

November, 2016
Issue 4/16



Editor's Update

In this 4th issue of the year there is much to report: planning applications have increased in number and we have been busy trying to fend off the worst; the golf course in Beckenham Place Park has finally closed and there has been an acceleration in the planning of the park

refurbishment. Three new forums are planned and I have volunteered for the Nature, history and interpretation one (see article below for more details); our tree friends and litter picking groups have been very active; and planning for our AGM is under way.

Chairman's Corner

If you hear mechanised construction work, including chainsaws, working on a Saturday afternoon or any time on a Sunday, this contravenes local bylaws and the council's noise pollution team can visit and suspend operations. They can be contacted on 0300 303 8671. During the winter, please remember that in order to comply with the law, and to keep our air fit to breathe, only seasoned wood should be burned in proper wood burners, not on open fires.

Beckenham Place Park Regeneration Planning

The golf course has been closed. Here is a list of [alternative golf courses](#).

Alison Taylor from Lewisham Council has been appointed as Project Manager - Regeneration and Asset Management. She has established three new forums of local people who have expressed an interest in engaging with and helping with the regeneration of Beckenham Place Park. There are three forums, each focusing on a different theme of activity in the park: 1) Nature, history and interpretation; 2) Events and the arts; 3) Children, youth and schools work.

Leslie Tucker and I are part of the Nature, history and interpretation group. The other groups are fully subscribed but if there are vacancies they will be advertised in future issues of the newsletter.

Sydney Thornbury, who has successfully run the Conservatoire at Blackheath Halls and the Bussey Building in Peckham, has taken over the management of the Mansion House. She has exciting plans for community use of the Mansion House. For now, she has arranged for complimentary tea and coffee to be available at the Mansion House for park visitors. She is running the building on a temporary basis following its vacation by Glendale Golf. This will ensure the building is secure and looked after while the first stage of restoration takes place in the park.

The building is still undergoing minor works so that it can be used more. Plans include artists' studios and exercise classes. During the works the visitor centre will continue to run on Sundays.

You can follow Sydney on Twitter [@bppmansion](#).

There is a new Facebook page to share information about the ongoing changes happening in Beckenham Place Park and to promote future events, activities and volunteering opportunities. Just 'like' the page to keep up with the park's progress: [Beckenham Place Park on Facebook](#) but don't use the Facebook page for feedback. Instead, email bppfuture@lewisham.gov.uk.

On Sunday 4 December, 1–4.30pm, a free, fabulous, festive and fun event will take place in the park. Activities include lantern-making, music, free mince pies, a snow machine and more. Please come.

Planning Issues

81 Ravensbourne Avenue

An application has been made for the partial demolition of 81 Ravensbourne Avenue and the erection of two semi-detached dwellings: Application Ref No: [16/04574/FULL1](#)

61, The Avenue

An application has been made for the demolition of the existing dwelling and erection of 2 two-storey detached dwellings with accommodation in roof space and the formation of additional vehicle access. [16/05164/FULL1](#)

14 Highland Road

The saga continues. The redevelopment of this property which 'finished' a few years ago still does not comply with the planning conditions imposed at the time. A planning application intended to regularise the situation appears to have stalled on account of significant technical issues to do with the application itself whilst a longstanding planning enforcement enquiry is still outstanding. We note that a number of flats have been put up for sale recently and we hope that the developers failure to comply with conditions does not inhibit these sales.

20 Blyth Road

Another long saga. Following an appeal being dismissed, we are still not clear what is happening at this property. We are hoping that the wall fronting Bracken Hill Lane will be repaired and restored to its former condition and as far as we have been able to determine, we understand that Bromley Planning Enforcement are reviewing the situation.

Bromley Council Budget Consultation

Bromley Council are seeking residents' feedback and comments as part of the 2017-18 budget setting process. They want your views on the Council's [Building a Better Bromley](#) priorities and to know what is most important to you, taking into consideration the resources to deliver services into the future.

Visit their website and complete the [online survey](#) where you can also find more background information. Deadline for the survey is 2nd December.

Litter Picking

At Wendy Watmore's request, the Downs Hill / Crab Hill litter pickers met recently to clear Downs Bridge Road and the top section of The Avenue, both of which had been targeted by fly tippers. The picture shows the waste we moved to the corner of Downs Bridge Road. On (not very close) inspection it turned out to be from a chemist's shop at South Croydon and was removed by the council the next day after Wendy reported it. We are hoping that a prosecution will follow.



We are also grateful and delighted that other residents eg in Warren Avenue have also been out litter picking and keeping our area clean.

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

Tree News

Plans for the trees in the regeneration of Beckenham Place Park

In addition to the planning activities detailed above, specific plans have been published for tree works in the park. They include:

- Around 15,000 trees will be planted as part of the plans to transform the park through the Parks for People scheme. Most of these trees will be planted on the edge of the ancient woodland.
- 125 more mature parkland trees will also be planted.
- All new trees planted in the parkland, woodland and orchard will be native species. Some non-native species will be used in the gardens to maximise all year round colour and interest.



There are links to the full version of this information and other updates on the planning process on our website

- Tree removal will only be undertaken where there are clear reasons to do so and the benefits of removal outweigh the loss.
- The vast majority of trees being removed will be relatively young.
- No ancient trees will be removed unless they are dangerous.



These trees are now preventing views – across the park, of the mansion, and from the homesteads

- Up to 250 trees will be removed from the golf course planting which will restore views within the parkland, break up the linear fairway planting and enhance sight lines, helping park users to feel safe.



Aerial view of the golf course, in 1994, showing much less vegetation between fairways

Tree Friends News

Our tree officer, Monica Wiltshire, is keeping the appointed tree friends up to date with necessary ongoing work and special projects at Crab Hill and at the junction of Hawkstead and Coniston Roads.

She reminds us that the 2014/15 RVPS Community Tree Project new trees in Farnaby Road are out of the maintenance period and need to be looked after by tree friends and residents. The 2015/16 new trees in Ravensbourne Avenue, Warren Avenue and Farnaby Road (Ravensbourne Avenue end) are still in the year long contract and are watered by Gristwood and Toms operator Carol until April 2017.

If you would like to help with either of the special projects or with street trees in general please contact Monica

General News

Beckenham High Street Improvements

The widening of the junction at Beckenham Junction Station is the first phase of a plan to improve Beckenham Town Centre.

Details and drawings of the planned improvements are on the council website at the following link: [http://www.bromley.gov.uk/info/200079/regeneration/981/beckenham town centre improvements](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/info/200079/regeneration/981/beckenham_town_centre_improvements)

Power Cut Relief for Vulnerable Residents

Although power cuts don't happen very often when they do they can be worrying. UK Power Networks is the electricity network for London and it provides a 'Priority Services Register' for people who might need extra help in a power cut. Older people, families with very young children, and people with specific medical conditions are among those eligible to register for free support. You can find more details and register by visiting ukpowernetworks.co.uk/prioritysupport or calling 0800 169 9970.

Age UK

If you are over 60 and require help, Age UK have many services available. Please contact them on <http://www.ageuk.org.uk/bromleyandgreenwich> or by phone at 020 8315 1878.

Parking Near Ravensbourne Station

As expected, the parking problem has now moved into Downs Hill and Ravensbourne Avenue. Councillor Stephen Wells, who was at the last members' meeting, indicated there will be a further consultation by Bromley Council in 6 months to seek residents' views.

Community Issues

We are currently investigating whether we can get Community Payback 'volunteers' to tidy up the perimeter of the Warren Avenue Playing Fields or, even better, to manage the old Goan playing field, perhaps turning it into a nature reserve.

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 one is on Thursday 5th January, 2017. Our AGM is on Thursday 2nd March, 2017. The agenda for the AGM will be published in the January issue of the newsletter.

Contacts

Officers

Chairman	Clive Lees	38 Warren Avenue, BR1 4BS
Vice Chairman	Linda Muller	48 Bracken Hill Lane, BR1 4AJ
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