

June, 2016  
Issue 2/16



## Editor's Update

I am sorry for the longer than usual interval between newsletters. The excuse is that my social diary has been unusually full this year and I have been away on several occasions visiting friends and family.

The next newsletter will be in August and will be the annual roundup for all households in our area. If you have news or information that may be of interest to local residents, please submit a draft to me for inclusion in that issue.

## Chairman's Corner

First an apology. In our last newsletter we said that it was very good news that an Appeal at 124 Madeira Avenue had been dismissed. This was a drafting error – RVPS had not formed an opinion about the extension at this property and indeed did not object to the application. Our apologies for this error.

I am really pleased about the success of our litter picking and tree friends groups. Not only do they make a much nicer environment for us all to enjoy but they promote community cohesion. Please don't hesitate to join. On a similar note, where parked cars make it difficult for the road sweeper to clean the edge of the road, why not either sweep up any rubbish/leaves or at least push it to a place which the road sweeper can access. This is of course something the Council really should do but in a time of severe budget cuts .....

Don't forget to use FixMyStreet to report problems to the Council - particularly at this time of year overhanging vegetation blocking pavements.

Finally, I would like to thank our local councillors and the Society's officers and Road Reps for their continuing support.

## Distribution of Newsletters, Meeting Agendas and Minutes

The current procedure is as follows:

Newsletters are delivered by email to all who have elected to receive RVPS information by that means. The remainder are provided in the appropriate number to the Road Reps. who then delivers them personally. Each newsletter is lodged on our website and can be downloaded.

An archive of past newsletters is also gradually being populated, thanks to the newsletter editor and RVPS webmaster. The annual roundup newsletter is hand delivered to every household in our area by the appropriate Road Rep.

Meeting agendas and minutes are emailed by the newsletter editor to the households on the newsletter distribution list. They are also lodged on our website. If you would like copies of them and are not able to get them by email or by downloading, please let the RVPS Secretary, Beatrice Osborn, know and she will endeavour to hand deliver them. Please also send to Beatrice any apologies for absence, AOB requests and other matters relating to the meetings, to her postal address, shown on page 4, or by email to [secretary.rvps@outlook.com](mailto:secretary.rvps@outlook.com)

In relation to the above if you are on the email distribution list and your email address changes, please inform the newsletter editor at [editor.rvps@outlook.com](mailto:editor.rvps@outlook.com) and the membership secretary at [mullers@ntlworld.com](mailto:mullers@ntlworld.com)

## Litter Picking

The first RVPS litter picking group has been established in Downs Hill / Crab Hill, under the leadership of the Road Rep, Wendy Watmore.

Approximately twice a month, local volunteers are provided litter pickers and purple sacks and a section of the road is designated for attention. A number of 2 hour sessions have now taken place, during which significant volumes of waste paper, bottles, cans, etc. have been collected into the sacks which are subsequently picked up by Bromley Council.

The sessions finish at the Ravensbourne Station café and all involved have enjoyed the chance to make new friends with their neighbours.

## Planning Issues

Since our previous newsletter we have had some interesting successes and one or two disappointments. On the plus side the second appeal at 61 The Avenue and the second appeal at Billingsford were both dismissed. This is very satisfactory and quite remarkable for two appeals to be dismissed for each property.

On the other hand, an appeal for an extension at 19 Ullswater Close and for an additional flat at Sunset Hill were upheld. However, the extension in Ullswater Close was not a significant issue and the damage had already been done at Sunset Hill.

The appeal against the refusal of the application at 20 Blyth Road has also been dismissed.

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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 bad news is the above picture. The council have approved the application to demolish the existing four bedroom dwelling at 'Upfield', right next to Sunset Hill in Hillbrow Road and put a four storey block of flats on the site. This awful looking block of flats will further diminish the attractive road and worst of all, with two large car parking areas next to each other (in the front gardens of Sunset Hill and the Upfield site), the road will look like a parking lot. Details of the application may be found by going to the council's website and looking up application number [16/00295](#)

We still wait to hear what will happen with 14 Highland Road. A recent application was submitted to the council presumably to regularise the situation (the redevelopment did not proceed according to planning permission) but it was rejected for being invalid (for some reason). We wait for a valid application to be resubmitted.

## Tree News

### RVPS Tree Friends Training

Two training sessions for a total of 20 members of RVPS have taken place led by Mark Byfield, Arboricultural Officer, London Borough of Bromley, and the RVPS Tree Friends group has been inaugurated. Each member was given a new pair of secateurs and purple sacks for waste collection.

The training covered basal pruning, loosening young tree ties, watering young trees in dry conditions, maintenance of tree pits and general ways to care for street trees.

Residents attending the first and second training sessions respectively were:

Monica Wiltshire (RVPS Tree Officer); Judy Adcock; Eddie McMaster; Luis Pousada; Mick Pinson; Carol Davidson; Olivia Livesey; Linda Muller; Karen Summers; Wendy Watmore; Pat White; Euan McMaster;

Brian Atkinson; Maureen Johnson; Cathy Davies; Martin Ruddick; Anna Koffer; Sandra Callaghan; John Ealey; Barbara Munday.

RVPS Tree Officer, Monica Wiltshire, will maintain a data base of volunteers and the streets they look after and act as the liaison person between Bromley Council and the Tree Friends group.

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If you would like to express an interest in becoming a RVPS Tree Friend please contact the Tree Officer, Monica Wiltshire

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Instructor Mark Byfield with the first group



Damage from a tree tie left in place too long



Please let Monica know if you see similar



Example of a tree in need of basal pruning

### Community Tree Projects

As a result of the 2014/15 and 2015/16 RVPS projects, a total of 46 trees have been planted in our area. Payment of £3,000 to LBB for the first project has been agreed and will be made when we are satisfied everything is in place. Details of the projects will be posted soon on our website in the minutes of the meeting that took place on 5th May.

Further trees in Farnaby Road have just been chopped down because they are diseased and therefore our project has become even more important.

# General News

## Beckenham Place Park

Lewisham are progressing with the design stage of their proposals for the regeneration of Beckenham Place Park. As many of you will know they held 10 public events during March where the proposals were displayed for comment. Their insight into what people would like to see is now guiding them in the design process. In spite of the petition to keep the golf course, Lewisham have decided to close it at the end of 2016.

The consultation sessions did show high support for providing a cafe, toilets and visitor information in the homestead buildings and the holding of small scale events and markets in the stable courtyard. More support for volunteers was also welcomed along with the aim to retain the habitat value of the park.

There will be a further consultation period in early June and the developed plans will be submitted for planning approval and the approval of the Heritage Lottery fund in August. Those with internet are asked to check on [www.lewisham.gov.uk](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk) to keep up to date with the proposals and the venues and dates for the consultations in June.

Opportunities for the Mansion and other buildings in the park are being explored by the design team. This will lead to a separate submission for lottery funding later this year.

## Life Members

Brian Sanders and Leslie Tucker have been made Life Members of the society. Brian was treasurer for over 20 years and Leslie has been involved in various capacities since the founding of the society over 25 years ago. Both have made an enormous contribution to the society and to our community and we remain very grateful for their efforts.

## Dates for your diary

Members' meetings are held on the first Thursday, every other month, at 8 p.m. at the Bromley Court Hotel. The next two are on Thursday 7th July and Thursday 1st September.

## 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	Richard Thomas	118 Ravensbourne Ave BR2 0AX
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. (Evans)	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