

Autumn, 2014  
Issue 5/2014

# RVPS Newsletter



[www.rvpsbromley.org](http://www.rvpsbromley.org)

## Editor's Update

This newsletter is in yet another layout style, as we strive to finalise on a format that is pleasing to read, easy to print from the email distribution and easy to host on our website. This may not yet be the final style as we have initiated a design consultation that includes a review of our logo and indeed of the

name of the society. Further details of the consultation exercise are included later in the newsletter. If you have ideas for the society name and logo or the newsletter format, please do let us know by phone, post or email.



## Chairman's Corner

This year has seen some remarkable changes to both the Society and the area in which we live. Two of our very long standing volunteers have relinquished their positions; Brian Sanders as Treasurer and Ann Rowsell as Road Rep for half of Ravensbourne Avenue. Brian is moving out of the area while Ann has had health problems. Both have been involved with the society from the start and their long-term commitment and dedication has been hard to replace. Best wishes to both.

Fortunately we have filled both positions and are delighted to welcome Dave and Monica Wiltshire. Dave has taken over as Treasurer and Monica as our Tree Officer and Road Rep to replace Ann.

Our operations are becoming increasingly sophisticated and far reaching. Some of the things we have done or will be doing include:

- Enhancing our newsletter;
- Providing a much more sophisticated website;
- Becoming much more involved with trees, including influencing Bromley's policy on trees on a borough wide basis so that trees alleged to be causing subsidence are not felled before a thorough examination of the facts;
- Being involved, again on a borough wide basis, with trying to change Bromley's policy regarding fly tipping on unadopted roads;
- Reviewing all our banking arrangements including considering allowing subscriptions to be paid by standing order;
- Holding, from 2015, an annual party for Road Reps, Officers and 'regulars' at our meetings.

In addition, we have not been busier since the crash in 2008. There are many planning applications in the pipeline and two future projects are planned for Beckenham Place Park. The first is the revamping of the whole park with a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £4.9m while the second is the creation of a flood alleviation scheme which will cover the whole of the field with the 'orange cycle path' in it, the Millwall training ground, the Goan ground and most of the Warren Avenue Playing Fields.

## Farnaby Road Tree Project

We plan to contribute £3,000 to a total cost of £6,000 or more. Please let us have your views before the next meeting and come to the meeting to vote.

The idea of this project has been very warmly received by home owners adjacent to possible tree replacement sites; Monica Wiltshire, RVPS tree officer, has visited the 21 most affected residents to seek their approval. On 2<sup>nd</sup> September Monica, Leslie Tucker and Euan McMaster met with Julian Fowgies, Principal Arboricultural Officer for the London Borough of Bromley to discuss the project. It was a very positive meeting followed by a site visit.



Farnaby Road showing where trees have been lost through storms and disease in what was once a tree lined road

We have subsequently been informed that the council intend to extend the project to include, initially, Downs Hill and Warren Avenue.

The programme will start with marking of the identified sites for tree pit construction for initial trial pits. The tree pit survey will begin in November with planting in January. A new tree costs around £200 dependent on species and £100 for the tree pit. If the tree dies within a year the contractor will replace it. We plan to contribute £3,000 to a total cost of £6,000 or more. In addition to planting new trees the project will include a general tidy up of trees, pruning as necessary and replacing diseased trees. We will be looking to plant medium to large trees, in maturity, to blend with existing trees. For example forest trees suitable for street planting like limes, oaks, maples, planes, birch and ginkgo will be considered by Julian and his team. A root barrier is placed around the circumference to stop root disruption.

Councillors Colin Smith, Nicky Dykes, Russell Mellor, Michael Tickner and Stephen Wells have been made aware of this project and we seek members' views before the next RVPS members meeting takes place on November 6<sup>th</sup> when a final decision will be made on our contribution.

## Driving and Cycling

Winter is coming – are you ready for driving in all conditions? Build your confidence, update your skills, learn to handle all weather and more with Bromley Road Safety's **Winter Driving with Confidence**. At a cost of only £18, the course makes a wonderful Christmas present and includes a free, 1-hour on-road session with a DVSA-registered Fleet Trainer. It is open to all full licence holders and is on 21<sup>st</sup>

January 2015 from 9.30am to 3pm at Bromley Adult Education College, Widmore Centre, Bromley. *Places are limited, so book yours today* online at [www.baec.ac.uk](http://www.baec.ac.uk) or ring 020 8460 0020.

The council also offers FREE adult cycle training to all who live, work or study in the borough. To learn more, visit: [www.bromley.gov.uk/info/547/cycle\\_training](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/info/547/cycle_training) or via the council switchboard: 020 8464 3333

## Society Name and Logo

Until relatively recently, we did not have a website and our logo and newsletter had not changed in over 25 years. Recently, we have tried a new logo but it is not easy to incorporate on websites and printed material. This year we have tried three different formats for our newsletter (this being the third). These formats have been fine but there is a sense that they could be improved upon. In addition, some members of our society think that the name is just too much of a mouthful – Ravensbourne Valley Preservation Society – and this too could do with a revamp.

We have invited The Ravensbourne School Art and Design Technology department to propose a new logo and suggestions for a new name. We would like to hear your views in advance of, or at, our next meeting on November 6th and hope to be in a position to vote on the matter at our next AGM in March, 2015.

Some name suggestions received to date:

- Ravensbourne Area Residents Association (RARA)
- Ravensbourne Valley Residents (RVR)
- Ravensbourne (Bromley) Residents (RBR)
- Bromley Park Residents Association (BPRA)
- Ravensbourne Residents (RR)

We are hoping that in the near future we may be able to hang lamp post banners in our area, similar to those erected in Shortlands village by the Shortlands Residents Association (SRA). These would be good as an advertising feature, a reminder of our continuing work and a help to slow motorists perhaps. We will await the outcome of the name and logo change proposal before proceeding further !

Please also let us know your views on the newsletter layout. It seems the annual roundup tri-fold issue was popular. Was it because of the format or because of the improved paper quality, use of colour and inclusion of pictures ?

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Should we  
rename  
ourselves as  
E.G.

Ravensbourne  
Valley  
Residents

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## Recent Scams

An e-mail arrives, apparently, from M&S or Tesco offering you an item for sale at a reduced price. If you agree to buy it and complete your payment details, you are invited to take part in a survey in order to receive M&S/Tesco vouchers. You complete the survey and are told there are no vouchers left but you can have a prize instead. If you select one of the prizes, you receive notification thanking you for signing up to a year's supply at so much per month. It seems, you can cancel this by telephone but your credit/debit card is already being used to purchase all manner of goods. Our advice is to ignore any e-mail that looks too good to be true.

Several residents who have their mail box at their gate have had mail stolen allowing their identity to be used to obtain fraudulent credit cards or bank accounts. One use for such accounts has been the purchase of mobile phones allegedly ordered by the resident which are then intercepted at delivery or delivered to a neighbour and then collected by an accomplice a short while later. If you have an external mail box, make sure it is unbreakable !

## Planning Updates

### 4 October 2014

We have objected to applications for a new vehicle cross-over at 20 Blyth Road, and fence and gates fronting Bracken Hill Lane. Applications: 14/03230/FULL1 and 14/03278/FULL1.

### 10 October 2014

We have objected to an application to fell a horse chestnut in the front garden at Sandford Close, 72 The Avenue, Beckenham. Application number 14/03744/TPO.

### 14 October 2014

The application has been refused for the demolition of the house and erection of flats at Oak Dene, Oakland Road. According to Will Harmer: *"Under delegated powers I believe. Another win for RVPS and its residents!"*

### Imminent

A planning application has been submitted for demolition of existing house and erection of two blocks of flats at 61, The Avenue, at the junction with Downs Hill. We consider this would be a serious breach of both the Downs Hill Conservation Area rules and the Bromley Unitary Development Plan (UDP) The plans can be viewed on the Bromley Council website [bromley.gov.uk](http://bromley.gov.uk) under planning applications. We will be making a strong objection to this plan. If you feel as we do, please lodge your own individual objection. Application Number: 14/03502/FULL1



Current aspect and impression of proposed development.

### Proposed Bakerloo Line Extension

In case you haven't heard, Transport for London have issued a request for comment on various options to extend the Bakerloo Tube line to Beckenham Junction / Shortlands / Hayes. Details can be found on the TfL website here: [tfl.gov.uk/bakerloo-extension](http://tfl.gov.uk/bakerloo-extension)

Michael Rutherford has tweeted: "We highlighted that the council's position on the Bakerloo line will be led by the views of local residents. Do let us know your views."

## Dates for the Diary

Thursday 6th November, 2014	Members' meeting
Thursday 8th January, 2015	Members' meeting
Thursday 5th March, 2015	Annual General Meeting
Thursday 7th May, 2015	Members' meeting
Thursday 2nd July, 2015	Members' meeting

## Society Roles

We are pleased that the position of Roads and Traffic officer has been filled by Andrew Storey. He can be contacted on [rt.rvps@outlook.com](mailto:rt.rvps@outlook.com) but please do try to resolve issues in the first instance by using the website [fixmystreet.com](http://fixmystreet.com).