

NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

After 17 years as our Auditor, Wally Carlross has felt the need to hang up his calculator and hand on the baton. During this time he was always ably supported by his wife Jean. At the last Members' Meeting a vote of sincere thanks was recorded for Wally's loyal and sterling work since March 1993. It was also decided to express our appreciation in a more tangible manner.

Fortunately Pura Atkinson has volunteered to take on the job. Because the auditor is an elected post, she has been co-opted until the AGM when she will stand for formal election.

The last 3 months have been fairly quiet on the planning front. However we have been making waves on the roads scene. As you will read later, we were not quite as successful as we had initially hoped.

Dates for the Diary:

Thursday 6th January 2011 - Members' Meeting, 8.00pm, Bromley Court Hotel

Thursday 3rd March - 2011 - Members' Meeting, 8.00pm, Bromley Court Hotel

Peter Pain (Editor)

PLANNING

17, Spencer Road This is on the corner of Spencer Road and Oaklands Road. The developer already has planning permission to add an end of terrace house (19) to this terrace of 6 houses. They have since applied to build a garage on the side of the recently approved town house, this was refused by Bromley. They then applied to build a second town house (21) thus extending the existing terrace from 6 to 8 houses. This would bring the flank wall almost up to the pavement in Oaklands Road. That was also refused by Bromley. Both applications (for the garage and second town house) have now gone to appeal. The decision is not yet known.

Travelodge, London Road, Blyth Road Travelodge have submitted a slightly reduced second application for a budget hotel on this site. The original application, which was refused was for a 5/6 storey hotel with 97 bedrooms and 34 basement car parking spaces. The second application is for a 4/5 storey hotel with 92 bedrooms and 33 basement car parking spaces. Despite our objections that this was still an over development of the site and bigger than a previously approved application for flats on the site and was also taller than nearby buildings, it was approved by Bromley..

Billingsford Because the front garden wall had been built too high, Council planners required it to be reduced. After a long period of the owner ignoring the Council's demands, the wall was reduced in height. However the reduction was not enough and the matter ended up in Court. The breach of conditions notice expires on 13.11.10 and if nothing has been done court action follows. It is understood that the owner intends to take no action.

Bromley Town Centre Action Plan The Inspector has completed his report which was primarily to consider its soundness. Some minor recommendations were made. These resulted in some sections becoming more prescriptive and others less so. The report has been accepted by Bromley at a recent full Council Meeting. The initial steps in its implementation were taken recently when a development agreement was signed with the Cathedral Group for the redevelopment of the Westmoreland Road car park. The intentions are to have a 100 bed hotel, a multiplex cinema and leisure complex, 200 bed residential apartments and a 400 space replacement car park. The "agreement" allows one year for a full planning application to be submitted.

ROADS AND TRAFFIC

354 Bus Route: Following public consultation, Transport for London recently announced their decision on whether or not to reroute the bus via Ravensbourne Station. In short, it was decided NOT to reroute the bus. Except for the fact that Crab Hill and part of Ravensbourne Avenue have been made up, things will remain as they were.

Ravensbourne Avenue Junction with Beckenham Lane/Station Road

To date Bromley have refused to consider:-

- The creation of two lanes, one for traffic turning right, the other for going straight on or turning left.
- The widening of the road to facilitate the two lanes.
- Adding a right turn filter light.
- Fitting a camera or just a camera warning sign in Station Road.

They did arrange for an extra few seconds of green for Ravensbourne Avenue but because of the way the sensors work this does not always apply. They have also talked about shortening the green phase in Station Road, although to date we have seen no evidence that this has been done. The whole situation is exacerbated by drivers from Station Road going through at amber and red. Although the police are aware of this they do not condone it but apparently do not have the resources to deal with the problem.

Grasmere Road/Oaklands Road junction.

The need to improve the line of sight when exiting Grasmere Road is patently obvious and Bromley agree. Nevertheless they have steadfastly refused to increase the length of the yellow line in Oaklands Road by some 10 feet.

Car Parking on Verges

Please remember that the Council can fine car owners if their car is parked with any wheel wholly or partly on the pavement or verge or on a crossover to a driveway.

BECKENHAM PLACE PARK

Mansion Maintenance:

Lewisham recently spent money making the roof watertight, repairing and cleaning guttering and for work to the portico to address the long-standing structural problem.

Lease Plan for the Mansion

The initial stage of the "Competitive Dialogue" was held in mid July when both groups in the final selection were asked to come back with answers to further questions. The group finally selected will be required to submit a formal tender. The whole process is scheduled to be concluded by April 2011.

Park Maintenance and Golf Course Management

Invitations to tender were sent out in early October with a return date of one month later. After evaluation the shortlisted tenderers will be interviewed and a contract awarded. The planned contract start date is mid 2011.

Community Engagement

Lewisham are actively encouraging greater use of the Park. To facilitate this new signs and maps have been erected at all entrances of the Park and at the Mansion. They are also encouraging more events. So far there have been 40 events with 1200 participants. That is in addition to events held by the Friends of the Park.

Cycle Path

This was paid for by SELTRANS and has been completed. It runs between Beckenham Hill to Ravensbourne Avenue. The most contentious part crosses the Common and Summerhouse Field. At present it sticks out like a sore thumb. Hopefully, in time it will weather and merge more into its surroundings.

Compost Heap on the Old Burning Ground

Following many protests about the problems caused by transit sized vans bringing green waste from Lewisham's other parks and the ever growing size of the heap, it has now been agreed that only waste from Beckenham Place Park will go on the heap. As future compost is taken the heap should reduce in size in time.

ENVIRONMENT

Bonfires

Please remember to be thoughtful of neighbours and minimise the use of bonfires. It is illegal for a bonfire to cause a nuisance to others.

Wood Fires within the Home

Now that Autumn is here many readers will, no doubt, be thinking about how to heat their homes. However we live in a smokeless zone and burning wood in an open fire is not permitted. Wood can only be burnt in DEFRA approved stoves. (See www.whichwoodburningstoves.co.uk/defra-approved-stoves.html for details).