

NEWSLETTER

4/2008

July 2008



EDITORIAL

This newsletter marks the beginning of the Society's financial year and also the beginning of the subscription collection season. Some Road Reps may have already started but most will await the end of the holiday period. If you are out when the Road Rep calls, they will probably have put a reminder slip through your letter box. Please respond to it and save he or she another journey - they are all volunteers.

This year the Road Reps will have a bit more to do. Firstly, it has come to our attention that we may not be fully complying with the Data Protection Act when keeping our membership records on a computer. Although anyone becoming a member will have realised that we must keep records it would seem to be necessary to obtain the agreement of members that they are computerised and that the Society should assure members their use will be restricted to the Society's record keeping and information only. To this end members will be asked to sign a form agreeing to the use of computers for the Society's records and be assured that they will ONLY be used for that purpose. This requirement is a "one off" and it will be assumed that the approval will remain whilst still a member of this Society.

Secondly, as communications are becoming more electronic it would seem appropriate to add a telephone number and/or an e-mail address to our records. This would assist, for example, our Planning officer who often needs to contact residents to inform them of Planning Applications which are likely to affect them. For those who would prefer not to give this information, their wishes will be respected.

Paul Bennett one of our founder members - in fact, he was the trigger for our formation, is looking to lighten his load due to ill health. In particular he would like someone to take on the job of Planning Officer for that part of Lewisham which we cover. In recent years this has been a very light load - only 3 planning applications and one Enforcement Notice for not making a planning application in the last 7 years. If you would like to volunteer or wish to know more about what is involved in the job, please ring either Paul Bennett or Peter Pain on 8466 1091 or 8460 2828 respectively. Later he may wish to give up the Membership Secretary's job but, for now he will continue to do that.

To end on a happy note, Miss Frenkel, the owner of the Bromley Court Hotel, was 100 last month. To mark the occasion we sent a floral arrangement and, of course, a card. The card was personalised by including a photograph of the house as it was about 100 years ago, our logo and our own congratulations. All done by Leslie Tucker on his computer. In response we had a very nice letter from her nephew who told us that she actually had two

parties. The first on her birthday, was mainly for hotel staff, the second was for family and friends. He said that she had enjoyed both enormously and that our gesture was very much appreciated.

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 4th September Members Meeting, 8.0pm at Bromley Court Hotel.

Thursday 6th November Members Meeting, 8.0pm at Bromley Court Hotel.

Peter Pain (Editor)

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Valley School have sent us a letter of thanks for our latest donation. It is to help fund the provision of plants suitable to plant in and around their new pond. As a further encouragement to wildlife we have also agreed to support the provision of nesting boxes for various species including bats, ladybirds and birds. We hope that this will, not only widen the knowledge of the children but will also help to establish another wildlife haven in our area.

TRANSPORT

Crab Hill and Ravensbourne Avenue

Barbara Brown, the Road Rep for Downs Hill / Crab Hill wrote to Transport for London about the potential proposal to make up the unmade sections and reroute the local bus (354) to call at Ravensbourne Station. In essence they said that no decision had been made and that local consultation would take place before a decision is reached. They enclosed a copy of an example that they had carried out in Greenwich and Lewisham. A copy has been passed to Jon Casey our Transport Officer.

POLICING

Most areas in Bromley now have a Safer Neighbourhood Team. Ours consist of a sergeant, 2 police constables and 4 Community Support officers. They can be contacted on 020 8721 2859 or mobile 07887 826 502.

From north to south, their patch covers from Bromley Court Hotel to Bromley South railway station and includes the Glades. East to west they cover from Shortlands to Plaistow Lane, including Widmore Road. Daphne Robeson, the Road Rep for Oaklands Road, is our liaison officer.

ENVIRONMENT

Although there was not much publicity this year, Bromley have again set up satellite sites for the collection of green waste only.

The nearest sites are: Beckenham - St Georges Road car park.
Bromley - Norman Park, off Bromley Common.

The hours are: Saturdays, 11am to 4pm Sundays, 8am to noon.

PLANNING

8 Madeira Avenue

The second application, this time for a 4 storey block of 2 bedroom flats has been refused. Councillor Phillips also spoke against it. However surveyors have recently been seen on the site so a further proposal would not surprise.

17, Spencer Road:

We await Bromley's determination on the third and most recent application for an end of terrace house on this site. We consider it worse than the previous proposal and have leafleted local residents

113 Foxgrove Road:

This is on the border of the Downs Hill Conservation Area. Following refusal of the first application and a failed appeal, a second application for a block of flats was also

refused. That has also gone to appeal which has yet to be heard. However we now learn that a third application is imminent and Council files indicate that this application will be supported as it overcomes all of the reasons for the dismissal of the first appeal. Consequently any objections at this stage would have to rely on emotive arguments which are unlikely to be effective. The Society will therefore not be making further objections but our Planning Officer will give advice if local residents wish to object personally.

126 Madeira Avenue:

This is the third application for this site. The first was for 8, 4 storey town houses which was refused on appeal, then 6, 4 storey town houses which was withdrawn. The latest proposal was for 3 detached 4 bedroom houses. Bromley have refused this on the basis that the access is too long and narrow and that neighbours would be overlooked.

14 Highland Road:

A revised application to extend and convert this locally listed house into flats is expected. In the meantime an appeal has been lodged against the earlier refusal. Residents will be advised when the date of the appeal - which will be an informal hearing, is known

Billingford, Elstree Hill:

A side extension, barbeque and dining area which was refused retrospective permission must be demolished under an Enforcement Order served in April. The frontage wall was observed to be over 2 metres high when they visited the site and this must now be reduced in height by 30th August.

19, Brackenhill Lane:

Permission has been given for the garage of this town house to be converted into a room.

75, Calmont Road:

This is a corner site at the junction with Hillbrow. Effectively it is being used as a builder's yard and neighbours have complained. Lewisham are now taking legal action to stop skips etc being put in either road without permission.

Consultation:

A recent consultation by Bromley about what documents must be submitted with a planning application for it to be valid has just closed. The Society responded, mainly with ideas which would make the impact of the proposed development much clearer.

Thanks:

Clive Lees would like to thank all of those members who volunteered to take photographs for him. It proved so successful that the Society has provided a camera and printer for planning purposes. They have been used to good effect

BECKENHAM PLACE PARK

The contract for the public consultation exercise was awarded to a firm called Continental Research. The Chair of the Friends and our Vice-Chair were both on the selection panel.

The consultation about future changes in the Park will be in three stages.

- A citizens' workshop of about 100 people. This will take all day and be partly in Lewisham Civic Suite and partly in the Park.
- A public survey using both hard copy and an on-line questionnaire.
- A series of focus groups which will include golfers, the Friends of the Park and local amenity groups. We are part of the latter - Leslie Tucker and Peter Pain attended one on 16th July.