Before discussing the two current issues members are reminded that at the AGM our Chairman made a plea for new ideas for us to consider for improving our area. Of course they would have to be legal, practical, within our modest means and preferably with some environmental content. If you have any ideas why not come to our next meeting and share them with us?

Seat by Bus Stop - Farnaby Road:

Our proposal to place a seat on the other side of the road from the one which we provided for the Queen's Golden Jubilee has been approved and costed by Bromley; inevitably the costs have risen since 2003. Approval to go ahead or not will be sought at our next Members' meeting on 6th May.

Valley School:

The agreement made last year to fund a "story telling seat" went on hold when the chestnut tree in the grounds which had to be felled proved to be too rotten to be used. The search for an alternative is with the Valley School who hope that Bromley Council will let them know when a suitable specimen becomes available.

BECKENHAM PLACE PARK WORKING PARTY

It is some time since the last Working Party Meeting was held but one is coming up soon which should allow a report to be made to the next Members' Meeting. What has been promised is an indication of what Lewisham intend to do now that they have terminated their long negotiations with their "preferred tenderer" for the long-term running of the Park. Although this represents the most recent of a long line of failures most of the members of the Working Party are relieved that Lewisham have bitten the bullet and brought these talks to an end. All were becoming more and more concerned by the controversial proposals. Let us hope that the next "fresh start" will lead to an acceptable and sustainable solution before another decade has passed.

R.V.P.S. OFFICERS (February 2004)

Chairman	Elizabeth Davies, 12 Ravensmead Road, BR2 OBT
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 OLF
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
LBBRF Delegate	
Police Consultative Com. Rep.	Kay Lincoln, 12 Ravensmead Road, BR2 OBT
BPP Joint Working Party Rep.	Peter Pain, 74 Madeira Avenue, BR1 4AS
Hon. Legal Advisor	Richard Thomas, 118 Ravensbourne Ave, BR2 OAX

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

Roger Legg, 39, Madeira Avenue, Bromley BR1 4AP

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 OAY

Ravensbourne Ave. (odds)

Ann Freiter, 128 Ravensbourne Avenue, BR2 OAX

Ravensmead Road

Kay Lincoln, 12 Ravensmead Road, BR2 OBT

Warren Ave./Calmont Rd /
Ashgrove Rd./Belgravia Gdns

Alan Weatherley, 50 Warren Avenue, BR1 4BS