

February, 2015
Issue 1/2015

RVPS Newsletter



www.rvpsbromley.org

Editor's Update

The final newsletter of 2014 was well received both for layout and content so we have decided to adopt this style, at least for the next few issues. We have received some draft ideas for a new logo and hope to circulate a short list for discussion, leading to a vote at the AGM in March. For those of you interested in the history and

evolution of the society, we continue to scan previous issues of the newsletter and put them on the website and will, in due course, make available all issues back to the oldest surviving one, from December, 1987 plus the Draft Constitution / Membership Application circular from Autumn 1987.



Chairman's Corner

We start the year busier than we have been since 2007 and the range of our activities has expanded significantly: new logo being considered; tree planting scheme; working with other Residents Associations; working more closely with the Council; and new newsletter format. All of this has been made possible by the excellent support I have received from the Society's Officers and Road Representatives. I hope you will agree with me that the outward face of the Society is much more professional and polished than previously.

Tree Successes

Readers will recall that the trees at 10 Crab Hill were alleged to be causing subsidence at 8 Crab Hill. The insurance company was adamant that they should be allowed to fell two trees covered by a TPO and we were able to demonstrate the inadequacies of their arguments. This has given us the experience to prepare a substantial briefing note for all the Residents' Associations in Bromley (and perhaps even in London in due course) on how to resist demands from insurance companies that trees protected by TPO's be felled.

Members will also have noticed that a large number of trees were planted in Farnaby Road and some also in Downs Hill and Warren Avenue. The ones in Farnaby Road have been temporarily removed while the tree pits are improved but we are assured they are in safe keeping and will be back soon. This is of course our 'tree planting project' and we are delighted that it has come to fruition. With regard to the future, we are considering a much closer working relationship with the council which will hopefully see our roads well stocked with trees well into the future.

Councillors

Recently, we have been very well supported by all our Councillors mainly Councillors Dykes, Harmer, Rutherford, Tickner, Mellor and Wells. We are very pleased to acknowledge their efforts on our behalf.

Planning Issues

If these plans affect you please make your own individual objection and encourage your neighbours to do so as well

We are currently dealing with two Appeals (at Oak Dene, Oaklands Road and at 61 The Avenue) where we and local residents successfully campaigned to get the initial Application Refused. In addition, there is a very unpopular Application at 20 Blyth Road which affects residents in Bracken Hill Lane and an Application for a monstrous block of flats (below) at Sunset Hill in Hillbrow Road which, at the time of writing has still not been decided by the Council.



We hope to build on our success at 10 Crab Hill by employing similar tactics here

On top of that, we are also waiting for the council to decide the fate of a tree at 76 B The Avenue. This is something of a test case for RVPS as it is the first application to fell a tree for insurance reasons after our successful campaign at 10 Crab Hill. In these cases, we are asking the Council to be much more resistant to the claims of the insurance companies by obtaining an independent report to assess the merits of these claims. In this case, the independent report said that other courses of action should be taken before considering felling the tree so we hope for a positive outcome here.

We are also awaiting a very significant Application at 2-4 Riverpark Gardens, an artist's impression of which is shown below. This site is owned by the Phoenix Housing Association. We know this site is of concern to local residents and will be assessing the merits of this Application carefully when it is submitted to the council.



Finally we have just been advised of a new planning application to demolish the rather attractive 4 Oaklands Road and replace it with a 4 storey block of flats. As usual there are more details of all the above on our website.

RVPS Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held on 5 March 2015 at 8.00 PM at the Bromley Court Hotel. I would particularly draw your attention to our guest speaker, Gavin Plaskitt. He was popular last year and is returning by request with up to date information on the proposed redevelopment of Beckenham Place Park and on the flood alleviation scheme. Also, please note that we will be considering amending our Constitution and the old and proposed Constitutions can be found on our website. If you wish to have paper copies of these, please let the Secretary know.

The agenda is: -

- 1 Chairman's welcome and opening remarks
- 2 Guest Speaker
Gavin Plaskitt – "Beckenham Place Park development planning"

Break for Refreshments

- 3 Approval of Minutes of previous AGM
- 4 Chairman's Report **including revision of the Constitution**
- 5 Treasurer's Report
- 6 Planning Officers' Reports
- 7 Roads & Traffic
- 8 Community Projects
- 9 Beckenham Place Park Representative's Report
- 10 Membership Secretary's Report
- 11 Discussion of a new logo for the Society
- 12 Determination of subscriptions for 2014-15
- 13 Appointment of an Auditor
- 14 Election of Officers
- 15 Chairman's closing remarks
- 16 Next members' meeting

Posts for re-election

Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer

Present Holders

Clive Lees
Beatrice Osborn
David Wiltshire

Post for re-appointment

Auditor
Vice-Chair
Membership Secretary

Pura Atkinson
Linda Muller
Linda Muller

Please note, that under the proposed new Constitution, the posts of Vice-Chair and Membership Secretary are 'electable' but under the current Constitution, the post holders are 'appointed'. These posts will be filled at the AGM by a show of hands.

All current post holders including those who have not been elected have indicated that they would be prepared to continue in post for a further year.

The Society welcomes other nominations for all these posts so if you are interested please do not hesitate to obtain, in writing, a proposer and seconder and forward this to the Secretary at least two weeks before the meeting.

Please note that volunteers are more than welcome for these roles and for vacant roles in the contacts list overleaf.

General News

Funding of Bromley Council Services

Members will undoubtedly have noticed, for example in the News Shopper, that Bromley faces a very significant budget squeeze over the next few years on top of cuts that have already been made. This is likely to result in a further reduction in funding for street sweeping, tree planting and other services that help to make our area attractive. The root cause is the funding system run by Central Government which means that Bromley receives far less money per resident than other London Boroughs.

We have lobbied our MP's, Colonel Bob Stewart and Bob Neill who have lobbied the Secretary of State but this has not changed anything. If you are concerned about the on-going reduction in Council Services in our area, please write to them. Only a vociferous complaint might change anything.



Shrubs

Please make sure you have cut back your shrubs – it is difficult for the Council to clean the pavement if you don't.

Road Safety

Many parents have been concerned that inconsiderate parking outside Valley School blocks the line of sight for traffic coming down the hill towards the lollipop lady, making it dangerous for children to cross

Scams

Do you know all the latest scams? More importantly, do you have any vulnerable relatives, neighbours or friends who need help and protection from criminals? Please visit www.bromley.gov.uk/scams and www.met.police.uk/docs/little_book_scam.pdf to bring yourself up to date. Also, you can email the safety site at community.safety@bromley.gov.uk to request the Safer Bromley newsletter. If you become aware of a scam (or rogue trader) please make a call to Bromley's **Rapid Response Team on 07903 852090**

We have successfully lobbied for more parking enforcement and are campaigning for the yellow zigzag lines to be extended across the entire school frontage.



Contacts

Officers

Chairman	Clive Lees
Vice Chairman	Linda Muller
Secretary	Beatrice Osborn
Treasurer	Dave Wiltshire
Auditor	Pura Atkinson
Planning Officer	VACANT
Membership Secretary	Linda Muller
Newsletter Editor	Euan McMaster
Roads and Traffic	Andrew Storey
Tree Warden	Monica Wiltshire
LBBR Delegate	Vacant
BPP Rep	Leslie Tucker
Hon. Legal Advisor	Richard Thomas

Road Representatives

Bromley Ave / Grasmere Rd
Brackenhill Lane and Close / Highland Road /
Karen Ct / Park End
Coniston Road / Ullswater and Hawkshead Closes
Downs Hill / Crab Hill
Elstree Hill / Erin Close / Hillbrow Road
Farnaby Road (1–81)
Farnaby Road (82–194)
Madeira Avenue
Oaklands / Spencer Roads
Ravensbourne Ave. (Evens)
Ravensbourne Ave. (Odds)
Ravensmead Road
Warren Avenue
Calmont & Ashgrove Roads / Belgravia Gardens

Chairman.rvps@Outlook.com
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secretary.rvps@outlook.com
10 Crab Hill BR3 5HE
94 Madeira Avenue BR1 4AS
Planning.rvps@Outlook.com
4 Bracken Ridge, 26 Bracken Hill Lane, BR1 4AT
35 Downs Hill, BR3 5ET
rt.rvps@outlook.com
10 Crab Hill BR3 5HE

5 Bromley Avenue BR1 4BG
118 Ravensbourne Ave BR2 0AX

Leslie Tucker

5 Bromley Avenue BR1 4BG

Linda Muller
Barbara Price
Wendy Watmore
Roger Legg
Sarah-Jane Durman
Kay Shaw
Brian Atkinson
David Page
Monica Wiltshire
Ann Freiter
Peter Saunders
Carol Davidson
Rita Smith

4 Bracken Ridge, 26 Bracken Hill Lane, BR1 4AT
85 Coniston Road BR1 3BZ
10 Downs Hill BR3 5HB
39 Madeira Avenue BR1 4AP
26 Farnaby Road BR1 4BJ
169 Farnaby Road BR2 0BA
94 Madeira Avenue BR1 4AS
3 Lullington Garth, BR1 3SR
10 Crab Hill, BR3 5HE
128 Ravensbourne Ave, BR2 0AX
14 Ravensmead Road, BR2 0BT
27 Elstree Hill, BR1 4JE
37 Ashgrove Road, BR1 4JN