

NEWSLETTER

October 2009

5/2009

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EDITORIAL

I am sorry to report that, for health reasons, our Secretary, Tom Griffin, has had to stand down. Tom has been Secretary since 2001 and his services will be greatly missed. We therefore need a volunteer, primarily to take the minutes at our Members' Meetings, get them approved and post them to attendees before the next meeting. The job also involves forwarding any post (usually from Bromley) to the relevant person. Other secretarial functions such as arranging meetings are done by others so the load is not too onerous. If anyone is prepared to take on the job please contact either our Chairman Leslie Watmore on 8650 4807 or the Vice-Chairman, Peter Pain on 8460 2828.

We also still need a Roads and Traffic Representative. This job has been vacant for the most of this year. If no one volunteers then each individual Road Rep will have to deal with any problems on their patch. That would be a pity as knowledge, contacts and general expertise would be dispersed and uncoordinated making the Society less effective.

Happily, in response to an earlier plea for a volunteer, David Page is welcomed as the new Road Rep for Oakland and Spencer Roads - including Lullington Garth.

Readers will recall that a year ago Paul Bennett, the principal founder of our Society died. A contribution to his favourite charity seemed too transient. Next a commemorative bench in Beckenham Place Park was considered, but the park already had many benches in all the most likely places. Finally it was decided to plant a tree. A Cedar of Lebanon was thought to be most appropriate as it was one of these, off Elstree Hill, the protection of which was central to the planning case that was the reason for the foundation of the Society in 1987. The original application had been for 26 flats at the top of Elstree Hill. There were 8 further planning applications over the following 5 years with appeals made against 4 of the rejections. We fought them all. In the end 14 houses were approved.

The tree will be planted in Beckenham Place Park with a suitable plaque at its base. After some searching a site was chosen east of the Mansion, just past the concrete squirrel and near where an old oak had fallen. The date and time for the planting has been agreed as **Wednesday 11th November at 2.00pm**. All who wish to attend will be welcome. For those who are uncertain about the location of the ceremony - please arrive at least ten minutes before 2pm and wait under the main entrance portico to the Mansion. Someone will direct you from there.

Dates for the Diary:

Thursday 5th November 2009 - Members' Meeting, 8.00pm, Bromley Court Hotel

Thursday 7th January 2010 - Members' Meeting, 8.00pm, Bromley Court Hotel

Peter Pain (Editor)

ROADS & TRAFFIC

354 Bus Route - Crab Hill / Ravensbourne Avenue: The public consultation leaflet about the possible rerouting of the 354 bus from Downs Hill and Ravensbourne Avenue south of Farnaby Road is now available. As was expected the proposed route is from Foxgrove Road to Crab Hill past Ravensbourne Station and on to the part of Ravensbourne Avenue north of Farnaby Road. Both Crab Hill and that part of Ravensbourne Avenue which were previously unmade have now been surfaced. The leaflet also shows the new bus stops and those which would be removed. It has been sent to all residents who would be directly affected. Copies of the leaflet can be obtained from 0800 298 3009.

If you want to write to Transport for London the address is:

Freeport - RRZL - CUSK - AAEE
Customer Service Centre
Transport for London
SE1 8NJ

and mark your envelope - Route 354, Zone G2, 11th Floor, Palestra.

Their telephone no is: 0845 300 7000

Their text phone no is: 020 7918 4435

Their e-mail is: customerservices.buses@tfl.gov.uk

Their website is: tfl.gov.uk/busrouteconsultation

If you have views, one way or the other, it is important that you let TfL know to make sure that the decision is not made by default.

Your comments must reach TfL by **27th November**

Pavement parking: Members are reminded that it is an offence to park a vehicle with any of its wheels on the pavement unless there are specific markings allowing it. This also applies to crossovers to drives. Traffic wardens, who now often cruise suburban roads by car, will issue a ticket and won't knock on your door to ask you to move it first.

Speeding: Highland Road has been targeted recently. However the laser gun the police use cannot be used within 600metres of a bend or junction and the operator has to wear a high visibility jacket.

If any Road Reps are concerned about speeding on the roads which they represent it would be helpful if they attended one of the various police surgeries and expressed their concerns.

Police Surgeries: The local Safer Neighbourhood Team hold regular surgeries dealing with security as well as traffic matters.

Those local to us are:

Christ Church Hall - 14th November 6.00pm to 8.00pm

The Lodge in Church Gardens - 6th December 2.00pm to 4.00pm

PLANNING

113, Foxgrove Road:

The original appeal was allowed but a new application has been submitted proposing two additional flats in the roof. That has been refused by Bromley but a further appeal will be lodged.

Billingford, Elstree Hill: Bromley have now issued legal papers for a hearing at Bromley Magistrates Court regarding the over-height front boundary wall. A Court date has yet to be set.

Telecom Mast, junction of Farnaby Road and Ravensbourne Avenue:

Bromley refused the application, there was an appeal and the appeal has been dismissed.

La Capaninna:

The appeal against Bromley's refusal to allow a 4 storey block of flats in place of this bungalow has been refused.

46, Ravensbourne Avenue:

An earlier application for a detached bungalow on this backland site was refused. A second application, similar to the first has now been submitted. However, as the footprint of both is similar and it is within the flood plain of the River Ravensbourne this was also refused. The Environment Agency were the prime movers in this case.

119, Foxgrove Road:

An application for a flank extension was withdrawn. A second application without a dormer window on the front has been submitted. There is still the potential problem of overlooking the adjacent property. There is no decision yet.

67, Downs Hill:

An application for a rear extension has been permitted.

Ravensbourne Station:

There is a new proposal for a disabled access ramp to the up side to match the one on the down side.

2, Blyth Road / 37, London Road:

Travelodge have made an application for a 5/6 floor 97 bedroom budget hotel on this site which abuts Kwikfit and the corner of Blyth Road. We have consulted with the Bromley Court Hotel who are not best pleased at the thought of a budget competitor so near.

After examination of the plans we have objected on several grounds. Firstly only 34 basement parking spaces are provided for the 97 bedrooms. This will inevitably cause overflow parking in the surrounding area which is predominately controlled by yellow lines, residents' parking and meters. The UDP allows one parking space for each bedroom, plus coaches if appropriate. The proposal is also at least 1 storey higher than the tallest nearby building and as the corner of the proposal comes right up to the pavement line it would be overpowering from several aspects of the street scene. Finally it was noted that Travelodge, in their write up claimed that the average stay was 4 nights. This is contrary to weekday occupation at nearby large hotels which is more like one night.