



RVPS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday 1st March 2018
8pm Bromley Court Hotel

Reports

Working with the community

- 1 Chairman's Report**
- 2 Treasurer's Report**
- 3 Planning Officer's Report**
- 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

During the year we have continued to thoroughly embed new technology in our systems and procedures- most notably in much improved financial and membership record keeping, which I would like to thank Dave Wiltshire and Linda Muller respectively. Members will now be used to our much improved newsletter which is produced and distributed seamlessly to Road Reps and members by Euan McMaster while the shift to digital versions of the newsletter is producing considerable savings.

Meanwhile, Monica Wiltshire drives all our activities regarding things that are growing – and indeed things that should not be growing (i.e. weeds). Monica continues to monitor the street trees in our area but has also taken the lead in tidying up neglected areas such as the triangle at the bottom of Downs Hill. In this area Monica removed or arranged to be removed dead and diseased trees, much ivy that was strangling remaining plants and trees and has started a planting programme to fill in the empty spaces. A good number of our members assisted in this work.

Our website and social media presence is very ably managed by David England who also monitors the internet for significant issues affecting our area. David also helps our planning activities by providing early warning of new planning applications.

Our roads and transport officer, Andrew Storey, has also been busy this year trying to tackle the problems of the newish Crab Hill parking scheme which has caused a number of problems. We hope to have an update at the AGM.

During the year, Richard Thomas stood down as our Planning Officer. I would like to thank Richard for filling this vacancy when nobody else was available or willing to take it on and for his contributions over a number of years. The role has now been taken by Paul Osborne who has been kept more than busy by some interesting applications.

At the AGM, we will introduce a few changes. After five years of keeping the Chair in order, our Secretary Beatrice Osborn needs a break and will be standing down. I would like to thank Beatrice very much indeed for her dedication to this role over a long period and which in fact is just a small part of the ways in which Beatrice contributes to the community in a wide variety of roles. I am very pleased that Judy Adcock has offered to stand for election to this post as a replacement. I would also mention that Beatrice is standing for election for the post of Vice-Chair as Linda Muller is stepping down this year. My thanks of course to Linda for being on standby in case the Chair is not available.

As ever, I do want to mention all our Road Reps. They do carry out a vital role in that at least once a year they connect with all our members and deliver a leaflet to every house in our area. My thanks to them.

And lastly, I want to mention Leslie Tucker. Leslie was a founder member of RVPS over 30 years ago and is the last of the founder members to still be active. Leslie's contribution over this period has been enormous especially in the role of planning officer (which he relinquished approximately 10 years ago) but also as Road Rep for Bromley Avenue and Grasmere Road. It is from this latter role that Leslie will be retiring at the AGM. I'm sure that all of you who know Leslie will particularly appreciate the manner in which he has fulfilled these roles and will wish him well for the future. I would mention that Leslie is already a 'Life Member' in recognition of his outstanding contributions.

I am pleased to announce that Mrs Val Crowdy has volunteered to take over as Road Rep for these roads.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2017

INCOME	2017	2016
	£	£
Members' subscriptions	2335	1998
Other donations	0	0
Interest from bank accounts	48	60
Miscellaneous	0	0
TOTAL	2383	2058
EXPENDITURE		
Photocopying	313	582
Office supplies	45	30
Newsletter	0	0
Postage	0	11
Telephone	0	0
Refreshments	370	416
AGM	147	165
Insurance	142	135
Community Projects	100	3100
Donations	100	0
Miscellaneous	184	42
TOTAL	1401	4481
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	982	(2423)

BALANCE SHEET
As at 31st December 2017

GENERAL RESERVE	2017	2016
	£	£
Balance at 1 st January 2017	10188	12611
Surplus / (Deficit) for year	982	(2423)
Balance at 31 st December 2016	11170	10188
 ASSETS		
Cash at National Savings & Investment Account	8122	8073
Santander Current Account	2056	1441
Cash in hand	992	674
TOTAL	11170	10188

Signed by the Hon. Treasurer: (David Wiltshire)

Date:

Accounts and Balance Sheet approved by the AGM

Signed by the Chairman: (Clive Lees)

Date:

Report by Auditor:

I have examined the attached Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet which are in accordance with the accounting records. In my opinion they give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 31st December 2017 and of the profit for the year end on that date.

Signed by the Hon. Auditor: (Alan Williams)

Date:

TREASURER'S REPORT

On the Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2017

There was an overall surplus for the year of £982 and the General Reserve was thereby increased to £11170.

On the receipts side:

Subscriptions received for the year increased compared to 2016. Income fluctuations are mainly due to receipts for one year's subscriptions being collected and entered into the following year's account.

- Interest from National Savings and Investment Account was £48.00 for the year and was automatically added to that account.

On the expenditure side:

There has been a significant decrease in expenditure increased compared to 2016, in which year phase 1 of the London Borough of Bromley and RVPS tree project was paid at £3000.

- RVPS still has a £3000 liability for phase 2 of the tree project
- RVPS made a £100 Community Project payment towards the maintenance, storage and installation of the Shortlands Village Christmas lights
- Once again in recognition of the commitment and dedication of the Road Reps, RVPS funded a Summer Party at the Shortlands Tavern at a cost of £94.95
- The 2017 accounts have been audited by our new auditor Mr Alan Williams. Our thanks to Alan for accepting the auditor role

At £11170 the General Reserve remains in a very healthy state noting we do have a £3000 liability to the London Borough of Bromley. I therefore 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 Officer's Report

Paul Osborne

There have been a number of significant planning applications/decisions: -

- 14 Highland Road – a Breach of Condition notice was served on 12th July. A minor material amendment application was submitted in response. The decision was for no additional windows to be installed in the elevations; garages and parking spaces to be kept available for use and refuse storage, bicycle parking and privacy screens permanently maintained.
- Shortlands Golf Club – an application was made to extend the licensing hours till 01:00 on Friday and Saturday nights and 00:00 on Sunday night. The Licensing Sub-Committee granted an extension till 00:00 on Friday and Saturday nights and 22:30 on Sunday night with a requirement to install and use a noise limiting device and keep all doors and windows shut during regulated entertainment.
- 24 Downs Hill – an appeal was allowed against the refusal of planning permission for the demolition of the host dwelling and erection of new detached house.
- 100 Madeira Avenue – an appeal was allowed against the refusal of planning permission for the demolition of the existing dwelling and erection of a three storey terrace comprising 2 three bedroom and 1 four bedroom houses with integral garages.
- 61 The Avenue – an appeal has been lodged against the refusal of planning permission for the demolition of the existing dwelling and erection of 2 two storey buildings, each comprising 3 two bedroom flats. A decision is awaited.
- Flat 39 20 Blyth Road – an appeal has been lodged against the refusal of planning permission for the change of use of ground and first floor from sports hall to residential to form a single 4 bedroom dwelling. A decision is awaited.
- 13 Calmont Road – the application for the construction of a single storey building on land at the rear, fronting onto Ambleside, to provide a children's nursery was refused.
- 8 Highland Road – the application for a development of 5 terrace houses on land comprised of existing garages to the rear of no. 10 and part of the rear garden of no. 8 was refused.
- 6 Oaklands Road – the application to construct 3 two bedroom dwellings in Oaklands Court was refused.
- 13 Calmont Road – an appeal has been lodged against the refusal of planning permission for the construction of the dwelling house at the rear of this property
- 2 Ullswater Road – an application has been made for a two-storey side extension. A decision is awaited.

4. Roads and Transport Report

Andrew Storey

Crab Hill Parking

We have continued to challenge Bromley council, with the support of our Councillors, to review the pay-by-mobile parking scheme around Ravensbourne Station. Finally, last week, after canvassing the opinions of society members particularly affected by the scheme, we met with Bromley Councillor William Huntington-Thresher, the Portfolio Holder for the Environment. This was a meeting attended by myself, RVPS Chairman, Councillor Nicky Dykes, and a good number of society members leaving Councillor Huntington-Thresher in no doubt of the strength of local feeling about the scheme. Matters addressed were: the inadequate signage and routing of diverted HGVs from Shortlands, the lack of take up of the paid spaces, the knock-on effect of displaced parking on nearby roads, the lack of suitable road markings to encourage sensible parking whilst allowing traffic to pass, concerns of speeding drivers and the real and perceived dangers from these cars.

Speeding

Elsewhere, following a nasty accident on Farnaby Road where a car ended up upside-down on a pavement, the issue of speeding was raised. Bromley have moved the flashing speed sign to a new location, and the police have been seen in attendance to enforce the speed limit. We are looking into the Community Speedwatch programme, where local residents can be trained to use speed-guns and work with the police to advise them of offenders, and to issue warning letters to the offending drivers.

Shortlands Station

Future plans: The junction at Shortlands station is to be reviewed - with concern for cyclists and pedestrians, and with the hope of reducing congestion. Also, from May, a new timetable will come into force from Shortlands and Ravensbourne Stations. This will see off-peak services increase from 2 to 4 trains an hour in both directions on the Thameslink line through Catford and Blackfriars stations.

5. Community Projects and Tree Officer's Report

Monica Wiltshire

The tree friends' main project this year has been the regeneration of the triangle of common land at the junction of Downs Hill and Ravensbourne Avenue. Working in collaboration with Bromley Council, 6 dead or unsafe trees were removed and then we had 3 sessions to remove ivy and brambles, tidy up and plant perennials and one 6 foot tree. We plan to plant daffodils there this autumn. This has been a satisfying and worthwhile project.

Clive Lees and Dave Wiltshire loosened all the project tree ties and the tree friends have become renowned for ivy clearance from fences, in one case receiving a donation to RVPS for £50. Tree friends have planted 6 young oak trees and cleared brambles and ivy from existing new trees in Warren Avenue Playing Fields.

9 new or replacement trees requested in the monthly action list to Bromley Council have been planted in Farnaby Road (1), Madeira Avenue (1), Ravensbourne Avenue (5), Foxgrove Road (1) and Downs Hill (1). We continue to receive very good support from Bromley's Arboricultural team and this included on-site advice from Mark Byfield on planting annuals in the new tree pits in Farnaby Road and Madeira Avenue which will be carried out in May.

There have been no significant tree planning applications and we continue to monitor and comment on applications as appropriate.

6. Beckenham Place Park Representative's Report

Euan McMaster

In the last year I have been your representative for matters relating to Beckenham Place Park (BPP) regeneration project, having taken over the role from Leslie Tucker who performed it tirelessly for many years. I have been assisted by Liz Logan and Val Crowdy who have attended a number of the forum meetings organised by Lewisham Council.

Background

Beckenham Place Park is Lewisham's largest park by far. At 95 hectares it is 30% bigger than Greenwich Park. It boasts ancient woodland, meadow, parkland, a river and historic buildings.

In 2014, Lewisham Council submitted a stage 1 bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the regeneration of Beckenham Place Park through the Parks for People programme. The HLF approved the bid and earmarked £4.9m to invest in Beckenham Place Park.

The council worked up designs for the park taking into consideration the views of local residents and other interested parties, collected by surveys carried out in 2013 and early 2016, and submitted its final stage 2 bid to the Fund in August 2016. These plans included closure of the golf course, which happened in November 2016. In December 2016, the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded Lewisham Council £4.9m to redevelop the park.

Initial Planned Facilities and Activities

The plans for the park were stated to include:

- 5km running route within the park;
- trim trail;
- all weather and walking rails giving better access for those with limited mobility and for buggies;
- open water swimming;
- a new BMX track and better cycling facilities;
- enhanced skate park;
- lots of space for informal sports, eg football, cricket and rounders.

Other new and improved features and facilities were stated to include:

- restored natural lake;
- wet woodland area;
- a new cafe in the restored listed stable block;
- new toilets in the east and west sides of the park;
- an education centre;
- a volunteering hub;
- two new children's play areas;
- an orchard;
- community food growing.

Recently Added Planned Feature

In February this year permission was granted to allow a variation of the planning permission dated 20 October 2016 for the proposed regeneration of part (west of rail line) of Beckenham Place Park to facilitate the construction of a mounded garden.

Progress against Plans

During 2017, the following items, and others, from the plan have been implemented or work has been initiated:

- funding from the Greater London Authority (GLA) has enabled the planting of new areas of woodland. So far more than 12,000 new whips (small woodland trees) have been planted, creating five acres of new woodland;

- planned tree works have commenced to ensure the park remains safe for everyone. Around 80 trees will be taken down because they are dead or diseased. All trees planted in memory of a loved one will be kept within the park;
- work has started on restoring the 18th century lake for heritage and ecological reasons. The lake was created by John Cator who owned and lived in the Mansion House in the late 1700s.
- the BMX track has been upgraded;
- several cyclocross events have been held, although there are concerns about the layout of the route and further consultation is proceeding to determine the best route;
- the facilities in the Mansion House have been upgraded to include a better café and various artists' studios;
- the gardens have been improved, particularly the Sensory Garden between the Mansion House and the outbuildings.

Completed Events

Numerous events have been held in the park, including:

- Festival of Lights – Christmas celebration;
- Sound Walk – a collection of recordings of park sounds and stories submitted by volunteers that have been woven together in a smartphone app that takes one on a tour of places in the park rich with the memories and personal histories of local people;
- a summer festival to celebrate the opening of the improved Mansion House facilities;
- Park Feast – a community meal where every dish contained ingredients grown in the straw bale garden beside the sensory garden;
- access to the Mansion and outbuildings provided as part of the Open House London event.

Some of these were organised by Lewisham Council, others by the Friends of BPP, a long-standing volunteers group who are concerned with the upkeep and future of the park. A link to their website is provided below.

Repeats of some of these and similar events are planned for 2018, including the possibility of a flower show and various concerts.

Lewisham and Catford Flood Alleviation Scheme

A decision has been made on Bromley Council's planning application. Whilst no objection is raised in principle, concern was raised by the Environmental Health Officer regarding the location and duration of any emergency pumping.

Concerns were also raised by local residents relating to the restrictions on parking during access to the works and the potential noise and visual interference to residents at the access points.

Entertainments Licence Application

Lewisham Council applied for a premises licence to hold events for up to 5000 people at Beckenham Place Park. Many objections to the details of the proposal, including those by RVPS, were submitted and the application was refused. We expect a modified application to be made in due course and we will make any relevant concerns known to the council.

Further information about all the above, and more, is available via the following web links:

<http://www.rvpsbromley.org/beckenham-place-park.php>

www.beckenhamplaceparkfriends.org.uk

<https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/regeneration/improvements-to-parks/BeckenhamPlacePark/Pages/default.aspx>

7. Membership Secretary's Report

Linda Müller

Roughly 40 % of the area's households are members of the Society although at 476, memberships are slightly lower in number this year than in our peak year 2013 with 498. We are always delighted to welcome new members so please pass on news of the Society to your neighbours.

The number of members who elect to receive Newsletters by email continues to increase and today 70 % choose to receive information electronically. This pleasing situation saves the time and shoe leather of our road reps but it is good to personally keep in touch with members once a year when collecting subs and delivering the "round-up" Newsletter".

Several road representatives have stepped down during this year and one will be hanging up his jogging shoes from this evening. With grateful thanks for all their work over the years, we say goodbye and release them from their duties but sincerely hope to see them at future meetings.

Leaving are

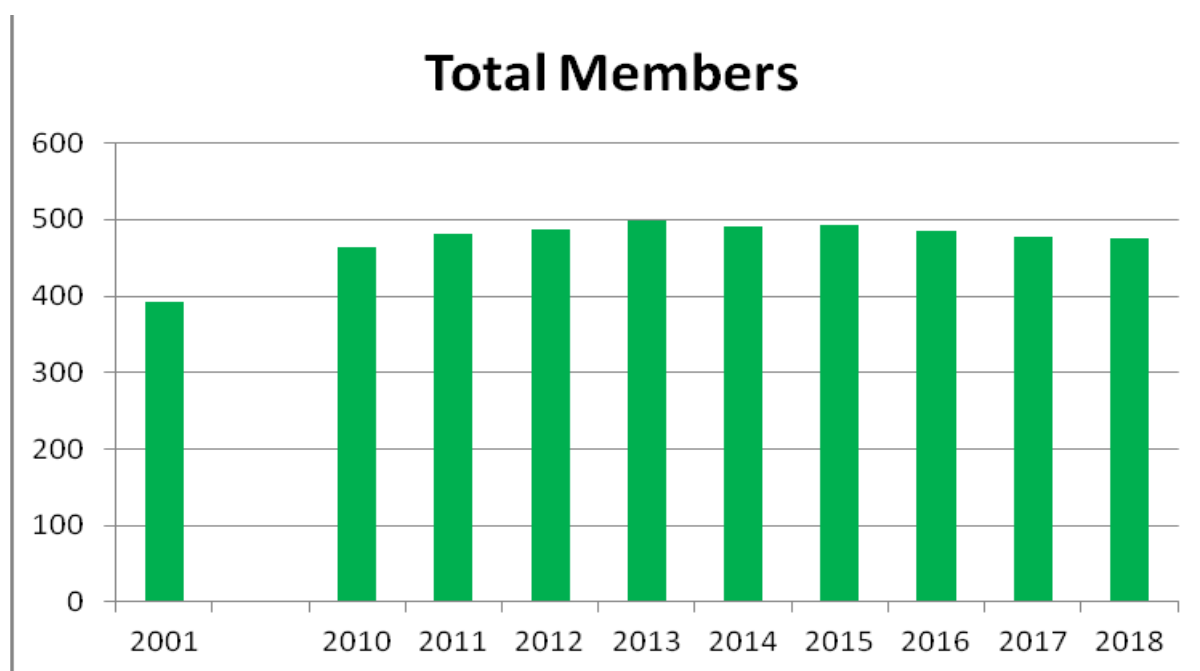
- Roger Legg
- Brian Atkinson
- Ann Freiter
- Leslie Tucker

A very warm welcome to their replacements

- Mick Pinson
- Judy Adcock
- Sharon Miles
- Val Crowdy

We wish you enjoyment in your duties and fine weather !

And finally, a big thank you to all road reps for their work throughout the year.



RVPS Road Representatives

Area

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 1. | Bracken Hill Lane,
Highland Rd | Linda Müller
48 Bracken Hill Lane |
| 2. | Bromley Ave, Grasmere Rd
Park Hill Road | Val Crowdy
12 Bromley Avenue |
| 3. | Calmont Rd, Ashgrove Rd
Belgravia Gardens | Rita Smith
37 Ashgrove Road |
| 4. | Coniston Road | Sandra West,
63 Coniston Road |
| 5. | Crab Hill, Downs Hill | Wendy Watmore
10 Downs Hill |
| 6. | Elstree Hill, Erin Close
Hill Brow Rd | Mick Pinson
15 Elstree Hill |
| 7. | Farnaby Road 1- 81 | Anna Koffer
160 Ravensbourne Avenue |
| 8. | Farnaby Road 82 + | Kay Shaw
169 Farnaby Road |
| 9. | Madeira Avenue | Judy Adcock
78 Madeira Avenue |
| 10. | Oaklands Rd, Spencer Rd | David Page
3 Lullingstone Garth, Oaklands Road |
| 11. | Ravensbourne Ave (even) | Monica Wiltshire
10 Crab Hill |
| 12. | Ravensbourne Ave (odd) | Sharon Miles
189 Ravensbourne Avenue |
| 13. | Ravensmead Road | Pete Saunders
14 Ravensmead Road |
| 14. | Warren Avenue | Clive Lees
38 Warren Avenue |

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY by YEAR

	2001		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	<u>2018</u>
1. Bracken Hill / Highland Rd <i>Linda Müller</i>			21	24	24	23	23	26	27	26	32
2. Bromley Ave / Grasmere <i>Leslie Tucker</i>	43		31	34	34	37	34	36	34	32	32
3. Calmont Rd / Ashgrove <i>Rita Smith</i>	21		22	23	25	26	25	26	25	24	24
4. Coniston / Ullswater <i>Sandra West</i>	26		23	26	29	30	29	29	29	29	25
5. Downs Hill / Crab Hill <i>Wendy Watmore</i>	58		64	69	70	75	74	71	68	68	72
6. Elstree Hill / Hillbrow <i>Mick Pinson</i>	13		16	17	17	19	20	22	25	25	20
7. Farnaby Road 1-81 <i>Anna Koffer</i>	39		30	31	31	33	24	24	24	24	25
8. Farnaby Road 82 + <i>Kay Shaw</i>	19		23	23	23	21	29	28	27	24	21
9. Madeira Avenue <i>Judy Adcock</i>	34		93	93	95	91	90	89	90	90	89
10. Oaklands/Spencer Rd <i>David Page</i>	27		24	30	30	31	31	30	28	27	27
11. Ravens.Ave/evens <i>Monica Wiltshire</i>	35		39	39	39	41	42	42	41	39	42
12. Ravens. Ave/odds <i>Sharon Miles</i>	25		27	23	23	22	20	20	20	20	18
13. Ravensmead Road <i>Pete Saunders</i>	33		27	23	22	22	23	24	24	24	25
14. Warren Avenue <i>Clive Lees</i>	20		24	26	26	27	27	26	24	25	24
<u>TOTAL</u>	393		464	481	488	498	491	493	486	477	476