

BVRA newssheet

from the Banstead Village Residents' Association

Volume 31 - January 2015

www.bansteadbvra.org.uk

Chairman's Introduction

This NewsSheet should reach you a little earlier in January than usual as we need to get ahead of ourselves, since we will be holding our AGM on Tuesday 12th May. This is the only date in May when the Church Institute hall is available to us and since it is two weeks early we need to get our May NewsSheet out in April, if you follow the logic. Please make a note of the date as we need a good attendance.

We are beginning a period of consultation with the Reigate & Banstead Borough Council's planning department as they prepare their development plans. In particular, we shall provide our views on Green Belt and Urban Open Land, in terms of the priorities for protecting specific locations. Some areas are more important than others and some are more vulnerable than the rest of these nominally inviolable areas. Also, the Council's Core Strategy requires the Council to secure at least 2,500 square metres of further retail redevelopment in the village. We would like to see such development optimised for both commercial and amenity uses of the residents. This, and further detailed land use related reviews will take up much of our time – but it is at the core of our rationale for existing. Anyone with strong views on, for instance, the possibility of releasing a part of our Urban Open Land areas should contact us – you will note that we are not expecting any development of the limited Green Belt areas around the village, which we should automatically resist.

There are few contentious planning applications in the pipeline, although we believe the cemetery application may be resubmitted. We shall respond appropriately as and when it does – with no need for any action until and if it reappears. Mike Sawyer, as usual, has prepared a review of these issues, both specific and in general terms, later in this NewsSheet.

You will have seen that we were able to turn on the Christmas lights in the trees of the High Street, as well as the banners on the lamp posts. Funding this will be difficult but can be done, helped by the £249 we received from the Waitrose green token scheme. For the future, Councillor Eddie Humphreys has found a way of raising sufficient funds to cover next year's costs by allowing the pavement space in front of Boots to be used by an advertising agency for one day a month over the next six months; we shall then review whether it causes any difficulties for shoppers before we repeat the experiment. We are also looking at ways to replace some of the (very!) old strings of lights in the trees on a phased programme.

I hope that you all enjoyed Christmas and will have a successful New Year in 2015

Roger Collins

01737 358384

SURREY TRANSPORT STRATEGY – draft document

BVRA were asked to comment on a joint draft document created by Surrey CC and Reigate & Banstead BC setting out the transport strategy for our borough which has a strategy for just about

every mode of transport from pedestrians up to access to Gatwick Airport.

We looked at this both from a parochial view point and an overall perspective.

Firstly how accurate was it on detail?

as possible and please be aware and report any suspicious activity in your area. If you would like advice on improving your security please contact the crime prevention officer, Mark Howells through the Safer Neighbourhood Team or via me at BVRA.

To improve the chances of being reunited with your property in the unfortunate event it is stolen and recovered, the police advise marking valuable items with a forensic property marking product and, although we appreciate that not everyone has access to the internet, you may also wish to use the Immobilise website <https://www.immobilise.com/>.

In order to tackle anti-social behaviour the Safer Neighbourhood Team are working closely with the Joint Enforcement Team, mentioned in the last newsheet. Together they aim to target problem areas and take the appropriate action. A success was reported at the December Police Beat Panel Meeting; a local resident had made the Safer Neighbourhood Team aware of anti-social behaviour, including drug use, on private woodland in Banstead. As a result the offenders were dealt with and made to restore the area by clearing up the damage and litter caused. The area continues to be monitored. If you are aware of *any* anti-social behaviour please report it on the 101 number, unless it is an emergency when you should call 999.

Shoplifting – a number of shoplifters arrested back in Sept/Oct 2014 have pleaded guilty in court and been banned from Banstead. The Safer Neighbourhood Team continues to work with retailers to reduce this problem.

Fly tipping – although there was a decrease in reports of fly-tipping in the last quarter of 2014 the police continue to work with the Joint Enforcement Team to eradicate this issue. Please remain vigilant and if you see any vehicle fly-tipping please record the registration number & report it to police.

Volunteers are still actively being sought for

Community Speed Watch. If you can spare a few hours, then please contact your local Neighbourhood Policing Team for more information. Without sufficient numbers of people participating these schemes are not even getting started.

Remember; *call 101 for any non-emergency Police matters and always 999 for emergencies and crimes in progress.*

Sally Hull

01737 370050

PLANNING

1. Core Strategy:

As mentioned earlier, we are looking at a number of matters that will go to create various elements of the Development Management Policies, the detailed policies now being prepared by the council. We are now looking at possible designation of Residential Areas of Special Character; the review of Urban Open Land, Green Belt and the Banstead Village Centre boundaries.

We would welcome any comments or suggestions from our members to assist our process.

We have already responded to the consultation on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which is a charge to be made on some types of planning consents. This will set the level of financial contributions required from new development to deliver infrastructure across the Borough. The council has to decide on the range of chargeable applications and the method of calculating the various charges. It is expected that it will be adopted early 2016. A small proportion of these charges is due to be allocated for specific local needs, and we will be watching carefully how this is implemented.

2. Local applications:

St Anne's R. C. Primary school: the revised proposal for an all weather pitch no longer included the more intensive community use which removes our main objection, and has now been approved by the council

1 Sutton Lane: a series of applications have been made for the redevelopment of this site for flats initially, now for a successively reducing number of houses. We remain concerned about the scale and height of the proposals on this prominent spot, but welcome the reduction in scale from 5 to 3 units (so far).

Trees: only those (non-urgent) works to trees that are covered by Tree Preservation Orders need planning permission, but mature trees are an important feature of our neighbourhood. There has been a worrying increase in the number of applications over time, and while some proposals for pruning are obviously necessary, the number of applications for felling is worrying as comparable replacement planting is normally impractical.

Mike Sawyer

01737 355454

THE LONGCROFT CLINICS TALKS FOR PATIENTS

A talk on pre-diabetes was given at the United Reform Church in Woodmansterne Lane on 4 December 2014. This was an important event, imparting medical knowledge in lay peoples' terminology and encouraging questions from the floor. The main discussion was about prevention. Currently there are over 7 million people worldwide, rising daily, who have diabetes. Within the Longcroft Clinic alone 4.4% of the 12,000 patients are affected.

It is vital that the possibility of the pre-condition is diagnosed as the patient can take charge of their own health and it is possible to reduce the risks of it developing further. The Longcroft Clinic doctors now have a HbA1c test that is available free of charge to patients in the age group 40-75. This is a fasting blood test and can be arranged for a Saturday morning.

So, who is most at risk? If you are overweight, have a BMI of over 30 (less for some of certain ethnicities), a waist circumference of 31.5" (women), 37" (male) and 35" for some of ethnic origin. The tape measure test is the easiest to

ascertain. Family history is also relevant, your age, or if you have severe mental health problems. The Longcroft Clinic will discuss testing you if you fall into these categories. In most cases if you take control of your lifestyle you can reduce your chance of developing diabetes by 60%. These measures can be quite simple and can be individually tailored to your lifestyle, eg increasing your walking, swimming, gardening, taking a healthy packed lunch to work instead of buying calorific sandwiches, standing more than sitting, not eating late at night when you cannot burn the calories. There are also free apps which will monitor your calories, sugar, salt etc which may be helpful for keeping you on track.

In diabetes the pancreas does not secrete enough insulin and the raised blood sugar damages the nerves and other areas. This can cause a higher risk of stroke and many other problems. There is considerable help now for people who have the illness. The Longcroft will have a dedicated diabetes nurse from January 2015, there will be on-line access so that patients can look at their blood tests – pre-arranged for security – and there is a new diabetes group for those diagnosed: Contact Brian Atkinson, 01372 723767, surreydownsuk@gmail.com

Mike Harris, the Chair of the Patients Participation Group (PPG) invited younger patients to join the group so that there is a wider age participation. Our thanks go to Dr Simon Johnson who led the talk; a patient who has diabetes who explained how he was diagnosed and the help that is given; Mr Jared Green a consultant podiatrist from North Downs Hospital who discussed foot care and the risks if this is not taken, and also to Dr Imran Rafi who organizes the talks with Dr Johnson.

If any patient would like to suggest topics for future talks please contact Mike Harris through the Longcroft Clinic at PPG.longcroftclinic@NHS.net.

Faith Moody

(01737) 360917

INFRASTRUCTURE

The repair work promised for Woodmansterne Lane remains outstanding. No doubt there are arguments going on between Surrey CC and the contractor, but we understand Spring 2015 is the date.

North Acre has been resurfaced having been slowly turning into rubble over many years.

Glenfield Rd and Sandersfield Rd are scheduled for 2015. Did you know you live in D1068 – not even a C road?

In Sutton Lane, I have been trying without any luck for well over a year to get the 2 chevron signs replaced on the corner of Grange Gardens. The posts are there, but the signs were stolen. In December 3 vehicles went off the road within a few days of each other, one demolishing the salt container. The resident on the corner there is getting a little tired of having to repair his fencing.

Banstead High Street and surrounding roads are cluttered up with redundant metal posts. It is hoped that BVRA can pay a contractor to remove much of this.

David Gradidge

01737 353981

WINKWORTH ROAD

The misuse and abuse of the (access only) service roads on Winkworth Road by non-residents has recently been raised again. As a result it *may* be appropriate to reopen the discussions we have had previously about potential solutions/modifications. This matter has been an on-going concern for a long time and, despite dialogue with Surrey County Council in the past, a workable remedy acceptable to all parties has not been found to date.

If you have any specific views or suggestions on the matter, or are directly affected, please contact me so that BVRA can consider your input in any further discussions with the council.

Sally Hull

01737 370050

AIRPORTS CONSULTATION

If you are interested in the future of Gatwick airport, you can still share your views on proposals for increased runway capacity at Gatwick or Heathrow airports.

The Airports Commission is seeking views on the three options for a runway in the south east following the publication of an assessment of proposals for additional runway capacity at Gatwick and Heathrow airports. The consultation presents the Airports Commission's analysis of the proposals shortlisted last year: two proposals for expansion at Heathrow Airport and one for Gatwick Airport.

The commission would like to hear the views of members of the public on its detailed consideration of each proposal. This includes factors such as cost, noise, property loss and construction, economic benefits and environmental impacts.

Respondents are invited to give their view on the strengths and weaknesses of each short-listed option as well as commission's review of the underlying evidence and analysis.

The deadline for the consultation is Tuesday 3 February.

To take part and to find out more information, visit the [consultations page](#) on the government's [gov.uk](#) website.

David Gradidge

01737 353981

STATION CAR PARKING.

This item was triggered by BVRA's response to the Transport Strategy document mentioned above and concerns about travelling to London following the closure of the multi-storey car park near Sutton station. I thought I would look at all the local stations to see what their parking arrangements were – well everyone should have a hobby.

The area covered was all those as close as or closer than Sutton station. I thought at first that

would be 5 or 6 within 3 miles of the High Street. You may think so but it is 12 including Sutton. How many villages have that many within 3 miles?

Here they are with my comments:

Tattenham Corner: this is a rebuilt newish station having once been much larger in the days when great crowds came to the races. 62 spaces, but you pay;

Tadworth: old station entrance closed, 15 dedicated spaces, with some close by on street parking;

Kingswood: old station entrance has limited opening times. 53 spaces but you pay £5.20 a day, £721 per year;

Chipstead: old station entrance closed. Quite a bit of nearby parking – say 30, but competition with commercial operators;

Woodmansterne: nil parking, so pot luck with close by parking.

All the above stations have 2 platforms.

Epsom Downs: another new station (1989). 21 free spaces plus on street if you want to annoy the new housing estate owners. The station is about 600 yds down Bunbury Avenue off Longdown Lane South – badly sign posted;

Banstead: 4 or 5 miserable spaces and nothing on street close by. Station entrance uninviting to say the least;

Belmont: zero – all sold off for housing and commercial. Difficult in nearby roads.

All the above stations have a single platform.

Ewell East: 20 marked spaces, but again competition from commercial activity. Nothing on street close by;

Cheam: 110 pay spaces accessed from Upper Mulgrave Rd. Nothing on Cheam Village side. Car park scruffy;

Carshalton Beeches: Nothing dedicated, so again pot luck in nearby streets;

Sutton: following the closure of the multi-storey car park, only about 100 spaces at £5.80 a day. (Couldn't count spaces as emergency helicopter parked at far end!)

Historic note. The railway to Epsom Downs was built purely to serve race days and especially The

Derby. The station originally had 9 platforms when it opened in 1865 and needed to accommodate the Royal Train. The station was then much closer to the race course. Tattenham Corner station opened in 1901 and put Epsom Downs station into serious decline being right on the race course (and better for royalty as well)

David Gradidge

01737 353981

CAR PARK CHARGES

From 2nd February 2014 the charges at the central car park, High Street, Banstead, rise slightly, although you need a magnifying glass to read the advance warning!

Mike Sawyer

01737 355454

FOOD BANK

The Five Churches opened a Food Bank operating out of the Church Institute in November. It was open once a week, on Thursdays, over the Christmas period and is manned by volunteers. Those seeking help from the Food Bank need to present an authorisation form issued by recognised organisations such as the CAB and Age Concern. This initiative required a contribution of £1,200 to the Tressel Trust for the start-up and volunteer training costs; Councillor Ken Gulati contributed £350 to this initiative out of his Surrey County Council allocation for the Village, and BVRA gave £150 from our own funds; the balance was found by the Churches. The need for a Food Bank in Banstead Village (there is already one operating on Merland Rise) will be reviewed after the Christmas period to see whether there is a longer term need for it in the village.

Roger Collins

01737 358384

BANSTEAD RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

The music programmes to March will be:

February 5th: Roger Collins, *What Music?*

March 5th: Pauline Evans, *Life and Times of Hans von Bulow*

March 19th: Margaret Stevens, *Margaret Entertains*

BANSTEAD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

April 2nd : Chris Wicks, *The Radio Times Archive*
April 16th : Ian Bailey, *Louis Spohr & Joachim Raff*
May 7th : Paul Whittle, *All on the Decca Label*

We meet in the Library (enter by the back door) starting at 7.45 and finishing by 10 pm. Note that the May 7th evening is part of the Banstead Arts Festival when we meet in the United Reform Church and not in the Library.

Everyone is welcome to attend - £3 per evening for non-members.

Roger Collins

01737 358384

BANSTEAD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY (BHS)

BHS is proud to have been encouraging local gardeners for over 80 years and is currently streamlining its services, building a website and trying to modernise by building on longstanding traditions and values.

For more information contact the Programme Secretary:

0208 657 8600

POPPY APPEAL 2014

The Banstead branch of the Royal British Legion, through the work of many active helpers, raised more than £25,000 for this appeal last year. Grateful thanks to all those who donated money or time to achieve this. We hope to build on this for next year, so would be very grateful for any more volunteers (you won't have to stand outside for long periods, or go door-to-door, it's mostly a matter of distribution!).

Ron Phillips

01737 351327

E-MAIL DATABASE

The Executive Committee has been considering whether there is a need to build a database of members' e-mail addresses. This would not replace the current communication through our Road Stewards who distribute the four-monthly NewsSheet and collect our

subscriptions, but run parallel with it. There are significant issues associated with building and maintaining such a database, not least the data protection and public liability aspects, and considerable effort required both to build it in the first place and thereafter keep it up to date. Its purpose would be to provide a channel for communicating urgent matters to a wide readership, for which the NewsSheet is not always appropriate. We post such issues on our Website but this is not a proactive route and informs only those who do contact the website. It is an issue we shall debate internally and may then put to the AGM in May but those who feel strongly about it should let us know their views before then.

Roger Collins

01737 358384

ROAD STEWARDS

At the time of writing, 63% of the subscriptions have been collected and returned. This is about normal, but as you well know it can get a trifle difficult door to door now.

I have one vacancy at the moment at The Well House. Vacancies occur all the time so if you are in volunteering frame of mind let me know.

Please let me know if for any reason you cannot deliver your newssheets within a couple of weeks. This will be especially important with the May issue where the schedule will be quite tight ahead of the AGM.

On a lighter note, here is a sample of the latest excuses –

- I can't find anyone who speaks English

- It is against my religion

- *I paraphrase this one* – no one speaks to them since they built their extension.

David Gradidge

01737 353981