

Newsletter

September 2013

6/13

web site: rvpsbromley.org E-mail: RVPS@talktalk.net



EDITORIAL

The first thing I must do is to apologise to our hard working Road Reps for giving them the task of distributing yet another Newsletter - this is number 6 this year which is one more than the usual maximum of 5. This is another reason for asking Members to help their Road Rep by passing any outstanding subscriptions directly to them if they have not been able to catch you at home when first calling.

The principal purpose of this issue is to report on our important September meeting which proved useful but not as useful as hoped as we saw very few new faces and fewer hands raised asking for more information on those "situations vacant" which were listed in our previous Newsletter. There was one welcome hand raised however which was that of Tony Guyver of 24 Madeira Avenue who offered to fill our **Tree Warden** vacancy; we must have a chat with him soon to make sure that he and our Planning Officer have agreed how to co-ordinate their actions. Many thanks to Tony.

Roads and Traffic: There was no taker for this at the meeting although Wendy Watmore did have someone in her sights - she will be calling - it might be you!

Newsletter Editor: If Wendy calls and does not mention the Traffic job, do not assume you are in the clear - she has also put a mark against a name on her list for the Editor's job. I am willing to continue until someone is found and I will work with them if required at the beginning but hope to be able to give up by our next AGM in March. Others who might fancy this job should let us know as Wendy's target might escape - we would not object if an orderly queue were to be formed!

Webmaster: prior to the meeting we had received two offers for this post. Unfortunately neither member could be present at the meeting so we have to arrange to discuss this with them in the near future. We should have more to say by the next Meeting in November.

Planning Officer, Bromley: This is the key post for the Society; to find the right person to take this on is of paramount importance. If I have a criticism of Clive it is of the way he has relentlessly made himself into a hard act to follow! However there must be someone out there who could manage to do the impossible and beat Clive at his own game. He or she must be rooted out or the Society will wither. That must not be allowed to happen. Skills required are, not only energy and application, but also the need for persuasive diplomacy and charm when dealing with our Councillors. We have a job description; anyone who would like to know more contact Clive or me to arrange for a "no obligation" chat.

LBBRF (London Borough of Bromley Residents Federation): No takers for attending these meetings - this does not worry us too much.

The Future of the Newsletter: The options were debated and these mainly concerned whether members would prefer it to remain in its present form or if it should change in order to include pictures, more text of wider scope and be delivered by E-mail to those who could receive it in that way. Paper copies would still be delivered by Road Reps for those without computers. An analysis of the approximate cost implications of this was presented which assumed that, if about

300 members were willing and able to receive issues by E-mail, colour pictures might be possible without significant extra expense. It was agreed that we should begin by asking all members if they would or could accept the Newsletters by electronic means so that our assumptions on cost could be confirmed. Please see the box at the end of this Newsletter for what is required - **PLEASE RESPOND** if you have a computer. Also remember that if you agree to receive the Newsletters this way you could also receive our meeting minutes and other urgent information that we might want you to know about between our Newsletter issues. Another implication of these changes would be that, with pictures and a wider cover of subjects, each issue would probably include more pages and cost us more to print the hard copies for distribution by the Road Reps. If we get a limited response to our request for E-mail addresses this could mean that our hoped for upgrade could not be made.

We also had a short discussion on the subject of updating the Society Logo. This was considered as being of less immediate importance than the Newsletter format and method of distribution. A member had sent in a suggestion for a change which I hope to discuss with him in the near future.

Leslie Tucker (Editor)

Dates for the Diary

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

Thursday 2nd January 2014 - Members' Meeting 8.00pm, Bromley Court Hotel

PLANNING

Italian Villa

Happily the appeal was dismissed. The Inspector thought that the additional intrusion on the privacy of neighbours caused by changing the use of the Villa from residential to business use was excessive. The owners will therefore have to go back to the drawing board. We hope that the Villa can be brought back into use as a residential property as soon as possible.

35 D Highland Road and Billingford

The 2 Appeals are in progress and we await the outcomes.

10 Crab Hill

This is an application by an insurance company (not the owner) to fell a protected oak tree which is alleged to be causing subsidence at 8 Crab Hill. We have supported the tree owners in their fight to save the tree and, thanks to the supportive efforts of the three Ward Councillors and neighbouring residents, two applications by the Insureres asking the Council to remove the Tree Preservation Order (TPO) have been defeated..

Land between 77 and 79 Coniston Road

This land has for a long time been an eyesore as it is used by fly tippers. We have been making efforts to deal with this problem for some time but unfortunately the Council does not have the legal power to install the CCTV that would be necessary to catch the criminals in the act. However, someone has recently done an excellent job of cleaning up this area for the benefit of everyone and they are to be heartily commended for taking on this unpleasant task. The next thing will be to try to catch the fly tippers in the act if they return.

ROADS AND TRAFFIC

Bromley Avenue

We have recently advised the Council that parking at the top of Bromley Avenue can lead to dangerous situations whereby a car reaching the top of Bromley Avenue can meet, head on, a car turning left from Grasmere Road into Bromley Avenue. We have asked for one of the yellow lines to be extended and a consultation period will be commenced shortly.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

You are reminded that in our last Newsletter we asked for any new ideas for things we might support financially in our area; we are still asking!

REPORT PROBLEMS

www.fixmystreet.com This is an excellent website for reporting problems to the council. Since December 2012, RVPS has reported at least 140 problems to the Council through this site!

Oak Processionary Moth

If you have oak trees in your garden or if you go walking under oak trees, perhaps in Beckenham Place Park, do please look out for this dangerous caterpillar and moth. It is dangerous to humans and can kill oak trees and must be treated by experts. More details are on our website and in our previous Newsletter.

WEBSITE

In order to restrict access to the principal parts of the Website to Members only, an experiment is being tried to gauge reactions. Anyone can access the Home page and Contact Details but other current information requires the use of a very simple password which is available to Members. It would probably be changed each year. It is proposed that from 1st November the password will be "m". This is to be used both when "password" is requested and for "log in" Let Clive know if you have any difficulties, questions or if you like the proposal or not.

FINALLY - THIS IS IMPORTANT TO US! - Please do it Now!

If you have an E-mail facility please give us the information requested below. It would be good if we knew where we were on this before our November Meeting.

You have our assurance that the information given will only be used to disseminate Society matters including Newsletters and documents such as Meeting Agendas, Minutes and urgent news items that cannot wait for the next due Newsletter date.

Please send the information below by your E-mail to our Membership Secretary.

Linda Muller on <l.m.mueller@hotmail.com>

Name and address	E-mail address	Agree to receive Newsletter and other docs by E-mail ? yes/no

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	Tony Guyver
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 Rowsell
Ravensbourne Ave. (odds)	Ann Freiter
Ravensmead Road	Peter Saunders
Warren Ave.	Carol Davidson
Calmont Rd /Ashgrove Rd. Belgravia Gdns/Ambleside	Rita Smith

Footnotes:

See notes in this issue about current changes to website access and let Clive know if you are not happy.

Please remember that subscription collection time is well under way – if you have not done so already, please help our Road Reps by sending your Subscription to them if they missed you when first calling.

If you are connected to E-mail please let us know as stated on foot of page 3. Your co-operation on this as soon as possible would be greatly appreciated – and necessary if we are to improve our future Newsletters in a sustainable way.