

NEWSLETTER

2/2008

February 2008



EDITORIAL

This Newsletter is to advise everyone about the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.. Please make a note of the date and venue in your diaries and make every effort to come along.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 6th March 2008 at 8.00pm
Bromley Court Hotel
Wellington Suite

There will be a limited number of agendas at the door so please keep this Newsletter and bring it with you. Non-members are welcome to attend, but of course, cannot vote.

Our guest speaker this year is Rob Vale, the manager of the Trading Standards Team in Bromley. There are about 12 in the team and they are roughly divided between Trading Standards and Consumer Protection. Their roles and the various functions they perform will become clearer on the night. However, between them they cover everything from weights and measures to premises inspections through to doorstep (rogue) traders.

We understand that his talk will cover: what the job of a Trading Standards / Consumer Protection Officer entails, advice on what to avoid / look out for and examples of successes and failures. Hopefully some will have an amusing slant. Rob has a wealth of experience and from what we hear, we are in for a very interesting evening.

In previous newsletters reference has been made to the fact that our chairman, Elizabeth Davies, had moved away in the middle of 2007 and we needed a volunteer to take on the job after this AGM. I am pleased to say that we have a volunteer. He is Leslie Watmore who lives in Downs Hill and before that, in Warren Avenue. In fact he has been in the area for about 50 years. He is a retired solicitor and was well used to chairing meetings during his working life. Since retirement he has also chaired meetings at his golf club. After that experience, chairing our meetings should be a piece of cake. Peter Pain has agreed to continue as Vice Chairman in order to cover any absences.

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 1st May Members Meeting, 8.0pm at Bromley Court Hotel.

Thursday 3rd July Members Meeting, 8.0pm at Bromley Court Hotel.

Peter Pain (Editor)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE : Thursday 6th March 2008

LOCATION: Bromley Court Hotel

TIME: 8.0pm

AGENDA

- 1 Chairman's Welcome and opening remarks.
- 2 Guest Speaker - Rob Vale, Trading Standards Officer.

BREAK FOR REFRESHMENTS

- 3 Minutes of previous AGM.
- 4 Chairman's Report.
- 5 Treasurer's Report.
- 6 Planning Officers' Reports -
 - a) Bromley
 - b) Lewisham
 - c) Roads & Traffic
- 7 Beckenham Place Park Representative's Report
- 8 Membership Secretary's Report.
- 9 Determination of Subscriptions for 2008 - 9.
- 10 Election of Officers.
- 11 Chairman's closing remarks.

Posts for Re-election

Present Holders

Chairman

Vacant

Secretary

Tom Griffin

Treasurer

Brian Sanders

Auditor

Wally Carlross

As mentioned in the editorial, Leslie Watmore has volunteered to fill the vacant post of Chairman. He has been proposed by Barbara Brown and seconded by Pat Tucker. Apart from the post of Chairman, all of the present holders are prepared to stand for re-election. If there are any other nominations for the post of Chairman or for the posts of Secretary, Treasurer or Auditor, their names, plus that of a proposer and seconder, should be sent in writing to the Secretary before the AGM.

The name and address of the Secretary can be found on page 4 of this Newsletter.

UPDATE There follows a short update on our various activities since the last newsletter

PLANNING

126 Madeira Avenue:

Following the refusal on appeal for 8, 4 storey town houses and the subsequent withdrawal of an application for 6 similar houses, no further application has been made so far. However men have been seen taking measurements and an officer from Lewisham has been seen taking photographs of the rear of the site. It is understood that part of the plot is still leased from Lewisham. We note that a "For Sale" sign has just been put up at the end of the drive.

113 Foxgrove Road:

The developer has appealed against Bromley's refusal to allow him to demolish an existing house and build a block of flats in the Conservation Area. As part of the appeal process the Inspector made a site visit in January. Our Planning Officer attended as did about 20 local objectors - in heavy rain! The appeal has been disallowed, primarily on the grounds of road safety.

51 Downs Hill:

This application for a new rear, flank and front extension in the Conservation Area was refused by Bromley in January. Our Chairman Designate spoke against the application at the plans sub-committee as our Planning Officer had a prior commitment.

8 Madeira Avenue:

The proposal to demolish the existing property and build a 5 storey block of 9, 2 bedroom flats has been withdrawn by the developer. About 60 letters objecting to the application were sent to Bromley planners.

Blyth Road hotel:

We have recently objected to the demolition of this property and its replacement by a 3 storey block of 9, 2 bedroom flats. It has not yet gone to the Plans Sub-Committee.

Help required!

Clive Lees, our Planning officer, feels that for some planning applications, the inclusion of a few telling photographs would help our objections. He is looking for someone with a good digital camera and the ability to download the images onto CD/DVD, to accompany him on occasional site visits. He reckons the time commitment to be about 30 minutes every 2 months. Clive can be contacted on 8464 4699.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Queens Mead & Martins Hill:

The Friends of Bromley Parks and Gardens are still waiting to hear from Bromley and the Environment Agency regarding a meeting of those involved with the project for the improvements to the Mead and the Hill. They will be pressing for them to proceed to the next stage as soon as possible. The Shortlands Residents Association have yet to formally agree to support the scheme.

ROADS AND TRAFFIC

Downs Bridge Road: There is now a sign near the bridge warning that it is unsuitable for HGV's although no weight limit is shown. There is no date yet known for the consultation period on the making up of Crab Hill and part of Ravensbourne Avenue.