



## Editor's Update

As the autumn edition was later than usual and provided the 2015 summary, this edition will focus on the year ahead. In addition to the beautification initiatives discussed herein there are two others of note: volunteer Tree Friends will be trained by Julian Fowgies, the Council's

Principal Arboricultural Officer, in April and will each be allocated a road to monitor and maintain; the Downs Hill Road Rep plans to seek volunteers to collect litter, kill weeds and generally tidy up in their road regularly. Other road reps are encouraged to do the same.

## Chairman's Corner

This newsletter comes at a time when we have been particularly busy. We are in the middle of dealing with more Planning Appeals than we have ever had before and as a consequence we are in even more need of additional support from our members in this regard. If you would like to help us, do get in touch – learning the basics of planning is really very straightforward.

Another theme of this newsletter is to encourage all members and residents to report problems in their street to [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com). Untidy streets encourage more untidiness and no resident wants that. In particular, with the warm weather, a great many weeds have been growing in the pavement – if you have a moment please give them a spray with weed killer and help keep our roads tidy. Also, why not become a Street Friend as detailed on the Bromley and Lewisham Websites, or encourage your Road Rep to organise a local group.

Please also see below the notice of our AGM. This year the managing director of the Bromley Court Hotel will give a talk on the history of the hotel and area. Do please come too to all our regular meetings which are often supported by one of our councillors notably Cllr Will Harmer.

## Pavements and Unauthorised Banners

Recently, we have given some attention to keeping the area looking neat and tidy. We are aware that various complaints instigated by our members have resulted in a number of large banners which did not have advertising consent being removed from fences and railings. In addition, we understand that the large advert for Casey's Removals that appeared on the side of 34 Beckenham Lane (the old 'And Cut' barbers) will soon be removed on account of the fact that it did not have consent.

Council contractors are not sweeping our pavements properly. Beckenham Lane is supposed to be swept daily (but never is) and Coniston Road near the top of Elstree Hill is frequently appalling. Even when it is swept the results are poor. We have complained to Cllr Colin Smith frequently and are grateful for his determination to hold the contractors to account.



Coniston Road before sweeping



And after sweeping (??!)

## Fly Tipping

Some members have also complained to the council about the large scale fly tipping between Shell Garage and Quasar on Beckenham Hill. This has now been removed and we recognise that the thoughtless and illegal behaviour of irresponsible minorities is causing difficulties for the landowners.

Fly tipping on unadopted roads like Elstree Hill is more of a problem as the council are not obligated to remove it. We have requested Cllr Will Harmer to raise this issue, yet again, at the appropriate level.

Do remember to use [FixMyStreet](#) to report problems to the council.

## Planning Issues

Since our last newsletter and at the time of writing, the various appeals have moved on. Those at 74 Madeira Avenue and 124 Madeira Avenue were dismissed (very good news) while those at 61 The Avenue, 4 Oaklands Road, 20 Blyth Road, and Billingford are still in progress. In addition we now have appeals at Sunset Hill and 19 Ullswater Close.

However, a revised application has been submitted for 74 Madeira Avenue for a pair of semi-detached houses which is more modest in scale than the proposed block of flats. Our primary concern at the time of writing is that there should be adequate soft landscaping at the front of the building to soften the street scene.

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

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The massive development on the site of the disused shop in Riverpark Gardens has just been refused permission by Bromley but undoubtedly the applicant will appeal or submit a smaller application. The site is capable of being developed and essentially the argument is only about how big that development is going to be. We are grateful to Councillor Michael Rutherford for his support in opposing this first application.

With regard to planning enforcement action, the council has asked the owner of the brand new fence facing Bracken Hill Lane to make a retrospective application and we wait for this to be submitted. Enforcement action at 20 Blyth Road remains in abeyance until the appeal at that site has been determined. With regard to 14 Highland Road, we remain very disappointed that no progress has been made to regularise the situation despite assistance from Cllr Nicky Dykes.

## RVPS Annual General Meeting

Notice of the AGM of RVPS  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016, 8pm Bromley Court Hotel

### AGENDA

1.	Chairman's welcome and opening remarks	CL
2.	Presentation on the history of the Bromley Court Hotel by the General Manager Max Ball	MB
3.	Approval of Minutes of previous AGM	CL
4.	Chairman's Report including revision of the Constitution to state: 2. Membership of the Society a) Anyone <b>over 18</b> resident in the Area is eligible to be a member 3. Subscriptions a) One full membership subscription shall cover all residents <b>over 18</b> at the same address	CL
5.	Treasurer's Report	DW
6.	Planning Officer's Reports	RT
7.	Roads & Traffic Report	AS
8.	Community Projects & Tree Officer's Report	MW
9.	Beckenham Place Park Representative's Report	LT
10.	Membership Secretary's Report	LM
11.	Determination of subscriptions for 2016-17	DW
12.	Appointment of an Auditor	CL
13.	Election of Officers	CL
14.	Chairman's closing remarks	CL
15.	Next members' meeting: Thursday 5th May, 2016 8pm at the Bromley Court Hotel	

#### Posts for re-election, with present holders:

Chairman	Clive Lees	Secretary	Beatrice Osborn
Treasurer	David Wiltshire	Vice Chair	Linda Müller
Membership Secretary	Linda Müller		

**Post for re-appointment:** Auditor Pura Atkinson

We invite members to stand for election. In particular, our vice chair has indicated that she would like to step down so nominations in this regard would be particularly welcome. Should you wish to stand for any of these posts please provide a nomination signed by a proposer and seconder and forward it to the secretary at [secretary.rvps@outlook.com](mailto:secretary.rvps@outlook.com) by 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

# General News

## Beckenham Place Park

The design stage of the Heritage Lottery Funded project for Beckenham Place Park is at last making some progress. Unfortunately there has been a delay in the formal decision to proceed which was to have been made by Lewisham's Mayor and Cabinet during December. It is now scheduled for 17th February. The postponement was made necessary after a petition against closing the golf course was submitted with about 5000 signatories. Another meeting was held on 14th January to consider if this "survey" will justify any changes in the plans regarding the future of the golf course. We await the outcome.

Meanwhile work on the scheme continues. Plans for converting the fire damaged Homestead buildings have been discussed with the Heritage Lottery fund. It will provide a cafe and an environmental education centre. In the park, plans to restore the lake have moved on. New geological and water availability investigations have revealed it to be unwise to restore the lake to its original 18th century outline; the extent of the clear water will now be a little over half the length of the original with the rest being converted to a wetland or willow and alder carr with a board walk crossing it.

Consideration is being given to a 2.5k high quality path in a loop within the part of the park west of the railway. The latest plan is viewable here: <http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/regeneration/improvements-to-parks/BeckenhamPlacePark/Pages/Masterplan.aspx>

The first stage of consultation with local schools and other interested groups has begun and will widen to other groups into February, or beyond if necessary, and we expect to have further opportunities to comment.

## Warren Avenue Playing Fields

Regular users will have noticed that whenever it rains hard, water surcharges out of the manhole covers and floods the field. We understand that this is because many years ago a ditch which carried rain water to the river was filled in to give preference to playing areas. Instead, pipework leading to soakaways was installed but over time this has deteriorated. Following our endless prompting, Thames Water will soon install new pipework. We have also complained that the littering on the fence line near to the pathway next to Millwall Training Ground needs clearing.



Litter in the playing fields

## Contacts

### Officers

Chairman	Clive Lees	38 Warren Avenue, BR1 4BS
Vice Chairman	Linda Muller	4 Brackenridge, 26 Bracken Hill Lane, BR1 4AT
Secretary	Beatrice Osborn	The Causeway, Oaklands Road, BR1 3SJ
Treasurer	Dave Wiltshire	10 Crab Hill BR3 5HE
Auditor	Pura Atkinson	94 Madeira Avenue BR1 4AS
Planning Officer	VACANT	
Membership Secretary	Linda Muller	4 Brackenridge, 26 Bracken Hill Lane, BR1 4AT
Newsletter Editor	Euan McMaster	35 Downs Hill, BR3 5ET
Roads and Traffic	Andrew Storey	
Tree Warden	Monica Wiltshire	10 Crab Hill BR3 5HE
LBBR Delegate	Vacant	
BPP Rep	Leslie Tucker	5 Bromley Avenue BR1 4BG
Hon. Legal Advisor	Richard Thomas	118 Ravensbourne Ave BR2 0AX

### Road Representatives

Bromley Ave / Grasmere Rd	Leslie Tucker	5 Bromley Avenue BR1 4BG
Bracken Hill Lane and Close / Highland Road	Linda Muller	4 Brackenridge, 26 Bracken Hill Lane, BR1 4AT
Coniston Road / Ullswater and Hawkshead Closes	Sandra West	63 Coniston Road, BR1 4JG
Downs Hill / Crab Hill	Wendy Watmore	10 Downs Hill, BR3 5HB
Elstree Hill / Erin Close / Hillbrow Road	Roger Legg	39 Madeira Avenue, BR1 4AP
Farnaby Road (1-81)	Anna Koffer	160 Ravensbourne Avenue, BR2 0AY
Farnaby Road (82-194)	Kay Shaw	169 Farnaby Road, BR2 0BA
Madeira Avenue	Brian Atkinson	94 Madeira Avenue, BR1 4AS
Oaklands / Spencer Roads	David Page	3 Lullington Garth, BR1 3SR
Ravensbourne Ave. (Evens)	Monica Wiltshire	10 Crab Hill, BR3 5HE
Ravensbourne Ave. (Odds)	Ann Freiter	128 Ravensbourne Ave, BR2 0AX
Ravensmead Road	Peter Saunders	14 Ravensmead Road, BR2 0BT
Warren Avenue	Carol Davidson	27 Elstree Hill, BR1 4JE
Calmont & Ashgrove Roads / Belgravia Gardens	Rita Smith	37 Ashgrove Road, BR1 4JN