

BVRA newsheet

from the Banstead Village Residents' Association

Vol: 28 No. 2 - May 2012

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Executive Committee extends to all Members of the Association a warm invitation to the 65th Annual General Meeting to be held at:

**The Church Institute, High Street, Banstead
on Wednesday 16th May, at 8.00 pm**

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome by Chairman**
- 2. Minutes of the 64th Annual General Meeting will not be read, but a summary will be available at the meeting**
- 3. Presentation by Dr. Claire Fuller of the Longcroft Clinic, Banstead**
- 4. Chairman's Report**
- 5. Presentation of audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2012 - printed on the back page of this NewsSheet**
- 6. Election of Officers, Executive Committee and Auditor for the year 2012/13**
- 7. Welcome to our local councillors, followed by open forum debate**
- 8. Any other business**

Please bring this invitation with you to the meeting

BANSTEAD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Chairman's introduction

It is AGM time again and you will receive this NewsSheet from your Road Steward about two weeks before the AGM, which is as usual in the All Saints' Church Institute, at 8pm on Wednesday 16th May. Our speaker will be Dr Claire Fuller of the Longcroft Clinic who has recently taken over as Chair of the Medlinc Commissioning Locality; this is the group of several GP practices to which the Longcroft surgery now belongs. It is a tribute to the importance in all our lives of the NHS that this has become a major issue as we now face an entirely new structure for commissioning of clinical services, in place of the PCTs, following the government's recent bill. Do come and learn about these NHS reforms; they might directly affect the treatment of your health and we need a good audience while Dr Fuller will welcome the chance to hear your views.

You may not be surprised to learn that the replacement of the High Street lamp posts with new ones has again been delayed. We are now waiting to hear whether the work will begin in May. If it does not, there will be no time to order and fit the new festive lights before the Diamond Jubilee. This is disappointing as we have both found a quote to reduce the cost and collected enough money to pay for them. The money has come from three main sources – from traders, from your councillors and from the balance of the Millenium 'Let there be Light' funds (raised originally by Pam Goldsack's team) – we are grateful to all three sponsors. At least we should be able to install new lights by Christmas!

Other familiar issues trickle along slowly. The Borough Council is now consulting on their revised Core Strategy. In parallel we have begun a dialogue with them about the possibility of creating a Neighbourhood Forum for Banstead. They held a useful Seminar and we now have to make an urgent decision what actions need to be taken. While there is no Core Strategy in place and no Neighbourhood Plan for the Village we are somewhat vulnerable, in principle, to developers taking advantage of the government's new Planning Policy with its presumption in favour of permission. However, given a timescale of at least two years to define, apply for permission, set up and hold a referendum on the creation of a Neighbourhood Forum before a Neighbourhood Plan can be created, we cannot expect to resolve this before the R&BBC finalise their Core Strategy. Remember that BVRA is NOT in itself a Neighbourhood Forum and we would need a champion prepared to devote substantial time to creating one. There is even a question whether we need one at all, given that any Neighbourhood Plan has to be a plan for growth, not a nimby charter, and it is difficult to see where growth can be placed in Banstead Village. Can we leave R&BBC to deal with planning for our village where all developed areas are entirely surrounded by Green Belt?

I would hope to discuss this at some length at the AGM (if you are not all exhausted by the NHS issues!) if only to learn if you believe that we can leave the Council to protect our interests in planning matters. I hope to see as many of you as possible there.

Roger Collins, Chairman

Tel: 01737 358384

Banstead High Street

Our thanks should go to Surrey County Council and their highway contractors for the transformation that has been made to Banstead High Street. Slaloms around the pot holes are a thing of the past, all the road markings are clear from the yellow lines to the well-marked parking zones and spaces for the blue badge holders - barring the lack of "right turn" markings at Waitrose.

The pavements are another matter. Walking along them one is aware of the metal inspection hatches and pot holes and can avoid them - not to mention the linked puddles when it rains. Manoeuvring a wheel chair or push chair is another matter. In some places

the pavements are cambered in two directions making it positively dangerous to try and push a wheel chair. Crossing at the designated spots is another hazard. Too often the only way over is to actually pull a reversed wheel chair from road to pavement as the kerbs are too high. This is not only a fault in Banstead High Street - some of our largest and most modern local hospitals have the same problem. Then you try and get into the shops. Only a handful of shops are user friendly with automatic doors or a touch pad to open the doors for you. Modern heavy plate glass and door sills make it very difficult for a wheel chair user to get into a shop. Those pushing wheel chairs are also hampered by having to reverse into a plate glass door

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and hope they have the strength to get it open sufficiently to get themselves and buggy in without the door closing against the side of the pushchair with the potential of injury to the child. Perhaps with the London Olympics not too far off shopkeepers could take a look at their entrances and support the Paralympics by making it easy for all customers to gain access, not just the able-bodied. We hear constantly on radio and television of the Olympic Legacy for London. What about our own Olympic Legacy for Banstead – make all pavements truly navigable and all shops easily accessible?

Catalina Vassallo-Bonner

01737 357882

Diamond Jubilee

After discussing in committee how to acknowledge the Queen's Diamond Jubilee this year, we decided to place a new bench near the bus stop outside Waitrose. There used to be a bench for passengers to use while waiting for the bus before the Fire. We are clarifying the need (or hopefully lack of need) for planning permission and we have permission from Waitrose provided we do not impede the fire exits. Should permission from the council not be forthcoming, we will have a spare bench, as in view of the timescale, we have already bought it. Any views from residents as to where to put it in that case will be welcome!

We have also made a small contribution to the hog roast and fireworks that the Scouts are planning for the Lady Neville over the Jubilee weekend. We hope to see many residents there that evening. Street parties may be held by particular streets but as far as we know, the traders have not made any specific arrangements for the High Street, other than the on-going project to attach new festive lights to the new lamp posts.

As an update to the item in the Introduction to this NewsSheet above, the latest news is that Surrey CC's contractor will begin work on installing the new posts in the second or third week of May. That leaves just enough time to purchase and install the new lights. We believe that they have now been ordered from the suppliers since sufficient funds have been amassed. We would like to thank all those who contributed – traders, both Surrey and Banstead Village ward councillors, the Baptist Church and individuals.

Roger Collins

01737 358384

Longcroft Clinic

Quite apart from the new commissioning arrangements, we would draw your attention to the recent initiative by the Longcroft to set up a Patient Reference Group. This will provide a channel for patients to put their views to the practice and vice-versa; we as BVRA have representation on the group. The practice has run a survey of patients to establish their priority concerns and has analysed the key issues, such as parking, weekend cover and appointment booking. The response rate from patients was very good and the results are interesting – you can find these on the Longcroft website. They will assist the surgery to improve its facilities and arrangements. The Reference Group will keep contact with the Clinic about progress on their dialogue with patients.

One more small item of news. A large supplier of pharmacy facilities recently put in an application to the Surrey Primary Care Trust to operate a pharmacy out of the Longcroft Clinic. This ignores the total absence of spare space within the surgery, the disastrous impact on parking (already a problem) and the likelihood that it would force at least one and probably two of our existing pharmacies in the village to close, the PCT has approved the application; this is apparently because the PCT has no discretion to turn down an application made correctly within the terms of the current legislation. We have assurances from the Longcroft that they will not permit the pharmacy to be placed in their premises. It is a prime example of the difficulties of planning in the health services, and asks the question why people's time was wasted in a consultation exercise that apparently could have no bearing on the result - and on a proposal not supported by the practice. Let us hope that the switch from PCTs to GP Practice Groups creates better practice.

Roger Collins

01737 358384

NHS: Epsom and St Helier Hospitals - the story continues

The last edition of our NewsSheet stated that we wouldn't know until late February or early March whether or not the proposed demerger of Epsom to Ashford St Peter's and St Helier to St George's had been successful.

Since then it has emerged that St George's has

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withdrawn its bid. It gave as its reasons that the level of financial challenge facing hospitals in south west London, combined with the inability to pre-empt the outcome of a public consultation around the Better Services Better Value review mean that this not the right time to progress with the transaction. However, the Trust wants to continue to build on the existing links, the clinical and academic networks already in existence between the hospitals and to establish new networks across services to the benefit of patients.

The Epsom-St Helier Trust will continue to look for other options for the hospital which it hopes will be explored in more detail by July. The Trust added that its focus now was to find a new solution for St Helier and working with the doctors, nurses and other staff to examine the different options to find the best way forward for patients, local people and staff.

The Transaction Board continues to work on the merger between Epsom and Ashford St Peter's Hospitals and hopes that NHS approval will be given for the merger to take place.

Following the retreat by St George's from the demerger process Ashford St Peter's issued a press release saying that subject to approval by the Transaction Board, Epsom and St Helier Trust, the local health authorities and their own board they intend to continue to work towards a merger between themselves and Epsom. As a Foundation Trust they feel they are in a strong position to pursue these plans and work with new and innovative partners - the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, Central Surrey Health and Surrey and Sussex Healthcare Trust, to create an integrated healthcare campus at Epsom Hospital bringing additional services and added benefit to local patients and staff. This is all the more straightforward as Epsom is not part of the Better Services Better Value review.

In the meantime Epsom-St Helier has unveiled an £8.9m refurbishment plan for its hospitals. It says that the development plan covers improvements to wards, clinics and patient areas as well as upgrades behind the scenes. The improvements will be paid for from the trust's own funds. The money will pay for nearly 100 refurbishment projects and new pieces of equipment across its sites and projects will include:

a new nursery for the children of hospital staff at St

Helier - £1.6m.

a computer systems upgrade including improvements to storing and monitoring medical records £800,000.

new imaging equipment and improvement of X-ray rooms £700,000.

new bathroom, shower and toilet facilities for patients £725,000.

Catalina Vassallo-Bonner

(01737) 357882

Infrastructure

The High Street has been resurfaced along with parts of Bolters Lane, The Horseshoe is tip top, and at the time of writing the perpetual pond outside Victoria Chemist looks like being consigned to the history books. If it carries on like this there will nothing to moan about. Well no chance of that

Here goes.

On the main roads there have been all too many lengthy road works. Sandersfield Road and surrounds look like an archaeological excavation. They do take their time. I note the following as being in urgent need of major repair –

- 1 Pound Road. Truly awful for a busy road
- 2 Grange Meadow. The patches are being patched thrice over
- 3 South Drive. Apologies here. The "repairs" were actually as a result of the water board. Done very poorly and have had to be done again, which leaves the rest of the road falling apart
- 4 Avenue Road. Very bad – for a busy road.

Not far behind:

De Burgh Park. Getting worse

Garden Close, and the first 50 yds of both Oakley Gardens and Wellesford Close.

If you think I have missed one, go and see Pound Road first!

Also noted is the overall poor state of Woodmansterne Lane.

All the recent rain may be very welcome to gardeners up to a point, and who knows might soon

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make the water Co happy. However it does expose the long term total neglect of nearly all the gullies on the main roads.

For instance, and I reported the situation in the last issue, on Bolters Lane on the west side between the bus stop half way down and the mini roundabout, and then on the roundabout in Winkworth Road there are 10 gullies. On the morning of April 21st none were capable of taking any water either being totally blocked by visible debris or having water over the grill. This results in water ponding across Winkworth Road and then flowing down the north side to the only functioning gully out side No 5. If this gully ceases to function for any reason, houses may well flood. The situation in Sutton Lane is much the same with water ponding across the road on the Downs being a major hazard to the unwary.

On the subject of ponds, the new one adjacent to the Longcroft Clinic will be reported to Surrey CC .

Finally, there is the issue of our so far abortive attempts to get the growing muddy patch outside Tesco attended to. It is a blot on the High Street if not the whole of Banstead. It is, we believe, owned by the landlord of the shops, so not the shop keepers and not the Council. The landlord does not respond so does not care. I would appreciate suggestions as to how to progress this matter. The local Council has declined to take over the land.

David Gradidge

01737 353981

Planning

Core Strategy: as mentioned earlier the council has consulted on its latest alterations (following previous consultations) and this long drawn out process is slowly moving to the point where it will(probably in the autumn) go to a form of inquiry. Planning decisions are in effect currently guided by government policy (the newly revealed national planning policy framework (NPPF) and this emerging document. It will not be the control document until the inspector has given his decision and the council have finally adopted the Strategy. The government assumes that neighbourhood fora will be set up to produce finer tuned policies for local areas, but frankly, unless you live in an area where a town or parish council already exists, there is so much work in setting up a forum that neighbourhood plans could still be a few years away.

Hence the earlier question as to whether we should rely on the council's plans solely or support the creation of a neighbourhood forum for Banstead.

Preston Master Plan: the council has just approved this plan for consultation. You may recall that this is the proposal to develop part of the open space area at Preston to pay for the new swimming and sports centre (to which the council is contractually committed). We shall be looking at this with interest and commenting shortly.

Mike Sawyer

01737 355454

Road stewards and membership

Without road stewards, BVRA could not function. During any year there will be retirements, so there is a continual need to find new volunteers. Very often the task is made easy by the retiree finding their successor. However in some roads it has been a problem and it is then that membership could start to suffer.

Being a road steward is not that onerous but does require a measure of dedication. Briefly the job is to deliver newsheets 3 times a year and to collect the subscription in good time. I have collected in a wide variety of roads and I have never had what I would call abuse. The most frequent problem is finding anyone in to answer the door bell. A few say no and some say they haven't got any money but in the great majority of cases existing members are only too happy to pay the £2. Getting new members is also not that difficult.

The vacancies at present are –

Grange Meadow – 20 members

Flint Close/Barnfield – 14 members

Holly Lane West – 12 members

I would also like to find someone to take on parts of Lambert Road from me where I have about 20 members.

So, why not give it a go – you meet some very nice people.

In passing, there are a considerable number of roads and private developments where we have zero members. Access to some properties can be difficult. I list a few below where we would like to recruit:

Gale Crescent, Pound Road, Garton Bank, Horsecroft Meadow, Holmewood House, Croydon Lane (west), The Oval (part).

David Gradidge

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BANSTEAD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED 31ST MARCH 2012

	2011/2012	2010/2011
	£	£
INCOME		
Subscriptions & Donations	3914	3871
Sundry Income	0	0
Interest received	2	2
	3916	3873
EXPENDITURE		
Production of News Sheets	1571	1472
Subscriptions	64	67
Printing, postage & stationery	688	177
Hire of rooms	305	286
Planning Application - Notice Board	-170	170
Sundry expenses	147	80
Donation to Banstead Guides	250	
Donation to Banstead History Society	200	
Donation to Lady Neville Fund	500	
Excess of Income over Expenditure	861	1121
	3916	3873

NOTICE BOARD FUND	
Balance 1st April 2011	2500
Less Cost of Notice Board and Installation	2240
Transfer to "Festive Lights Fund"	260

FESTIVE LIGHTS FUND	
Surrey County Council	740
Waitrose	446
Banstead Baptist Church	300
Surplus from Notice Board Fund	260
	1746
Less Printing Costs	341
Balance 31st March 2012	1405

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2012

	31/03/2012	31/01/2011
	£	£
NET ASSETS		
Treasurer's account - Lloyds TSB	6288	6612
Deposit account - Lloyds TSB	3900	3900
Debtors net of Creditors	-4	-94
	10184	10418

REPRESENTED BY

General Fund as at 1st April 2011	7918	6797
Add Surplus for the period	861	1121
	8779	7918
Festive Lights Fund	1405	
Notice Board Fund		2500
	10184	10418

J D G Gradidge
 16 The Maples
 Banstead
 Hon Treasurer