

August, 2019  
Issue 3/2019



## Editor's Comments

This is the annual edition of the newsletter of Ravensbourne Valley Residents, RVR.

It is delivered by hand to all residents in our defined area by road representatives who volunteer their time and effort.

Starting in 2020, there will be four newsletters per year; the winter, spring and autumn issues will be delivered by email or by hand to members who do not have email capability or prefer a hard copy.

I hope you enjoy this edition.

### Our website is [www.rvpsbromley.org](http://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.

During 2019, by a vote at our Annual General Meeting (AGM), we decided to change the name of our society to Ravensbourne Valley Residents. At a subsequent members' meeting we voted to adopt a new strap line, viz: "Preserve the best and improve the rest". This phrase comes from the constitution of the society, which was formed in 1995, and it describes the main objective of the society, then and now. You can download the original constitution and a recent, slightly amended, version from our website. If you are not yet a member, you can request a copy from your road rep., whose name is listed later, or from our chairman.

Members are welcome to attend any of our bi-monthly meetings which are held on the first Thursday of every other month at 8pm at Bromley Court Hotel. Dates of forthcoming meetings are shown on page 8.

Frequent attendees are invited each year to join the society officers at a summer drinks party held, usually in August, at Shortlands Tavern.

Please do join our society and add your efforts to help in preserving and improving our environment as well as making new friends and contacts. There are instructions how to do so on the last page of the newsletter.



Officers, road reps and active members at the annual party at Shortlands Tavern on 10th August

## Chairman's Remarks

Our change of name to Ravensbourne Valley Residents earlier this year has resulted in a few other changes: -

A revised logo – seen at the top of this newsletter

The new format for e-mail addresses for example [chairman.rvr@outlook.com](mailto:chairman.rvr@outlook.com)

For the time being the name of the website will remain [www.rvpsbromley.org](http://www.rvpsbromley.org) although in the longer term we plan to change this too.

We have also begun updating our website: - modernised, uncluttered and more attractive and we hope you like the result. An update was badly overdue as the style of the website had not changed since we first created it over 10 years ago.

### Climate Change

At the end of July, our Bromley Councillor, Will Harmer, proposed a council motion that the council should become net carbon neutral by 2029 which was passed unanimously. We understand that the 2029 deadline is the second most demanding target in London. We are hopeful that Bromley Council will shortly provide support, education and encouragement to help all residents to reduce their carbon footprint – but in the meantime, the easiest way to do this is to reduce the number of flights taken and to eat less red meat.

This initiative of Bromley Council follows that of Lewisham Council in February of this year which passed a motion to become carbon neutral by 2030.

### Air pollution

Thank you to everyone who has helped to improve our air quality by taking steps to reduce particulates and polluting gases.

### Greener & Cleaner Bromley (& Beyond)

Greener & Cleaner Bromley (& Beyond) is a new and very active Facebook group run by one of our members, Parisa Danvers. Do look at the group pages for a variety of events and many ideas on living a more eco-friendly lifestyle. The picture shows a recent event held at Beckenham Place Park Mansion to help schools, pupils and their families reduce their environmental impact and carbon footprint.



### Thanks to our Councillors

On your behalf, I would like to offer a vote of thanks for the support provided to us by our Bromley Councillors and by Cllr André Bourne.

## Treasurer's Report for year ending 31st December 2018

A full copy of the accounts is available on our website or by application to our chairman.

There was an overall surplus for the year of £1270 and the General Reserve was thereby increased to £12440.

### On the receipts side:

Subscriptions received for the year of £2366 are very much in line with those received in 2017;

Interest from National Savings and Investment Account was reduced to £38.00 for the year and was automatically added to that account.

### On the expenditure side:

There has been a minor decrease in expenditure as compared to 2017;

RVR still has a £3000 liability for phase 2 of the tree project;

RVR made a total of £128 Community Project payments towards the cost of plants for Elstree Hill, compost for planting tree pits, and daffodil bulbs for Downs Hill and Ravensbourne Avenue 'Triangle';

Gifts totalling £76 were made to Leslie Tucker and Beatrice Osborn in recognition of services to RVR and to St Dunstan's College musicians for their performance at the AGM.

£3000 was transferred from the National Savings and Investment Account to our Santander bank account to pay the outstanding tree project payment.

£600 has been transferred from petty cash to Santander bank account.

The 2018 accounts have been audited and passed by Mr Alan Williams.

At £12440, the General Reserve remains in a very healthy state, noting we do have a liability to the London Borough of Bromley. I therefore recommend that the present level of subscriptions, at £5 per household, be maintained, with senior citizens and members in special financial circumstances subscribing as they feel appropriate.

## Roads and Transport

### Speeding

Many residents have great concerns about speeding cars driving through residential streets in great numbers. Markku Syväniemi, our Roads and Transport Officer, joined The Metropolitan Police Road Watch last summer in order to understand the bigger picture of this problem and how to solve it. Amongst other things, Road Watch includes speed checking cars every week somewhere in LBB area, with over 100 roads on the target list. Ravensbourne Avenue, Farnaby Road and Crab Hill have now been added to the list.

### High Trucks and HGVs

LBB is aware of the inadequate signage and routing of HGVs and trucks around Shortlands Station. These vehicles should be diverted away from Beckenham Lane to the A21 London Road in order to go to Beckenham via Downham. Clear signage is required, and this should be in place this summer.

### Shortlands Station

The future plans for reducing congestion and improvements for pedestrians and cyclists at the Shortlands Station junction are now being finalised. Information can be found at:

<https://share.sustrans.org.uk/share/Handlers/AnonymousDownload.ashx?folder=6060d431>

### Ravensbourne Area Traffic Concerns

The growing safety concerns of residents provides an opportunity to remove rat running, promote safe speeds and plan good quality cycling and walking routes for local trips to the station and Beckenham Place Park. Transport has a key role in this neighbourhood, delivering a successful, sustainable and safe environment. We developed a number of proposals to improve parking and other transport issues in the vicinity of Ravensbourne Station and delivered them to LBB for their consideration. Some improvements have already been made and there are others to follow. The picture shows the implementation of one of our traffic improvement suggestions, namely removal of a parking space to allow large vehicles to turn from Foxgrove Road into Downs Hill. Other double yellow lines have also been extended all around the junction.



## Community Projects 2019

### Recycling box nets project

At our regular bi-monthly meeting in July we decided to roll-out a community project to reduce street litter on refuse collection day by promoting the use of recycling box nets.

Initially we will be offering 2 nets per household (if wanted) to all households in Farnaby Road, Warren Avenue, Madeira Avenue and Ravensbourne Avenue with the intention of including all Bromley households in our area in due course. Lewisham has different recycling arrangements but if you could use a net anyway, please contact us.



In the meantime:

- If you live on a road other than those mentioned above and would like 2 FREE nets from RVR please speak to your road rep and we will order more; road reps please contact Monica Wiltshire at [trees.rvr@outlook.com](mailto:trees.rvr@outlook.com);
- If you want more than 2 nets (many people have 2 green boxes and 2 black boxes thus needing 4 nets) they can be bought from libraries at £1.20 each;
- To obtain more boxes, to reduce the use of plastic sacks, FREE boxes can be ordered from the council;
- Bromley - <https://www.bromley.gov.uk/RequestContainers>;
- Lewisham - <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/wasterecycle/your-bins/order-a-bin>;
- This will reduce litter and reduce plastic waste too!

When using the nets, please follow the instructions attached to them being certain to tie the nets securely to your recycling boxes; they are robust and withstand the boxes being stacked and thrown around. Enjoy knowing that you are making a difference to reduce litter in our streets!

### Tree Friends Activities

#### Street Trees

Monica and Clive met with Hugh Chapman, the new Arboricultural Manager in Bromley Council on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019 to hand over the final payment of £3,000 for the two community tree projects run by RVR and the London Borough of Bromley (LBB) in 2014/15 and 2015/16. The result of the project is 46 new street trees in Farnaby Road, Ravensbourne Avenue, Warren Avenue and Downs Hill. We look forward to continuing our good relationship with the Tree Team and the RVR Tree Friends acting as the 'eyes on the street' reporting tree problems and issues. Hugh mentioned that the new contractors, Glendale, who started in April this year are keen to engage with residents' associations.

#### Tree Friends' Activities

RVR Tree Friends met three times during the year, as a group, to plant 24 tree pits in Farnaby Road, Coniston Road and Madeira Avenue and carry out further tidying and planting daffodils in the 'triangle' area on the corner of Downs Hill and Ravensbourne Avenue. We planted a few feature tree pits and have initiated an "Adopt a Tree Pit" scheme. We have begun the feature tree pits with two in Crab Hill and one in Farnaby Road, tidied the tree pits in Farnaby Road, Warren Avenue and Madeira Avenue, and carried out a mailshot of the scheme guidelines to all residents in these roads. It is hoped that these ideas will spread across the RVR area.



One of the feature tree pits



The tidied and planted up "triangle" in spring

## Beckenham Place Park and Mansion

### Planning Update

Most of the applied for developments relating to the park are now complete, or nearly so.

They include:

- excavation, landscaping and filling of the lake;
- refurbishment of the Stable Block and Gardener's Cottage and establishment of a new café;
- alterations to and refurbishment of Southend Lodge and the Gatehouse;
- demolition of the old toilet structures;
- relocation and extension of car park;
- extensive landscape works including: re-contouring of land; re-surfacing of existing paths; provision of new paths, play and gym equipment, boardwalks, lighting and signage; tree removal and new planting.

For the Mansion, revised applications have been submitted to allow minor remedial works to bring the services and fabric of the building back into safe operational use and to retrospectively permit the temporary change of use from Use Class D2 to mixed uses including artist studios, yoga/fitness centre, private hire space, business uses and use of two first floor units as residential accommodation for caretakers together with the retention of the existing visitor information centre and café.

For details of new planning applications and progress of already agreed ones, please visit our website, here:

<http://www.RVPSbromley.org/beckenham-place-park.php>



The dog show

### 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 webpages:

<http://www.beckenhamplacepark.co.uk/>  
<https://www.beckenhamplace.org/>  
<http://beckenhamplaceparkfriends.org.uk/>

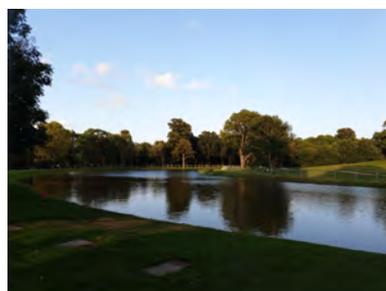
Two events of note in the past year have been the flower and dog show and the "Naked City" festival.

Both these events were deemed a great success by the majority of those polled, although there was some concern about the volume of the music from the latter.

Also popular have been the Peckish Place Park family-friendly events, running from 4 pm -10 pm every Thursday in summer, featuring workshops inside alongside food, drinks and fun outdoors.

The refurbished park was officially re-launched on Saturday 20th July and included public access for swimming in the new lake. Unfortunately, a child got into difficulty and had to be rescued and access to the lake was suspended until 23rd August. It is now open again with specific conditions:

[https://lewisham.gov.uk/lake?utm\\_source=London%20Borough%20of%20Lewisham&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=10809330\\_Beckenham%20Place%20Park%20lake%20reopened&utm\\_content=ButtonLakeEntry&dm\\_i=402,6FOJ6,OXJOHC,PI606,1](https://lewisham.gov.uk/lake?utm_source=London%20Borough%20of%20Lewisham&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=10809330_Beckenham%20Place%20Park%20lake%20reopened&utm_content=ButtonLakeEntry&dm_i=402,6FOJ6,OXJOHC,PI606,1)



The recently re-opened lake

## Planning Issues

The primary objective of the society at its creation was to “Preserve the best and improve the rest”. A major part of the implementation of this objective, then and now, is the monitoring of planning applications in our catchment area and, where deemed appropriate, the lodging of objections thereto. Our website has a list of these applications and their status but we do not hear of every single one so if you know of one that you do not see listed please email our planning officer (planning.rvr@outlook.com) and he will investigate.

### Some applications blocked or modified:

- Flat 39 20 Blyth Road
- 13 Calmont Road (Ambleside)
- 2 Ullswater Road
- 94 Ravensbourne Avenue
- 5 Madeira Avenue
- 87 Beckenham Lane
- 48 Farnaby Road
- The Chalet, Kirkstone Way

### Some proposals awaiting decision:

- “Trees”, Coniston Road
- 17 Ullswater Close
- 27 Downs Hill
- We are aware of speculative interest in the Goan Ground (see artist’s impressions below). At the time of writing no application has been made to Lewisham Council. We hope that the Metropolitan Open Land Status of the site will provide a high hurdle to development.



### Goan Field / Footpath

The latest information on this is that an officer of Lewisham Council has recently made contact with a representative of the company that now owns the field. They have said they didn't realise there was a public right of way across the field and so far seem willing to address the issue.

You may have noticed that the gates at the Ravensbourne Avenue end of the path are now open. Currently the owners have staff on leave but when these return in a couple of weeks they will make contact again with a view to removing the fence panels that block the Calmont Road end of the path and clear some of the vegetation that is now also blocking the path there.

## Miscellaneous Items

### David Bowie's festival bandstand gets Grade II listing

Fifty years after a young David Bowie performed from a south London bandstand in front of a tiny crowd at a summer festival he organised, the historic iron structure that served as his modest stage has been Grade II-listed.



Croydon Road recreation ground



Bowie performing in 1969

### Bromley resident charged £8,000 for minor garden work



A vulnerable resident being charged thousands of pounds for minor work has prompted a warning to remind people to ignore flyers offering tree services.

Be warned: there have been a "spate of recent incidents" in Bromley.

### Bromley Council appoints new chief executive

Ade Adetosoye is Bromley Council's new chief executive. He has been appointed to guide Bromley Council through a period of financial uncertainty and "transformation".



It comes as officers said the council is moving into a "challenging period" that requires stable leadership.

The council is preparing a "Transforming Bromley" strategy, which is partly to combat a £30m budget gap that takes the council up to 2023.

The council said the project is "crucial for the future operational and financial stability" of council services in light of upcoming government cuts.

### Bromley council to consider fining drivers with idling engines in new crackdown

In a bid to improve air quality, which is high on the council's agenda, councillors are to discuss fining drivers who flout warnings to shut their engines off. A new report, to be debated at a meeting on Wednesday, August 28, explains that the authority will hire two new enforcement officers as part of the crackdown.

Officers said in a new report: "These two council enforcement officers would be involved in both educating drivers parked with their engines running and in issuing PCNs/FPNs to any driver who ignores the education, ignores a warning issued and lets their engine run." They will focus on improving air quality in areas around schools and children's clubs.



# 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 5th September 2019;

Thursday 7th November 2019;

Thursday 2nd January 2020.

## CONTACTS

### Officers

Chairman	Clive Lees	chairman.rvr@outlook.com
Vice Chairman	Beatrice Osborn	vicechairman.rvr@outlook.com
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Treasurer	Dave Wiltshire	treasurer.rvr@outlook.com
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Tree Warden	Monica Wiltshire	trees.rvr@outlook.com
LBBR Delegate	Judy Adcock	secretary.rvr@outlook.com
BPP Rep	Liz Logan	bpp.rvr@outlook.com
Hon. Legal Advisor	Richard Thomas	

### Road Representatives

Bracken Hill Lane and Close / Highland Road  
Bromley Ave / Grasmere Rd  
Calmont & Ashgrove Roads / Belgravia Gardens  
Coniston Road / Ullswater and Hawkshead Closes  
Downs Hill / Crab Hill  
Elstree Hill / Erin Close / Hillbrow Road  
Farnaby Road (1-81)  
Farnaby Road (82-194)  
Madeira Avenue  
Oaklands / Spencer Roads  
Ravensbourne Ave. (Evens)  
Ravensbourne Ave. (Odds)  
Ravensmead Road  
Warren Avenue

Linda Müller  
Quinton Schönknecht  
Rita Smith  
Sandra West  
Wendy Watmore  
Mick Pinson  
Anna Koffer  
Kay Shaw  
Judy Adcock  
David Page  
Monica Wiltshire  
Sharon Miles  
Peter Saunders  
Clive Lees

If you wish to contact your representative  
please contact the Secretary by email  
or post your letter to:  
RVR  
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 Müller, 48 Bracken Hill Lane, Bromley BR1 4AJ

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

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