

Newsletter

August 2013

5/13

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SPECIAL EDITION - SITUATIONS VACANT + SOME CHANGES ?

EDITORIAL

You will have noticed that the banner headline above is not quite as previously used - I will explain more later. This issue will also be themed rather differently from our usual coverage of current local issues. Instead it is more introspective, by concentrating on our future as a Society.

I ended my editorial in the last Newsletter by pleading for younger members to come forward to help run RVPS, a theme of mine on many previous occasions, but that is exactly what this issue is principally about. PLEASE READ ON !

The problem is that founder members are becoming fewer and the survivors are feeling ever more tired and rusty (I am the prime example of this) and a new set of enthusiasts is needed to carry things on with more verve and efficiency. This is not to say that everyone involved is old, tired and rusty, we already have a treasured core of bushy-tailed youngsters to rely on; but we need more.

So what do we mean by "younger"? Of course it is not just about the length of time since birth but about the ability and enthusiasm for doing something for our community. In these days of relatively harder times it is appreciated that those in work can be very hard pressed but even then the old saying that "if you want something done ask a busy person" has often proved to be correct. The other possibility is that the recently retired may be looking for something to exercise the mind other than sleeping in the afternoon or playing golf. (there would still be time left to do both after filling any of the positions vacant or becoming vacant).

Where do we go from here? The first thing is to attend our regular meetings at Bromley Court Hotel and especially the next one, where you could get to know the RVPS hard core and we could get to know you. There would be no commitment to do anything more at this stage. It is hoped that what I am writing here will become the principal topic for discussion at our next meeting on 5th September. We hope to see a few new faces then.

At present, the tasks that are threatened are as follows:-

Roads and Traffic: Brian Atkinson has already asked to give this up due to a new commitment elsewhere.

Newsletter Editor: I have given notice that I wish to hand this on to another in the near future, due to having passed my "best before date" and the fact that I only took over to fill the gap due to Peter Pain's failing health last summer.

Planning Officer, Bromley: Clive Lees who has filled this key position with great energy and intelligence has new commitments which means that he has to do less for us - but will still be involved. We have to respect his position and be grateful for all he has been able to do for us in the past.

Web Master: The fact that we have a website is due entirely to Clive but for the same reason as immediately above he would like to pass this on to another.

Road Rep. Warren Avenue: Clive did this too but has found a volunteer to take over - see her name listed on page 4.

LBBRF (London Borough of Bromley Residents Federation): This would involve attending a few meetings a year and reporting back to us. We are sent the minutes and have managed to live quite well without attending for some years - so only required if someone is very interested in Biggin Hill Airport and other distant corners of the Borough.

Tree Warden: This used to be supported by Bromley by giving training sessions, but I understanding that they no longer do this. We have not filled this vacancy for some years, but if some one is really keen on trees and would like to monitor those at risk in our patch then it would relieve our Planning Officer of some of his (or her) tasks.

If anyone wishes to know more about what is involved in any of these vacancies contact our Chairman or the present office holder for a chat. None of the options are onerous enough to significantly change your life styles! A little more information can be found on our web site.

That is probably enough about the Situations Vacant for now - initially, all we need is some potential takers to come to our meeting and learn more.

Headings for the rest of our meeting agenda are set out below and we hope these will ignite an interesting discussion on some proposals for the future.

Leslie Tucker (Editor)

Dates for the Diary

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

Thursday 7th November - Members' Meeting 8.00pm, Bromley Court Hotel

SEPTEMBER 5TH MEETING: CONSIDERATION OF SOME IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE

The Newsletter: From the beginning we have always tried to keep the cost of our Newsletter as low as possible believing that as much of the subscriptions received from members should be saved and used as a fighting fund for future battles with developers or on things which would benefit the area - quite apart from the normal running costs.

It has been suggested that this policy has worked too well and our bank balance is more than we need. That, of course depends on what worth-while Community Projects we find to support in the future. If it is agreed with the membership at the meeting it could be decided to improve the quality and size of our regular Newsletters - or at least investigate the options.

The first stage proposed would be to test how many members would be willing and able to receive their copies by E-mail. For this we would need to ask members for their E-mail addresses. This would immediately save money by reducing the number of copies which have to be printed (currently over 500 copies per issue) and would also reduce the work-load of the Road Reps. and some postage.

Such a solution could also mean that it may be an advantage to change the format to A4 rather than the present folded to A5 size. If the reduction in hard copies needed were to be sufficient, it could mean that pictures - even coloured pictures, could be more easily included and afforded. To go further down the digital path, we could investigate the possibility of making the web site material compatible with the Newsletter output.

The future aim would be to expand the content range of the Newsletter to make it more interesting and more locally helpful.

As part of this study it has been suggested that the opportunity should be taken to update our Logo. Our present Logo was designed when the Society was formed in 1987 and has served us well enough and some will feel, as does your present Editor, that any changes to the design should not alter it so much that it would not be recognised as a clear off-spring of the original. The example at the head of this issue is a tentative offering giving this continuity, but approval of this approach will be subject to our discussions. Some alternatives to this solution will be offered at the meeting. Of course it will also be acceptable if the decision is not to change the Logo.

THE REST OF THE AGENDA

As the above items may well take up most of the time our usual items of Treasurer's Report, Planning Reports, Community Matters, Beckenham Place Park Working Party Reports may have to be shorter than usual or even passed over. The latest news on these will be available on the web site for those connected to be able to catch up on anything not fully discussed.

Quick reviews since last Newsletter – (at time of writing).

PLANNING

44-46 Bromley Hill: A revised application made to Lewisham.

Billingford, Elstree Hill: Refusal appealed against - no decision.

The Italian Villa, Elstree Hill : Refused - appeal decision still awaited.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

You are reminded that at our last Members' Meeting we asked those present for any new ideas for things we might support financially in our area this year.

FINALLY

We would hope that we can resolve all the above issues before the next AGM due on 6th March 2014 - if not agreed during the November and January meetings.

R.V.P.S. OFFICERS June 2013)

Chairman	Leslie Watmore
Vice Chairman	Clive Lees
Secretary	Beatrice Osborn
Treasurer	Brian Sanders
Auditor	Pura Atkinson
Planning Officer-East	* Clive Lees
Planning Officer- West	Mike Mielniczek
Membership Secretary	Linda Muller
Newsletter Editor	* Leslie Tucker
Roads & Traffic Rep.	-
Tree Warden	-
LBBRF Delegate	-
BPP Joint Working Party Rep.	Leslie Tucker
Hon. Legal Advisor	Richard Thomas
Web Master	* Clive Lees

* - wishes to give up

ROAD REPRESENTATIVES

Bromley Ave. Grasmere Rd.	Leslie Tucker
Brackenhill Lane & Close Highland Rd. /Karen Ct.	Linda Müller
Coniston Rd / Ullswater & Hawkshead Closes	Barbara Price
Downs Hill / Crab Hill	Wendy Watmore
Elstree Hill / Erin Close / Hillbrow	Roger Legg
Farnaby Rd (nos. 1 -108)	Roger Thelwell-Pichler
Farnaby Rd (nos. 109 +)	Kay Shaw
Madeira Avenue	Brian Atkinson
Oaklands / Spencer Rds.	David Page
Ravensbourne Ave. (evens)	Ann Rowswell
Ravensbourne Ave. (odds)	Ann Freiter
Ravensmead Road	Peter Saunders
Warren Ave.	Carol Davidson
Calmont Rd /Ashgrove Rd. Belgravia Gdns/Ambleside	Rita Smith

Footnotes:

If available to you, don't forget that our website can be more responsive to changing events than this steam-driven Newsletter can be – check it out from time to time. Please remember that subscription collection time is upon us – please help our Road Reps by sending your Subscription to them if they miss you when first calling.