

November 2023
Issue 4



Welcome to our latest newsletter, the last one of 2023. If you are reading a printed copy and wish to follow the underlined web links you will have to download the PDF from our website download page.

I have changed the font of the newsletter to the new MS Office default, called Aptos. If you have strong views on the change let me know !

Bromley Updates

Churchill Library and Theatre

Bromley Council has confirmed it is in advanced negotiations to sell the Churchill Theatre building to Trafalgar Entertainment - the company that currently operates the theatre.

The negotiations are yet to be formally concluded, and any final agreement will require ratification by the Council's Executive Committee; but the [announcement](#) suggests a deal is imminent.

The Council's announcement also confirmed that Bromley Library, which occupies the same building, will move to the former Top Shop building on the High Street, subject to approval by the Council's Executive Committee and a full feasibility study.

John Lewis Bromley South Development

The application for the redevelopment of Waitrose Bromley has now been validated by Bromley Council's Planning Department. You can view the application and its supporting documents by clicking [here](#) or searching for '23/02633/FULL1' on the Council's planning portal.

You can learn more about the submitted plans by clicking the Background tab on their website [here](#). You can also still let the team know if you have any questions by emailing:

Consultation@WaitroseBromley.co.uk

Bromley Town Centre Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

London Borough of Bromley adopted its Bromley Town Centre SPD on 18 October 2023. The SPD adoption statement and SPD consultation statement can be viewed:

- Online at: <https://www.bromley.gov.uk/planning-policy/supplementary-planning-guidance>
- In hard copy at Bromley Civic Centre by making a prior appointment by contacting ldf@bromley.gov.uk.

The SPD will be a material consideration in the determination of future planning applications in the Bromley Town Centre area. Any person with sufficient interest in the decision to adopt the above SPD may apply to the High Court for permission to apply for judicial review of the decision. Any such application must be made promptly and in any event not later than 18th February, 2024.

Bromley Updates (Continued)

ULEZ Judicial Review Costs

The total costs for the ULEZ challenge to the coalition of five local authorities (the London boroughs of Hillingdon, Bexley, Bromley and Harrow, plus Surrey County Council) were £730,941. This comprises disbursements incurred by Hillingdon Council, which led the legal challenge, of £230,941, plus legal costs to TfL (payable by all) of £500,000. The four London boroughs (Hillingdon, Bexley, Bromley Harrow) will each pay £147,853.20.

Councillor Colin Smith, Leader of Bromley Council commented, “At a cost of a £1 to every home in the Borough once, in an effort to save tens of thousands of residents and business being taxed an additional £3k a year on an ongoing basis, the Council continues to regard the associated costs as a sound and balanced risk for Bromley residents as whole, and as such, stands foursquare behind its decision to join the Rebel Coalition of like-minded Boroughs on that basis.”

Environment

Glassmill Pond Restoration Project

The history of the project can be viewed on the website of Friends of Bromley Town Parks & Gardens [here](#). The construction phase of work has been completed. Excavated ground will now be left to settle for a couple of months, after which a second phase of planting will take place. This planting will further enhance the diversity of riverine features, as well as blending it into the wider natural environment.

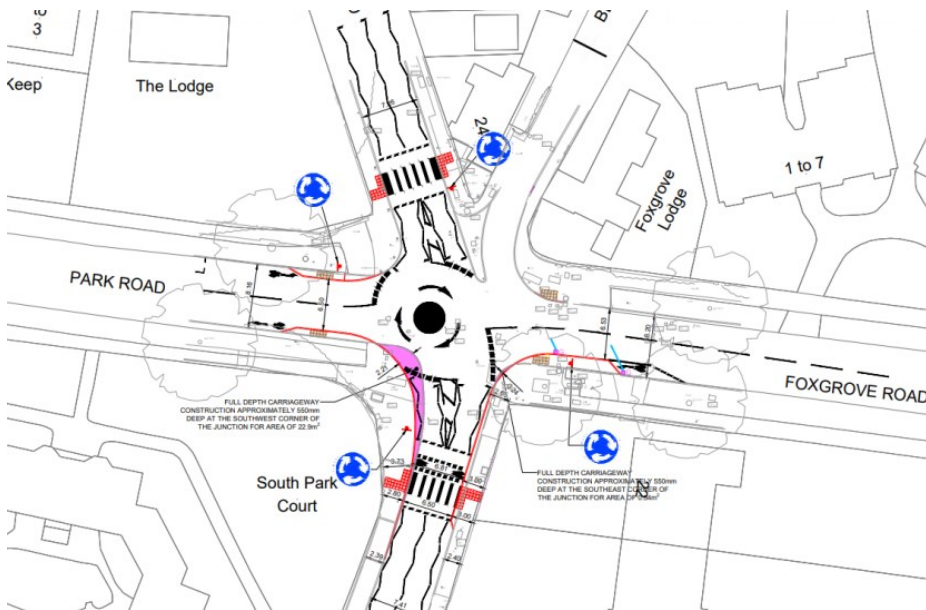


The diversion of the footpath between the Ethelbert Road entrance and the pond has now been removed.

You can see the plan for the final pond and other drawings on the Glassmill Ponds Plan page [here](#).

The website also has links to other campaigns being run by the Friends.

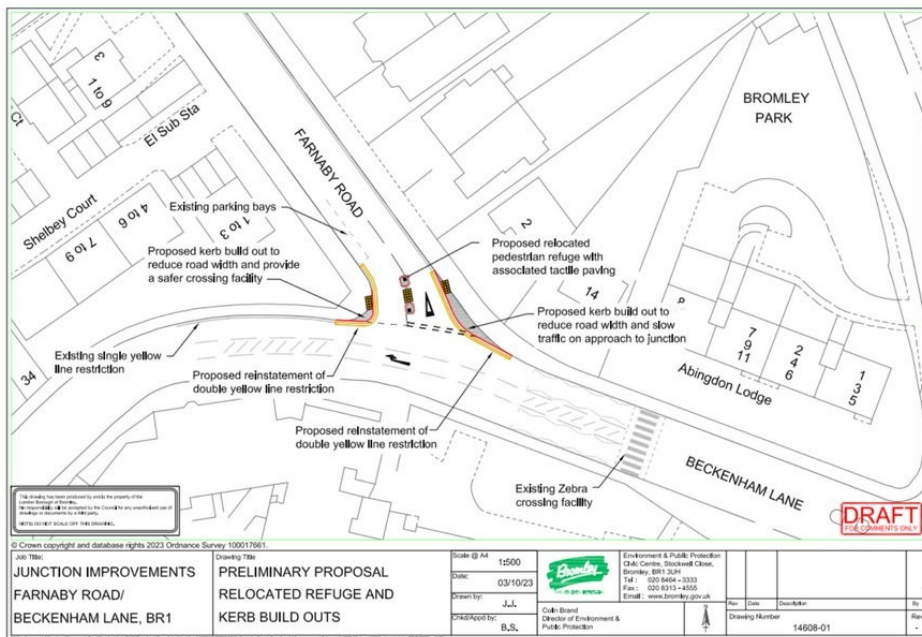
Park Road / Southend Road Mini-roundabout update



Plans to implement the mini roundabout and zebra crossings are progressing. The plan will provide a new mini roundabout and 2 pedestrian/cycle crossings, one north and one south of the junction. The original plan to close off Park Road has been dropped but Councillor Tickner has asked traffic engineers to keep that option open if safety does not improve sufficiently.

Implementation may be delayed by Virgin who are allegedly resisting the need to relocate their services.

Farnaby Road / Beckenham Lane junction modification



Our Roads and Transport officer solicited views on the proposal detailed [here](#) and encouraged members to submit their comments. Most were in favour although a few concerns were raised that the exit from Farnaby Road onto Beckenham Lane appears to be reduced to a single lane, potentially causing a tailback. An updated proposal is expected in due course, based on feedback from residents.

Planning Applications

Awaiting Decision

79 Coniston Road: The new application listed in our previous newsletter is still awaiting a decision but is likely to be rejected in its current form. Details can be found [here](#).

12 Downs Hill: Demolition of existing garage and erection of two storey side extension, replacement of carport, part infill of front porch and elevational alterations to fenestration including feature windows and shutters. Details [here](#).

Determined Applications

Romany Ridge and 15 Hillbrow Road: The revised application for demolition of existing dwellings at Romany Ridge and 15 Hillbrow Road and erection of part two/three storey building comprising 5 two-bedroom and 1 one-bedroom flats (6 in total) with terrace/balconies, associated parking, etc. has been refused. Details of the reason are on our website [here](#).

Oak Spinney, Crab Hill: The application has been permitted for a single storey side/rear extension and first floor rear extension. Details [here](#).

14 Highland Road: In what we believe to be preparation for a new application to build 2 new dwellings an application was made to clear the site. Partial consent for tree works has been given. See [here](#).

48 Beckenham Lane: The application for A loft conversion with side dormer has been refused. Details [here](#).

Enforcements

100 Ravensbourne Avenue: It is still not clear if the council will require the unauthorised extension to be removed. Details [here](#).

Shortlands Village

AFC Shortlands <https://afcshortlands.com/about/>

Have you heard of AFC Shortlands? It's been going for about five years and now runs round 20 football teams for children from 5-14 years old, including two girls' teams and mixed gender teams. In all over 230 children are registered with them.



While the older teams play on other local playing fields, Queensmead is the venue every Saturday and Sunday for the younger groups' games and training. The Club is looking to grow further, but, to do so, they need more volunteers to help with their activities, ranging from groundskeeping, including pitch work, to being a medical lead, ensuring the first aid and emergency equipment is in the best of order, from serving teas to painting. They are also involved in improving the outside and interior of the old Pavilion on Queensmead, which has been a bit of an eyesore for quite a few years. Their work will include opening up the toilets on the football days over the weekend.

AFC Shortlands is also helping to raise funds for the Queensmead Playground Regeneration project, to which the SRA has committed £500. We are also passionate (and determined) to deliver a **Defibrillator** to the local area of Shortlands and specifically on Queensmead. We have attempted to seek grant funding but this is moving very slowly. Therefore, we are seeking to leverage community spirit to go about this in a different way. We have established a "Go Fund Me" Page and have so far raised £760 of the £2500 target. If you would like to support this initiative, please click on the following link and make a contribution: <https://gofund.me/4daed674>

If you are interested in helping the Club as a volunteer or want to get your children involved in the football teams, please contact the Club Secretary Gary Stevens on 07890 964 793 or email him at afcshortlands@gmail.com

Shortlands Village Business Directory

While the SRA/RVR Blueprint for the future of Shortlands Village is currently being studied by the Council, there is quite a lot of activity around the local businesses. The hoarding around 87 Beckenham Lane has finally come down after five years or more. Sadly, no news is yet available about what shops might take over behind the new dark blue shutters! Meanwhile what was the Vape Café is being given a major makeover to prepare for what is rumoured to become a therapy centre. What we hoped could be a bakers shop next to Byron Barbers now looks set to become a nailbar.

To keep everyone up to date with what businesses we do currently have in the Village and to encourage some of them to get more behind our plans to revitalise the area, SRA and RVR have produced a Village Business Directory to help our members know just what shops there are, what they do, when they are open and how to contact them. A copy of the first edition is on the RVR website [here](#). It will be updated as necessary.

Entries in the directory are in the following format:

NAME	ADDRESS	TEL. NUMBER	WEBSITE
	OPEN HOURS		
Braid Bar	4 Beckenham Lane, BR2 0DQ	02033436993	braidbarldn.com
Hair braiding	Open Tues-Sat by appointment		

Beckenham Place Park

James Allen, the new Ranger at BPP, has written a long report about the park, which you can view [here](#). It details many of the activities past and planned.

Here are a couple of photographs, copied from the report:



Downham Men's Group on a river work day with Thames21



Volunteers taking part in the Big Butterfly Count

The report contains a link to a site where you can view updates relating to the East Side improvements and other projects. See [here](#).



Signage detailing the plans



An example of the equipment in use



Current state of the ground clearing

RVR Street Friends

RVR Street Friends met on Tuesday 10th October for litter picking and clearing over growth on fences and pavements. 3 of the 14 attendees did work on a new area in Madeira Avenue near Highland Road and filled 5 bags. Now you can walk along there without walking into branches

The last session of 2023 will be on Tuesday 5th December and will be novel. Catriona Ross, Engagement Officer in Beckenham Place Park, will lead a River Wade/Clean on the east side of the park. The 15 volunteer places were filled very quickly. Waders, walking stick, litter pickers and gloves will be provided by Thames 21. We hope to have as jolly a time as the Downham Men's Group seem to have had and we will record the activity for the next newsletter.

Our Street Friends Coordinator attended the last LBB/Veolia Street Friends meeting on 20th October and was reminded that all Street Friends must register as Street Friends at this webpage: bromley.gov.uk/streetfriends. Children under 18 years need to be registered by a parent.

Next Spring we will have a session led by Maria Kampioti from Veolia/Bromley.

Community Information

Here are extracts from the latest newsletter of Bromley Neighbourhood Watch Association - (BNWA) <https://bnwa.co.uk/>



Bromley Trading Standards - ALERT!

Alert! updates are posted directly to the LBB Website. To read the latest and receive Alert! direct, visit their webpage [here](#).

Please tell your family, friends, neighbours, colleagues, groups and members.

Bromley Community Newsletter / Mayor's Newsletter

You can sign up to receive copies of this newsletter called "update" on their website [here](#), and read the latest news items on their website [here](#).

Beckenham Public Halls and Bromley Community House



Bromley Council have put the Beckenham Halls up for sale and they are currently under offer. Thankfully, the prospective owner is proposing to retain some community use. The council have also agreed to sell off Bromley Community House to the highest bidder

Beckenham Rotary

Beckenham Rotary are seeking a garage or similar dry storage area for Father Christmas to park his sleigh for 11 months of the year. It is the size of a vehicle trailer. Any offers, please contact Tony Power 020 8650 2307.

RVR Projects

Do you know of any endeavours that could do with our support? We are always keen to fund projects **in our catchment area that are of benefit to our members**. If you have any suggestions please send them to our Secretary secretary.rvr@outlook.com.

One suggestion made at our last members' meeting was to fund a bench at a suitable point in Grasmere Road. We are currently investigating how to further this suggestion.

RVR Subscriptions

Cash subscriptions are normally collected during delivery of the annual roundup newsletter in the summer, but we much prefer members to pay by Standing Order. Your Road Rep can advise the information to be provided on the mandate.

Meeting Dates

Forthcoming meetings are as follows:-

Members' meeting - Thursday 4th January, 2024;

Annual General meeting - Thursday 7th March, 2024;

Members' meeting - Thursday 2nd May, 2024.

The meetings will be held at 8pm at Bromley Court Hotel in the William Pitt room unless advised otherwise.

Society Officers and Road Representatives

There have been a number of changes recently. Please note the contact details below. The most up-to-date list can always be viewed on our website [here](#).

Officers

Chairman	Pete Saunders	chair.rvr@outlook.com
Vice Chairman	Beatrice Osborn	vicechairman.rvr@outlook.com
Secretary	Jacqueline St Quinton	secretary.rvr@outlook.com
Treasurer	Dave Wiltshire	treasurer.rvr@outlook.com
Planning Officer	Clive Lees	planning.rvr@outlook.com
Membership Secretary	Linda Müller	membership.secretary.rvr@outlook.com
Newsletter Editor	Euan McMaster	editor.rvr@outlook.com
Roads and Traffic	Andrew Lancaster	roadsandtransport.rvr@outlook.com
Street Friends	Monica Wiltshire	trees.rvr@outlook.com
BPP Rep	Liz Logan	bpp.rvr@outlook.com
Webmaster	Alastair Holmes	webmaster.rvr@outlook.com
Hon. Legal Advisor	Richard Thomas	contact - chair.rvr@outlook.com
Auditor	Alan Williams	contact - treasurer.rvr@outlook.com
LBBR Delegate	Vacant	contact - chair.rvr@outlook.com

Road Representatives

Bracken Hill Lane and Close / Highland Road
Bromley Ave / Grasmere Rd
Calmont & Ashgrove Roads / Belgravia Gardens
Coniston Road / Ullswater Close
Downs Hill / Crab Hill
Elstree Hill / Erin Close / Hillbrow Road
Farnaby Road (1–81)
Farnaby Road (82–194)
Madeira Avenue (Evens) J
Madeira Avenue (Odds)
Oaklands Road / Spencer Road / Hawkshead Close /
Lullington Garth
Ravensbourne Ave. (Evens)
Ravensbourne Ave. (Odds)
Ravensmead Road
Warren Avenue

Linda Müller
Jane Willcocks
Rita Smith
Jane Doherty
Emma Fagg
Mick Pinson
Jaki Moody
Cathy Davies
udy Adcock
Anne Lancaster

David Page
Monica Wiltshire
David MacKenzie
Peter Saunders
Clive Lees

If you wish to contact your road representative please email the RVR Secretary or write to:

RVR Secretary
35 Downs Hill
Beckenham
BR3 5ET