

NEWSLETTER

3/2006

August 2006



EDITORIAL

This Newsletter marks the beginning of this year's subscription collecting. Some Road Reps will have already started, but many will wait until the end of the school holiday period. If you are out when your Road Rep calls they will probably put a reminder slip through your letter box. Please respond to it and save him or her another journey.

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 7th September - Members' Meeting 8.00pm - Bromley Court Hotel

Thursday 2nd November - Members' Meeting 8.00pm - Bromley Court Hotel

Peter Pain (Editor)

PLANNING

Bromley Unitary Development Plan: (UDP)

Bromley Council formally adopted the new UDP in July. Subject to no High Court challenge, it will become the new planning bible at the beginning of September. As foreseen in previous Newsletters, Bromley had to make some changes in order to get central government approval. Most notable is a requirement for increased housing density close to town centres and to a lesser extent on good public transport routes. Also the requirement for the developers to provide about a third of the development as "affordable housing" will now be triggered if sites are at least 0.4 hectares (about an acre) or if they are capable of providing ten dwellings or more. Earlier Bromley had wanted 15 units to be the trigger.

Planning Applications Bromley:

3 Highland Road (near London Road)

The second application which reduced the development from 7 to 6 flats was refused by Bromley. The developer has now appealed.

8 Highland Road

The developer has withdrawn his appeal against Bromley's refusal of their first application for ten flats. He already has approval for a smaller development.

Kowloon & Penfro, Highland Road:

The proposal for a block of 12 flats was refused by Bromley. The developer has appealed and we have written to the Inspector reiterating our objections. A decision is still pending.

Shortlands Golf Course:

T Mobile has made a second application for a mast. The mast would be sited nearer to Farnaby Road than the Vodafone mast and would be taller. It was also to be disguised to

resemble a dead elm tree! Bromley refused the application on the grounds that it would be incongruous and visually intrusive, they also considered that T Mobile had not satisfactorily pursued alternative sites. T Mobile have now appealed and we have written to the Inspector supporting Bromley's decision and giving our reasons.

Lewisham applications

44, Coniston Road:

Lewisham have not yet approved the changes to the scheme for two pairs of semi-detached houses which was originally approved in 2003. Lewisham arranged a meeting with nearby residents to discuss the changes in mid-July. Meantime the developers have started to clear the site.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Valley School

Work on the playground murals which we funded last year is virtually complete with only finishing touches due to be done before the beginning of next term. We also learn from the school that the log seating for their outdoor arena which has been funded by us this year, has been ordered and should be in place early next term. An invitation for us to view has been promised when both are complete. The school has already sent us a very nice letter of appreciation.

Street Trees

The appeal in the last Newsletter for members to let their Road Reps know of any missing street trees which they would like to see replaced, went down like a lead balloon. So far there has been a deafening silence!

BECKENHAM PLACE PARK

Following a further meeting of the Working Party in June it became clear that decisions about the future management of the park are unlikely to be made before 2010 when all of Lewisham's parks contracts are due to be renegotiated. Glendale, the present contractor is generally regarded as doing a good job, particularly on the golf course. The situation regarding the Mansion and Stable Block is still unresolved. A further updating of the Management Plan has started. We have commented on the first draft and supplied an update for the section on Council Policies, which was culled from Lewisham's current UDP.

SECURITY

Vehicles - Sat/Nav systems:

The police report that an increasing number of add on Sat/Nav systems are being stolen from cars. If yours is removable they strongly recommend that it should be dismantled and put out of sight when a car is left in a public place.

Vehicles - children

From September 2006 new regulations come into force about carrying children in cars, particularly with regard to car seat requirements. Full information can be found from www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk.

Cold Callers

In last year's August Newsletter we wrote at some length about cold callers and the rip-offs that can happen. We also explained about what action you can take should it happen to you. Bromley Trading Standards already have a rapid response team, but they have now issued a discreet telephone number to handle reports about cold callers only. It is 07903 852 090. If anyone gets an unsolicited call at the door offering to do building, roofing, tree or gardening work they should call that number and report it.

Scams

Intestate Death

This scam can take several forms, but in essence it involves a telephone and/or letter from someone claiming to be either an external auditor for a reputable bank or apparently from a foreign bank to tell you that someone with your surname has died without a will.

There will be a small fortune to be claimed and there are no known next of kin. The caller claims that they can secure some or all of these funds for you. If you go ahead then, sooner or later, there will be some sort of administration fee asked for. If you pay it - you will not hear from them again.

Non-existent Parcels:

A variation, not involving death, is a card through the letter box to say that a delivery service called and had no reply. The card gives a telephone number to ring to arrange delivery. The number is a premium rate number beginning 090 and the charge for calling it can range from 50p to 150p per minute. The instigators will be able to pocket most of this charge. Needless to say, there is no parcel.

Burglaries

The police have reported an increase in two types of burglary. The first is opportunistic following doors or windows being left open or unlocked with valuables being left visible and within reach. This also applies to cars. There has been at least one recent case in our area. The second is "distraction" burglary. Sometimes by rogue traders or sometimes the offender pretends to be an official from a utility such as water or gas. One person distracts the householder with a request to check something whilst his accomplice steals whatever can be easily taken. A variation on that theme has been bogus officials claiming to be from Age Concern Cleaning Services or Age Concern Lottery. Any such incidents should be reported to the police. And, of course, always ask to see the ID of any caller.

And Finally -Here are three typographical errors culled from various sources:-

© "Has anyone got a bike for a man they don't want any more?"

© "Firefighters took 20 minutes to distinguish the flames"

© "The thief is described as white 5ft 10ins to 55ft 11ins tall, of slim build"