



RVPS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday 3rd March 2016
8pm Bromley Court Hotel

Reports

Working with the community

- 1 Chairman's Report**
- 2 Treasurer's Report**
- 3 Planning Officers' Reports**
- 4 Roads and Traffic**
- 5 Community Projects and Tree Officer's Report**
- 6 Beckenham Place Park Representative's Report**
- 7 Membership Secretary's Report**

1. Chairman's report

Clive Lees

This year has seen further development of the Society in a number of different ways. Administratively, we have made some improvements notably using computer spreadsheets to monitor and control our finances rather than a quill pen and ink. We have also been experimenting with new ways of delivering our newsletter electronically to make delivery both more reliable and efficient for the officers who prepare and distribute it.

We have also made great strides in both fostering a sense of community spirit and improving our environment. To this end I'm very grateful to Monica Wiltshire, our tree officer, for organizing the planting of the trees in Farnaby Avenue, the imminent planting of more trees in Warren Avenue, Downs Hill and Ravensbourne Avenue and for organising a group of 'tree friends' to care generally for all our street trees. And yes, some will be saying that this is the council's job but the reality is the council do not have sufficient money so if we want a nice area to live in.....

We have also been successful in supporting many residents in objecting to planning applications that are of importance to them. In this way we have successfully promoted a greater understanding of planning issues to many residents thereby giving our community a certain strength in depth when it comes to understanding and objecting to unsatisfactory planning applications.

Last year's 'garden party' at The Shortlands Tavern was a great success and we are hoping to repeat this again this year.

Also, the number of people attending our bimonthly meetings has been growing suggesting that the level of interest in the activities of the Society continues to grow.

Members will wish to know that following their recent marriage councillors Will Harmer and Nicky Dykes have just had twin girls –we are delighted for them and hope they are all sleeping well!

As ever, I would ask members to recognise the generous commitment of time and effort made by all our officers and road reps in helping to run the Society –I certainly do and am grateful for their much valued support.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2015

INCOME	2015	2014
	£	£
Members' subscriptions	2389	2192
Other donations	NIL	NIL
Interest from bank accounts	59	59
Miscellaneous	NIL	NIL
TOTAL	2448	2251

EXPENDITURE

Photocopying/Printing	269	NIL
Office supplies	29	17
Newsletter	NIL	344
Postage	8	NIL
Telephone	NIL	92
Refreshments	294	203
AGM	175	165
Insurance	128	126
Community Projects	500	NIL
Donations	100	NIL
Miscellaneous	219	74
TOTAL	1722	1021
 SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	 726	 1230

BALANCE SHEET
As at 31st December 2015

GENERAL RESERVE	2015	2014
	£	£
Balance at 1 st January 2015	11885	10655
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	726	1230
Balance at 31 st December 2015	12611	11885

ASSETS

National Savings & Investment Account	8013	7954
Santander Current Account	4169	3619
Cash in hand	429	312
TOTAL	12611	11885

Signed by the Hon. Treasurer: (David Wiltshire)

Date:

Report by Auditor:

I have obtained all the information I consider necessary to audit these accounts. The Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet agree with the accounting records kept and show a true record of the surplus for the Society's financial year ending 31st December 2015

Signed by the Hon. Auditor: (Pura Atkinson)

Date:

Accounts and Balance Sheet approved by the AGM

Signed by the Chair: (Clive Lees)

Date:

TREASURER'S REPORT

On the Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2015

There was an overall surplus for the year of £726 and the General Reserve was thereby increased to £12611

On the receipts side:

Subscriptions received for the year increased slightly as compared to 2014, albeit there were subscriptions received in 2015 from the previous year.

- Interest from the National Savings and Investment Account was £59.00 for the year and was automatically added to that account.

On the expenditure side:

There has been an increase in expenditure in 2015 as compared to 2014, due to several factors.

- RVPS made a £500 Community Project payment towards the Christmas lights in Shortlands Village.
- In recognition of the hard work and dedication of the Road Reps and to meet in a more relaxed environment, RVPS funded a get together at the Shortlands Tavern at a cost of £192.
- A £100 donation was made to the Lavender Trust for Breast Cancer, which is the London Borough of Lewisham Mayor's charity, in recognition of the presentation given by Lewisham at the 2014 AGM.
- RVPS is still committed to a partnership with London Borough of Bromley regarding the Farnaby Road Tree Project of which the RVPS portion is valued at £3,000. This was due to be paid in 2015 but has been delayed and will be paid in current financial year.

The electronic version of the RVPS accounts has now been used for a year, is working well, and has met the approval of the Auditor.

At £12611 the General Reserve remains in a healthy state and I recommend that the present level of subscriptions, at £5 per household, be maintained, with senior citizens and members in special financial circumstances subscribing as they feel appropriate.

David Wiltshire (Hon. Treasurer)

3. Planning Report

Richard Thomas

20 Blyth Road: the applicant has appealed the Council's decision refusing permission for the development. No decision has been given yet.

13 Calmont Road: since the Council's refusal to grant planning permission for the new dwelling there have been no developments. Consent has however been granted for the extension to the existing building.

28 Downs Hill: the developer applied to vary the original terms of the planning consent but only the change relating to the external materials was accepted by the Council and therefore the developer is bound by the terms of the original permission save for this agreed change.

Billingford: the Council have refused the latest application for the development, although the developer may appeal against the Council's decision.

Ethelbert Close: there have been no noted developments in relation to the Council's plans to develop this site.

Sunset Hill: an appeal has been launched against the Council's refusal to allow the application. The date for comments was 11th February 2016.

74 Madeira Avenue: consent has been given for the latest application; this is subject to a significant number of conditions.

Oakdene, Oaklands Road: the applicant's appeal against refusal of planning permission was rejected.

4 Oaklands Road: the process of appealing against the Council's refusal of planning permission is continuing.

2-4 Riverpark Gardens: the Council refused consent to the proposal.

61 The Avenue: the Council have refused permission to develop the land as per the application. No notice of an appeal has been advised to date.

19 Ullswater Close: the application was refused by the Council on 7th September 2015 and no appeal has been lodged to date.

4. Roads and Transport Report

Andrew Storey

Possible extension to the Bakerloo Line: Transport for London (TfL) sought consultation from interested parties and RVPS responded. Following this TfL is planning to extend the Bakerloo Line from Elephant and Castle to Lewisham along a route roughly following the Old Kent Road. They will continue to explore the option of extending the line further, possibly to Hayes along the existing rail route. The option of a new tunnel from Beckenham Junction to a new station in Bromley has been deemed unfeasible.

Valley School: With the support of Councillor Harmer, we have secured a new flashing school sign on the hill down from Bromley as traffic approaches Valley Primary School. Before this installation, the first warning of a school was at the actual crossing point where many parents and children cross from the end of Highland Road. Hopefully drivers will now approach the school with more caution and reduced speed.

Crab Hill at Ravensbourne Station: Now much of the works appear completed at the station the road here is a little easier to navigate. Bromley Council feel there is enough double yellow on Crab Hill although at busy times it can still become congested as vehicles meet whilst avoiding parked cars. The council have painted some white bar markings at some driveways which does seem to encourage more considerate parking. This painting is however at the homeowners' request and carries some expense.

5. Community Projects

Monica Wiltshire

In collaboration with Bromley Council we have been running two community tree projects this year. The first, with 16 oak trees in Farnaby Avenue, 7 birch trees in Downs Hill and 2 hazel trees in Warren Avenue got off to a poor start with unsatisfactory planting by the contractor in Farnaby Road. With the support of Julian Fowgies, Principal Arboricultural Officer and Councillor Colin Smith, I am able to report that at the end of season assessment in September the new trees are on the whole doing well and should fully catch up this year. The one year maintenance contract finishes in March 2016 when I shall be canvassing residents again about their general care and watering.

With experience gained from this tree project and a formalised 'letter of intent' outlining roles and responsibilities between Bromley Council and RVPS we have embarked on a second community tree project in 2015/2016. This has involved street surveys, canvassing 26 residents adjacent to possible new tree sites and underground service checks. The net result is that 30 new trees will be planted; 18 in Ravensbourne Avenue, 2 in Ravensmead Road, 5 in Warren Avenue and 5 in Farnaby Road (the Ravensbourne Avenue end) and I expect the 'planting confirmation sheet' shortly to check against residents' comments and requests.

The cost to RVPS is £3,000 for each project which is equally matched by Bromley Council. The trees will have a significant impact on our environment over coming years and for generations to come.

We warmly welcome suggestions for future local projects to make good use of RVPS funds and maintain the society's reputation.

Tree Officer's Report

Monica Wiltshire

Tree Friends

On April 8th 2016 15 volunteer Tree Friends will be attending training by Julian Fowgies, on basal pruning, adjusting new tree ties and other ways to care for street trees. Bromley Council has provided a very useful information document called Tree Friend Toolkit, secateurs and plastic sacks. Following the training volunteers will be allocated a street where they will monitor and care for street trees. It is felt that this is a very proactive way to maintain the appearance of our neighbourhood in light of the council's budget constraints.

Insurance-led demands to fell trees

Our experience in this area has been recognised by Councillor Mellor who has asked us to write a policy document for submission and hopefully approval to the Chief Planning Officer. We had a meeting to discuss the issues with Councillor Colin Smith; spoke at Keston Village Residents' Association AGM; and recently objected to the removal of trees in a subsidence claim at 16 Crab Hill. This included 4 pine trees at the front of 16 & 14 Crab Hill when the subsidence damage is at the rear of the property. The 200 year old London Plane tree, which we spoke to object to at a council planning meeting, was felled in November. The tree surgeons said they do this all the time and it is always healthy stock, which is indicative of the widespread nature of the problem.

6. Beckenham Place Park Joint Working Party Representative's Report

Leslie Tucker

The proposals by Lewisham and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) are now being seriously addressed by Lewisham and a number of their consultants will represent the most significant changes likely to happen in our area for the foreseeable future. After what seems to be a slow start throughout 2015 we are now beginning to be involved in the necessary consultations promised since the outset. We look forward to many more consultation opportunities during the Spring and Summer.

At our last AGM it had only recently been learnt that the scheme submitted to HLF had been the last of the four draft schemes proffered by Lewisham at the first consultations during January 2015. The most significant element of this proposal was the future complete loss of the 18 hole Golf Course along with of any hope of any smaller golfing provisions in its place. As we understand it the decision to cease the support of golf in the park had been reached by HLF in view of golf losing money annually and the fact that the primary aim of the funding was to encourage a wider range of users to this exceptional park. As you will know by now this one factor has generated a great deal of opposition leading up to a petition against it signed by about 5000 people.

Meanwhile the first grant by HLF to finance the preparation of a more detailed scheme is being spent by a group of consultants commissioned for their various skills and experience. One proposal has been published on Lewisham's website and is about to be superseded by an update at the end of February. One key event has been delayed as a result of the negative petition; this was the postponement of a meeting by Lewisham's mayor and cabinet to formally confirm that the planned proposals will go ahead. This was originally planned for mid December but was eventually held on 17th February. The mayor's decision was that the planned scheme will continue unaltered as far as the end of golf in the park is concerned although the rest of the emerging proposals will still be open to public consultation.

It appears from opinions voiced at the Working Party meetings that many of the detailed proposals yet to be announced may not be denounced so strongly by the pro-golfers. We hope that will be the case as responding to another wholly negative petition would cause the project further delay and costs. The park is in desperate need of refurbishment and wider public awareness, the money offered must be spent on improving the park and not be diverted to unnecessary obstructive debates. Constructive comments are what is wanted and will be welcomed.

Further details of the future planned consultations and the updated proposals can be found on Lewisham's website - details of which can be found in the last issue of our Newsletter. We also draw members' attention to the planned "Easter Fun Day" day at the park to be held on Saturday 26th March from 11.00am to 3.00pm. In addition to family fun activities the latest proposals for the park's future can be seen and comments made. This will provide an excellent opportunity for you to see and discuss the latest proposals - let's hope the weather will encourage you to go along.

LT

7. Membership Secretary's Report

Linda Müller

Membership numbers continue to hover around the 500 mark. 486 households are on our register this year, compared to 493 in 2015.

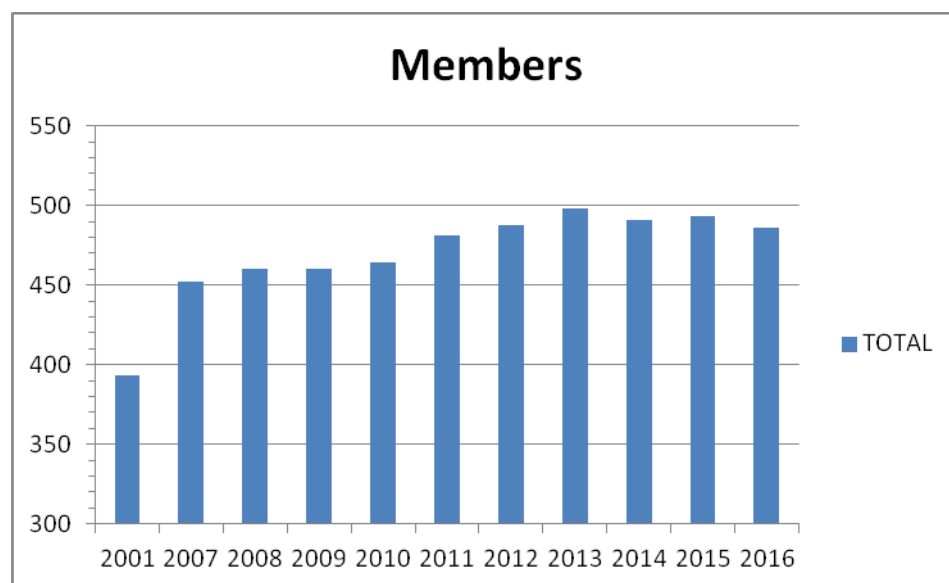
Pleasingly, the number of email members is gradually increasing: 305 members (or 63 % of the total) have elected to receive Newsletters and other Society information by email, whilst 181 (37 %) still receive paper copies delivered by hand. Our aim is of course 100 % email coverage as this would mean the cost and delivery of paper Newsletters could be done away with and the amount of information passed on would no longer be limited. If any members here this evening are not yet on our email lists and would like to be, do please let us know. Rest assured though, that as long as there is still one member out there without an email address, a paper Newsletter will still be supplied!

During the year, two of our road reps have had to step down: Barbara Price for health reasons following many, many years of hard work for the Society, and Sarah-Jane Durman who is moving from the area. A sincere thank you to them both. We are delighted that members Sandra West and Anna Koffer have joined our forces as new road reps, covering the Coniston Road and Farnaby Road (lower numbers) areas respectively. The transition has been very smooth so welcome and well done!

As always, a very big thank to our road reps for all their time and efforts.

Linda Müller

9.02.2016



MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY by YEAR

	2001		2005		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	<u>2016</u>
1. Bracken Hill / Highland Rd <i>Linda Müller</i>					21	24	24	23	23	26	27
2. Bromley Ave / Grasmere <i>Leslie Tucker</i>	43		44		31	34	34	37	34	36	34
3. Calmont Rd / Ashgrove <i>Rita Smith</i>	21		18		22	23	25	26	25	26	25
4. Coniston / Ullswater <i>Sandra West</i>	26		23		23	26	29	30	29	29	29
5. Downs Hill / Crab Hill <i>Wendy Watmore</i>	58		55		64	69	70	75	74	71	68
6. Elstree Hill / Hillbrow <i>Roger Legg</i>	13		15		16	17	17	19	20	22	25
7. Farnaby Road 1-81 <i>Anna Koffer</i>	39		31		30	31	31	33	24	24	24
8. Farnaby Road 82 + <i>Kay Shaw</i>	19		23		23	23	23	21	29	28	27
9. Madeira Avenue <i>Brian Atkinson</i>	34		90		93	93	95	91	90	89	90
10. Oaklands/Spencer Rd <i>David Page</i>	27		29		24	30	30	31	31	30	28
11. Ravensb.Ave/evens <i>Monica Wiltshire</i>	35		36		39	39	39	41	42	42	41
12. Ravensb. Ave/odds <i>Ann Freiter</i>	25		26		27	23	23	22	20	20	20
13. Ravensmead Road <i>Pete Saunders</i>	33		27		27	23	22	22	23	24	24
14. Warren Avenue <i>Carol Davidson</i>	20		19		24	26	26	27	27	26	24
<u>TOTAL</u>	393		423		464	481	488	498	491	493	486