

May 2011

**West Beckenham Residents' Association**

# **The Review**

## **WBRA AGM**

will be held on

**THURSDAY 12th MAY 2011 at 8 pm at**

**Beckenham Library, Beckenham Road**

Nominations to the committee may be made at the meeting. If interested please contact the Chair in advance (see page 13)

Before the formal business we will have a talk on the subject of garden birds by ornithologist

**EDWARD MAYER**

Come and share a glass of wine and light refreshments after the meeting!

### **Editor's Introduction**

Welcome to the Spring edition of The Review.

Did any of you take part in the RSPB Big Bird Watch in February? The large back gardens of the Victorian houses that are common throughout our part of Beckenham provide valuable areas of green which benefit wild life of all kinds. We look forward to welcoming everyone at our AGM, when the speaker will be Edward Mayer, an ornithologist, who will talk about attracting birds to gardens (and what councils can do to help birds, for example in new developments). There will also be an opportunity for the members to raise any issues.

*Judith Niechcial*

## Kent House Station Approach

In the middle of last year Network Rail Maintenance department carried out extensive work at Kent House Station, renewing the platforms and installing improved drainage for rainfall from the platforms. In addition a new drain was made in the passenger tunnel underneath the platforms, with drains going from there through Station Approach to meet the main drain in King's Hall Road.

The grassed area on the King's Hall Road side of the station approach was fenced off with high metal fencing in order to keep all the machinery and materials needed for the project secure within. There were four crab apple trees on the grass, two of which were removed to make a clear area for storage. I was assured by the workmen that when the work was completed the two trees would be replaced and the grassy area re-instated.

Before this work was done, King's Hall Station approach had been a reasonably serviceable unmade road.

Now in recent months it has become uneven, particularly where the trench was dug; it floods with many muddy pools and the whole surface becomes a sea of mud whenever there is any rain, also one metal drain cover near the junction with King's Hall Road is dangerously lopsided and at an angle.



As regards the grassy area, on completion of the work last year it was re-turfed and a new brick surround put around the area, with the path through the middle replaced.

However the turf was left un-watered right through the summer, the two trees were not replaced and in addition on occasion visiting BR maintenance people park their vans on the grass area, creating bad furrows.

I contacted the Maintenance department of Network Rail. I complained about the vans parking on the grass and sent photographs of the present sad state of the station approach, also the furrows on the grass, and requested that the area should be properly restored to the state that existed before it was disrupted last year.

Recently Marie Pender and I have met with the project manager for the works. She maintained that most of the damage to the road surface is caused by the heavy vehicles going in and out of the rear of Alexandra School where building work is under way. The outcome is that Network Rail will communicate with the contractors at the school, with the hope that, when the school works are complete, the surface of Kent House Station Approach can be re-instated properly.

*Shirley Civil*

## Hospital Discharge process - Do you have a view?

WBRA have been asked by Bromley LINK (Local Involvement Network) to help with their current collation of the views of local people on their experiences of leaving hospital.

LINK has been set up by the Government to find out what local people think about their local health and social care services. They are an independent organisation, with statutory powers to make recommendations and suggest improvements to people who provide services.

At present the focus is on what is and what is not working well in the hospital discharge process. LINK will then produce a report based on the findings and they will work alongside local NHS bodies to

share good practice and resolve issues. WBRA will feed back to members the contents of the report.

WBRA has been speaking to local people on the topic and there does seem to be a problem in some areas with the administration of patient discharge. A number of people have reported being uncertain whether they had been "discharged" or not, with one patient being telephoned at home and asked to return as she should not have left.

If you have experience of hospital discharge that you wish to share please contact *Rosanna Cavallo* on [wbracommittee@yahoo.com](mailto:wbracommittee@yahoo.com).

### **Primetime at Beckenham Spa**

Active over 60s



After retiring just over a year ago I was slowly getting stuck in to all those jobs at home that had been piling up for years, but feeling a little lost after 35 years when I had never been away from work for more than three weeks at a time. I had done some exercise many years ago but never seemed to have time in recent years. So believe me, no-one is more amazed than me (except perhaps my husband!) to find that I am going down to Beckenham Spa four or five times a week for a wide variety of activities. This is a new kind of "buzz" for me – getting regular exercise and meeting lots of really nice new people.

"Primetime" is a programme of activities and events aimed primarily at the over 60s, though many younger people also

take part. There are designated Primetime classes, but for £4.55 for a day ticket, you can join in any that take place at Beckenham Spa between 9am and 4pm during the week and after 2pm on weekends.

The designated Primetime classes are designed with the older person in mind. However, if you think that means the activities are too soft – think again! While the tutors are mindful that many people just starting out, or re-starting, on exercise after many years without it, need to pace themselves to their own capabilities and strengths, they do encourage you to keep pushing against your own comfort zone boundaries. At varying speeds, most people attending these classes amaze themselves within a few months at what they can achieve.

So my week at Beckenham Spa usually includes Aquafit followed by a swim on Mondays (not a Primetime class, but open to everyone), Keep Fit on Tuesdays, Linedancing on Wednesdays (and sometime also Fridays in Bromley), and senior circuits on Thursdays. My favourite is the senior circuits, which is pretty much the same exercises and equipment as the circuits done by the twenty-something guys in lycra, but at your own pace. I hear there are plans to start a senior circuits class in the evenings because, of course, not all people over 60 are retired, especially our men folk. For some reason, men do not take up the opportunities as much as women, and I do not think this entirely explained by their current later retirement age. Circuits may particularly appeal to those who want to work out on their own or in pairs, without joining in a full class session to music.

Other popular classes at Beckenham include

- Body Balance (not a Primetime class), which combines yoga, Pilates and something called "feldenkrais" which is about breathing, concentration, flexibility and strength.

- Pilates and Yoga – some are designated Primetime, others aren't.
- Spin and Tone (on bikes and using weights – but not at the same time!).
- Chair based exercise, for those starting, or returning to, exercise or with mobility or balance difficulties.

The beginners' line dancing at Beckenham on Wednesday morning is extremely popular and oversubscribed at present. Be assured that there are no Stetsons, or checked shirts! And the most popular music is not country and western but Latin or modern.

Many people come along on their own at first, but quickly find that we are quite a friendly lot and soon feel at home. There is also a system of "Buddies", who are volunteers to help new participants. You can arrange for one to meet you on your first visit if you like.

There are Primetime and other suitable classes at all main Bromley centres, which include the Pavilion at Bromley, the West Wickham Leisure Centre and the Walnuts at Orpington, as well as Beckenham Spa. There are often short courses such as Tai Chi or even singing! And coffee mornings, theatre outings, lunches, dances and parties.

Costs vary as there are many different packages to encourage participation, but as well as the basic £4.55 for any number of courses on one day, you can get a "day membership" for £25 a month, or full membership for £36.50 a month or £250 a year for the over 60s, which includes activities at any of Bromley's centres for no extra charge.

So why not come along and try something? You can find the programme on the internet at

<http://www.bromleymytime.org.uk/spa-primetime-timetable.html>. Or pick up a leaflet at the Beckenham Spa.

*Marie Pender* (who is not in the pay of The Spa!)

## Proposed closure of public toilets -



WBRA has been campaigning against the proposed closure of the public toilets in Beckenham, at the junction of High Street and Kelsey Park Road, and the alternative 'Community toilet' scheme, whereby a few local businesses, Costa Coffee, Waitrose and the Odeon Cinema, allow people in to use their facilities. Other public toilets across in Borough, both on-street and in parks, are threatened.

Our member, Nick Goy, sent objections, pointing out that Councils historically evolved from parish councils and public health boards; they were established by communities to provide and maintain necessary services to growing urban populations – clean water, sanitation, roads, public education, parks etc. Public toilet provision in suburban and affluent Bromley is a basic, universal service and forms a tiny part of the Council's budget.

The Council's motto is 'Servire populo' – (We) serve the public. Bromley borough is the largest London Borough in physical area, has a resident population of around 300,000, a £200m+ budget with around £50m in reserves, yet it is proposed that it cannot maintain 28 public toilets (18 on street and 10 in parks).

With regard to the 'Community toilet' scheme, many of these toilets were already available as of right or semi-public use (eg. In the Central Library Gardens, the Civic Centre or in department stores. The report refers, for



instance to Costa coffee shop in Beckenham High Street. At the introduction of the scheme, some months ago, it was poorly advertised and provided an inadequate service. The council signpost actually pointed away from the premises and the shop 'community toilet' sticker was never placed prominently for passers-by. The business received a £1k fee without properly advertising the service. The toilets comprised two windowless cubicles (without fresh air or natural light) opening out into the eating area accessed by squeezing with shopping etc between tables, customers and the counter. One always felt access on sufferance (do you need to ask the staff permission? Do you just walk in and out? Are you obliged to spend money there?). As far as we are aware this café, despite the council report, left the scheme.

Also retail premises come and go, and have complete discretion to leave the scheme or gradually charge more, whereas public toilets are long-standing, well known and the Council controls the cost and availability.



*This picture shows the way to the Waitrose facility.*

There is no mention in the report to the Committee / Portfolio Holder of any consultation or feedback from the public. The pro-forma entry states Ward Councillors have **not** been asked for comments, and 'Customer Impact' is left blank.

At our 2010 AGM a show of hands of all present showed a unanimous opposition to the closure. However, a recent meeting of the Environment Committee considered and adopted recommendations as follows

- the continued phased closure of some public toilets and the introduction of new cleaning arrangements in others, to achieve the £223k of savings
- to continue with funding and further expansion of the Community Toilet Scheme (now £10k, to be increased to £30k for 30 shops/cafes).

The final decision is made by Portfolio Holder, Cllr Colin Smith 'in private'.

### **Kings Hall road speeding problems.**

King's Hall Road residents have been concerned for a considerable time with the excessive speed of some drivers along the road. A number of serious crashes have occurred particularly on and around the bend next to the disused cricket field. Cars have ended up on occasion in people's front gardens and some have crashed through the cricket field fence ending up in various states of damage on the field. There have also been crashes in other parts of the road.

King's Hall Road is a useful bypass for many drivers to avoid the main Beckenham Road between Beckenham and Penge. The problem though is that many people drive well in excess of the speed limit and sometimes even ignore the traffic islands, driving round them on the wrong side.

One of the residents living on the problematic bend organised a well-attended meeting of residents of the road in December 2010. At that meeting a Kings Hall Road Action Group was formed and it was decided that another meeting would be organised as soon as possible with, hopefully, local councillors, members of the Environment Policy Development

and Scrutiny Committee, our local MP and Commander Briggs of the Bromley Police attending, to enable residents to put forward their concerns directly.



The second Residents meeting was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> January, attended by Cllr. Getgood, some Traffic officers and also Cllr Smith, the Portfolio Holder responsible for the scheme that the Council has under development for calming measures in King's Hall Road.

The plan was to install 'chicanes' before and after the long bend by the cricket field. After discussion of aspects of the plan, the general consensus was that chicanes are a good idea in theory, however they should be installed in a temporary way at first to test the effect before permanent installation. These suggestions are now being carried forward to full Council debate.

The King's Hall action group seems to be a useful addition to the local community and the organisers should be thanked for all their hard work.

*Shirley Civil*

## **Planning News**

### **The Studio**

As reported at the Councillor's Forum in October, permission was granted on 12 October for a two storey extension for disabled access and glazed entrance canopy together with refurbishment of the building. At the planning committee meeting, the representatives of CityGate

stressed that the building would be available for a wide range of community uses and offered to meet with the local community to discuss opportunities. The Chair wrote to CityGate on 11 January asking for a meeting to take up this offer. But at the time of going to press, no reply had been received.

(N.B. We also note that CityGate are the owners of the large Victorian house at 2 Beckenham Road, near the Post Office, where they plan to refurbish the large hall which occupies most of the garden. *Ed.*)

### **Kings Hall Sports Ground**

A new application for ten houses and refurbishment of the land was made in November. This was similar to the plans discussed at a meeting last summer, but as reported in the last *Review*, it has not been possible to accommodate a cricket pitch, but three tennis courts are proposed. Two hectares of open space will be available for the use of local residents by way of club membership.

There is no date yet fixed for the planning committee at which this will be considered. WBRA Committee considers that these proposals are the most realistic option for the future of the site and have not made any objections.

### **106 Kent House Road**

This application for four 4 bedroom houses to the rear of the property was refused by the council and has gone to appeal.

### **Broadwater Cottage, Blakeney Road.**

In 2006, the Council refused permission for the construction of a four storey block of six 2 bed flats on the site of the cottage. WBRA supported members in Turners Meadow Road living close to the boundary of the Broadwater Cottage site, and the planning committee clearly agreed with us by giving its reasons for refusal as over-development of the site, unsympathetic design and, significantly, loss of light, privacy, prospect to the neighbours. Sadly this decision was overturned on appeal in

2008. No work was started and the applicant has now applied for an extension of the time available to start work. We have again supported members in Turners Meadow in their objections.

### **Transport Interchange at Elmers End**

The interchange was due to open on 4 December, but was delayed due to the bad weather and Thames Water and Edf failing to make the necessary utilities connections in time. It finally began operating on 5 February and is a welcome addition to the transport facilities at Elmers End Station. The chair has contacted Transport for London to ask if the bus stands at Elmers End Green (where the 54 and 289 buses used to be parked) can be removed to free up more parking spaces for the local shops and doctors' surgeries. She has also asked them to look again at the timing of the traffic lights on the bridge over the railway, since they are still turning red for no apparent reason ie when there are no buses trying to exit the station or traffic leaving Station Estate. She would like to thank both James Cleverly's office and the TfL contact for their helpfulness in these issues.



### **Flower beds on Elmers End Bridge**

Over the winter the Chair has been in contact with the council about the state of these beds: overgrown with weeds and the bushes growing out over the pavement. At first the response was that this area was under contract to be trimmed only once a year and it was unlikely there would be more money for

additional work. However, we are pleased that some money was found to clear the weeds and purchase more plants – hopefully ones that will survive a little better in this location. Sadly, there has been a delay in delivery of the new plants, so that the land is once again covered in weeds. But we are assured that they will be cleared and work will be done in the near future.

*Marie Pender*

### **West Beckenham Bowling Club**

This club is holding a "Taster Day" at the Club in Alexandra Road, Sydenham (off Lennard Road), on Sunday 8th May 2011 between 2 to 4 p.m. It is quite free to try, and there will be six qualified coaches on hand to give expert tuition. Hopefully the participants will enjoy it enough to join the club. Why not come along to see what's going on?

For further information you can contact [david.sellar@talktalk.net](mailto:david.sellar@talktalk.net)

### **Police**

Members of WBRA committee attend the various Safer Neighbourhood Meetings in our area, Clockhouse, Penge and Cator, and Kelsey & Eden Park. These meetings discuss things such as anti-social behaviour, crime prevention, bogus callers, damage to vehicles etc. Meetings are regular and are open to all.

### **Sewer Vents**

Several streets in West Beckenham are graced with a number of tall, chimney-like Victorian sewer vents. These are quite elaborate, made of cast iron, and presumably well over 100 years old. Following a campaign by this Association, pointing out the previous neglect of these structures, we note that they have recently been repainted in green, a great improvement.

## Crystal Palace Park

On 14th December 2010, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Eric Pickles MP gave his Formal Decision to grant planning permission to the London Development Agency's Masterplan application for Crystal Palace Park, which includes the building of luxury housing along Crystal Palace Park Road and on the present Rockhills site.

Crystal Palace Community Association, which has consistently campaigned against the plans, has received legal advice that there are grounds to challenge the decision of the Secretary of State in the High Court. A QC has agreed to act for members of CPCA on a pro bono basis, but there is concern about the possibility of costs being awarded against these members if the challenge were to fail.

## Buses

### 1) Inconsiderate driving

Some of our members have contacted us about bus drivers taking insufficient care when older people are boarding buses, giving them insufficient time to be seated or stand for alighting, or hard braking and accelerating. If you wish to take any incident up with London Buses, you may do so using the following information:

**Telephone:** 0845 300 7000 (08:00-20:00 Monday to Friday)

**Web:** [www.tfl.gov.uk/contact](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/contact)

**Post:** Customer Services, TfL London Buses, 4th floor, Zone B5, 14 Pier Walk, London SE10 0ES

For any bus-related complaints, enquiries (or indeed commendations!), it would be extremely helpful to provide the Customer Services team with the following information:

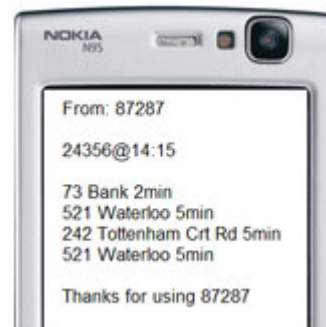
- Date
- Time of day
- Route number
- Brief description of the driver
- Direction of travel

- Registration number (where possible)

### 2) Countdown

Countdown is the system of signs at bus stops that tell us when the buses are due to arrive there. Transport for London (TfL) are introducing a new generation of Countdown signs at key bus stops and a new Countdown system for all of London's bus stops via text message and web. In Beckenham, a new generation Countdown sign is planned only for the stop at the War Memorial on the High Street. It is not clear if existing signs elsewhere in Beckenham, such as at the Library will be removed.

### Text messaging



The new text messaging service will be useful for people with mobile phones, but of course not everyone has a mobile even now! If you do you'll be able to send a text with your bus stop code to receive real-time bus arrival times for that stop. Visually impaired passengers will be able to use the text-to-speech facility on their mobile phones to get this information. Texts will cost the standard network rate, plus a 12p charge to receive the response.

### Web

If you are able to access the internet from your phone you will also be able to get the latest service information using mobile web or the internet. Search by bus stop name, street name, area and postcode. You'll also be able to use a map if using a desktop PC.



Web and text messaging services are scheduled to be available in 2011.

### Countdown signs



The new Countdown signs will provide information at 2,500 key bus stops in London. Using the latest technology to ensure easy readability, the signs will comply with disability guidelines on electronic signage. As well as predicting bus arrival times, they will display service updates, disruption information and network-wide messages.

TfL are also looking at bus stop-specific audio options to help blind and partially sighted people find their way around the network independently. The roll out of the new signs will begin in 2011 and will be completed in 2012.

Following discussions with each of the London boroughs, TfL have decided where the new signs will be taking into account the following factors.

- Number of passengers using the stop
- Distance to town centres
- Distance to transport interchanges
- Distance to key local services
- The number of low frequency or night routes serving the stop

*This information and photos were taken from the Transport for London website. For more information see <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/corporate/projectsandschemes/11560.aspx>*

### **Controlled Parking Zones**

Some residents of Aldersmead Road are concerned about the marked increase in

commuter parking in this road since the introduction of the controlled parking zone in the Copers Cope area. The council were willing to introduce a limited parking scheme, but because there was a difference of opinion between the council and some residents about, among other things, on which side of the road a yellow line should be painted, the scheme has been shelved for the time being.

The Council is also carrying out a consultation about an extension of the Clock House controlled parking zone into Turners Meadow Way.

### **St Christopher's Hospice Fun Walk**

On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May you are invited to join the thousand or so people who are expected to take part in a walk around Keston common to raise money for St Christopher's Hospice. With four walks available pick one that suits you – 3, 5, 8 or 11 miles. There are trophies for the best fancy dress costume and for the team and individual who raise the most money.

For more information call the Fun Walk Hotline on 0208 768 4577.

### **BecFest**



Beckenham Library is planning a reading festival with children's story times, creative writing sessions and talks by local authors (including your Editor!) between June 27<sup>th</sup> and July 9<sup>th</sup>.

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at Beckenham Public Library – 8 p.m. on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2010

1. **Present:** Marie Pender (Chair), Janet Ambrose, Eileen Penfold, Alan Freeman, Nick Goy, Judith Niechcial, Virginia Gregovich (Committee members); Peter Nazareth, Treasurer; Bob Stewart MP, Jim Dowd MP, Cllrs. Getgood, Phillips, Fookes, Dean and Adams, representatives of the Clockhouse Safer Neighbourhood Team and the Metropolitan Police in Bromley, and approximately 45 members as per the sign in sheets.
2. **Apologies:** Bob Bussey, Cllr. Diane Smith, Rosanna Cavallo.
3. Marie opened the meeting, welcoming everyone. The Minutes of the 2009 AGM were printed and circulated in the May 2010 *Review* (with copies available at the meeting), and these were approved on a motion from Jenny Coleman, seconded by June Haley. There were no matters arising.
4. **Chair's Report:** Marie Pender referred to the new flats and shops at Clockhouse having slow residential occupancy and objections in regard to 24hr. licensing on the commercial space. A residents' questionnaire for Clockhouse parking issues will be issued on June 1<sup>st</sup> with the 18<sup>th</sup> June as deadline for replies. Construction at Tesco at Elmers End is in progress, as well as the bus interchange which will get buses off Elmers End green. A proposed new development plan for Kings Hall Cricket Club has been put forward and is the best we have seen to date.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** The accounts show little change from last year but our reduced income reflects diminishing membership so efforts are needed to bring in new members. On our deposit account we only earned £4 in interest for the entire year. Peter Nazareth explained that bank errors had generated some erroneous debits but these had already been refunded with only one still to be refunded in the new fiscal year just started. The accounts were circulated and approved by a motion from Jenny Coleman, seconded by Geoff Brooke.
6. **Planning:** Other than the planning matters already referred to by the Chair, and Crystal Palace Park redevelopment, we have not had many planning issues to get involved with in the past year.
7. **Election of Officers:** With the exception of Nick Goy, all existing committee members are willing to stand for a further year and were elected en bloc by a show of hands on a motion proposed by Marion Bradbury, seconded by Geof Slater. We received, and accepted, an offer of help from Shirley Civil.
8. **Motion re Association Boundaries:** From time to time we receive membership applications from people living just outside the Association boundaries, which were originally based on local ward boundaries. Marie suggested that where reasonable, and without the intention of taking members from existing associations, we should accept these requests on the basis of more flexible boundaries that reflect the growth of the town and the demise of several smaller residents' associations.  
**Motion: That this AGM resolve to change the Rules of the Association as follows:**  
**Delete Rule 2 & 3** and replace with: **Rule 2.** The membership area shall be **based on** the May 1994 council wards of Laurie Park and Kent House, Clock House and Eden Park, hereinafter referred to as "Areas". **Rule 3.** Membership shall be open to current residents of the membership area, and former residents who were members. **The Executive Committee shall have discretion to allow membership outside the area where it is in the interests of Association to do so.**

The motion was proposed by Marie, seconded, and carried by a show of hands with no one opposing.

- 9. Guest Speaker:** Marie introduced Sarah King of Beckenham Fire Service as the guest speaker. Sarah has had 6 years' service and is currently on the Blue Watch at Beckenham. She outlined the Fire Service duties as emergency response as well as attending homes and schools to fit fire alarms. At Beckenham Fire Station there is a small museum open to the public since 1985, previously located at Bromley Road since 1905. It includes details of a sad event where 21 Beckenham school children were visiting Bow Street School when it was bombed by the Germans, with all lives lost. There is a larger fire museum at London Bridge, with more memorabilia and larger items.

Local residents can receive a home fire safety check by filling out a form to be sent off free of charge, and have a free smoke alarm fitted. She identified common causes of fires as unattended cooking, electrical fires from washing machines, tumble-dryers and dishwashers and cautioned never to overload these appliances or go out while they are in use. Another common cause is the use of candles and tea lights which should not be put around the bath or on top of a TV. Their casings do not offer sufficient protection when they burn down, so proper candle holders should be used. Other cautions include not falling asleep with a lit cigarette, keeping matches and lighters away from children and not accumulating large piles of rubbish outside. A local arsonist had recently been setting fires on the day prior to refuse collection, which in one case spread to the door of a house.

A smoke alarm gives you time to evacuate, as inhaling smoke puts you into a deeper sleep. Once you get everyone out, call the Fire Service which usually arrives in 5 minutes as local areas cover each other's calls. Do not return for any possessions as the Fire Service will do this for you. If the house is full of smoke, stay low and to avoid being trapped, think of an escape route in advance. Smoke affects visibility causing disorientation so keep window and door keys where they can be found in the dark. From a window shout "Fire" and call for help on your mobile. Never jump from a window, but use bedding and mattresses to lower yourself down and break your fall. Good bedtime routines include switching everything off at the plug, using a fireguard at the fireplace, closing internal doors (each gives 20 minutes of fire protection) and ensuring clear exits. In response to questions about various fire devices, Sarah said while fire blankets and extinguishers have their uses, the official advice is to evacuate and never try to tackle a fire yourself.

At Beckenham there are four watches, 10 fire fighters on each watch and one station manager, although the station can be run with as little as 6 people. An incoming call activates lights and a musical tone sounds over the speaker giving staff one minute to respond and check where they are going. There is still a fire pole at Beckenham, although it is only a two storey building. She added that new recruits must be drivers but may specialise in search and rescue or specialist equipment. There are weekly training courses for local youth that include a passing out parade and opportunities for community work. At Lewisham and Croydon specialist units handle more difficult incidents.

- 10.** After the guest speaker, a member complained about the condition of the Studio and the lack of action by the Council. Cllr. Getgood advised that the Herbert Justice Academy had left the building in a bad way and the Council is claiming reparations. The delay in City Gate coming in is due to English Heritage but the plan is to have the building remain in public ownership for public use. Cllr. Dean said the situation is fluid due to legal strictures but he expects the matter to resolve soon due to the professionalism and solvency of City Gate. Cllr. Adams added that Council wanted a private sector solution

for a community use with Bromley as landlord and the tenant doing improvements and repairs. Cllr. Dean emphasised the need to save money but repeated that the matter would soon be resolved.

Cllr. Adams made reference to the Clockhouse controlled parking zone and as a result of the consultation process 9 roads have opted in and 15 have opted out. A further questionnaire will be sent to residents in July. Jenny Coleman referred to similar situation at Copers Cope Road as displaced traffic worsens the situation in neighbouring roads. A discussion ensued about commuter parking and pressure on residents to accept schemes they do not want. In many cases car parks, such as Sainsbury's, the Beacon and behind Capita, are not used due to the cost.

A further discussion about the closure of public toilets in Beckenham revealed Council's wish to save £37,000 on four local public toilets, but acceptable alternative facilities in commercial premises are lacking in our area, unlike Richmond where businesses have met the need. Cllr. Dean advised that this is a consultation process only and that toilets will not be closed if enough residents protest and so should write to Cllr. Smith. Alan Freeman proposed a show of hands on the issue, resulting in all present being against closure.

Another member cited numerous road pot holes being a danger for cyclists. While larger potholes get repaired, smaller ones are neglected. All councillors confirmed that they receive emails regarding needed road repairs or complaints of badly done repairs. Cyclists are also at risk from traffic islands such as those in Kings Hall Road where speeding cars push cyclists against the curb. Cllr. Getgood commented that no system will please everyone but reducing speed is a priority. It was noted that speeding penalties are not harsh enough, but it is also a matter of catching offenders where there are no cameras. Another member mentioned that cyclists sometimes overtake on the inside without a cycle lane, but the police representatives advised that in case of an accident, the motorist would be responsible, not the cyclist.

11. There being no further business, Marie closed the meeting, thanking out guest speaker and everyone for attending, including our local MP's and Councillors, and the committee received a round of applause. A date in May 2011 will be arranged for the next AGM.

The meeting was followed by light refreshments kindly provided by Eileen Penfold and Gillian D'Cunha.

Notes by *Virginia Gregovich*



<b>Councillors for the wards served by the association</b> (e-mail: <i>firstname.surname@bromley.gov.uk</i> )		
Penge & Cator	Cllr Kathy Bance, 17, Pawleyne Close, Penge, SE20 8JH Cllr Peter Fookes, 63, Bramerton Rd, Beckenham, BR3 3NY Cllr John Getgood, 51, Woodbastwick Rd, London SE26 5LG	07834 418219 8658 7498 8659 1277
Clock House	Cllr Reg Adams, 39, Cromwell Rd, Beckenham, BR3 4LL Cllr Nick Milner, 44, Rectory Green, Beckenham, BR3 4HX Cllr Sarah Phillips, Members' Room, Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, BR1 3UH	8650 8942 07834 418228 07794686588
Kelsey & Eden Park	Cllr Peter Dean, 126, Madeira Ave, Bromley, BR1 4AS Cllr Paul Lynch, 1, Grangewood Lane, Beckenham, BR3 1NT Cllr Diane Smith, Merryn, Warren Rd, Hayes, BR2 7AN	07831428913 07834 418224 8462 5061
<b>Bromley Council, Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley BR1 3UH 8464 3333</b> (Except Leisure & Community Services Dept: 8460 9955) - MyTime Leisure Trust		
<b>Mayor of London:</b> Boris Johnson <b>London Assembly Member for Bromley &amp; Bexley:</b> James Cleverly GLA, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA - Switchboard: 7983 4000. james.cleverly@london.gov.uk		
<b>Beckenham MP:</b> Bob Stewart MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA -Tel: 7219 3000. bob.stewart.mp@parliament.uk <b>Lewisham West and Penge MP:</b> Jim Dowd MP Same address. dowdj@parliament.uk		

<b>West Beckenham Residents Association Standing Order Mandate</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is my first WBRA standing order*, or</li> <li>• Please replace my existing WBRA standing order with this one* (<i>*delete as appropriate</i>)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Please send this form to the Treasurer: Peter Nazareth, Flat 6 Kensington Court, 8 Kemerton Road, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 6NJ .</b> In order for us to match the payment to your membership details, <b>DO NOT SEND THIS MANDATE TO YOUR BANK.</b> NB: unlike a Direct Debit, with a Standing Order <u>you</u> control the payment details.</p>	
<p><b>Please pay West Beckenham Residents Association ("WBRA"),</b> HSBC, 219 High Street, Penge, London SE20 7PP</p> <p><b>The sum of: £</b> _____ (at your discretion, however, a minimum of £5 per household or £2 pensioner/unwaged is requested)            Show amount in words also:</p>	
<p>Commencing immediately and <b>1<sup>st</sup> April thereafter annually</b> until you receive further notice from me/us* in writing (<i>*delete as appropriate</i>)</p>	
<p><b>Your bank name and address:</b></p>	

<b>Your bank account no.:</b>	<b>Your bank sort code:</b>
<b>A. Your name and address:</b>	
<b>B. May we hold your membership record on a computer? Yes/No* (*delete as appropriate)</b> <b>NB.: Details are held for our use only</b>	
<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>

**Annual cheque subscribers:** Please fill in boxes **A & B** and strike out the rest of the form. (Min. £5 per household/£2 pensioner/unwaged. Please send cheque to Treasurer annually due April 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you.)

**Our aim:** Since 1945, WBRA has represented the interests of residents in local matters and is affiliated with the London Borough of Bromley's Residents' Federation.