

NEWSLETTER

July 2009

4/2009

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EDITORIAL

This newsletter marks the beginning of the Society's financial year and also the beginning of the subscription collecting season. Some Road Reps may have already started, but most will wait until the end of the 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 them another journey - they are all volunteers - which reminds me:-

In the last Newsletter we asked for three volunteers. We are pleased to welcome Rita Smith who has agreed to become Road Rep for Ashgrove and Calmont Roads plus Belgravia Gardens. However this still leaves us with the need for two more. One to take on the role of monitoring Roads and Traffic matters and the other to take over the Road Rep's job from Daphne Robeson for Oaklands and Spencer Roads plus Lullington Garth. If anyone has any questions on these tasks please contact the Editor on 8460 2828.

Dates for the Diary:

Thursday 3rd September - Members' Meeting, 8.00pm, Bromley Court Hotel

Thursday 5th November - Members' Meeting, 8.00pm, Bromley Court Hotel
Peter Pain (Editor)

SECURITY

At the beginning of the last Members' Meeting we had a talk from Geoff Wright (former policeman) about Neighbourhood Watch schemes. The schemes began in Cheshire 26 years ago. Schemes now exist all over the country and Bromley has about 600 Watches each with its own coordinator. Schemes can be of any size, from a few houses in a cul de sac to an entire housing estate.

The schemes do help to reduce crime and according to the British Insurers Association there is a 1 in 25 chance of being burgled in an average neighbourhood but in an area covered by a Neighbourhood Watch scheme that falls to a 1 in 354 chance of being burgled.

He described Watch members as being the eyes and ears that monitor suspicious activity in their area and report to the police or Local Safer Neighbourhood (police) Team if they see any danger to their neighbours or their property. Some of the benefits he cited were:-

- It fosters community spirit by encouraging neighbours to keep a lookout for each other.

- It reduces the fear of crime and reassures the more vulnerable members.
- It encourages residents to take action to make their home environment a better place to live and provides closer links with the police and local authorities.

Of the 28 roads in the Society's area only 8 have Watch schemes so there is scope for many more. The coordinator acts as a link between residents and the Local Safer Neighbourhood Team. A Newsletter is produced regularly and the coordinator would disseminate any information which impacts on their area.

For those who wish to know more, the Borough Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator is Geoff Wright. His telephone number is 020 8721 4511 and his mobile number is 07908 654 980.

His e-mail is geoff.wright@bromley.gov.uk

There is also a web site at BromleyNWA.org.uk

ENVIRONMENT

There has not been much publicity this year but Bromley have again set up satellite sites at weekends for the collection of green waste only.

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

Opening hours are: Saturdays 11am to 4pm; Sundays 8am to noon.

PLANNING

General

Bromley Town Centre Action Plan: Following a six week period of public consultation, work is now in hand to submit it together with supporting documents and representations to the Secretary of State in the Autumn. That will be followed by an independent examination in public.

Crystal Palace Park: Following Bromley's approval of 3 planning applications submitted by the London Development Agency related to their "master Plan" for the improvement of Crystal Palace Park, those proposals have been "called in" by the Secretary of State and a Public Inquiry began earlier this month. It is estimated that the Inquiry will last at least 20 days.

Specific to our area

8 Madeira Avenue: After the refusal of the third application for this site the developer appealed. The Appeal was an Informal Hearing which was held early April. Despite the Society and many local residents making it clear that we were against the scheme the decision was to allow the appeal. We have involved Councillor Phillips to help ensure that all of the conditions are fully met. However, nothing can beat local eyes and ears. If anyone wants a copy of the conditions please contact either Clive Lees, our Planning officer on 8464 4699 or the Editor on 8460 2828.

Telecoms Mast at corner of Ravensbourne Avenue and Farnaby Road:
 This application was refused by Bromley but the applicant has now appealed.

17, *Spencer Road*: A further application has been made to add a flank garage to the over- sized end of terrace house recently approved. We opposed the application and it has been refused on the grounds of over development.

10, *Madeira Avenue*: An application for a partial second floor extension has been refused at Committee. The Society had not objected.

33-35, *Farnaby Road*: The new sign for the Care Home has now been erected.

Billingford, Elstree Hill: The over-height front wall must now be reduced - probably to a metre. If the owner does not take action then the Council will initiate legal proceedings.

100, *Madeira Avenue*: A mature eucalyptus tree in the front garden has been felled. It was claimed that the roots were breaking up the steps leading to the house. At the time of the proposed developments for 100/102 it was said that the tree was protected by TPO 9. However the tree surgeon gave Bromley notice of the intention to fell and as far as we can find out no objection was made by Bromley's Tree Officer.

La Capaninna: After quite a delay following Bromley's refusal for a 4 storey block of flats in place of a bungalow, the developer appealed. The appeal is a written one and the site visit took place earlier this month. (Although an Informal hearing was requested the Planning Inspectorate have ruled that only they will decide whether an appeal will be written or be a hearing. Previously either the Council or the appellant could request which form the appeal could take and their preference was usually accepted).

ROADS & TRAFFIC

Crab Hill / Ravensbourne Avenue: Work to Ravensbourne Avenue had been delayed due to an objection. Work has now been resumed. The matter of whether the 354 bus route will be diverted down this newly made up road or not, is being pursued by our Downs Hill Road Rep. Barbara Brown.

BECKENHAM PLACE PARK

The Mansion: Lewisham's Property Division who now have responsibility for the Mansion have commissioned yet more consultants to advise on potential beneficial uses. This will be less than straightforward as the Fire Officer has stipulated that the floors above the ground and lower ground levels should not be used until adequate escape routes have been installed.

Cycle Path: Lewisham have agreed to a proposal for a three metre wide cycle path between Beckenham Hill and Ravensbourne Avenue. The path will cross the Common and Summerhouse Field and be some 8 metres away from the river. It will also be extended on to the western edge of the residual unmade section of Ravensbourne Avenue to meet up with Crab Hill and Ravensbourne Station.

If you wish to communicate with us please note our new internet and e-mail addresses included in our banner on page 1