

NEWSLETTER

July 2010

4/2010

Web site: rvps.synthasite.com

E-mail: RVPS@talktalk.net



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 wait until the end of the holiday season. If you are out when your Road Rep calls they may put a reminder through your letter box. Please respond to it and save them another journey - they are all volunteers.

In the February newsletter we reported the sad loss of our Secretary, Tom Griffin, who had been diagnosed with a form of lung cancer due to exposure to asbestos in his early working life. We sent a floral tribute to, and many members attended, the crematorium. We also wanted to mark his passing in some other way and his widow, Veronica, suggested a donation to St. Christopher's Hospice who had cared for Tom. It was agreed at a Members' Meeting that this should be done and a substantial contribution was sent. His widow has written to thank us for our gesture.

At the AGM our guest speaker was Sam French, Assistant Headmistress, at the Valley School. Her talk was very well received and we offered payment or a contribution to a charity of her choice. As her talk had been given as a thank you for our past contributions to the school funds she did not wish us to make any further payment. We sent her a bouquet as a personal thank you.

Bromley Town Ward Councillors' Surgery

At the Local Council elections in May only one of our previous councillors stood for re-election. That was David Hastings. The Bromley Town Ward Councillors are now: Cllr. David Hastings, Cllr. Diana MacMull and Cllr. William Farmer.

The new Councillors have moved their monthly surgery from St. Mark's Church to Bromley Central Library 1st floor. It will continue to be the first Saturday in the month between 10am and 12noon.

Finally - a reminder that all sorts of valuable information can be found on our website - see address on banner above!

Dates for the Diary:

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

Thursday 4th November - Members' Meeting, 8.00pm, Bromley Court Hotel

Peter Pain (Editor)

ROADS AND TRAFFIC

354 Bus Route:

To date we know of no decision having been made on the re-routing of the 354 bus to pass Ravensbourne Station. However rumours abound about various activities which have given rise to speculation that a decision may actually has been made. The Road Rep for Downs Hill has written to Bromley's Head of Transport Strategy for enlightenment. We are still awaiting a response.

Potholes:

Most of the potholes caused by last winter's snow and frost have now been repaired. We sent quite a few emails with supporting photographs and those produced a good response. If any have been overlooked and a member is aware of them, then they should be reported to 8313 4621 or email to street.services@bromley.gov.uk.

Traffic Lights, Beckenham Lane/Ravensbourne Avenue Our Roads and Traffic Rep has been in regular contact with Bromley's Senior Traffic Engineer who has been very helpful. Our problems were referred to Transport for London who are responsible for the A222 (Beckenham Lane). They have managed to make some minor adjustments to the timing of the lights to give Ravensbourne Avenue some extra seconds of green. Their primary responsibility is of course to the main road. He has also been in contact with the police about cars from Station Road jumping the traffic lights when red. The problem has been discussed with the police, the Safer Neighbourhood team and others. A camera has to be agreed with the Highway Authority, the L.B.Bromley and the Metropolitan Police. Because there have been few reported incidents at the junction a permanent camera is unlikely. We are still working on getting a commitment from the police to at least stand and watch and take notes. Alternatively a camera warning sign (even without a camera) may deter some.

The problem at this junction has been exacerbated by a van parking in Ravensbourne Avenue near the traffic lights and causing an obstruction. Councillor MacMull has contacted the council officer concerned and they have arranged for more parking enforcement in the area.

Another line we have been following is to separate the Ravensbourne Avenue traffic into a right turn lane and a left turn/straight on lane. This has met with resistance because of the truncated cycle path and the comparative narrowness of the road. Our suggestion to take some of the pavement (which widens at this point) has yet to get a response.

Truncated yellow line Oaklands Road/Grasmere Road. We have also taken this up with Bromley's Senior Traffic Engineer with supporting photographs, but with no response to date.

PLANNING

Billingford

A recent Council meeting agreed that enforcement action should be continued to seek a reduction of the boundary walls to approximately 1.6m.

We are grateful to Cllr. MacMull for speaking at the meeting and for continuing to press for the owner to meet the Council's requirements.

"Trees", corner of Elstree Hill/Coniston Road This property is in an attractive woodland setting which adds to the visual amenity of the area. We recently learned of surveyors being seen on the property which suggested an imminent planning application. We helped to arrange for one of Bromley's Tree Officers (Gwen Exford, to whom we are very grateful) to survey the site and as a consequence a large number of trees have been covered by Tree Protection Orders.

Travelodge, Blyth Road/London Road Travelodge have submitted a slightly reduced second application which has yet to go to committee. However, in our view it is still an overdevelopment as it remains at least a storey higher than an approved earlier plan for flats on the site and is still taller than nearby buildings. In the meantime they have appealed against the refusal of the first application. The appeal is scheduled for the 7th November.

BECKENHAM PLACE PARK

Mansion:

In the last Newsletter it was reported that Lewisham had placed advertisements for a long lease in the Official Journal of the European Union and in the Estates Gazette. Interested bidders were requested to complete a pre-qualification questionnaire and were invited to submit an outline proposal document.

In the event, only two responses were received. One was from the man who used to run wedding receptions at the mansion and the other was the Beckenham Place Community Trust (the joint Friends of the Park and the Lewisham Environment Trust, plus several interested and expert parties). The Mayor and Cabinet are expected to decide the next step - that is, whether to proceed or not, in mid July. If they decide to continue on this path there will be an invitation to a competitive dialogue leading to the provisional selection of a preferred tenderer around November.

Golf Course and grounds Maintenance:

Running in parallel with the Mansion, other advertisements were placed for a new maintenance contractor. There was a better response to this with 13 expressions of interest. Seven completed the pre-qualification questionnaire and the outline proposal documents. A short list should be completed by mid July and invitations to tender sent out in August. Glendale, the present contractor, have recently secured the contract for the rest of Lewisham's parks and are probably in a strong position to succeed with their tender for the park

COMMUNITY MATTERS

"Freecycle" Have you ever thrown something away that had some wear left? Rather than send such items to landfill you can now advertise what you no longer want on Bromley's Freecycle web site. Experience shows that, very quickly, you will find someone who wants the thing that is filling space in your garage. The major stipulation is that the item must be given away and not sold.

For full details visit - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/freecyclebromley>