

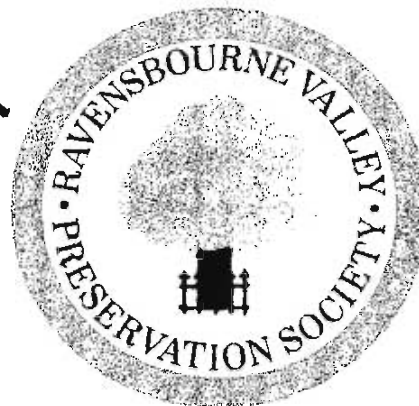
NEWSLETTER

November 2011

5/2011

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EDITORIAL

As this is the last Newsletter before Christmas and the New Year, the officers and Road Reps would like to wish all of our members the very best for the festive season. If you think this a little early for such greetings just look in the shops - they are ahead of us.

Probably because of the current economic climate, not a lot has been happening on the planning front. However we have made up for that in our other activities.

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 5th January 2012 - Members' Meeting 8.00pm, Bromley Court Hotel

Thursday 1st March 2012 - Annual General Meeting 8.00pm, Bromley Court Hotel

Peter Pain - Editor.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Valley School

Following our funding for the provision and planting of aquatic plants in the new pond we have visited and taken photographs. The planting is now well established and the pond and surroundings are looking very attractive and is proving to be a valuable educational resource.

Bench Seat The Common, Beckenham Place Park

In our last Newsletter we said that the seat would be available for fixing at the end of July. In the event it was not. Perhaps the unwanted delay was just as well as some weeks later a large willow was blown down part of which fell over the spot chosen for our seat. Glendale, the maintenance contractors for the Park, intend to leave the tree as fallen deadwood to encourage biodiversity. We found another equally suitable location close by and the seat is now in position and waiting to provide a resting place just off the new cycle path and near the river.

Warren Avenue Playing Fields

In our last Newsletter we reported that we may consider whether or not we should fund additional replacement trees. That decision has now been put on hold as Lewisham have obtained authority for the purchase of nine more trees. They will be mainly black poplars which, with their larger canopies, would more effectively fill the gaps. We have had a meeting with Lewisham and Glendales on site and have agreed their positions. The trees have been ordered and will be planted later this year. This time we have been assured that they will be on Glendale's maintenance program.

Footpath

Recently Transport for London funded the making up and partial diversion of the Green Chain path from Warren Avenue to Ravensmead Road. The aim being to facilitate access to Ravensbourne Station. It also linked up with the new cycle path in Beckenham Place Park. After that work was completed, Lewisham closed off two entrances to the playing field from the new path. That did not please many locals and the entrances were soon open again - only to be blocked again by Lewisham. This went on for some time until the Council gave up. However the football club which uses the field decided otherwise and did their own closure on the grounds that people walked across the pitches.. That closure only lasted a couple of weeks. Lewisham have now proposed fitting a proper gate with a notice asking people not to walk on the marked pitches. We are in agreement but the football clubs may not be.

ROADS AND TRAFFIC

Brackenhill Lane

Following a request from a member we have asked that a yellow line be extended by a car's length. The reason was that parking on both sides made it difficult, if not impossible, for a refuse lorry or fire engine to get through. Bromley Highways have agreed and will put the work in hand. No time table has been given.

Yellow Line Oaklands / Grasmere Road Junction

The yellow line in Oaklands Road was supposed to be extended by 10 metres by mid-summer. After several reminders the contractor ultimately turned up - but, instead of extending the line they made the existing line a double yellow. Having pointed this out to Bromley the contractors returned but only extended the line by about one metre because a parked car was in the way. Again we drew Bromley's attention to this. It transpired that the present contract does not allow for cones or warning notices. Bromley have undertaken to sort this out once and for all. We hope they do.

Red Line Oaklands Road / London Road junction

We last reported that Transport for London had agreed to our request that the red line on the Bromley side be extended. To our surprise and delight it was done within a month. What a contrast to our local yellow line saga above!

Ravensbourne Avenue / Station Road / Beckenham Lane Junction

Since the last Newsletter a Director of Homezone Estate Agents in Shortlands introduced the idea of a dummy camera in Station Road. Red light cameras are normally painted grey and do not have warning signs or road markings so few drivers are aware of them unless caught. Apart from the foregoing Transport for London have vetoed the idea and both the head of Bromley's Highways Division and our local Councillor go along with this decision. In parallel we are still pursuing setting back the stop line and reducing the green phase in Station Road. Some progress has been made and a site visit during the evening rush hour has been arranged for 23rd November. Transport for London will also be involved. If agreed, even on a trial basis, it seems to us to be a cheap and effective solution to the frequent red light running in Station Road

BECKENHAM PLACE PARK

Stable Block and Homesteads

Following the fire which gutted the Stable Block and one of the Homesteads Lewisham, in conjunction with English Heritage, have employed a structural engineer to survey and report on the soundness of the remaining fabric. Once this has been completed and accepted a second consultant will be briefed to identify what the options are for the future. English Heritage will continue to be involved during this second stage. At present the aim is to bring the site to life and if possible start the redevelopment which had been agreed in principle several years ago.

Mansion

After the two tenderers could not agree to a joint tender they were asked to resubmit their tenders but this time to address their weaknesses. One was strong on commercial aspects and the other on conservation. Both have now resubmitted. Recommendations are due to be presented to the Mayor and Cabinet for a decision sometime during November.

PLANNING

37 London Road (Travelodge)

There are two pending applications for this site. The first is for an increase in the height of the building to accommodate plant and machinery and a lift overrun - to which we objected. The second is for two commercial signs. The signs would be 10m² in area which is a significant reduction on a previous application which sought signs of 18m² and 14m² respectively. We have therefore not objected to these.

10 Madeira Avenue

Following the refusal of an application in 2009, a new application has now been submitted for an extension to the property. As the property is set well back from the road the development will not have wider implications but it is possible that neighbours could suffer loss of privacy and amenity. We cannot assess this as we are not able to get on to the site.

61 The Avenue This property lies just within a conservation area and has been advertised for sale as a development site. We will be keeping a close watch on this.

Ravensbourne Station

After years of writing and complaining to Network Rail they have finally fitted cowls to the overhead lights on the pedestrian access ramp which had been causing light pollution for neighbouring residents. We are grateful to Councillor Smith for his help on this.

Westmoreland Road Car Park Redevelopment

Redevelopment of the car park is part of Bromley's Town Centre Plan. A very large development is proposed and a formal application should be submitted soon. It is already known that it will include a block of flats of some 20 floors plus a multi-screen cinema, shops and replacement car park.