

February, 2017
Issue 1/2017



Editor's Update

The primary object of this edition is to notify members of the date and agenda for the AGM. Our chairman has been busy arranging some special events so it should be a pleasant and interesting evening. All members are welcome to attend.

As always the information in this newsletter is only a summary of the much more detailed information on our website which is kept up to date by our webmaster David England. Please do login occasionally and view the news section.

Chairman's Remarks

This newsletter includes notice of our AGM which in a break with tradition includes two presentations. First, a short musical recital by the pupils of St Dunstan's College, Catford, which promises to be delightful, followed by the return of a previously popular topic, consumer problems, presented by Rob Vale from the Trading Standards team at Bromley.

We notice that one or two members have not yet paid their subscriptions. We need your support and here are a few things we have done to improve your area: -

- Two significant tree planting schemes in various roads;
- Nearly 600 (!) reports to the council to get potholes filled, rubbish removed etc.;
- Very active tree friends and litter picking groups who are making a big impact in our area;
- Preventing unacceptable developments such as the proposed blocks of flats at 61 The Avenue;
- New bench for the path next to Millwall and proper maintenance of Warren Avenue Planning Fields;
- And much more besides.—That's definitely worth £5 per year !

I would like to thank all the officers and the road reps for tireless work in supporting both me and the society. Although it wasn't planned, the society's activities have shifted from principally being focused on planning towards supporting the community more generally. A particular example of this is the tree friends group which is not only helping to look after our trees but also fostering a tremendous community spirit.

Tree Friends Update

12 RVPS tree friends met on Sunday 8th January to carry out two group projects. The first was to cut back the bramble and ivy on Beckenham Place Park fence which was encroaching on to Crab Hill pavement, and the second to tidy up the triangle of ground at the junction of Ravensbourne Avenue and Downs Hill, a less easy task as a lot was beyond the scope of secateurs. Many "thankyous" came from passers-by, several asked how they could become involved and one offered his garden waste bin to put the cuttings in.

With a real sense of achievement and community spirit the tree friends gathered at the end of 1½ hours work to chat, over the last mulled wine and mince pies of the season; proudly leaving 27 purple sacks to be collected by Bromley Council. If you would like to be involved in future group tree friend projects contact Monica Wiltshire, RVPS Tree Friend Co-ordinator at trees.rvps@outlook.com



Crab Hill before tidy-up



Crab Hill after tidy-up



Work in progress at Downs Hill / Ravensbourne Ave.

Planning Issues

6 Oaklands Road

A new application has been made for the erection of 3 two-bedroom dwellings with undercroft parking on land at the rear of Oaklands Court, 6 Oaklands Road, Bromley. Application Ref: [16/05397/FULL1](#)

2 Ullswater Close

An application has been made for the erection of a boundary fence and the felling of a tree. Application Ref: [17/00187/FULL6](#)

16 Crab Hill

There is an important application at 16 Crab Hill to fell 3 pine trees in the front garden. At the time of writing RVPS is considering this application but residents may wish to make their own comment. Application Ref: [17/00407](#)
Watch our website for developments.

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



Crab Hill pine trees



Madeira Ave. tulip tree

Madeira Avenue / Bromley Avenue

The application that was made to fell the very prominent tulip tree at 66 Madeira Avenue, on the corner with Bromley Avenue, has been refused. 7 representations of objection were submitted including one from Beatrice Osborn commenting, among a number of objections, that the tree predates the current owners of the house. The council has concurred with their views. Application Ref: [16/05602/TPO](#)



Ravensbourne River

Residents who live next to the river will be aware of just how high it can rise in a storm. We noticed that by the bridge in Farnaby Road, there is now a considerable accumulation of silt and vegetation which could impede the flow and cause flooding. We have asked the Environment Agency to investigate and take action if deemed necessary. They confirm that generally they would undertake this sort of work themselves on behalf of the 'riparian owner', who owns the land on either side and to the centre line of the channel.

Bromley Council 2017 Budget

On 21st November, Dave Wiltshire and Euan McMaster attended a round table discussion on the Council's budget. Some items of note that were raised: Bromley has the lowest level of settlement funding per head of population in London; Bromley has the second lowest Council Tax in outer London; further cuts of £20 million are required over the next 4 years; council tax is likely to increase by more than the rate of inflation; most schools in the borough will be academies by the end of 2017; there is a requirement to build 10,000 new homes by 2027 or central government will take control.

Details of the council's budget planning plus a link to the minutes of various consultation meetings, including this one, can be found at the following link: http://www.bromley.gov.uk/info/200110/council_budgets_and_spending/1117/bromley_council_budget_2017-18/3

RVPS Annual General Meeting

Notice of the AGM of RVPS

Thursday 2nd March 2017, 8pm Bromley Court Hotel

AGENDA

1.	Chairman's welcome and opening remarks	CL
2.	String Ensemble from St Dunstan's College	
3.	Presentation on Trading Standards by Rob Vale, Bromley Council officer	RV
4.	Approval of Minutes of previous AGM	CL
5.	Chairman's Report	CL
6.	Treasurer's Report	DW
7.	Planning Officer's Reports	RT
8.	Roads & Traffic Report	AS
9.	Community Projects & Tree Officer's Report	MW
10.	Beckenham Place Park Representative's Report	LT
11.	Membership Secretary's Report	LM
12.	Determination of subscriptions for 2017-18	DW
13.	Appointment of an Auditor	CL
14.	Election of Officers	CL
15.	Chairman's closing remarks	CL
16.	Next members' meeting: Thursday 4 th May, 2017 8pm at the Bromley Court Hotel	



Approximate timings are:
 8pm Chairman's introduction
 8.05 String ensemble, programme will be published on our website
 8.40 (approx.) Presentation on Trading Standards
 9.10 Refreshments
 9.40 Society Business

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 appointment: Auditor. After many years of valuable service for which we are indebted, our existing auditor Pura Atkinson is standing down. Alan Williams has offered to fill the role in future

We invite members to stand for election. Should you wish to stand for any of these posts please send a nomination signed by a proposer and seconder to the secretary at secretary.rvps@outlook.com by 17th February 2017.

If you have missed your road rep collecting this year's subscriptions, kindly deliver/post your £5 subs (with your name & address) to our treasurer, Dave Wiltshire, at 10 Crab Hill, BR3 5HE. Thank you sincerely.

General News

Beckenham Place Park

On 14th December 2016, the Heritage Lottery Fund approved the Round 2 funding bid for the regeneration of Beckenham Place Park. This means the Parks for People funds of a further £4.7m for the park and the homestead restoration are now confirmed, and the restoration of this wonderful, rich open space will become a reality! As you probably know, a new era began in the park in early November when the golf course closed and RJK Properties Ltd took on a short term lease in the mansion. Sydney Thornbury is managing the Mansion for the next 22 months for RJK Properties on lease from Lewisham. The café has been refurbished and the external toilets have been reopened and cleaned up, to ensure that toilets in the park are open throughout daylight hours, even when the mansion is not. Unfortunately, these do not include disabled facilities at this time – though it is often possible for users with disabilities to be let into the mansion to use the facilities there.

Together with RJK Properties, Lewisham Council put on the Christmas event 'Festival of Lights' which was a wonderful festive celebration. Around 1500 people came which was significantly more than expected and which unfortunately caused some parking and crowding issues on Foxgrove Road due to the wrong post code being printed in the publicity material. The post code has been corrected and now directs people to the entrance gate on Beckenham Hill, so hopefully that problem will be avoided in future.

A second, Cyclocross, event was held on 27th December by Beastway Org in conjunction with Lewisham Council. It was deemed a great success although some concerns have subsequently been aired at one of the new forums which have replaced the BPP Working Party, mostly relating to "off track" cycling causing environmental issues. The Regeneration and Asset Management Project Manager, Alison Taylor, who chairs the forums, promised to address these concerns in planning future events in the park.

Sydney Thornbury has exciting plans for events in the mansion house. Details of her plans and much other information about future events in the park can be found on Lewisham Council's website here:

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/regeneration/improvements-to-parks/BeckenhamPlacePark/Pages/default.aspx> Of immediate interest are details of a tree planting event to be held on 25th February.

An article by Sydney Thornbury has also been published on the website of the friends of Beckenham Place Park here: <http://www.beckenhamplaceparkfriends.org.uk/index.htm> Also on that website are details of events organised by the friends.

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 Avenue BR2 0AX
Membership Secretary	Linda Muller	48 Bracken Hill Lane, BR1 4AJ
Newsletter Editor	Euan McMaster	35 Downs Hill, BR3 5ET
Webmaster	David England	154 Madeira Avenue, BR1 4AS
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	48 Bracken Hill Lane, BR1 4AJ
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