

August, 2018
Issue 3/2018

RVPS Newsletter



Working with the community

Editor's Comments

This is the annual edition of the newsletter of the Ravensbourne Valley Preservation Society, RVPS. It is delivered by hand to all residents in our defined area by road representatives who volunteer their time and effort. See page 8 for your Rep.

There are normally five newsletters per year; the other four are delivered by email to those who agree and by hand to those who do not have email capability or prefer a hard copy.

I hope you enjoy this edition.

Our website is www.rvpsbromley.org

Most of the website content can be freely accessed but there are certain sections that are for members only. You will be provided the login and password if you join our society.

The membership area of our society is shown on the map below. It spans Bromley and Lewisham Councils and contains about 1500 households of which over 500 are subscribing members of the society.



Chairman's Remarks

If you are not already a member of our Society, welcome to our newsletter. Do please consider joining us as we continue to become an ever more vibrant and active presence in the area.

There are two things that all residents might want to look out for in the next few months:

- * The first is a proposal to significantly remodel the major junction at Shortlands Rail Station. The Council has not yet publicised its proposals/options but we suspect these are likely to include the possibility of blocking off the end of Station Road or Ravensbourne Avenue;
- * The second issue is the possibility of installing a wider bridge in Westgate Road to replace the current single carriageway humpback bridge. Again, Council proposals are at an early stage.

Both of these proposals have the potential to significantly change traffic flows in our area and there are bound to be both 'winners' and 'losers'. We will be monitoring these proposals carefully and would be interested to receive comments from members in due course.

Many thanks to all of you who have been watering trees - please continue to do so (you can't overdo it!) and the more they are watered, the quicker they will grow. While talking about trees, do be careful to respect Tree Preservation Orders. Bromley Council has recently been taking Court action where TPO's have been ignored!

Possible Name / Logo Change for the society

A number of our officers and existing members feel that the word "Preservation" in the name of our society gives potential new members the wrong impression of the kind of community-orientated society that we are. It has been decided that, at our AGM in March 2019, we will propose two motions:

1. We will change our name and logo;
2. If motion 1 is accepted, we will vote on one of several suggestions that will be put forward at the meeting. Current favourite is "Ravensbourne Valley Residents" and one suggestion for the new logo is shown to the right.

If you have a view on these proposals and you are a member please let it be known to our Chairman and come along to the AGM to vote.

The AGM will be on Thursday 7th March 2019, 8pm at Bromley Court Hotel.



Treasurer's Report for year ending 31st December 2017

For the year ending 31st Dec 2017 income was £2,383 and expenditure £1,401, giving a surplus for the year of £982, and a total balance of £11,170. There was an increase in receipts of subscriptions but there is a fluctuation from year to year as any late subscriptions are included in the following year's figures. Interest from the National Savings and Investment Account was £48.00. There was a decrease in expenditure as no tree project payment was made this year. We still owe £3000 for the second phase of the tree project and are awaiting an invoice from Bromley Council. We made a donation of £100 towards the maintenance and storage of the Shortlands Christmas lights. We also subsidised a party at the Shortlands Tavern by £100 to thank officers, road reps and regular members. The accounts were audited by Alan Williams and our thanks go to him for taking on the role of auditor.

This is an extract from our constitution which can be viewed in full on our website

Objectives of the Society

“Preserve the best and improve the rest”.

To preserve and improve the environment in the Area defined below and when appropriate the wider area and to work for the benefit of the membership and the community as a whole.

The Area is defined as the approximate area bounded by:

West Downs Hill and Ravensbourne Avenue
South Beckenham Lane
East Highland, Oaklands and Coniston Roads
North Ashgrove Road to Ravensbourne Station and Crab Hill

In furtherance of the said objects but not otherwise the Society may:

- a) Monitor issues to do with planning, traffic, the environment, amenities and other items of interest to the Members, and coordinate and organise appropriate responses.
- b) Initiate or support such actions that the Society believes would improve the environment of the Area and support the community therein.
- c) Where appropriate work with other like-minded organisations and individuals.
- d) Act as a non-political pressure group.
- e) Raise funds and invite and receive contributions from any person or persons whatsoever by way of donation, and otherwise; provided that the Society shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds for its primary purposes.
- f) Do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the attainment of the said purposes.

Membership of the Society and Subscriptions

- a) Anyone resident in the Area and over 18 is eligible to be a Member.
- b) A Register of Members shall be maintained in a manner which shows the name, address and, where provided, email address, phone number and other details of such Members.
- c) One full membership subscription shall cover all residents over 18 at the same address.
- d) The subscription year runs from 1st July to 30th June and the amount of the subscription is set at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) each year. The subscription has remained at £5 for a number of years.

If you live in our area please join us!

You can do so online via our website or by using the form on Page 8.

History of the Society

In 2012 our previous newsletter editor, Leslie Tucker, one of the founder members of the society, produced an illustrated 25-year review of the activities of the society and the history of our area. It makes very interesting reading. A copy can be downloaded from our website by members by following the link to the DOWNLOAD area and scrolling to the bottom of the page.



Community Projects 2017—2018

Tree Friends Activities

The RVPS tree friends perform two important roles: the first is to monitor planning applications relating to removal of trees in our area and, where relevant, submit objections to the appropriate council; the second and more pleasurable is to carry out projects that enhance the beauty of our streets and green areas.

Examples of the second include:

- * Working with Bromley Council and providing funding to plant new street trees in Farnaby Road, Downs Hill, Crab Hill and Warren Avenue. Further streets are expected to follow;
- * Planting annuals in the tree pits in Farnaby Road, Crab Hill and Madeira Avenue and encouraging residents to water them;
- * Clearing and tidying the triangle at the junction of Downs Hill and Ravensbourne Avenue;
- * Clearing brambles and weeds in Crab Hill opposite Ravensbourne Station.

Volunteers to help with such activities are always welcome. Please contact our Tree Officer (see Page 8) if you wish to help.

We have observed that not all residents know how to fill the watering bags around new trees and are simply pouring the water down the middle of the bag, whereby it comes out immediately at the bottom, rather than into the bag. Opposite are two photos - one shows the wrong way to do it and the other shows the correct way.

In addition, each street has a nominated tree friend who has been trained by Bromley Council's Arboricultural expert to perform tree pit maintenance including weeding and basal pruning of unwanted shoots. Relevant equipment was provided by the council.

Downs Hill



Farnaby Road



Refreshment for tree pit planters provided by Judy Adcock



Wrong !



Right !



Crime Update

Provided by our newly appointed Crime Officer, Cliff Trivett

After becoming aware of 3 burglaries and a car theft within walking distance of my house this year, I decided to try to find out if crime is a problem in the area. Met Police crime figures place both Lewisham and Bromley below the London average. There are no specific figures for the RVPS area but the area has no crime hotspots. According to the police, burglary is predominantly a teenage crime. Most burglaries occur during the day. Access is usually gained by an open or unlocked door or window. Houses with working alarms are rarely targeted. Advice from the police is that installing an alarm will greatly reduce the risk of being burgled. Don't leave the house with doors and windows unlocked.

There is a reluctance to report minor crimes as they are unlikely to be given police time. Unfortunately, if minor crimes are not reported, they will not officially exist and police and local authority resources will not be provided. If you suffer minor crime please report it and insist on a crime number.

Planning Issues

Monitoring and, where it is felt appropriate, objecting to planning applications in our area is a core activity of our society officers. In the past year we have strongly influenced the rejection of a number of unwelcome proposals and we continue to monitor others that are awaiting decision by the relevant council's planning department. A sample is shown below and a more complete and up-to-date list can be viewed on our website along with links to the relevant page on the council website.

Some successfully blocked applications:

- * Imposition of stricter conditions relating to the construction at **81 Ravensbourne Ave**;
- * Construction of a building at **Ambleside** (rear of 13 Calmont Road) to provide a children's nursery;
- * Construction of five terrace houses behind **8 and 10 Highland Road**;
- * Construction of three 2-bedroom dwellings at **6 Oaklands Road**.

Some proposals awaiting decision:

- * Demolition of "**Trees**", **Coniston Road**, and erection of five 3-storey dwellings with associated parking, landscaping, cycle and refuse storage;
- * Erection of a pool/gym and three outbuildings in the rear garden of **46 Ravensbourne Avenue**;
- * Demolition of **50 Ashgrove Road** and construction of two 2-bedroom maisonettes and two 4-bedroom houses.

Goan Field

Residents living opposite the "Goan Field" between Ravensbourne Avenue and Warren Avenue have observed activity by people who seem to be planning some developments on the land. The contractor, who was responsible for erecting the fences last year and for maintaining the land, said he thought the plan was to introduce some tennis courts, a football pitch, clubhouse, and 'maybe some luxury flats'. As the land is designated Metropolitan Open Land with a high level of protection and is part of the designated 'Catford and Lewisham Flood Prevention Scheme' it seems unlikely any building would be allowed.

Local Amenities

Millwall FC Training Ground

For some time we have been very unhappy about the state of the pavement outside Millwall FC Training Ground in Calmont Road, Bromley BR1 4BY. It is partly caused by vegetation coming out of the ground and trapping debris. Millwall FC has refused to do anything about it unless the council got involved.

We are pleased to say that Lewisham Council are now taking action (thanks to Councillor André Bourne). Hopefully we will see improvement soon.

Here are some pictures, including dangerous trees. There is a video of the mess on our website.



Flood Worries in Warren Avenue

Stones often get washed down Elstree Hill and Hillside Road into Warren Avenue and Calmont Road.

Residents were concerned that the stones entering roadside gullies would block up the main sewers and cause flooding which was a particular concern for those living below road level. We asked Thames Water to take a look and impressively, they did so within 3 hours - we are pleased to advise that the surface water sewer was completely clear.



Bromley Developments

Although the following two potential developments in central Bromley are outside our area they would affect you either visually or in terms of amenities. Comments about the Churchill Quarter plans were submitted by RVPS. The consultation period relating to “Site 10 Masterplan” ends on 14th September should you wish to comment.

Churchill Quarter

This proposal is for the Demolition of 1-40 Ethelbert Close, 2 Ethelbert Road, 102-108 High Street and miscellaneous buildings to the north of Ethelbert Close, and the redevelopment of the site (max height 17 levels) to provide a mixed use scheme comprising 410 residential units with a mix of Use Class A1, A2, A3, B1, D1, D2 uses at ground floor (part). New vehicular access from Ethelbert Road. Associated basement car and cycle parking. Car parking, access and servicing arrangements at Churchill Way. Public realm works including Library Gardens and ancillary development

For full details go to the Planning section of Bromley Council website (www.bromley.gov.uk) and search for application ref: 18/02181/FULL1

Site 10 Masterplan Consultation

The site was identified as “Opportunity Site G” in the Area Action Plan, adopted in 2010, and is being updated and amended in the Draft Local Plan as “Site 10”. The masterplan will guide the location, mix and amount of development that will be expected on the site and will be a material consideration for planning applications.

Views are sought on the content of the masterplan including the location, mix and amount of development on the different parts of the site over the next 10 to 15 years.

On our website, you will find a link to a page whence you can download the masterplan document and the masterplan questionnaire.

Beckenham Place Park

Planning Update

There have been minor amendments to the design of the lake due to the discovery of contamination in the area where it is sited. There is likely to be a delay in the construction.

There have also been further planning applications, mainly small amendments, relating to the outbuildings and various landscaping points.

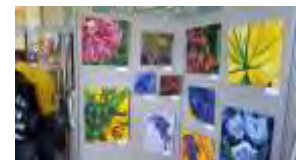
Details of these updates, with links to the council webpages, can be found on our website.

The application by Lewisham Council licensing team for a Premises Licence by Greenscene for events of up to 5000 people in the park was granted in June. In reply to a request we made during the consultation period, listing conditions RVPS felt should be imposed, we have just been told that “the application was granted on 12.6.18 as there was [sic] no objections”. We believe the Friends of Beckenham Place Park did indeed submit a formal objection so we are quite unhappy and have asked Lewisham Council for clarification and for a list of conditions that were imposed on the licence holder.

Events

There have been some successful events in the park with more to follow. A list of upcoming events can be found on Lewisham Council’s website (with some difficulty) by doing a search on “local parks” and following links to Beckenham Place Park, then events. Also at the following webpage: <https://www.beckenhamplace.org/events/>

Below are some photos taken at the recent flower, art and dog show.



Miscellaneous Items

Coping With Sight Loss

A local charity, Bromley District Talking News, provides, to those who are visually impaired, a weekly audio newspaper with local news and events information. The newspaper is recorded on a memory stick which plugs into a player about the size of a portable radio. The player is provided free of charge and the memory sticks are distributed free by Royal Mail. If you know of someone who might benefit from this service please contact the charity by phone (020 8290 0085) or email (bdtinternet.com)

Bromley History

There are a number of videos on YouTube showing different aspects of Bromley's history.

This one is a good starting point:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KMSiHxDINM>

You can find many more from that starting point by entering "Bromley History" in the search box above the video.

Box Tree Caterpillar (*Cydalima perspectalis*)

A resident in Downs Hill reports finding the box moth caterpillar in a box hedge in the front garden. If you have box hedges and don't know about this pest do look it up. The caterpillars can destroy an entire hedge in a few days. There is good advice on the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) website. One product that seems to be working for the resident in question is "Topbuxus XenTari" available from Amazon along with related products.

Roads and Traffic

Bromley Council have responded to our concerns about the parking scheme in Crab Hill and the inadequate space for turning out of Downs Hill into Foxgrove Road. The details are on our website in the "Roads" section. We have also suggested there should be a pedestrian crossing near Ravensbourne station.

Following frequent representations to the council about the difficulty of turning right out of Ravensbourne Avenue into Beckenham Lane we have been told by one of our councillors that a major review of the junction will take place "soon". Apparently a number of possible changes are up for discussion.

Our councillors are pressing for the bridge on Westgate Road to be widened so as to avoid further instances of "road rage".

If you are concerned about speeding vehicles please elect to join the community speed watch scheme. You will be provided hi-viz clothing and speed monitoring equipment so as to report violations. For details contact our Roads and Traffic officer Markku Syvaniemi or, via Bromley Council's website, Councillor Kate Lymer.

Japanese Knotweed in Beckenham Place Park

The patch of weed to the left of the pedestrian railway bridge is still in evidence but looking exceedingly sorry for itself, whether due to the recent hot weather or a chemical attack from the Lewisham Authorities is not known. The weed is edible with a taste reminiscent of a lemony rhubarb, so you could try eating any you find !

RVPS Memorial Tree Safe

The tree planted in 2006 in honour of our founding member Paul Bennett is, fortunately, just outside the BPP lake construction area !



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 6th September 2018;

Thursday 1st November 2018;

Thursday 3rd January 2019.

CONTACTS

Officers

Chairman	Clive Lees	chairman.rvps@outlook.com
Vice Chairman	Beatrice Osborn	vicechairman.rvps@outlook.com
Secretary	Judy Adcock	secretary.rvps@outlook.com
Treasurer	Dave Wiltshire	treasurer.rvps@outlook.com
Auditor	Alan Williams	
Planning Officer	Paul Osborne	planning.rvps@outlook.com
Membership Secretary	Linda Muller	membership.rvps@outlook.com
Newsletter Editor	Euan McMaster	editor.rvps@outlook.com
Webmaster	David England	webmaster.rvps@outlook.com
Roads and Traffic	Markku Syvaniemi	rt.rvps@outlook.com
Tree Warden	Monica Wiltshire	trees.rvps@outlook.com
LBBR Delegate	Judy Adcock	secretary.rvps@outlook.com
BPP Rep	Liz Logan	bpp.rvps@outlook.com
Hon. Legal Advisor	Richard Thomas	
Crime Monitor	Cliff Trivett	crime.rvps@outlook.com

Road Representatives

Bromley Ave / Grasmere Rd	Val Crowdy	
Bracken Hill Lane and Close / Highland Road	Linda Muller	
Coniston Road / Ullswater and Hawkshead Closes	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 / Spencer Roads	David Page	
Ravensbourne Ave. (Evens)	Monica Wiltshire	
Ravensbourne Ave. (Odds)	Sharon Miles	
Ravensmead Road	Peter Saunders	
Warren Avenue	Clive Lees	
Calmont & Ashgrove Roads / Belgravia Gardens	Rita Smith	

If you wish to contact your representative please contact the Secretary by email or post your letter to:
RVPS
38 Warren Avenue
Bromley
BR1 4BS

Join us! Either online via our website or use the form below and send it, with subscription, to:

Linda Muller, 48 Bracken Hill Lane, Bromley BR1 4AJ

Our subscription fee is £5pa or, for pensioners, an affordable donation.

Name:	_____
Address:	_____ _____ _____
Email	_____
RVPS may hold and process my data solely for the purposes of running the Society in accordance with Data Protection regulations.	