

BVRA **newsheet**

MRS CATALPA D RING
4 ANSLEY DRIVE

from the Banstead Village Residents' Association

Vol: 29 No. 2 - May 2013

Notice of Annual General Meeting

**The Executive Committee extends to all members of the Association
a warm invitation to the 66th Annual General Meeting to be held at:**

**THE CHURCH INSTITUTE, HIGH STREET, BANSTEAD,
on WEDNESDAY 22nd May, at 8.00 pm.**

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome by Chairman;**
- 2. Minutes of the 65th Annual General Meeting will not be read, but a summary will be distributed to members at the meeting;**
- 3. Presentation by Trevor Leggo, chief executive of the Sussex and Surrey Association of Local Councils;**
- 4. Chairman's report;**
- 5. Presentation of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2013 – printed on the back page of this NewsSheet;**
- 6. Election of Officers, Executive Committee and Auditor for the year 2013/2014;**
- 7. Welcome to our local Councillors, followed by Open Forum debate of issues that Residents wish to raise;**
- 8. Any other business.**

Please bring this invitation with you to the meeting.

BANSTEAD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Chairman's Introduction

At the risk of boring residents with old items we must again concentrate on the same issues as last January: the NHS and the Core Strategy. There is, however, some good news in that our MP, Crispin Blunt, has been active on both these key concerns for residents.

In response to his request for clarification, the Prime Minister, The Rt. Hon. David Cameron, has written to say that, while additional housing is a key priority that councils must address, a Green Belt boundary should only be altered in exceptional circumstances - through the Local Plan process, and after due public consultation. As to the underlying problem of a conflict between the policy on Green Belt and the presumption in favour of development, the Prime Minister's letter to Crispin Blunt states clearly that the former 'does not trump Green Belt policy'. This is a guideline that could be crucial in the forthcoming Examination in Public (EIP) of Reigate & Banstead Borough Council's Core Strategy by the government's Planning Inspector, where we may expect the development fraternity to push arguments in favour of plans for building on Green Belt land

Turning to the NHS, Crispin Blunt attended one of the regular meetings of the Longcroft Clinic's 'Patient Group'. He told the meeting that he is working hard to resolve the long-standing issue of a new location for the surgery that would be able to provide the much needed assessment and treatment capabilities that should be provided in a modern Primary Care facility. The size of the current clinic precludes it from offering such facilities. Councillor Angela Fraser DL has long sought to find a way of funding a new primary care complex - perhaps at the Horseshoe, which is largely Surrey County Council land. It is, of course, money at the heart of the problem, since it will cost a substantial sum, and the now defunct Surrey Primary Care Trust simply refused to provide the necessary funds.

The Longcroft Clinic has other initiatives in place, see the article below. As the GP practices have just recently taken over control of the commissioning process, there will be more emphasis for residents on providing the Longcroft with your views of your needs. Please assist by seeking and completing one of the surveys that the Longcroft are running on patients' concerns and experiences. Next time you are at the surgery, ask for the survey form.

You will have seen from the agenda that we have a key speaker on the subject of Local councils. More appears on this item of major local importance both later in the NewsSheet and in the enclosed letter.

Finally, we would like to thank Cllr Angela Fraser DL for her many years of service to our community. Cllr Fraser retires this month after representing Banstead Village (as well as Chipstead and Woodmansterne) on the Surrey County Council since 1989. We are most grateful for her hard work for our residents and contributions to so many local projects over so many years.

Roger Collins

(01737) 358384

BANSTEAD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NHS

1. Epsom hospital:

With the prospect that the *Better Services Better Value (BSBV)* review of the five south west London Hospitals (which includes Epsom & St Helier) may well lead to the closure of full A&E services at both these hospitals, Banstead would fall into a hole, miles from any such facilities. Chris Grayling, MP for Epsom and Ewell, has kept us informed about his efforts to ensure local hospital (ie Epsom) facilities are not sacrificed in the London focussed current BSBV review. If local A & E (and other) services are lost, we will be in even greater need of new urgent care facilities in the village that the Longcroft in its current incarnation cannot provide.

2. Primary Care:

As indicated in the Chairman's Introduction above, the new government policy for the NHS has just started, whereby the responsibility for commissioning services from the Secondary Care sector (effectively the hospitals) passes from the old Primary Care Trusts to the many and various GP practices. This has been a controversial policy change but, hopefully, there is no inherent reason why it should not work. We should wait and see, but meanwhile what it should achieve is that it becomes far easier for patients to get feedback on their treatment options, from their GPs rather than from the old Primary Care Trust bureaucracies. Do not be afraid to ask your doctor for advice on alternative sources of secondary care.

This is a two-way street: you should also tell your doctor how was the service you received, for which his practice has

paid. Moreover, do not just bring him your complaints but also tell him when the service was good. He needs to monitor the performance of the Secondary Care sector. In due course we would expect to see a portion of such services provided in primary care facilities – 'closer to home'.

Meanwhile, the Longcroft Clinic has set up its own website. You can use this to renew prescriptions on their website : www.thelongcroftclinic.co.uk. In due course you will also be able to make appointments which will take pressure off the phone lines, although this is not available at present. And do not forget to respond to the occasional surveys arranged by the clinic.

3. Dialling 111:

NHS England has created a new 'non-urgent' alternative to 999 which replaces NHS Direct; the idea being that you dial 111. The person who takes the call is supposed to be able to tell whether the problem merits a) an out of hours doctor, b) A&E c) an ambulance or d) bed and two Paracetamol. It has been rolled out across Surrey this month and it is hoped that people will use 111 for non life-threatening situations.

Obviously broken limbs, heart attacks, strokes and serious household accidents still merit 999.

The adequacy of this service, both locally and elsewhere in the country, has recently been the subject of much criticism in the press. Much of the criticism is from senior medical voices, so we can only hope that the new service can be made to work properly.

Catalina Vassallo-Bonner (01737) 357882

BANSTEAD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

VILLAGE COUNCIL

Members who attended last year's AGM may recall that it was agreed that we should undertake further investigations.

Enclosed with this Newsheet is a letter to all Village residents outlining the Association's understanding of the case for establishing a Village Council.

Please take the time to read this and come to our AGM on 22nd May to hear more – or you can let us have your views by emailing us at: bansteadvillage.bvra@virginmedia.com or writing to me.

It is essential that we know your views as Reigate and Banstead Council needs to be shown that there is a prima facie case and sufficient local support for setting up a Village Council. If so there will be a local referendum, following which at least 7 or 8 candidates living in or near the village would stand for election as local councillors.

Our guest speaker will be able to explain both the benefits of, and process for, setting up a Local (Village) Council, which would clearly have much more "clout" than our RA.

Many of you will remember that over the last 20 or so years BVRA has undertaken a series of public consultations seeking your views on ways to improve our village, resulting in a number of 5-year "Plans for Banstead Village". The councils' lack of funds for this sort of discretionary expenditure has over the years limited progress in achieving many of your aspirations, hence our interest in promoting discussion on the creation of a new Village Council.

The current and anticipated reductions in finance for existing councils indicate

that their resources for local expenditure will continue to decline. A Village Council would raise additional money for local expenditure on priorities voted for by you. This would be by way of a small annual precept of around £25 to £30, added to your council tax, which could raise about £100,000 to £125,000 per annum. This, and other practical issues, needs more analysis, but the anticipated benefits to the residents of the village are such that we now need to know if you agree to us taking the next steps.

One way or another, please let us know – by email, voting at our AGM or writing to me at 42 Woodmansterne Lane, SM7 3HE.

Richard Heath

(01737) 212333

POLICE MATTERS

1 Police Commissioner:

Kevin Hurley has been in the news recently with his decisions to axe a £multi-million computer system and review the basis on which redundant police stations will be sold (meaning a delay in the sale of Banstead station, not its retention).

He has also issued his statement of his "People's Priorities":

Zero tolerance policing;

Putting victims at the centre of the criminal justice system;

Giving an opportunity to have a greater say in how our streets are policed;

Protecting our local policing;

Being uncompromising in the standards we expect from our police.

The detail behind these statements, and much more of local interest besides, is available on the Police Commissioner's web site: www.surrey-pcc.gov.uk

BANSTEAD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

2 Recent local issues:

Nationally, we read, violent crimes are on the decrease. Fortunately the recent local crime reports continue to contain only relatively minor crimes – however distressing to the victims. In February we were told of a small number of burglaries, damage to the Youth Centre, damage to cars, theft of a van, thefts from other vehicles, and a couple of minor thefts from shops. In March the reports included 4 burglaries (only one “successful”) but 3 arrests, more damage to vehicles, 4 thefts from shops and one from a retirement home.

Although these are still fairly small numbers, they are disturbing. Clearly the frequently repeated police messages regarding the need for further care and security (windows closed; sheds, houses and vehicles locked, etc,) still needs to be stressed.

Mike Sawyer

(01737) 355454

PLANNING

We continue to find the announcements of planning “relaxations” to be confusing and, at times, contradictory – as witness the changes (to be welcomed) to the Growth and Infrastructure Bill, which extends permitted development rights for homeowners and businesses. This, and other proposals, are apparently aimed at speeding up the planning process and stimulating the recovery of the building industry. We regret that many of these proposals appear to be controversial and in direct conflict with the stated intentions of localism, and seem more likely to result in dissatisfaction between neighbours without the intended effect of speed or

boosting major house building.

On this latter point, we have learnt that the government recently advised that demand for future housing provision of over 930 dwellings per annum had been identified for Reigate & Banstead, greatly in excess of the now abolished SE Plan target of around 500. This appears intended to put yet more pressure on the Council to plan for redevelopment of parts of our green belt. This issue, among others, will be the subject of much debate at the forthcoming Core Strategy Examination in Public, starting in May, and our MP, Crispin Blunt, made clear at a recent meeting of the Banstead and District Federation of RAs that he also intends to make known to the Inspector his views concerning impact of excessive housing numbers and the need to avoid development within the green belt.

In the meantime, in anticipation of securing an approved Core Strategy this summer, the Borough is progressing the next (detailed) stages of its Local Development Framework and invited RAs to a Residents' Associations' Workshop, hopefully the first of many, which produced a healthy debate on views on various priorities. More information can be seen on the Council's website.

Mike Sawyer

(01737) 355454

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

Road resurfacing

Since the last newsletter Buff Avenue and Grange Meadow have been resurfaced. Buff Avenue was not in that bad a state beforehand, but Grange Meadow was in dire need of attention. I queried the latter with Surrey C C because it did not appear on the list of work

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presented to the Local Committee (of Surrey C C and Reigate & Banstead B C).

I was told by my contact, and I quote, "there are so many different lists it is difficult to keep track". However he did provide me with A LIST, (and it may not be THE LIST)

The schedule for 2013/14 includes –
Pound Road – yes it is top of the list
Croydon Lane
Yewlands Close – presumably the bits they didn't do last time
Holly Lane – the whole length including haunching (this is another word for repairing the eroded edges).
Woodmansterne Lane
Glenfield Road
Sandersfield Road
Sandersfield Gardens

There are more scheduled for 2014/15 and 2015/16, but in my opinion there are other roads they could put on the list. De Burgh Park has multiple pot holes; and Pembroke Close which in part bears a strange resemblance to the worst parts of Brighton beach.

It will be interesting to see how much of this schedule is expedited.

On other matters, double yellow lines have appeared in Sandersfield Road and Gardens and the replacement of lamp posts on the main roads is all but finished. Flooding on Sutton Lane is as bad as ever (April 12th)

David Gradidge (01737) 353981

VILLAGE MATTERS

1. Benches:

We have had two generous donations to help us improve the appearance of the

village. Councillor Mrs Angela Fraser DL has awarded us £3,250 from her local allocation of Surrey CC funds, to install three benches. Two benches are already in place outside the Library, replacing two broken old benches there, and we are still assessing where to put the third bench, for which we have two alternative locations. The benches have been built by the Norbury Park Sawmill near Dorking and are of solid English oak; they look good. The funding was donated to Banstead residents by Angela Fraser to mark her retirement as our Surrey County Councillor from 1989 to 2013. Again we take this opportunity to thank her for her dedication to the needs of the village over 25 years.

2. Trees:

Waitrose is celebrating its 75th anniversary of joining the John Lewis Group and has asked us to arrange a suitable use for some of the funds, in the region of £1,000. We have agreed with them, subject to approval from Surrey County Council, to replace two dead and broken trees on the High Street by the junction with Harbourfield Road, which will be in sight of shoppers leaving Waitrose. One tree will be a *Prunus Kansam* to match the live cherry tree on the opposite side of Harbourfield. The other will be a *Ginkgo Biloba*, some 10 metres to the west of the junction; in both cases we need Surrey CC's approval of the choice of tree, but since there are many Ginkgo trees in Kingston and many Prunus in Banstead already, we believe they will be found to be acceptable. Our thanks go to Waitrose for helping us to remove the existing dead trees and replace them.

Roger Collins (01737) 358384

BANSTEAD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

ROAD STEWARDS and MEMBERSHIP

The final figure for membership will be about 1940 or much the same as last year.

My thanks to the many road stewards who have gone out in all weathers – I had one lot of money delivered in a snow storm. They have put up with just about everything and just recently severe cold.

Looking back on old records, at least 30 road stewards have done the job for 12 years or more and I am sure many of those have achieved 20 years.

There are as ever a few vacancies so if you are interested or know anyone willing to take on any of the following, please contact me (email dgradidge@waitrose.com)

Beechfield

Kingsley Avenue

Greenhayes Avenue (odd numbers)

David Gradidge

(01737) 353981

BANSTEAD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED 31ST MARCH 2013

	2012/2013	2011/2012
	£	£
INCOME		
Subscriptions & Donations	3851	3914
Sundry Income	12	0
Interest received	1	2
	<u>3864</u>	<u>3916</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Production of News Sheets	1526	1571
Subscriptions	64	64
Printing postage & stationery	20	688
Hire of rooms	290	305
Sundry expenses	171	147
Jubilee Bench	901	
Banstead Village Lights	1229	
Donation to Garton Recreation Ground	42	
Donation of Banstead Guides	0	250
Donation to Banstead History Society	0	200
Donation to Banstead Scouts	100	
Excess of Expenditure over income	-479	691
	<u>3864</u>	<u>3916</u>
NOTICE BOARD FUND		
Balance 1 st April 2011		2500
Less Cost of Notice Board and Installation		2070
Transfer to "Let there be Light Fund"		430
LET THERE BE LIGHT FUND		
Balance 1 st April 2012	1575	
Surrey County Council		740
Let There be Light Fund	1000	
Waitrose		446
Banstead Baptist Church		300
Surplus from Notice Board Fund		430
	<u>2575</u>	<u>1916</u>
Less Expenditure	3804	341
	<u>-1229</u>	<u>1575</u>
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2013		
	31/03/2013	31/01/12
	£	£
NET ASSETS		
Treasurer's Account – Lloyds TSB	7902	6288
Deposit account – Lloyds TSB	0	3900
Cash in Hand	148	
Debtors net of Creditors	80	-4
	<u>8130</u>	<u>10184</u>
REPRESENTED BY		
General Fund as at 1 st April 2012	8609	7918
Less Deficit for the period	-479	691
	<u>8130</u>	<u>8609</u>
Let There be Light Fund	0	1575
	<u>8130</u>	<u>10184</u>

J D G Gradidge
16 The Maples
Banstead
Hon Treasurer