

B·R·A·C·K·E·N·B·U·R·Y

Residents Association

Year5, Issue 2, 2004

Spring

Annual General Meeting

The next AGM will be held on Thursday 24th June 2004 at the Grove Neighbourhood Centre in Bradmore Park Road. The meeting will start at 7.15 pm and will finish about 9 pm.

Our Speaker this year is Inspector Daniel Stobbart from the Met Police and he will be updating us on plans for Community Policing in the area and he will answer questions on web-cams and anti-social behaviour notices.

Also at the AGM we shall be dealing with the election of Committee members and rule changes to our Constitution. This year we are particularly interested in electing a Tree Officer to our Committee with a remit to liaise with residents and the Council on issues concerning the trees in our area.

If you would like to become a Committee member you need to complete a nomination form and return it to our Membership Secretary and submit before the AGM. Full details of the AGM minutes for 2003 are available by contacting our Membership Secretary (details overleaf).

Post Office Closures

It is becoming more and more likely that the sub-Post Office in Brackenbury Road will be closed this year. The Association has made representation to our MP and Post Offices Ltd to make a case to keep the service in our area, and we have been advised that the Council intend to start a campaign which will need our support. Consequently, we will be gathering signatures for a petition at our AGM and the other events that we will be organising throughout the year,

Summer Walk

We are currently organising a tour with our local professional guide – Simon Rodway. We have the option of a River Walk, a Brackenbury tour or a Brook Green tour. The likely cost will be £5 per person – please e-mail branews@hotmail.com to express your preference and we'll get back to you with dates and other details.

More Socials

The first Street Rep Socials took place on 24th May for residents of Raynham Rd, Redmore Rd and Studland St and Atwood Rd. Further socials have been arranged with the principle objective of encouraging residents to join our Association and also to enable residents to meet with each other and the Street Reps.

The Socials are to be held at the Grove (in Hammersmith Grove) and the Thatched House (in Dalling/Perrers Rd). Watch out for invitations coming through your door in the near future.

Graffiti

During April we had a great turn-out of volunteers on our Graffiti Cleaning day – so thank you all for helping. For a few weeks the area was completely free of graffiti as our volunteers painted over scribble on some 25 separate sites. The money for the paint and brushes was provided by HSBC and we also had a lot of support from the Council (who continue to go around cleaning graffiti off from the brickwork sites). Unfortunately, some of the graffiti returned and we have had to adopt a more regular approach to the problem. So – if you have a problem with your property being vandalised by people with spray cans of paint – then contact our graffiti organizer (Toni Raybould – branews@hotmail.com) and we'll see about our volunteers helping you out.



Royal Mail Deliveries

The problems with Royal Mail now seem to have stretched across the entire country and despite promises made to us some two years ago by the Royal Mail managers, the service in our area continues to be appalling.

The chairman of Royal Mail – Adam Crozier is taking personal responsibility to improve the service within the next 3 months and while we would like to wish him every success with his efforts, it is still important to us to monitor the situation very closely until we see some positive results. Consequently, if you are still experiencing a poor delivery service from Royal Mail with lost or delayed mail, or an erratic delivery service in your road – please let us know via e-mail at Branews@hotmail.com.

Planning Permissions

Committee member Richard Winterton continues to cast a vigilant eye over the planning applications lodged at the Council.

We always watch with interest the developments at the Duke of York pub and the proposals for new works at Smiley's yard. If you have any concerns over building works in your area – do contact us for advice and support.

Annual Social

Members, local Councillors and residents gathered at the Grove Neighbourhood Centre in February and once again ensured our Annual Social was an extremely well attended and enjoyable experience. The event generated more support in the form of new members, volunteers and additional street representatives.

Join Us

If you are not already a member please consider joining the Association. Membership is only £3 or £1 for pensioners. Members receive free copies of our quarterly newsletter and advance notification of local events.

Simply send a cheque made payable to BRA, and your address details to: Membership Secretary, 45 Bradmore Park Road, W6 ODT. To find out more contact Rosemary Pettit, on 020 8846 9707/rosemarypettit@onetel.net.uk

Sponsors

Our thanks to Roystons Estate Agents for printing this edition of the BRA Newsletter.

Trees saved from axe

Early in May residents were dismayed to see that the Council had posted a notice to cut down a tree in Iffley Road. The given reason is that its roots were causing subsidence in a neighbouring property and that the property could not be insured as a result. Urgent lobbying of the Council by residents and Cllr Cowan resulted in a stay of execution. The Council will now seek a second opinion. We are concerned that the Council is prepared to give in to the demands of insurance companies without seeking specialist advice to preserve our trees. We are now looking for ways to ensure that the Council develops an operational policy on trees which is not subject to the same knee-jerk reaction as characterised the saga in Iffley Road.

If you are interested in protecting our trees and would like to become BRA's first tree officer on the committee do please put your name forward.

Street Cleansing

A brief word of thanks to the Council's Direct Services for the attention they have given us in more regular and thorough street cleaning. It is good to note the improvement and hope the good service continues.

Neighbourhood Watch

The police have now given us a Problem Solving Unit which is dedicated to community policing. Our point of contact is Anthi Stylianou and any issues regarding anti-social behaviour or crime can be dealt with by her.

The Association are pleased to note the continued reduction of crime in the area, and we are particularly gratified to be able to announce that as a result of information passed to Anthi Stylianou from our residents – a man was arrested on suspicion of dealing crack cocaine in streets near to Hammersmith Grove. The suspect was found to have in his possession some 30 grams of crack. Anthi can be contacted via e-mail at Branews@hotmail.com.