

## **West Beckenham Residents' Association**

### **The Review**



**Daffodils in Cator Park**

#### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Wednesday 6 June at 7.30pm**

**NOTE NEW TIME**

**Harry Lyne Room**

**First Floor, Beckenham Beacon**

**Speaker Toby Smith from LB Bromley  
on litter, flytipping and recycling**

**FREE PARKING FROM 7PM**

**No entrance to car park from Shaftesbury Road**

We now have separate forms for membership and renewal, which can be found at the back of this Review. Please use the appropriate form. Please consider paying by standing order. This is easier for both for you (you don't have to remember to post a cheque every year) and for us. You can of course cancel a standing order at any time. If you wish to continue to pay by cheque, perhaps you would consider paying for 5 years at a time?

If you enjoy our Review and like what we do for residents, why not spread the word and get friends and neighbours to join?

We hope the new mailing system is working well. Please let us know of any errors or problems. If you have email and do not already receive our regular updates, but would like to, email [mpenderwbra@btinternet.com](mailto:mpenderwbra@btinternet.com).

Marie Pender  
Chair

### **Election results**

Congratulations to the re-elected, and a welcome to the new, councillors for our three wards

**Vanessa Allen, Ian Dunn** and newly elected **Josh King** at Clock House

**Peter Dean, Diane Smith** and newly elected **Dave Wibberley** at Kelsey and Eden park

**Kathy Bance, Kevin Brooks** and newly elected **Simon Jeal** at Penge and Cator

## BECKENHAM TOWN CENTRE



**New paving at Thornton's Corner**

Work is progressing well along the High Street and is on schedule. It has been a difficult time for those of us that use the High Street regularly, but WBRA thinks it will be well worth the disruption in the end. At the time of writing, work is edging towards Burnhill Road, which will be closed off for a few weeks. The council has made good efforts to liaise with residents and businesses around Kelsey Square and will manage the process carefully. Fairfield Road will continue to be one way as now, but from there, Burnhill Road one way direction to Kelsey Park Road will be reversed for the duration of the closure with the High Street.

Bus diversions continue to baffle passengers as drivers seem very reluctant to make any announcements (are they too shy?) and it can be quite disconcerting when your bus suddenly goes off in an entirely different direction with no warning.

The work should be finished by the end of September. A celebration is planned, possibly at the September Market on the Green.

## **ELMERS END GREEN TOILET BUILDING**

The latest news is that the work should begin fairly soon. The owners have been waiting for better weather to avoid ripping up the grass.

## **CLOCK HOUSE PARADE**

Thanks to Councillor Vanessa Allen, Clock House Parade has been given a lovely makeover.

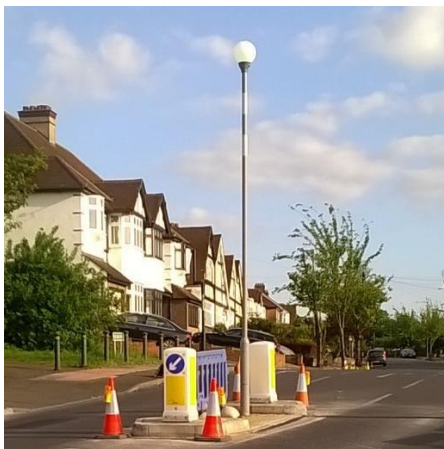


**Clock House Parade**

The pavement outside the shops has been re-laid with attractive new blocks, the lamp posts have been painted and equipped with plant holders, new bike racks have been installed and trees planted.

## **VILLAGE WAY CROSSING**

After a great deal of lobbying and finally an airing on BBC London, LB Bromley are putting a crossing in Village way to help the school children crossing from Whitmore Road to Kelsey Way/ Manor Way on their way to the Harris schools.



**Village Way**

Videos of the children trying to cross Village way made striking coverage and obviously it was the publicity that finally persuaded the council.

## **BECKENHAM BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT – ‘BID’**

Beckenham Businesses have voted to create a Business Improvement District (BID). Lucy Beckwith of Burger and Bubbles restaurant is the new Chair of the BID.

The ***'Beckenham Together' BID*** will give Beckenham businesses a greater say in how the town centre is managed. It follows the outcome of the four week ballot which saw a majority of businesses voting for the BID proposal.

The 'Beckenham Together' BID team includes representatives from a range of local businesses, such as The Beckenham Bookshop, Burger and Bubbles, AAA-MiniCabs, Creases and Gallery 17, and large businesses in the town centre such as Waitrose, Sainsbury's, The Spa, Barclays and Link Asset Services. 'Beckenham Together' are looking to deliver services such as a local loyalty scheme, a comprehensive place marketing offer for Beckenham, an expanded programme of events and will introduce Street Ambassadors to be the friendly face of the town centre.

Penge businesses have also voted “yes” in the Business Improvement District ballot and will create ***The Penge SE20 BID.***

## PURPLE FLAG

At Easter, the Purple Flag team organised a Beckenham Bunny Hunt.



An amazing number of families, some of whom had never been to Beckenham before, followed the route on purple maps. They had to spot purple bunnies at 25 locations on a route between Clock House Parade and Beckenham Junction to win a prize of a large chocolate egg (donated by Cadbury's) at the final location on the trail - Burger & Bubbles - on the bridge at Beckenham Junction..

Beckenham is now applying for renewal of the Purple Flag award. On 18 May, the Purple Flag Team conducted a "self assessment" of the area between 5pm and 2am. While it was an unusually quiet Friday night, the team were impressed with the bars' and clubs' arrangements for managing clients' behaviour. Door marshalls were evident at all relevant establishments and handled any "disputes" with tact and diplomacy.

## HISTORIC HIGH STREET CLOCK

Most of you will be familiar with the clock gracing the frontage of Haq's Barbers at the corner of Kelsey Square. The clock dates back to 1872 and was made by Gillett & Bland, which was one of the first steam powered clock companies in the world. It is still in business as Gillett & Johnston, now operating in modern premises in Surrey, making clocks for distribution all over the world.

The building on Kelsey Square is owned by commercial cleaners Lancaster Contracts, whose offices occupy the upper floors.

The weight for the clock runs all the way from the eaves down into the barber's basement, and Nick Lancaster and his father lavish tender loving care on maintaining the clock for the community.



**The clock mechanism in pristine condition**

For more detail on the history of Gillett & Bland see our website [www.westbeckenhamra.org](http://www.westbeckenhamra.org)



## BECKENHAM GREEN MARKETS



There will be markets on the Green on Saturday 26 May and Saturday 22 September.

The Christmas market will be held on Saturday 1 December this year. We hope you noticed the lovely Christmas tree on the Green last year - WBRA contributed £500 to the purchase of this pre-lit tree, which can be used year after year and is a wonderful addition to the town centre Christmas decorations.



## OD CUACO CRICKET CLUB



**The Club House overlooking the pitch**

The OD Cricket Club was formed in 2001 from the merging of the Old Dunstonians (OD) and Commercial Union (CUACO) cricket clubs when the latter's ground in Copers Cope Road was sold by Aviva to Crystal Palace FC. Nowadays it's open to anyone – not just former pupils of St Dunstons or Commercial Union employees!

The Club has adult players as well as boys' and girls' sections (the 'Colts') from as young as under-11s - and parents, visitors and guests are also always welcome at our ground in St Dunstan's Lane in Park Langley (off Wickham Way opposite Brabourne Rise).

There are five adult sides, which play in various Kent cricket leagues on Saturdays, while on Sundays we have a Friendly XI which plays most of its fixtures at home, and a Development League XI which is made up of a combination of up and coming, as well as established players.

The Club boasts three splendid 'all weather' nets, with adult practice on Wednesday evenings from 6pm onwards. Why not come along?

For the Colts we have a Welfare Officer to ensure all policies and procedures relating to activities involving children are adhered to, and all coaches, team managers and adult captains are vetted and registered by DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service, formerly CRB).

Under 13s and younger (year 3-8) practise on Sunday mornings at 10am, and play their matches on Monday evenings. All the older groups practise on Tuesday evenings from 6pm and play matches on Sunday mornings (under 15s) and Friday evenings (under 17s).

More information about the Club, match fixtures and social events can be found on our website at [odcuaco.co.uk](http://odcuaco.co.uk), or e-mail our Chairman, Andy Rouse at [andyrouse3333@gmail.com](mailto:andyrouse3333@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you there!

Brian Cattle

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF TREES**

Recently, we watched the Queen and David Attenborough discuss the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (QCC) initiative and the importance of trees. Similarly, the advantages of preserving the "Green Canopy" in the Bromley Borough are manifold.

Trees muffle traffic noise, and help absorb harmful fumes from vehicle exhausts, dust and pollen, by trapping them in their leaves and bark. They provide shade and protection from UV rays, and even help prevent flooding by storing large amounts of water in their roots and canopy.

Studies show that planting trees can make communities happier and healthier places. They help to reduce ozone levels in urban areas by absorbing harmful greenhouse gases from the air. Improving the air quality leads to a reduction of pollutants and related illnesses like asthma.

Unfortunately, when planning applications are approved for new schools and developments this can often lead to a significant number of mature trees being cut down. Developers are not primarily concerned with preserving the environment but are likely to follow the cheapest or easiest route.

We urgently need a strategy for preserving mature trees in the borough and for replacing trees that have been cut down (as a prerequisite for obtaining planning permission). We need to ensure that Bromley retains its "Green Canopy."

## TALK TO HARRIS PRIMARY SCHOOL ON ELMERS END GREEN

Marie visited Harris Primary to give their 6-7 year olds a talk about the history of Elmers End Green. Here are some recollections, as written, of the talk from some of the pupils – a bit mixed up in places! For the unmixed up story of Elmers End Green see

<http://www.westbeckenhamra.org/local-history/a-brief-history-of-elmers-end-green/>

*“Today a lady came to our school and taught us about the BRA. In 1767 there was a public house that is called the elm tree. In 1930 a childs play area but if you are 12 or over you are not allowed because you might break something.”*

*“Today we learnt about Elmers end green. In 1723 Beckenham and Elmers end green was just fields and roads. In 1867 a pub was added called the Elm Tree. In 1920 a fence was put around the green. Councils made homes for Keaturning soldiers. 1930s the green turned into a childrens playground. In World War 1 a fountain got added. Fences got taken down in World War 2 to be used as guns and carryers. There used to be a odeon cidma but it got taken down because TV came along. It was named Elmers end green because a land owner ‘Rahp Almer’ got it named after himself.”*

## **PLANNING**

### **13 Blakeney Avenue**

This Victorian family house has been the subject of numerous applications to extend the premises and divide it into flats. Last month Plans Sub Committee No 2 refused permission for conversion to three flats on the grounds of the proposed extension and inadequate parking. The applicant has appealed. Discussion at the meeting showed that councillors were concerned about the impact of any such conversions on the Victorian street, and voted to take all enforcement action necessary to revert back to approved work. However, yet another application for a strange conversion into two “vertical” flats has been made.

### **255 Elmers End Road**

A planning application has been made to demolish an attractive bungalow and replace it with 7 flats, on the corner of Elmers End and Ancaster Roads. There have been a number of comments supporting the development from people who would like to buy the flats, and WBRA acknowledge the need for more housing. But this specific proposal has absolutely no parking provision and is situated at the junction with Ancaster Road which is already 120% overused, by the applicants own admission, with commuters using Elmers End station. Moreover, two of the supposed flats are merely bedsits with room for only a single bed in the living/kitchen area. The rest of the flats are mostly small and the top floor flat appears to be accessible only from a door halfway up a flight of stairs!

### **Carlton Court, Beckenham Road**

Permission for demolition and rebuild of 30 flats was refused in October 2017 on the grounds of overdevelopment of the site, its bulky design and inadequate parking. The applicants have appealed but there is as yet no decision. The residents put forward a full and well argued objection and WBRA's objection is extensively quoted in the council documents. In the council's case to the Planning Inspectorate, they say the proposal would "serve to undermine local character, presenting a form of development considerably at odds with its surroundings".

### **Chinese Garage**

We reported in the last review that there had been an unprecedented number of objections (over 1000) to the application to increase operating hours so that the building could be occupied by a Tesco Express. The applicants have submitted an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate for "non-determination" ie failure to make a decision within the specified time period. At a meeting in February, Plans Sub-Committee No 3 voted to contest the appeal.

### **Coptic Church Dunbar Avenue**

It appears that LB Bromley will not take any further action on this case. The occupiers have reduced the height of the fence so that planning permission is no longer required. However the pitch continues to be used for football and the noise of the ball hitting the fence continues to disrupt the lives of the neighbours. The Planning Inspector was clear that

the football should cease until such time as the occupiers provided a noise abatement plan. But that seems to be no longer enforceable now that permission is no longer required. Residents are considering a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman.

### **Eden Park High School**

More and more plans are submitted on the details of the school, and, regrettably, earlier promises are routinely being ignored. In the last Review we reported that there were proposals for floodlights despite promises they did not intend to have any. Now there are plans to remove more trees.

### **Kia Service Centre at rear of Goodwood Parade**

An application for the installation of a car wash for service customers at the end of the Kia car park has been refused. The car wash would be within inches of the back gardens of neighbours in Dunbar Avenue. The application was refused on grounds of flood risk and detrimental impact on neighbouring properties including noise, spray and disturbance, as pointed out by WBRA whose objection was again fully quoted in the delegation report. The site is large and car washing could easily be accommodated within the building, as it should be. However, Kia continue to wash cars at this location in their car park. The council's enforcement officer is engaged but it will all take time – as always.