

BVRA newssheet

from the Banstead Village Residents' Association

Vol: 14 No. 2 April 1998

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Executive Committee extends to all members of the Association a warm invitation to the 51st Annual General Meeting to be held at:

**The Church Institute, High Street, Banstead
on Wednesday, 13th May 1998
at 8.00pm**

AGENDA

1. 8.00 pm A talk by a Representative of Sutton and East Surrey Water Company on "Life's most precious commodity" followed by questions from the floor.
2. Presentation by David Rudd of BVRA's SURVEY on Refuse Collection.
3. Minutes of 50th Annual General Meeting held on 7th May 1997 will not be read, but a summary will be distributed to members in the hall.
4. Presentation of audited accounts for the year ended 31st January 1998 included in this News Sheet.
5. Election of Officers and Executive Committee for the year 1998/99
6. Debate of local issues(including Refuse Collection) with our Councillors.
7. Any other business.

Please bring this invitation with you to the meeting

We hope you will join us for an evening of lively and interesting debate.

April 1998
John Nicolson,
Hon. Secretary,

45, Wilmot Way, Banstead
Tel:- (01737 353038)

Annual General Meeting

It is that time of year again when we meet to take stock of progress made and where we are heading during the next twelve months. You will see that the A.G.M. has been postponed by one week, and this is due to the local government elections.

On this occasion our guest speaker will be a Representative of Sutton & East Surrey Water Company. The talk will cover such topics as the source of Banstead's supply; quality of water supply; water leakage and prospect of shortages this year; and the role of OFWAT. This is a subject of interest to all the community - please bring all those questions you would like answered. The Executive Committee looks forward to welcoming you to our annual reunion.

Committee News

It is with great regret we have to say farewell to four committee members - Sylvia Cartwright, Audrey Stamp, Richard Bowes and Malcolm Smith. They have served the Association conscientiously and in extending our grateful thanks to them for their individual contributions we would like to wish them well in the future.

These resignations leave a number of vacancies on the new Executive Committee to be filled at the A.G.M. A full complement comprises 19 members. I therefore invite any public-spirited members who are interested in local affairs and the well-being of the Village to come forward and offer themselves for election on May 13th. You can be certain of a very warm welcome.

The whole Committee meets on the last Tuesday in every month (except December) in the Church Institute at 7.30p.m. In addition there is an opportunity to join one of our small study groups, usually six or so members, which focus on particular issues of importance. You may be sure your views and ideas will be valued and you will enjoy friendly company. If you are interested and wish to learn more about the Association's aims and activities please give me, Peter McLaren, a ring on 01737 357463. It is a worthwhile and interesting form of community service.

Membership and Subscriptions

Like "Topsy" the Association's membership continues to grow steadily. For the financial year which ended on January 31st 1998 our certified membership increased to 1,901 households (or 1.3% over the previous year). For this splendid achievement we have to thank our network of 78 Road Stewards who, whatever the weather, put NewsSheets through your letterbox and collect your

annual subscription. I have written a letter to them expressing our thanks for their efforts and dedication.

The outgoing Committee has set a membership target of 2,000 households before the MILLENNIUM. What an achievement that would be! We hope to achieve this goal by encouraging non-members and newcomers to join the common cause which is the protection and enhancement of the amenities of the Village and our way of life.

You may recall that at last year's A.G.M. the Committee sought and was granted authority to increase the membership subscription by an amount not exceeding 50p. per annum. However, after carefully considering our financial position (which is set out in the audited accounts included with this NewsSheet) and the implications of such an increase on the collection of subscriptions, it was decided to retain the existing level of £1 per household for the current financial year.

Banstead. Civic Offices

Since David Rudd's article in the January '98 issue we can report that a planning application (for deemed consent) has now been submitted for the new Civic Offices in The Horseshoe incorporating an enlarged Help Shop and Citizen's Advice Bureau.

This application was examined by B.V.R.A. with great care and following the submission of our observations, we are pleased to report that certain improvements have been made to the scheme. These include an enlarged display area for Banstead's historical records and memorabilia, increased storage area and better facilities for the meeting room such as will enable visual display equipment to be used by educational groups.

It has been a long haul to reach this point and we have invested a great deal of time and effort in persuading the Council to recognise the legitimate aspirations of those living in the north of the Borough. We are pleased to place on record our thanks to our three Borough Councillors who have consistently supported the Association in this endeavour, and whose influence has been crucial in bringing it about.

Peter McLaren

Planning Matters - Stone Lanterns

Continuing the story of Stone Lanterns, the Council's Development and Control Sub-committee has been persuaded to refuse the developer's third application (reported in the STOP PRESS of our January NewsSheet) for two five-bedroom houses to replace this old house, situated between the 500-year old listed Well Farm and the 18th century Well at the Park Road end of Woodmansterne Lane.

The Council's Environmental Services Department had recommended the committee to grant this application on the narrow grounds that, in its view, the latest plans move one of the houses 2.5 metres further from the boundary with 1 Park Road and reduce the bulk of its roof, so overcoming the Department's sole reason for recommending refusal of the second application in December. But three councillors from other wards visited 1 and 2 Park Road by invitation to see for themselves how much one of the two houses would obscure the views from those back gardens and windows and reduce their privacy. One said he was 'appalled' at the prospect. The residents also produced some slides of how that house would look and they were shown to the committee.

Our objection had pointed out that none of the plans was dimensioned and the new ones could not guarantee that the house would be appreciably further away from that boundary nor would the roof alterations reduce the bulk appearance of the house. We also drew attention once again to the other ways in which, in our view, all three applications violate the Local Plan (see our April 1997 NewsSheet) but which had been minimised in or omitted from the successive reports to the committee.

We have two local councillors on that committee (some wards have none). Cllr. Geoff Sinnerton apologised for his absence from the meeting but wrote to all eighteen members, supporting the application after visiting the site and those neighbours. Cllr. Brian Cowle had also visited the site and neighbours several times; he spoke against the application, as did some other councillors.

Stone Lanterns was no. 23 out of 26 applications on the agenda. The public gallery was full at the beginning of the meeting but most of the people and several councillors left about half way through the proceedings. Out of an initial fourteen councillors, eleven remained for our item at 10.25 p.m. After a resolution to extend the proceedings beyond the normal closure at 10.30, followed by the presentation and speeches, eight voted to refuse the application and the rest abstained; none voted to grant it.

The applicant's appeals against the Council's refusals of their first two applications, which we also mentioned in September, were heard by the DoE Inspector at the Town Hall on 12 March. The room was crowded. Apart from the applicant's and the Council's official representatives, five neighbours, two representatives from the Banstead History Society, Cllr. Brian Cowle and I were among those present. We do not expect to hear the Inspector's decisions for a month or so but meanwhile we picked up two useful pieces of information.

The first was that the Inspector listens to objections which were not part of the Council's reasons for refusing planning permission, as notified to the

applicant. In other words applications on appeal are open to reconsideration from first principles and objectors, such as ourselves, whose objections the Council has omitted, can revive them. We were previously not sure that that would be the case.

The second useful piece of information was that, although the Inspector said - very firmly - that he had read and understood all the objections and that we should not improve our cases by repeating them, nevertheless when we did repeat some of them (in slight trepidation), it became evident from his questions that he had not fully absorbed what we were getting at. We were not surprised, in view of the vast amount of material in front of him, but we shall bear both these things in mind for the future.

David Rudd

Banstead and District Chamber of Commerce

The recently reactivated Chamber of Commerce held its Annual General Meeting on March 4th at the Day Centre. Under its new Chairman, Dr Archibald, and its Secretary, Mrs A Hardy (01737 551810), it is getting to grips with several of the issues which affect traders as well as residents in the District. These include participation in the Banstead High Street Initiative Steering Group. It is shortly to start an intensive recruitment drive in order to increase its membership. BVRA welcomes the new spirit in the Chamber and hopes that the drive is successful.

Chris Penfold

Banstead Wildlife Field

Spring has arrived, and all over the Field buds are beginning to break on the newly-planted trees. It will be some years before these are fully mature, but Nature's gradual development of this peaceful place will provide pleasure and fascination for Banstead's residents. Local schools and children's groups are reminded that this facility is open to them, and if they wish to go 'pond dipping' should contact Mr. Savage at 60, Bolters Lane for the key to the pond gate.

Dennis Woolmer.

Diceland Road - Wanted

We urgently wish to find a Road Steward to look after the needs of Diceland Road. In 1996/97 we had 24 members but, unfortunately, subscriptions for last year are outstanding. Is there someone in the area who would be willing to deliver NewsSheets and collect subscriptions for the current year? If so would you please contact Edna Touzel (01737 357663) or Peter McLaren (01737 357463).

STOP PRESS - Stone Lanterns

The DoE Inspector has dismissed both of the appeals which he heard at the Town Hall on 12 March 1998.

BANSTEAD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 1998.

	1997/98 £	1996/97 £
INCOME		
Subscriptions Received	1938.00	1930.70
Interest from Bank (net)	47.43	47.42
Interest from T.S.B. (net)	25.84	31.82
Excess of Expenditure over Income	987.17	—
	<u>2998.44</u>	<u>2009.94</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Production of NewsSheets	741.00	786.11
Subscriptions Paid	5.00	5.00
Printing & Stationery	238.71	173.55
Postage & Telephone	137.07	88.60
Hire of Rooms	200.00	276.00
Annual General Meeting Expenses	490.57	459.68
Sundry Expenses	136.09	89.31
Banstead High Street Initiative	1050.00	—
Excess of Income over Expenditure	—	131.69
	<u>2998.44</u>	<u>2009.94</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST JANUARY 1998.

	31.01.98 £	31.01.97 £
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank - Treasurers's Account	1840.43	2829.44
On Deposit with T.S.B.	1102.29	1076.45
Sundry Debtor(s)	20.00	44.00
	<u>2962.72</u>	<u>3949.89</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Excess of Assets over Liabilities	2962.72	3949.89
Represented by:-		
General Fund -		
Credit Balance Brought Forward	3547.61	3415.92
Add - Surplus Income for Year	—	131.69
Deduct - Excess Expenditure for year	987.17	—
	<u>2560.44</u>	<u>3547.61</u>
Fund for Preservation of Banstead Amenities -		
Credit Balance Brought Forward	<u>402.28</u>	<u>402.28</u>
	<u>2962.72</u>	<u>3949.89</u>

I have audited the above balance sheet dated 31st January 1998 and attached Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended on that date and they are in accordance with the Books and Vouchers submitted to me and in my opinion reflect a true and fair statement of the affairs of the Association.

P. McLaren MBE
Hon. Treasurer
61 Commonfield Road
Banstead.

14th February 1998

F.W. Dadswell FCA
Hon. Auditor
5 Greenhayes Gardens
Banstead.

5th March 1998

Refuse Collection - What are your views?

What do you think of the Council's refuse collection service since those wheelie bins and recycling boxes arrived in the autumn of last year? If you would care to give us your views, please turn over to our questionnaire in this NewsSheet, fill in your answers and either put it in our BVRA survey box at the Help Shop in the Horseshoe, or deliver it to any committee member whose name and address are listed there or post it to the first person on that list, *to arrive on or preferably before Wednesday 6th May*. If you can't be bothered with all the questions, why not answer just the first three? We shall announce the results at the AGM.

The bins were brought in to save money (your council tax) and the boxes were intended to facilitate the collection of paper and cans for salvage. Unfortunately the services are costing more than expected and there is a glut of waste paper which the market cannot absorb, so it seems unlikely that those objectives will be achieved now.

You may ask: what is the point of the survey? Are we not stuck with these wheelie bins and the boxes now, whether we like them or not? Well yes, the bins will remain but the service might be brought up to scratch, if it needs it. Also the boxes were not such a large investment, so one would think it might be possible to do something different with our paper and cans. There might even be a possibility of restoring something like the back-door collections we used to have - *if that is what residents want*. But we don't know - nobody really knows - what you would prefer until you tell us. With your co-operation, we can provide the Council with the preferences of Banstead Village.

In 108 roads across the borough, the Council withdrew the wheelie bin service at the beginning of March and substituted black sacks. According to the Streetcare Unit, that was to overcome "difficulties caused by restricted access due the parking problems, etc." We have 100 member-households in eight of those roads, but we have kept our questionnaire as simple as possible for our other 1800 member-households, who still have the bin service.

If you are in one of the affected households, we hope you will still respond. All you need do is read 'black sacks' for 'Wheelie bins' in the questionnaire. We shall know from your post code which service you are getting. We do not intend to pass any individual responses on to the Council - or anyone else - but you can of course make your own views known to the Council directly by writing to the Streetcare Manager, Mr. Alan Storer, at the Town Hall, Reigate. (You can save a stamp by handing in your letter at the Help Shop.)

The Data Protection Act seems to require us to explain that we shall analyse the responses with a computer. If you object to your response being entered into a computer for that purpose, please say so prominently on the form. We shall then omit it from our computer analysis. Regrettably we cannot give you much time to respond because we could not send out the questionnaire until this NewsSheet and we need a few days to analyse the results in time for the AGM. So we are asking you *not* to say, "we'll think about it later" but to tackle the questionnaire - or some of it - straight away. **DON'T MISS THE CLOSING DATE - WEDNSDAY 6TH MAY**. And then do come to the AGM to hear the results and what Your councillors have to say about them.

David Rudd

REFUSE COLLECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Please write your address - house number (or name), road and post code

SM7

2. How many people have you in your household?

For the following questions, please tick one choice for each or leave the question blank.

3. Compared with last summer, do you think the present service is BETTER

ABOUT AS GOOD

WORSE

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 4. Is your wheelie bin now usually being collected on the day you have been told by leaflet? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Is your recycling box also now usually being collected on that day ? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6a. Have you asked for a larger bin because of the number of people in your household? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6b. If yes, have you received a larger bin (or possibly a second bin in lieu)? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7a. Have you asked for an alternative service because you are disabled, frail or infirm? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7b. If yes, are you getting an acceptable alternative service ? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8a. Have you told the Council that your front door opens directly onto the footway or that you cannot store the bin and the box or cannot get them up and down stairs or steps? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8b. If yes, are you getting an acceptable alternative service? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. The collectors are not allowed to leave the bins or boxes on the public road or footway and they must put them back where you left them, just within the boundary of your property. If they have difficulties, they are supposed to leave a note of explanation. If you have had any contact with them have you found them helpful? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Have you noticed any significant increase in street litter since the new service started? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11a. Have you rung the Council hot line about any refuse collection problem (including any of the above)? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11b. If yes, did you get a satisfactory response? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12a. Were you getting a back-door collection service last summer before the wheelie bins arrived? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12b. If yes and the collectors started coming back now to wheel your bin and carry your box from your back door and return them would you be:- | | |
| | Pleased | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Indifferent | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Sorry | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please **either** put your response into the BVRA SURVEY BOX in The Help Shop in The Horseshoe or post or deliver it to..
David Rudd, 14 Colcokes Road, Banstead, Surrey, SM2 2EW

or deliver it to any of the following other committee members -

Richard Bowes, 8 Mellow Close

Chris Penfold, 169 Pembroke Close

Hilary Drew, 1 The Stables, Colcokes Road

Mary Sudell, 18 Courtlands Crescent

Peter McLaren, 61 Commonfield Road

Ann Whittle, 37

Commonfield Road

John Nicolson, 45 Wilmot Way

The closing date is Wednesday 6th May

BVRA Banstead Village Residents Association

REFUSE COLLECTION SURVEY ANALYSIS 11/05/98

Of 1900 member-households in the *whole Banstead Village ward*, 332 (17 %), representing 750+ people, responded. Their replies to the questionnaire were:

- 3 Compared with last summer, do you think the present service is: **BETTER?** 72
ABOUT AS GOOD? 171 **NO RESPONSE** 23 **WORSE?** 66
- 4 Is your wheelie bin now usually being collected on the day you have been told by leaflet?
YES 307 **NO RESPONSE** 10 **NO** 15
- 5 Is your recycling box also now usually being collected on that day?
YES 289 **NO RESPONSE** 23 **NO** 20
- 6a Have you asked for a larger bin because of the number of people in your household?
YES 32 **NO RESPONSE** 24 **NO** 276
- 6b *If yes*, have you received a larger bin (or possibly a second bin in lieu)?
YES 24* **NO RESPONSE** 1 **NO** 7**
- ¹³ *Some had <5 people in household **Only 1 had >4 people in household
- 7a Have you asked for an alternative service because you are disabled, frail or infirm?
YES 19 **NO RESPONSE** 41 **NO** 272
- 7b *If yes*, are you getting an acceptable alternative service?
YES 12 **NO RESPONSE** 4 **NO** 3
- 8a Have you told the Council that your front door opens directly onto the footway or that you cannot store the bin and the box or cannot get them up and down stairs or steps?
YES 12 **NO RESPONSE** 70 **NO** 250
- 8b *If yes*, are you getting an acceptable alternative service?
YES 9 **NO RESPONSE** 0 **NO** 3
- 9 If you have had any contact with the collectors have you found them helpful?
YES 49 **NO RESPONSE** 250 **NO** 33
- 10 Have you noticed any significant increase in street litter since the new service started?
YES 108 **NO RESPONSE** 16 **NO** 208
- 11a Have you rung the Council hot line about any refuse collection problem?
YES 115 **NO RESPONSE** 22 **NO** 195
- 11b *If yes*, did you get a satisfactory response?
YES 60 **NO RESPONSE** 10 **NO** 45
- 12a Were you getting a back-door collection service last summer?
YES 202 **NO RESPONSE** 16 **NO** 114
- 12b *If yes* and the collectors started coming back now to wheel your bin and carry your box from your back door and return them, would you be:
PLEASED? 134
INDIFFERENT? 46 **NO RESPONSE** 6 **SORRY?** 16