

Dec, 2019
Issue 4/2019



Editor's Update

Our logo and strapline have now been finalised and are as you see above. We have also changed our website address to reflect our new name. The old address will continue, for a while, to forward to the new website.

Since the changes, our road reps have persuaded quite a few residents to join our society so perhaps they have had the desired effect.

Best wishes from the Ravensbourne Valley Residents chairman and officers.

Chairman's Remarks

Readers will be aware that pollution and climate change is becoming ever more the topic of conversation. We have had several meetings with councillors and our MP Bob Neill on these issues and indeed Bob Neill asked a question in Parliament recently mentioning that his constituents were concerned about these issues. Locally, three general election hustings, which have focused entirely on environmental matters, have been organised by Greener and Cleaner Bromley and Beyond, Bromley YouthStrike4Climate and Bromley Friends of the Earth, in each of the Bromley constituencies.

Bromley Council has also taken action to limit residents breathing particulate matter by introducing anti-idling regulations so that vehicles don't sit at the side of the road with their engines running, pumping out pollution. Similarly, now the weather has turned colder, please use wood fires thoughtfully as these produce large quantities of particulate pollution.

Finally, do please note our new website address (above) and follow us using our new Twitter account name [@RVResidents](https://twitter.com/RVResidents)

We hope you enjoy a relaxing and joyful Christmas holiday

Planning Issues

Further information and, in some cases, the history of the following applications can be found on our website by clicking on the title. Thanks go to our planning officer and webmaster for tracking the applications in our area.

NEW APPLICATIONS

[Hillary Mount, Crab Hill](#)

The application for a part one/two storey rear extension, side and flank dormers together with elevational alterations has been permitted.

[87 Beckenham Lane \(retail premises in Shortlands Village\)](#)

The application for the demolition of the building and side element have been refused. Numerous different previous applications were also refused.

[Larchmont, Crab Hill](#)

The application for the extension of existing garage, demolition of existing rear extension and construction of new rear extension, two storey side extension and elevational alterations has been permitted along with the application to remove a number of trees at the rear.

[1 Blyth Road](#)

The application for the demolition of the existing building and construction of a new three story apartment building with accommodation within the roof space for 10 two bedroom units with associated facilities, such as parking, cycle storage and bin storage, is awaiting decision.

[10 Highland Road](#)

The application for demolition of existing garages to the rear of 10 Highland Road and the erection of a single two storey 3-bedroom house has been permitted.

UPDATES

[5 Madeira Avenue](#)

The refusal of the application for part first floor/part two storey side extension, loft conversion with rear dormer, associated decking/steps to rear and detached garage to side was successfully appealed and planning permission has been granted.

[2A Downs Hill](#)

The retrospective application for the retention of the external carport was refused but the decision has been appealed.

[50 Ashgrove Road](#)

The most recent application relating to this long running saga has been granted.

[2 Ullswater Close](#)

The application for alteration to the boundary fence has been permitted.

[17 Ullswater Close](#)

The application for demolition of detached garage and erection of three storey side extension and subdivision of plot to form new 3 bedroom family dwelling with associated parking has been refused.

[18 Hillbrow Road](#)

The application for the construction of a first floor extension and the conversion of the existing 2-bedroom bungalow to provide 2 × 3-bedroom self-contained units, together with alterations to the front forecourt, and the provision of cycle and refuse storage has been granted.

[27 Downs Hill](#)

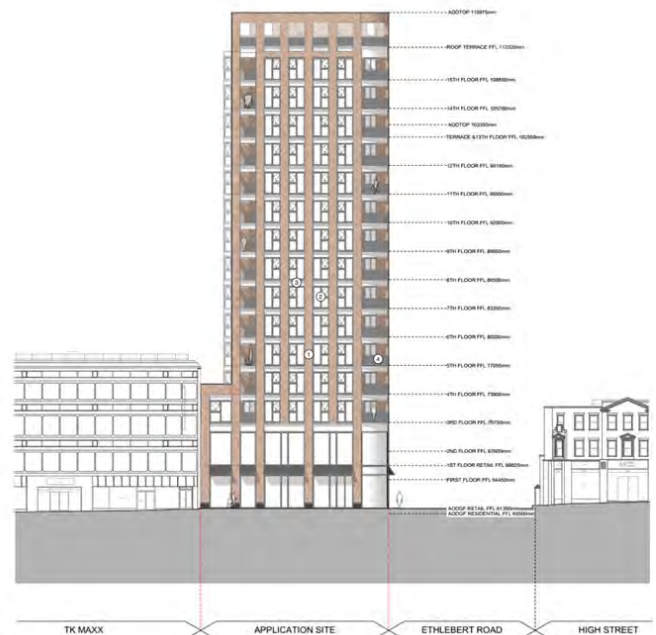
The application for part one/part two storey rear/side extensions with rooflights, removal of chimney and elevation alterations has been permitted.

Major Bromley Town Development



The masterplan for the centre of the Bromley is shown in the diagram above (again courtesy of Bromley Civic Society). The coloured buildings show proposed development (or buildings currently being constructed) with the lake and library buildings in the bottom right.

The dark pink buildings (“Churchill Quarter”) have been controversial through their sheer size (we have objected!) and the Council is expected to make a planning decision soon. In addition and not shown above is a brand new proposal for a 16 storey building on the corner of Ethelbert Road next to TK Maxx. Were this to be permitted, Bromley would end up like Croydon so please do object to the size of this here <https://bit.ly/33bz7xN>



Proposed giant building, wholly out of scale

Proposed Boundary Changes

The Boundary Commission has recently announced proposed changes to ward areas in Bromley. In particular, this will affect Copers Cope Ward (proposed to be re-named Beckenham Town and Copers Cope with a change in the area covered) and Bromley Town Ward (propose to have a significant part moved in to Shortlands Ward area) as shown below

Proposed Bromley Ward Boundaries



Existing Bromley Ward Boundaries:-



The images were photographed from a projector screen; apologies for the distortion and low resolution.

The principal changes that affect the society would be that Farnaby Road, Warren Avenue, Madeira Avenue and Ravensbourne Avenue and a number of other roads would no longer be in Bromley Town but would come within the Shortlands Ward which would have an additional third councillor to help with the enlarged area. Our society will be affected by this as our members would end up being in four different wards rather than the current three (Downham, Bromley Town and Copers Cope)

These proposals are currently under consultation which ends 17 February, 2020. For further information please see this link <https://bit.ly/2rbhK2J>

Proposed Shortlands Conservation Area

The Bromley Civic Society has been instrumental in driving forward a proposal to form a conservation area based on Shortlands village which has the support of the Bromley Town Ward councillors. The following diagram (courtesy of BCS) shows the proposed extent of area marked in green.



The images were photographed from a projector screen; apologies for the distortion and low resolution.

The purple area is the existing Bromley Town Conservation Area. The purpose of a conservation area is to ensure that valuable, attractive and much-loved buildings would require planning permission for their demolition and that future developments must be of a very high standard. The society will be discussing this issue in our January meeting.

Shortlands Friendly Village Project

If you were not able to participate in either of the “pop-up” consultations about this project that were held on the 4th and 7th of December, there is still an opportunity to make your views known. Several of the RVR officers who have previously consulted on this project have been invited to a stakeholder workshop on Monday 16th December to help develop and refine designs to improve pedestrian crossings, walking and cycling links, access to public transport and public spaces in Shortlands village.

If you have suggestions about any of these topics, please send them to our chairman at chairman.rvr@outlook.com

The project is being managed by Sustrans. Take a look at their latest review, [Our work in London 2019: Streets ahead](#) for some of their projects that are helping to transform London into a healthier, happier city.

Community Projects

Nets for recycling boxes

RVR have distributed the first batch of nets to some residents in Ravensbourne Avenue, Farnaby Road, Madeira Avenue and Warren Avenue. If we have provided you with nets for your recycling box, do please use them as they will prevent litter being blown out of the box which then becomes an eyesore. Thank you!

Litter Picking

Did you see an improvement in the tidiness around Ravensbourne station area in September? A small group of members had a tidy up and filled 6 purple sacks with rubbish (and Bromley FoE collected at least as much near Shortlands). Please help out by being a Bromley Street Friend <https://bit.ly/2XDymw9> (There is no Lewisham equivalent)



Noise and Pollution

We have set up a new email address for you to report noise and pollution issues to us. This is for us to understand underlying trends and issues as you should still report immediate problems to the authorities (police/council). In particular, we have been helping residents to collaborate with each other to tackle road traffic noise, which many find very irritating. Contact us pollution.rvr@outlook.com.

Valley Primary School



One of our members, Parisa Danvers, recently identified that the school would benefit from the installation of air purifiers. We are delighted to have provided a grant of £500 to allow the school to purchase these, which have resulted in an improvement in air quality (specifically particulate matter) of around 80 per cent. Delivery of the first is pictured:

Any Suggestions?

Do you know of, or can you suggest, any worthwhile projects that would benefit members or the residents of our area? Over the years we have carefully looked after our money and now have a small surplus available.

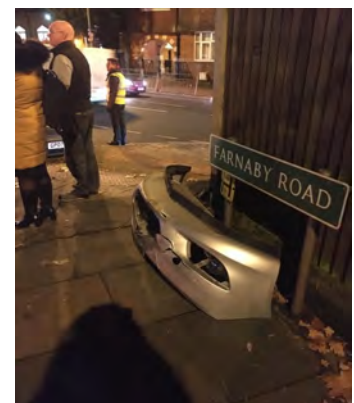
We would be interested to receive suggestions for projects requiring grants of up to £1000 which we might consider supporting. Contact chairman.rvr@outlook.com

Crime Prevention

Please be vigilant and tell us of threats in our area. One of our members in Madeira Avenue has reported that some opportunist thief tried to steal an illuminated snowman from his front garden. The wire had been cut but fortunately the snowman was secured to the ground so the thief felt resistance and made off. **BE WARNED.**

Roads and Traffic

Our roads and traffic officer is continuing his campaign to reduce the number of speeding cars in our area by acting, alongside police units, as a speed monitor. The second crash in 2 months at the junction of Farnaby Road with Beckenham Lane is likely to have been caused by speeding, impatience or poor lighting. We hope to provide more information about improvements at this junction shortly.



General News

Goan Field Footpath

The re-opened footpath (many thanks to Michelle and LBL for making this happen) across the Goan playing field is in slightly the wrong place. LBL are threatening the landowner to put it back in exactly the same place it used to be. Watch this space.



Traffic calming and Parking in Ravensbourne station area

Some changes to parking and road layouts have been made following our lobbying the Council. However, as this picture shows (junction of Crab Hill and Downs Hill), things have not always gone to plan. The new pedestrian refuge had only just been finished when it got flattened! Draft plans for further changes to parking arrangements have been produced and we hope to be able to share these shortly

Beckenham Place Park

Nature, History and Interpretation

- £150k Council funding has been secured for basic repairs to the former Foxgrove Club. It is undecided if Lewisham Council will do the work or if they will contribute the money to whoever takes over the tenancy.
- The loudspeakers mounted on the mansion are done so in a way that does not damage the fabric of the building. Since the terrace is licensed for entertainment, the Mansion is permitted to play music there.
- £34,000 has been awarded from Veolia to refurbish the pond and surrounding area thanks to the bid submitted by the Friends of BPP. About 400 surveys were returned by park visitors suggesting ideas for the project. One of the most frequent suggestions was for a quiet place to sit and watch the wildlife.
- Ideas are being discussed to control the Canada geese around the lake. Unfortunately there is no really effective way other than designing out breeding sites or pricking eggs.

Planning

Lewisham Council have given notice that they have made orders to provide a larger, chargeable, car park. See our website here:

www.ravensbournevalley.org/beckenham-place-park.php

The Lake

There are plans for a new permanent boundary around the lake before next summer. The temporary fencing will then be removed. A substantial part of the boundary is likely to be natural, a sort of hedgerow if you will, backed up with wire fencing which will soon be masked by the growth of the hedge. The hedgerow is likely to utilise a lot of native plants with a reasonable amount of tough thorny stuff to deter those determined to break in.

The aim is to maintain this at a height which doesn't hinder views to the lake and it should provide excellent habitat for birds etc.

Where does it all end?

The River Ravensbourne starts in Keston and ends up in Deptford Creek, shown below:-



In the background is the north bank of the Thames

Society Matters

Meeting Dates

Meetings are held on the first Thursday, every other month, at 8pm at Bromley Court Hotel. All members and prospective members are welcome. The meetings normally last about 90 minutes and focus on local community and planning issues. There is normally at least one, often several, of our local councillors in attendance to answer questions and log concerns. The next few meetings are:

Thursday 2nd January 2020 - members' meeting;

Thursday 5th March 2020 - AGM;

Thursday 7th May 2020 - members' meeting.

Society Goals

On our website there is a section titled "Who we are and what we do". It provides information about the history of the society, the constitution and an overview of our recent and current activities. You will find it here:

<https://www.ravensbournevalley.org/about-us.php>

The news section of the website is updated very regularly, please keep an eye on it as some of the items are likely to affect you directly.

CONTACTS

Officers

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|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Chairman | Clive Lees | chairman.rvr@outlook.com |
| Vice Chairman | Beatrice Osborn | vicechairman.rvr@outlook.com |
| Secretary | Judy Adcock | secretary.rvr@outlook.com |
| Treasurer | Dave Wiltshire | treasurer.rvr@outlook.com |
| Planning Officer | Paul Osborne | planning.rvr@outlook.com |
| Membership Secretary | Linda Müller | membership.rvr@outlook.com |
| Newsletter Editor | Euan McMaster | editor.rvr@outlook.com |
| Webmaster | David England | webmaster.rvr@outlook.com |
| Roads and Traffic | Markku Syväniemi | roadsandtransport.rvr@outlook.com |
| Tree Warden | Monica Wiltshire | trees.rvr@outlook.com |
| Noise and Pollution | Volunteer Needed | pollution.rvr@outlook.com |
| LBBR Delegate | Judy Adcock | secretary.rvr@outlook.com |
| BPP Rep | Liz Logan | bpp.rvr@outlook.com |
| Hon. Legal Advisor | Richard Thomas | |
| Auditor | Alan Williams | |

Road Representatives

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|--|---------------------|
| Bracken Hill Lane and Close / Highland Road | Linda Müller |
| Bromley Ave / Grasmere Rd | Quinton Schönknecht |
| Calmont & Ashgrove Roads / Belgravia Gardens | Rita Smith |
| Coniston Road / Ullswater Close | Sandra West |
| Downs Hill / Crab Hill | Wendy Watmore |
| Elstree Hill / Erin Close / Hillbrow Road | Mick Pinson |
| Farnaby Road (1–81) | Anna Koffer |
| Farnaby Road (82–194) | Kay Shaw |
| Madeira Avenue | Judy Adcock |
| Oaklands Road / Spencer Road / Hawkshead Close / | |
| Lullington Garth | David Page |
| Ravensbourne Ave. (Evens) | Monica Wiltshire |
| Ravensbourne Ave. (Odds) | Sharon Miles |
| Ravensmead Road | Peter Saunders |
| Warren Avenue | Clive Lees |

If you wish to contact your representative please email the RVR Secretary or write to:

RVR
38 Warren Avenue
Bromley
BR1 4BS