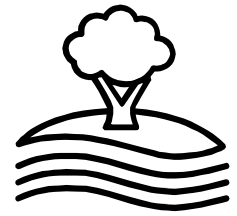


Knoll News



Knoll Residents Association Summer 2010 Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Paul Savage writes...

Welcome to the summer edition of the "Knoll News", and the second in our new format. This edition also includes a visit to the archives, with an extract from one of our earliest editions about parking. Clearly, some things don't change!

As mentioned in our last edition, we are also in the process of updating and upgrading our website (www.kra.orp.org.uk). The new website, when it is up and running, will have details of the Association's aims and objectives, contact details for Committee members and some useful links. We are also hoping for a "News and Current Events" page, with details of any important breaking local news or a local event that may be of interest to our members but which falls between one issue of the "Knoll News" and another. We hope the new website will be up and running by the autumn. Our thanks go to Jerry Perera for his help in updating the site.

Finally, we all know that some severe cuts in public spending are in the pipeline. Many of these are likely to fall on the services provided by local Councils. In fact, a number of cuts are already being made (not least to local further education), as a result of the squeeze applied by the last Government and more can be expected. As a result, it is quite likely that such things as road repairs will take longer to be done than in the past. If there are any particular problems in your area or road, whether road condition related or not, please let a Committee member know, and we will see what influence we can bring to bear on Bromley Council to make sure that the Knoll area gets its fair share of whatever funds there are available.

BIGGIN HILL

There is renewed concern about developments at Biggin Hill airfield. As some of you may know, a new hotel is being built and the new hangar will have customs and passport facilities. It is thought that the owners are still trying to obtain permission for longer operating hours and are likely to use the 2012 London Olympics as an argument for scheduled flights. We believe that additional flights to and from Biggin Hill are likely to be detrimental to the Knoll area and will continue to monitor developments.

BROMLEY HIGH STREET

Although outside our area, Bromley is a popular shopping destination and readers may wish to know that Bromley Council has ambitious plans for Bromley High Street. These involve the almost complete redevelopment of the area between the Churchill Theatre and Bromley South Station over the next fifteen years.

Local heritage groups have protested about the impact of the proposed plans on some of the more historic buildings involved and the current plans may be amended, although it seems likely that the redevelopment will go ahead in one form or another.

PARKING

Most of you will recall the parking questionnaire sent out by Bromley Council a few months ago. The questionnaire asked residents whether they were content with the existing parking restrictions in their road or would rather they were extended or eased.

The Council reviewed the responses and sent out further details to the residents in those roads where the majority of residents were in favour of change and are currently reviewing these responses.

As far as we can judge, the majority of residents in the area as a whole are in favour of the status quo but the residents of some roads are in favour of greater parking restrictions, essentially to deter commuter parking. One innovation which may be useful in some areas but not in others is the introduction of a number of 'free' parking bays. The idea behind this is to allow residents who have visitors or tradesmen, who need to use their parking space, to be able to park in one of the free bays, which, of course, they can 'reserve' by parking there overnight after the commuters have gone.

We understand that once the responses from those roads which were in favour of some change have been considered, final plans will be drawn up and put to Bromley Council. We hope that it may be possible to have a local exhibition of the proposed changes; something similar occurred in Petts Wood, when they had a similar review of parking, which proved very useful and popular with residents. If an exhibition is arranged details will be posted on our website.

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAMS

Sgt John Kemp from the Petts Wood & Knoll SNT has provided the following useful snippets:-

Road Safety

Now that both Crime and Anti Social Behaviour have been substantially reduced on this Ward our efforts are moving on to other matters of concern. One such matter that is often highlighted locally is Road Safety and in particular the use of Mobile Phones whilst driving. Whilst the penalty is normally three points and a £60 fine, nationally it is not always seen as priority by either politicians or senior Police Officers. Therefore enforcement is patchy, leaving many people to think they can get away with it to the point of it becoming a habit. However that said, in response to local demand we are looking to increase enforcement locally in Petts Wood & Knoll area.

Donations left outside Charity shops

This is a regular problem whereby well meaning people leave donations outside their favoured charity shop when it's closed. Whilst the intention is good, the outcome is often that the donation is 'stolen' by professional car boot sellers or worst the bags are opened, then tipped cross the pavement and items of value taken leaving the shop to clear up the mess when they next open. Either way, the charity loses out and often incurs extra cost to clear up. If you want to make sure your chosen charity benefits from your generosity, please only leave donations when the shop is open.

You can find out news, surgery dates etc for the SNTs covering the KRA area by clicking on the Orpington or Petts Wood & Knoll links from this website:-

www.met.police.uk/teams/bromley

WHERE DOES ALL THE RUBBISH GO?

The Chairman & Committee are grateful to James Cleverly, Assembly member for Bexley & Bromley for the following article:-

"I was asked recently what happens to the rubbish that is collected by the council. It's great to see people taking an interest in the future of municipal waste as it wasn't that long ago that, once it went into the dustbin truck, people thought no more about it. Until recently, almost all of London's waste was going into landfill, with all the negative environmental impacts that entails.

I'm pleased to say that increasingly less of Bromley's residents' waste now goes to landfill, and Bromley has become one of the best boroughs in London for recycling.

The term recycling covers a wide range of treatments from re-use at one end of the spectrum through to energy recovery at the other.

In this article I'd like to explain some of these processes and the potential benefits that they bring. Re-use is the term for things being used for their original purpose: for example kitchen white goods can be cleaned, repaired and sold on or donated to the poor either in the UK or overseas; and there has been a long tradition of clothing and shoe donations being re-used.

The next major element is what most people think of recycling, where waste is separated, processed and turned into something else; commonly recycled products are glass, paper and card; aluminium, ferrous metals, and some types of plastics. Currently, there is a lack of reprocessing facilities in the UK and active overseas markets lead to some of these products going overseas. While this isn't the optimum result, it's still both ecologically and financially better than sending those waste types to landfill.

The good news is that the number of reprocessing facilities is increasing so we will be able to turn more of our old plastic milk bottles into new milk bottles in the UK for use in the UK.

Much of what we throw away is organic waste, food and plant derived waste. Clearly this can't be recycled like plastic or glass but there are a number of technologies which can make use of it. The oldest and simplest of these is composting - nature's very own recycling process - which happens on forest floors the world over with no help from man needed at all. You can speed up this natural process by using composting bins, and the council also uses this process on a larger scale to deal with the many tons of vegetable matter that it collects from its own green spaces.

Cooked food and meat cannot be put onto compost mounds because it will attract vermin, but there is a process called anaerobic digestion which turns food waste into natural gas (methane) and a chemically inert, smell-free soil improver (fertiliser). The gas can be used to power electricity generators or cleaned and put into the domestic gas supply, and the fertiliser can go into local farms.

The last type of waste treatment is known as 'energy from waste' and is often referred to as incineration; this is often the only alternative to landfill for unsegregated household waste. Modern heat treatments are a million miles away from the image of plumes of sticky black smoke billowing from a furnace, but other than that, a degree of electricity generation incineration does not provide much of an end product.

Much of what we throw away has value and can be turned into new products, natural gas, electricity or fertiliser; but almost all of these processes need waste to be separated into its component elements. This is why Bromley Council is encouraging the separation of household waste: it enables them to deal with it so much more effectively and economically, and this will enable them to keep your council tax bills down."

THE WAY WE WERE

The first ever edition of Knoll News was issued in October 1976. The Chairman back then was R E C Harris and his opening introduction begins and ends with these sentences:-

“This is the first issue of what we hope will be a regular newsletter. We aim to make it not just a communication from the Committee to the members, but also a channel for members to communicate with the rest of the Association.....

..... We hope you will approve this venture, and help make it worthwhile enough to print some three or four times a year.”

Well, almost 34 years later, we can safely say that his initial optimism was well-founded.

We took the opportunity to look at the old KRA files following suggestions from members for a section on past activities in the Knoll, local history or other interesting local knowledge.

If you have any information or interesting stories from the area that would be suitable for future newsletters please send your contribution to our new dedicated newsletter email address (below) or any of the Committee members. We will fit in what we can, or consider for the website, space & permissions permitting. kra.knollnews@googlemail.com

As Paul has mentioned in Chairman’s Corner here is a familiar sounding extract from the Knoll News summer edition, June 1986:-

“Parking Review

The Association Committee was invited to comment on the Council’s preliminary proposals for a new scheme of parking restrictions in Orpington as they would affect the Knoll area. We considered that, broadly, they incorporated the improvements residents have been seeking for so long and we suggested some extensions where we felt parkers would merely move into the next unrestricted road.

Following our comments, and those of Ward Councillors, the Police and Orpington Travellers Association, Council officers have prepared a plan to be considered by the Technical Services Committee on 2nd June. We have asked for that plan to be made available for public inspection at Orpington Library.

If it is approved by the Council, there will begin the formalities of implementation, including an announcement in the press of the proposal, giving an opportunity for public comment. Once in operation, the new scheme will be reviewed after a year.”

PRINCESS ROYAL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

The PRU is an important local asset but, like all big hospitals, it is sometimes possible to get lost in the bureaucracy, for records etc to get lost or misplaced or other mishaps to happen.

If something similar happens to you or your family, and you feel that your concerns are not being properly dealt with, it is useful to know that the PRU has a Patient Relations Department, which offers a “Patient Advice and Liaison Service- PALS”, whose job it is to sort out just this sort of problem. The PALS contact number is 01689/863252.

PLANNING

The KRA committee is delighted by the recent Government announcement to protect gardens from infill houses.

Over the last decade, many councils have been frustrated by the increasing amount of inappropriate development on gardens which they have been unable to prevent. This is because planning guidance has classified gardens as 'previously residential land', in the same “brownfield” category as derelict factories and disused railway sidings. On 9 June, the Government removed gardens from the “brownfield” category with immediate effect. This means that objections to the redevelopment of gardens now carry significantly more weight. From the same date minister Greg Clark also scrapped the minimum density target, so Bromley Council now has power to decide what level of density is appropriate for an area.

Councillor Tony Owen & James Cleverly Assembly Member for Bexley and Bromley have supplied this internet link and formal statement:-

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/16083341>

“Councils and communities are being given immediate powers to prevent the destructive practice of 'garden grabbing' and to decide what types of homes are suitable for their area, Decentralisation Minister Greg Clark announced today....Mr Clark is today unveiling plans to take gardens out of the Brownfield category, a simple step that will dramatically transform councils' ability to prevent unwanted development on gardens where local people object and protect the character of their neighbourhoods. Greg Clark said: "Today I am changing the classification of garden land so councils and communities no longer have their decisions constantly overruled, but have the power to work with industry to shape future development that is appropriate for their area.”

A PENNY FOR.....

The Junior Church at St John's United Reformed Church are hoping to form a mile of pennies around the Church on Sunday 12th September. All the money collected will go towards the URC 'Commitment for Life' overseas, in particular in Zimbabwe, Palestine & India. You can read more at http://www.urch.org.uk/what_we_do/commitment_for_life/commitment_for_life

If you would like to contribute any spare 1ps you have lying about please send them via Church members or to the KRA Secretary, Hilary Robson, 35 Tower Road, by Friday 10th September.

WEA PROGRAMME 2010/11

The WEA has a varied and interesting programme of courses (10 or 20 sessions) starting locally in the Autumn.

All tastes are catered for: 'People, Ideas & Events that made the Modern World'; 'Literature: Wilde, Hardy and the late Victorians'; 'Art of the Aztecs & Mayans'; 'Kent: Gateway to England'; '16th Century European History'; 'History of Medicine' and 'Spanish Art'.

For details of dates, venues and costs, please contact Penny Stewart on 01689 827420 or Martine Haynes at haynes.martine@googlemail.com.

ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Scottish Dancing Classes will be recommencing in September, following the summer break. Classes are:-

Mondays

At St. Paul's Church Hall, Crofton Road, Orpington
2- 4pm social dancing
8-10.15pm beginners

Thursdays

At Petts Wood Memorial Hall
8-10.15pm social dancing

For more details please contact Pam on 01689 873511

BROMLEY'S BIG BRUSH UP



After last year's success LBB are once again proposing to clean up our borough in the Big Bromley Brush Up. Dates are 21 to 31 August and full details can be found at www.bromley.gov.uk/neatstreet

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

We have given details of this worthwhile course in previous newsletters but here is the Unit's own advert and appealing offer:-

"You may or may not be aware that LBB Road Safety Unit offers a 'complete Driving Course' to all residents.

Please don't dismiss this by thinking I can drive and what possible use is this to me!

Or if you have already attended, please think of someone else who could benefit from attending.

Even though we are making some headway into bringing the numbers of deaths and serious injuries down in the borough, every time you make a journey you are putting yourself and others at risk.

We would like to help you minimise that risk by updating your knowledge and introducing you to new information that will improve your confidence, skill and judgement when faced with challenging situations while driving. The course is informal, with lively discussions, films, quizzes and much more.

We are offering a two for the price of one promotion so, you can bring a friend along for free' the £27 fee could be the best purchase you ever made in ensuring your safety.

Please see www.bromley.gov.uk/roadsafety or contact Helen Martin at the Road Safety Unit on 020 8313 4546"

CONTACT US

For general enquires about the Association please email us at kra.enquiries@googlemail.com and for newsletter contributions kra.knollnews@googlemail.com

Contact email addresses for specific officers & topics are given below with telephone numbers:-

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