

BVRA newsheet

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from the **Banstead Village Residents' Association**

[Www.bansteadbvra.org.uk](http://www.bansteadbvra.org.uk)

Chairman's Introduction

This NewsSheet goes out at a time of year when many subscriptions are collected by our hard-working Road Stewards, so we shall try to make it as interesting as possible, to make our residents feel that the £2 a year subscription is worth it. It is, however, a quiet time. Some of our key issues – the core strategy, general planning applications and Village Centre matters are all taking a breather.

There was no response, as far as I know, to my question in the May NewsSheet on whether the change to Care Commissioning run by GP practices instead of by the now defunct Primary Care Trusts, has made any difference to patients' perception of the quality of service they receive from the NHS. Do let us know if you have views. Meanwhile, our own GPs are arranging interesting talks about health issues and we would urge you to attend – see Catalina's article below for details.

As flagged up last time, the Core Strategy has now been adopted by Reigate & Banstead Borough Council. Their officers are now hard at work preparing Development Plans which will give the Core Strategy its substance and a blueprint for our future in planning terms. This is very good news as it will give us a much better handle on what future development proposals are suitable for the village. Mike Sawyer, as usual, has prepared a review of what specific planning proposals are in the table currently and how we view them.

We have the usual issue at this time of year, whether to install the Christmas lights in the All Saints Church orchard and other trees. The funds we have been eking out for some years, helped by injections of cash from the Waitrose green token scheme, have now completely run out. We have funds of our own that we can use, but is it a priority use? We can, as an alternative, spend the funds on replacing dead and dying trees and improving the street furniture, which are activities that Surrey County Council no longer carry out. We shall be discussing these alternative uses for funds at our next meeting(s). Again, if you do have strong views how we might improve the village environment, please let us know.

To close on a happy note, we welcomed John and Marion Hayns to our August Committee Meeting and we are pleased to say that they will be joining us as committee members. May I wish all readers a happy Christmas and successful New Year, as our next Newsletter will not go out until January 2015.

Roger Collins

01737 358384

CHANGES at Reigate & Banstead Borough Council

After the May elections for local borough councillors the Leader of R&BBC, Mrs Joan Spiers, resigned from this post. Cllr Vic Broad was elected as the new Leader and he has in turn appointed his new Cabinet. To remind residents, when the central government changed the rules for local councils, Reigate and Banstead opted not to have a directly elected Mayor but chose to adopt the system whereby the full council elects a Leader, who then appoints a Cabinet from the duly elected councillors to direct council policy and operations. The appointed Leader serves a full term and cannot be dismissed by the Council for that term (other than for malpractice).

The new Cabinet is (Banstead Village Councillors are shown in bold):

Vic Broad	Leader
Allen Kay	Deputy Leader, Parks & Recycling
Graham Knight	Finance
Eddie Humphreys	Economy & Jobs
Natalie Bramhall	Property & Regeneration
Tony Schofield	Planning & Development
James Durrant	Licensing & Enforcement
Ros Mill	Leisure & Wellbeing
Lynne Hack	Health & Ageing Well
Rita Renton	Housing & Welfare

We wish the Leader and Cabinet well in their demanding job. We also take this opportunity to thank Cllr Joan Spiers for all her work on our behalf over many years.

Roger Collins

01737 358384

LONGCROFT CLINIC

To remind readers, the Longcroft Clinic runs a Patient Participation Group (PPG) to provide a two-way link between its 12,000 patients and the surgery. The PPG meets with GPs from the surgery roughly every two months.

The Longcroft Clinic talk on June 26th at the URC was an interesting and informative presentation on the proposed 'Care Data' initiative which will start to be implemented regionally in the autumn. The turnout was unfortunately small as patients need to be aware of the implications of this project.

The NHS proposes to put patient data on a central computer in anonymous form - that is without name and address to identify the patient. There is a determination to move slowly in order to get this database right. It will provide useful information for identifying trends of disease, efficacy of treatment and the beneficial and/or damaging effects of certain drugs for particular conditions. The Longcroft Clinic already does this with its own patient data by checking patient records on a quarterly basis for those with a predisposition to certain conditions and to assist in carrying out preventative measures immediately rather waiting for problems to arise.

Work should have been started earlier in the year but the lack of clarity on the intentions and extent of the initiative delayed its launch.

A decision was taken by those involved in the data-gathering process to start with the 'End of Life' processes. This aims to join up data from all sources for use by GP practice and care services in order to avoid gaps between the various agencies involved in the care of those who need it.

Future talks are planned and will be publicised in advance on our website and around the village with a view to enlarging attendance of Banstead patients.

The next talk is planned to be on Diabetes, around the middle of October - the date will be publicised once it is finalised. This talk will be open to all residents who are on the Longcroft's list and we would love there to be a good attendance. If you wish to keep in touch with the surgery about this, or indeed other matters of concern to patients, their email address is: longcroftclinic@nhs.net

The surgery would appreciate advance notice of how many might attend, and would like you to record your intention to do so.

Catalina Vassallo-Bonner

(01737) 357882

PLANNING

1. Development Management Policies

As Roger Collins mentioned in his introduction the council has now adopted the Core Strategy, which puts us in a stronger position than some other local councils in resisting unwanted development in, for example, the green belt. The council's planners are now drafting the finer details. These cover important areas such as future review of green belt and urban open land, retail and business developments in the Village centre, residential areas of special character and many others. We intend to contribute to this process, but would welcome any views our members may have. Details of the process can be found on the R & B council website.

2. St Anne's R. C. Primary school

The school made a planning application for the creation of a multi-use, hard-surfaced, playing area on the last remaining green area on their site. Although the main use would be by the school, the intention was to make it available to other users out of school hours. Whilst we would normally welcome improved sporting facilities for wider community use - in the right location and circumstances - there were too many problems associated with this proposal and we, along with a number of the school's immediate neighbours, objected. The application was withdrawn, but we were told that a revised proposal will be shown at a public meeting in the near future.

3. Fire station

Despite our concerns about the High Street location SCC has granted itself a temporary planning consent for the creation of a new fire station in part of the police station site. We still believe this to be an unsuitable location, but recognise the need for improved fire cover in this part of the borough. It must be hoped that the search for a satisfactory long term solution will not be delayed, and that the terms of operation will place emphasis on the need to minimise noise and disruption in the High Street and surrounding roads.

And finally, although we have not had any further contact, it is expected that a revised application will be made for a cemetery in Croydon Lane. If this or any other significant applications arise, we will try to put our considered views on display on our website.

Mike Sawyer

(01737) 355454

BVRA WEBSITE

This is, perhaps, a good time to remind you of the BVRA website. This has been running for almost a year. Details such as local events, activities, road closures, and local planning issues can be found here.

Advertise Your Local Club!

If you have a non-profit local club, society, event or activity which you would like us to advertise as a one-off or regularly, please contact us at web@bansteadbvra.org.uk

Archive

This is nearing completion and has a complete set of NewsSheets for BVRA from 1985 and AGM minutes from 1947. For local historians, and indeed anyone who may be interested in the development of the village over the past 60 years, this is a valuable source of material.

Richard Moody

(01737) 360917

POLICE UPDATE

Inspector Andy Rundle has joined the Banstead Policing Team and came along to a BVRA Committee meeting to introduce himself and give an update on current local police priorities and activities. He reminded the meeting that despite the crimes that we regularly report, we do live in a low crime area and overall crime is reducing. Nevertheless there are some tips below on how to help reduce this further.

Since our last update, Police Sergeant James Green from the Tandridge area has also joined the Banstead team. He has previous experience and success as a Neighbourhood Officer and a Sergeant. And finally, PC Christine Turton, a Neighbourhood Specialist Officer, has joined PC Lambert-Singer and PCSO Laura Green in patrolling the Banstead, Nork and Woodmansterne areas.

The Joint Enforcement Team is now in action. A combined team of police and Reigate & Banstead Borough Council officers is working closely together to provide a quicker, more visible and more robust response to those causing persistent nuisance. Although in its early stages, initial feedback has been positive. The Team will use shared legal powers to more effectively deal with problems and improve the public's sense of safety. Typical areas of public concern which can be dealt with include anti-social behaviour, fly posting and graffiti, fly tipping and litter, highway obstruction and untaxed vehicles to name but a few. More information can be found on the Reigate & Banstead Borough Council website <https://www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk>.

An overview of local crime remains fairly constant, although many of you will be aware of the recent series of arson attacks which the Police have been urgently working on where a series of buildings locally were targeted by an arsonist and severely damaged. This included a number of sports or recreational buildings which are typically more vulnerable being set away from other buildings and the road. The police arrested several suspects and have now charged one man with these offences. However, they ask that the public remain vigilant to any suspicious activity around such facilities.

There is increasing cooperation between Sussex & Surrey police to reduce overheads by pooling resources, including sharing use of the helicopter.

The Banstead Police Team continues to work out of Police Station and with the arrival of the fire engine imminent this is expected to continue. By the time you read this the fire engine may even have arrived!

Please note that the Mobile Police Unit which used to attend weekly in the All Saints Church Car Park will no longer operate due to low attendance – perhaps a good indicator of low crime? Police community engagement continues in the form of Police Surgeries which take place at The Cooperative, Nork, as well as Woodmansterne Primary School, Woodmansterne and Waitrose, High Street, Banstead – dates are available on <http://www.surrey.police.uk/my-neighbourhood/reigate-banstead/rbno>.

Burglaries persist. However, there is a reduction in numbers compared to the same period last year. At the risk of being repetitive please remember to keep your home secure; by not leaving windows open in unoccupied rooms or whilst you are in the garden, by making sure doors and windows are locked when you are out and using a security chain on your door. You are probably aware from the local media that there have been several distraction burglaries targeting elderly or vulnerable householders. Always insist on callers showing identification and do not be pressured to let anyone in that you are not sure about. If you, or someone you know, would like to borrow a Police Surrey Police DVD about Distraction Burglary please

contact me direct or the Safer Neighbourhood Team at Banstead.

Again, theft from vehicles persists but typically because items of interest or temptation to thieves are left on display! Always hide or remove any items from show when leaving your car even for a short time and even if it is on your drive. Don't leave windows & sunroofs open, even slightly. And lastly, DO NOT leave your dog in a car. We are destined for some more warm weather apparently and a dog can die in under 20 minutes in a hot car, even with a window open. If found, the Police have the right to remove a dog by smashing a car window and to arrest the owner for neglect/cruelty.

There was an unusual outbreak of graffiti recently in the High Street and several local roads. Swift action was instigated to remove the graffiti and the Police were pursuing a line of enquiry on this matter.

Other local priorities for the Police are:

Anti-social behaviour. You are encouraged to use the 101 telephone number to report instances, except in an emergency when you should always dial 999 (this problem is occurring largely in parks and wooded areas); litter; drugs; and theft of vehicle registration plates (there have been several local incidents - if this happens to you, do report the theft - often the plates are stolen to use on a car involved in other criminal activity so it is important the Police are aware).

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. The Police have attended speeding hotspots in Nork Way, Woodmansterne Lane, Holly Lane and Bolters Lane. On the agenda but not yet attended due to commitments are Carshalton Road and Park Road.

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

Judging by recent Neighbourhood Watch initiatives from Mark Howells, the Reigate and Banstead crime reduction adviser, and PS Andy Grapas, community safety sergeant, it appears that this scheme is now receiving greater attention in terms of better information management and liaison with the community safety teams and neighbourhood teams.

Anyone interested in helping can contact PS A Grapas via www.surrey.police.uk, or Mark Howells at mark.howells@surrey.pnn.police.uk

Sally Hull

(01737) 370050

SURREY WASTE PLAN - residents' survey

This survey can be found on the SCC website by following the links on: <https://www.surreysays.co.uk>, which outlines how SCC currently arrange the service and outlines a new look at the plan to update it, with six key principles that they believe should be at the heart of the revised plan for dealing effectively with Surrey's waste:

1. Ensure Surrey's waste and recycling services meet residents' current and future needs.
2. Help all of the organisations involved in the reuse, recycling or disposal of waste to work together effectively.
3. Provide value for money for the Surrey taxpayer.
4. Benefit the environment, community and economy.
5. Think of waste and recycling as a resource rather than something that gets thrown away.
6. Develop services innovatively.

You may not have noticed the publicity for this survey, but it seems to be the only way in which residents can influence the decisions SCC intend to take, which could have consequences for rubbish collection services as well. Conceivably it could mean a change to the number and frequency of bin collections, if SCC's disposal methods change. Please take time to fill in the online survey, and remember we were told glass had to be colour separated, but is done automatically now, and fruit juice cartons had to go to landfill but are dealt with automatically now. What

other ways could there be for making the collection process easier for residents by automation at the depots? We don't know, but in view of the need to reduce landfill every opportunity should be encouraged; so tell SCC what you think! It is only open to 12th October.

Mike Sawyer (01737) 355454

INFRASTRUCTURE

In the last issue I listed what I considered to be the worst 8 roads, that is those in most need of attention. Well what has happened?

Fairlawn Grove. The worst pot holes have been patched, but a new batch is taking their place.

North Acre. The extensive stretches of loose top are still there. Not defined as potholes – yet

Oakley Gardens. Resurfaced

Glenfield Road. Scheduled for this financial year

Thornfield Road. Worst potholes attended to

Avenue Road. No real change

Woodmansterne Lane. Getting worse and subject to extensive correspondence. No date yet.

Holly Lane, which had much the same problems, has just been resurfaced again very recently

Croydon Lane South. The rubble area has been attended to, so much better but not perfect.

De Burgh Park, top of last year's list, has been resurfaced having had the many pot holes filled a few months earlier

This leaves a vacancy or two. A member has sent me one nomination!

The flooding problem near the Longcroft Clinic may well have been solved following followed some expensive remedial work.

David Gradidge (01737) 353981

BUS SERVICES

We are fortunate in Banstead Village, though lacking a convenient railway station, we have good bus services, and the neighbouring towns of

Croydon, Reigate, Redhill and Sutton, can all be reached directly by bus. One glaring gap is Epsom and our local hospital where the bus is only a one-an-hour service.

During the week S1 runs every 15 minutes to Mitcham from 7am to 9pm and every 20 minutes at other times and at weekends. It stops right outside ST.HELIER HOSPITAL

166 goes every 20 minutes to Croydon most of the day and to EPSOM HOSPITAL once an hour

420 goes at 10 minutes to the hour to Redhill, with alternate buses to EAST SURREY HOSPITAL

ST.GEORGE'S HOSPITAL is best reached by the 280 from Belmont.

Timetables are free at the Help Shop and they show all the school services. You can even go to Brighton any weekday on 773 at 9.30am in the High Street.

National Express now run route A3 from Victoria to Gatwick Airport picking up at Sutton Station, and Belmont and outside the old Council House on the A217 between Lyme Regis and Chipstead Roads, Banstead. This costs £8 and can be pre-booked online at www.national-express.com or by telephone: 08717818181, or from local post offices and Thomas Cook travel agents. The return bus stops at the corner of Tattenham Way and the A217. Fares to London for the one hour journey cost from £2.80. For Heathrow Central X23 runs every half-hour from Sutton Post Office, (Sutton Police Station on the homeward journey). The journey time varies between 1 hour10 minutes and 2 hours 10 minutes!

And welcome news - a new route, 477, now runs from Banstead High Street to GUILDFORD in just over an hour, albeit only Monday to Friday, and restricted to peak hours.

Shirley Conacher (01737) 351210

BANSTEAD DOWNS

Those who walk over the Downs (between Sutton Lane and the railway) will have seen the extensive clearance work carried out last Winter. Please let me have your comments on what happened. Butterflies

seem to have been in short supply in what has been nationally a good year.

David Gradidge (01737) 353981

COUNCIL TAX BANDS

In the Autumn issue last year I delved into the murky and very complicated world of Council Tax Bands. I will not detail it all again except to say that the 8 bands are based on 1991 valuations – that's right 23 years ago.

In 2013, 26 householders in Greenhayes Avenue found out that, with no warning, they had been moved from Band E to Band F – resulting in an additional annual bill of £400. The selection of properties seemed bizarre to say the least as some properties identical to those that had been re-banded were left as Band E.

There is an appeal procedure and 2 groups of householders got together to gather evidence. They did not represent all the properties involved. The procedure was difficult to say the least and it is safe to say that the Valuation Office in Wimbledon (Reigate & Banstead Council are not involved – they just administer the tax gathering process) put every possible obstacle in the way of the appellants.

They had to do their homework and gather evidence relating to property values in 1991 – no mean task, and then to prepare a case to put before a valuation tribunal. Well it never got to that although with one group it went down to the wire. The valuation office caved in and agreed that both groups were correct in their assertions. They would be moved back to Band E and also then get a refund on their Council Tax.

I have now looked at the Valuation Office web site that details the band of every UK property. The result was that of the 26 properties re-banded only 17 have reverted to their previous band. This leaves the other 10 still in Band F. (I know it doesn't add up but there is an odd one) It seems that if they were not a participant in the appeal process the Valuation

Office have regrettably decided to do nothing.

David Gradidge (01737) 353981

REMEMBRANCE AND THE POPPY

The iconic Poppy has been more in more evidence this year as part of the WW1 centenary and the recent Banstead Community Day organised by the Banstead branch of the Royal British Legion (BRBL).

The work of the RBL is particularly important now to help the many personnel being brought back from abroad. This year the Banstead Village Remembrance parade will be held on Sunday 9th November and we hope you will support our local branch as well as you have in previous years.

Our local Poppy appeal collections will run from 1st November and more volunteer collectors would be most welcome – if you wish to help please contact Pete Mitchell at on 07714 622 714 or email petemitchell2506@gmail.com.

The group's autumn meeting is at 7 for 7.30 pm on 10th October at the Day Centre in The Horseshoe, Banstead. Tim Richardson is our Speaker and the title of his talk is Front Line Surrey, World War 1. Tickets at the door - £4 with coffee / biscuits afterwards.

Ron Phillips (01737) 351327

AGE CONCERN BANSTEAD (ACB)

On Tuesday 30th September we are holding an afternoon session at The Church Institute, Banstead High St, to promote the services and activities available to the elderly in our area. There will be free tea and cake, and 2 free taster sessions of Craft, and a gentle exercise class.

We are hoping that if this is successful this year, we will try and make it a larger, day long event in future years, with more 'taster sessions', to coincide with 'International Older Persons Day' which is on 1st October each year.

More details can be found on the (ACB) website - see the link on the BVRA website.

Sally Pulsford (01737) 352156

U3A Talk

There will be a U3A talk on Tuesday 18th November at St Mark's Church Hall, Great Tattenhams, KT18 5RD. The speaker is Peter Thompson who will describe "A Miscarriage of Justice", from his own experience. He is an accomplished speaker who is always entertaining and the talk is open to non-members.

BANSTEAD HISTORY GROUP

A talk entitled "WW1 on the home front" will be given by the TV historian Kate Williams at 7.30 pm on Friday 10th October at the Community Hall, Park Road

Audrey Carty (01737)351747

BANSTEAD RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

The music programmes from now through to Christmas, on the first and third Thursdays each month, will be:

September 18th: Ian Bailey, Road to Bach

October 16th: Malcolm Ash, Haydn – The Truth

November 6th: Barbara Broughton, A Musical Journey through Life

November 20th: Richard Howard, Symphonic Cinema Music

December 4th: Sue Collins, The Isle is full of Noises
We meet in the Library (enter by the back door) starting at 7.45 and finishing by 10 pm. These are entertaining speakers who will provide a wide range of recorded music (mainly from CDs) and we are a friendly group. Everyone is welcome to attend - £3 per evening for non-members.

Roger Collins 01737 358384

ROAD STEWARDS

We are now coming up to the peak time for collecting subscriptions. I make my usual plea to do it early rather than risk the problems that might be caused by a hard (or wet) Winter.

I still have 2 vacancies –

1 - The Tracery. 23 members last year out of a potential 40. Relatively easy walking once you've negotiated the humps at the entrance off Park Rd.

2 - The Well House. 14 members out of a potential 50, so plenty of scope for the energetic. There are 16 flights of stairs however but I don't want to put you off!

If you are interested, please let me know. Vacancies come up all the time and there are many roads/flats where we have no coverage.

David Gradidge (01737) 353981