

NOTICE

Please bring this Notice with you to the Meeting

The THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Association will be held in the Tweddle Hall, St Andrew's Church, Northey Avenue on Thursday, 5th July 2007 at 8.00 pm.

AGENDA

1. **Annual Report** by the Chairman
2. **Balance Sheet and Accounts** for the year ended 31st March 2007
3. **Election of Officers**
4. **Election of Executive Committee**
5. **Election of Accounts Examiner**
6. **Motions**
 - 6.1 In accordance with Rule 7, the Executive Committee of the Association recommends members to agree that the subscription be increased from the current 50p per annum to £1 per annum with effect from the year commencing 1st April 2008.
 - 6.2 Add new item (f) to Rule 3 Objectives to read "Work in partnership with the Council to promote and enhance Public Parks and Open Spaces within the Association's boundary."

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee

Alys Shale (Mrs)
Hon. General Secretary
May 2007
24 South Drive
Cheam, SM2 7PN
020 8643 8396
alys.shale@bscra.com

At the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting there will be a further two items:

- (a) **Vision for the Future - a presentation by Darren Richards, Executive Head of Planning, Transport and Highways at the London Borough of Sutton**
- (b) **Questions from members and General Discussion**

THE GENERAL DISCUSSION IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE ISSUES OF LOCAL CONCERN

Members are reminded of the following rules of the Association:

16. Nominations Nominations for election of Officers and Executive Committee Members must be received 5 days before the Annual General Meeting and must be accompanied by the candidate's affirmation of his (her) willingness to stand for election. If insufficient nominations are received in advance, the Chairman may accept nominations at the meeting. Any candidate who holds office in, or is actively engaged in the affairs of, any party political organisation must declare this to the Annual General Meeting prior to voting.
17. Voting At General Meetings every Member shall be entitled to one vote on every motion in respect of his (her) household. Proxy or postal votes will not be allowed. A vote cannot be taken at any General Meeting on any matter not included in the notice of that meeting.

**BELMONT & SOUTH CHEAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN - MAY 2007**

Dear Member,

It is nearly a year since I became Chairman of the Association and I am pleased to be able to report some notable achievements. In our last Newsletter, I said that we had set ourselves a number of goals for the year. These included increasing our membership, improving communications to our members, reinforcing our role working as a consultative body with the council and generally becoming more visible.

In all of these we have had success. As you will see from the Membership Secretary's report, we have comfortably exceeded our target of 2000 members. Allowing for subscriptions in the pipeline, we expect this number to rise still further. This level of membership means we represent over 80% of all households in South Cheam, and only slightly less in Belmont. This is an important statistic for us, as it means we can justifiably claim to represent the great majority of households in our area.

During the year we have built a substantial electronic distribution list that we use to issue email E-Bulletins out to members on a regular basis. There have been 10 of these since the last paper Newsletter in November 2006. Whilst we issue a twice yearly paper newsletter containing 6 months' news, those members who are on our electronic list benefit from much more timely information. Although we already have a substantial number of members on our distribution list, we feel sure that there are many more members out there with email that would benefit from this service. If you have not already signed up, please do so now. See the section below on E-Bulletins for more information.

We are also reinforcing our network of 70 Road Stewards. Road Stewards fulfil a vital role for the Association in collecting subscriptions and distributing the paper Newsletters. We also talk to them about issues in their immediate neighbourhood as well as using them as contact points for our Planning Watch service. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Road Stewards for the hard work they do for the Association.

On the planning front, we have co-ordinated a number of high profile campaigns that have met with considerable success. This reinforces our claim that if we are well organised and united, we can make a difference as a number of developers who have submitted unsuitable applications in our area have found out to their cost. Our aim is to make it well known that our area is not a 'soft touch' and that inappropriate applications will be resisted most vigorously.

The work of the committee has not been just on planning. We have been active with numerous other activities that are of concern or that will improve our area, including traffic, roadside trees and parks.

No Chairman's summary would be complete without giving thanks to my fellow officers and to the committee who have supported me during the year. To Alys Shale whose good humour and enthusiasm keep us all going, to Brian Williams for his perseverance in chasing down subscriptions and keeping a rein on our expenses, and to Victor Jordan for his advice to me on numerous issues. Thanks also to Hernan Lozano for his work finding new Road Stewards, to Dennis Baldry for being part of the Planning Team and for his work on our Belmont History section of the website, and to all the committee members for their assistance throughout the year. Thanks also to Alison Griffiths for examining our accounts and to all our Ward Councillors for their support throughout the year.

We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the AGM in July. This year we have invited Darren Richards, the Executive Head of Planning Transport and Highways for the London Borough of Sutton to talk to us about his vision for the future. I am sure it will be a very informative and relevant evening and is your opportunity to raise points of interest and to help us set our direction for the coming year. Please make a note in your diary now.

I hope you have a very pleasant summer.

Best wishes, Peter Matthey, Chairman

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Our membership has increased by 261 to 2038 (15%) during the year, meaning we have beaten our target of 2000. This has been achieved by collecting all arrears, filling gaps in our Road Steward network and by a recruiting drive last autumn. This was assisted by distributing our last Newsletter to ALL households in our area. The combination of these efforts has given immediate results, and we are confident it will be a longer term investment as membership subscriptions are renewed over the coming months. If you know of any of your neighbours who are not members and who consequently do not receive our Newsletters, please encourage them to join by asking them to contact your local Road Steward or the Membership Secretary.

ROAD STEWARD VACANCIES

Currently vacancies exist for Avenue Road (part), Brasted Close and Clifton Avenue. To be a Road Steward it is not necessary to live in the road concerned, although it is convenient to live nearby. It would be very helpful if Members could volunteer to take on one of these. There are two deliveries a year – the Annual Report and the Autumn Newsletter. Subscriptions are usually collected every alternate year. Hopefully the task is not onerous and Road Stewards are an important point of feed-back on any issues. A briefing meeting followed by a wine and cheese party is held every May as a 'Thank You' to the Road Stewards.

If you are able to help with deliveries, please contact the Treasurer (Brian Williams 020 8642 3719) or the Membership Secretary (Hernan Lozano 020 8643 2986).

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Belmont & South Cheam Residents' Association

Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2007

	2007	2006
Membership		
Members at start of year	1777	1967
Change in year	261	(190)

Current membership	2038	1777

	£	£
Subscriptions received		
Arrears	135	8
Current members at 50p each	1019	888
Donations	22	29
Deposit interest received	137	146

	1313	1071
Expenses		
Printing & stationery	1092	902
Website costs	151	0
Postage & telephone	49	71
Meeting expenses	214	139
Insurance	50	50
Seat in Belmont Rest Garden	1000	0
Sundries	50	10

	2606	1172

(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(1293)	(101)

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2007

	2007	2006
	£	£
Assets		
National Savings Bank deposit	4513	4526
Cash at bank	344	363

	4857	4889
Liabilities		
Subscriptions received in advance	(756)	(430)
Creditors	(74)	(139)
Provision for seat in Belmont Rest Garden	(1000)	0

NET ASSETS	3027	4320

Represented by:		
General Fund at 31.3.06	4320	4421
Deficit for the year	(1293)	(101)

General Fund at 31.3.07	3027	4320

Approved on 27 April 2007	P K A Matthey - Chairman	
	B Williams - Treasurer	

Report by the Independent Examiner

I certify that the above Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account are in accordance with the books and records of the Belmont & South Cheam Residents' Association. In my opinion, the accounts represent an accurate record of the state of affairs of the Association at 31 March 2007.

13 Queens Road
Belmont, Sutton SM2 6BZ

A J Griffiths
27 April 2007

COMMENTARY ON ACCOUNTS

The income from members' subscriptions has increased in line with the increase in membership numbers. The website costs (£151) reflect the new facility which has been well used. An order has been placed for a new seat in Belmont Rest garden to replace the one that the Association put there over 20 years ago, but which was lost during the building of the church hall. The estimated cost, including installation, is £1000.

The deficit of £1293 is due to the increased levels of spending on publicity and communications, the website set up and running costs, printing for numerous campaigns during the year, and the seat mentioned above. It is likely that all but the last of these expenditure items will cause a recurring deficit in subsequent years.

As a consequence, the Committee feels that this is an unsatisfactory situation and recommends that the subscription be increased from the current 50p per annum to £1 per annum with effect from the year commencing 1st April 2008. This is the first time that the Association has raised its subscription level since it was formed. We feel that at this still modest level, members will be getting excellent value.

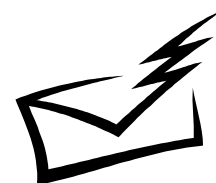
E-BULLETINS AND WEBSITE

We have excellent reviews from those members who are benefiting from our E-Bulletin service. This service complements the paper Newsletter by providing more regular updates on campaigns and issues of relevance to you, our members. In the 5 month period since 1st December 2006, there have been 10 E-Bulletins published to members who have subscribed to this service.

We are sure that there are many more of you out there with email facilities who would benefit from the service. Be assured that by subscribing you will NOT forego receiving the paper based letter, you will NOT expose yourself to receiving junk mail, and we guarantee NOT to pass on your email address to any third party (see our Rule 24 for our undertaking to this effect). Subscribing to our E-Bulletin service also means we can inform you more quickly of any planning applications that might affect you as part of our Planning Watch service.

If you do have access to email and would like to receive these bulletins, please go to our website (www.bsra.com) and click on the Subscribe button in the yellow box on the Home page, or simply send me an email (peter.matthey@bsra.com) giving your name, address and (optionally) your phone number.

The website continues to be our 'library' of useful information and updates and is used extensively by members since it was launched a year ago. It has more detailed information on many of the topics referred to in this Newsletter and in E-Bulletins.



ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY

In April this year we carried out a snap survey through our Road Stewards to gather views on a variety of environmental issues relating to roads in our area. Thank you to those of you who have returned the survey. And for those who haven't, we would still love to hear from you! The main points identified were:

Roads: Main problems are potholes, speeding and parking.

Pavements/Verges: Maintenance is carried out, but irregularly and not to a very high standard.

Trees: Problem of trees being removed and not replaced; also problems with unsuitable trees in residential roads, such as lime trees in Meadowside which are too tall and drop sticky residue, and large horse chestnuts in Cornwall Road that need pollarding.

Refuse Collection/Recycling: Generally good, both regular and efficient, except for rubbish dropped during collection which is not cleared. However, there were a number of comments that the Kimpton Park Way Recycling Centre is not user-friendly, particularly for the elderly or disabled. Various comments from the survey have indicated that the site is too small and the steps need to be eliminated to make access easier, especially for older residents.

HEALTH CARE IN SUTTON

The review of the Better Healthcare Closer to Home programme has concluded that the Programme's guiding principle of developing health services closer to where people live is the way forward. It recommended the development of local health services at The Wilson, The Nelson, St Helier and Wallington and that there should be a general hospital in the Borough of Sutton with an A&E service, although this would be a smaller hospital than the originally proposed Critical Care Hospital.



CHEAM AS A POSTAL DISTRICT

You may remember that this item has featured in a number of recent newsletters, and is still ongoing. We wrote to both Allan Leighton, CEO of the Royal Mail, and to Jim Fitzpatrick MP, Minister with responsibility for the Royal Mail. Responses have been received, but both were non-committal with regard to residents using Cheam rather than Sutton as our post town, stating that this was an operational efficiency issue, and a simple request for a change of post town would not be considered.

We will continue to pursue this matter, which we believe is important to our residents, in preserving the individuality of Cheam. We are grateful for the continued support of Paul Burstow MP – the debate held in the House of Commons on 31st October 2006 relating to this issue can be accessed via his website (details at the end of this newsletter).

TRAFFIC AND PARKING - SOUTH CHEAM

The results of the traffic survey carried out last year by the council have at last been published. The report is not particularly insightful and really only tells us what we already know, namely that residents would like measures put in place to stop speeding in Burdon Lane, Sandy Lane and Northey Avenue!

A list of possible measures has been proposed for consideration by the local councillors. We have already made our views known, and would welcome the thoughts of members on this important issue. We are expecting a further consultation document to be distributed by the council to all households in the near future detailing their proposals. You will have the opportunity to say whether or not you approve. The council are very keen on a large number of speed cushions throughout the area, but many members have told us they do not agree. A more popular solution proposed by members is to have raised tables at key junctions in Northey Avenue, Burdon Lane and Sandy Lane as these have the effect of slowing traffic without adverse side effects. For those of you on email, we will be issuing an E-Bulletin with our views on whatever proposals the council circulates

The Controlled Parking Zone changes proposed for our area affect West Drive and Burdon Lane close to Burdon Park. If you are interested, more information is available on our website or contact any of the Association's officers.

CPF, SNT, PARKS POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (contact details at end of Newsletter)

The CPF (Community Police Forum), funded by the Metropolitan Police, has taken over from the SPCG (Sutton Police Consultative Group), overseeing the general policing of the London Borough of Sutton; Heather Shaw is the BSCRA representative. Those attending the meetings include representatives from the Fire Service, other residents' associations, Sutton's retailers and councillors. General policing issues are discussed, along with Sutton's crime statistics in relationship to both similar and neighbouring boroughs.

SNTs (Safer Neighbourhood Teams) are now in place in all wards across the borough. Heather Shaw and Alys Shale attend the Cheam SNT meetings, and Victor Jordan attends those for Belmont. Should you wish to raise any local policing issues, please contact the committee member concerned, and they will do their best to ensure that it is discussed at the next meeting – these take place approximately every three months.

SPT (Safer Parks Teams) will replace the Parks Police Service which ceased at the end of March this year. There will be 12 officers dedicated to policing the borough's parks. The teams will be run along the same lines as the SNTs. This should ensure effective 24-hour cover of all parks and open spaces.

The Sutton Neighbourhood Watch Association was set up in November 2000, with the purpose of helping set up new Watches and assisting people to develop the existing groups within the borough. Residents working together develop a strong community spirit and ensure that their neighbourhood is a safe and pleasant place to live. There are now over 600 watches in the borough. The intention is to link up with local residents' associations to create a strong community framework, and to work closely with local SNTs.

PLANNING MATTERS

As always, planning issues have dominated our list of activities. As you will see below, there have been a number of complex cases that have required careful co-ordination. Several of these have required significant support from you, our members, for which you have our grateful thanks.

What it does show, however, is that by working together and being united we can have success at repelling inappropriate developments. From the evidence of our success, no-one should believe that there is no point in taking action because it won't make a difference – it does!



What! We need retrospective permission?

PLANNING STRATEGY

The Local Development Framework (LDF) continues to evolve as the replacement for the current (2003) Unitary Development Plan (UDP). We have contributed to several consultation documents, the most significant being the Urban Design Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

The main document in the LDF will be the Core Planning Strategy. The results of the initial options survey for this document have just been published by the council but conclusions have yet to be drawn. The first version of the full document is scheduled to be available later this year and we were one of the first Residents' Associations to have discussions with the council's strategic planning team about its contents. We are particularly concerned to strengthen the Special Policy status of South Cheam, and to ensure that the Area of Special Local Character (ASLC) status of Belmont is not eroded. We firmly believe that contributing to the formulation of policy documents at this point in time is crucial.

PLANNING APPLICATION STATISTICS

During the 6 months from November 2006 to April 2007, there were a total of 67 planning applications and 59 planning decisions in our area. We are encouraged that all of the most controversial applications were rejected. The breakdown of these applications is shown in the following table:

Planning Watch Category	Planning Applications			Planning Decisions			
	South Cheam	Belmont	Total	Allowed	Refused	Withdrawn	Total
1 (Major)	6	3	9 (13%)	0	5 (100%)	0	5 (8%)
2 (Significant)	15	5	20 (30%)	18	5 (21%)	2	24 (42%)
3 (Minor)	24	14	38 (57%)	23	5 (17%)	1	29 (50%)
Total	45 (67%)	22 (33%)	67	41 (70%)	15 (25%)	3 (5%)	59

Planning Watch Categories - Category 1: major re-developments, any application that we feel will be of wider concern to our Members. Category 2: typically any building work at a second floor level. Category 3: typically minor single storey extensions.

Planning Appeals

We continue to make good progress with getting appeals dismissed. During the 6 months from October 2006 to March 2007 there were 6 appeal decisions for cases where the council had refused permission. ALL 6 were dismissed. We like to think that our input and involvement have had an impact on this impressive record.

In the same period in the borough as a whole, there were 30 appeal decisions of which 18 (60%) were dismissed. Our view of this climbing dismissal rate is that Inspectors are getting tougher on less worthy appeal cases.

Planning Updates – Notable Cases over the last 6 months

The Avenue Nursing Home – The story continues - We reported in our last Newsletter that the owner had appealed against the council's decision to refuse to grant retrospective permission for the substantial first floor extension that had been built. Following representations by members and an onsite visit by the appointed Government Inspector, the appeals against both the retrospective planning application and the council's enforcement action were dismissed in February 2007. The Inspector, however, gave the owner 6 months (rather than the more usual 3 months) to reinstate the building.

Following this refusal, the owner submitted another application, this time to greatly extend the existing home to 30 rooms with a design that was even larger than the one submitted and refused in 2006. Over 160 members wrote in objection to this application. The Council's Case Officer agreed with our reasons for objecting and emphatically refused the application. As a consequence it did not go to committee. The officer's reasons for refusal were due to its poor design, excessive height, overlooking of the neighbours and overdevelopment of the site. Meanwhile the clock continues to tick on the enforcement action.

Disappointingly, the home's retrospective application to create a new access to their property on Northey Avenue to be used for a general waste store was granted in November 2006.

Glaisdale School - In the last Newsletter we reported that the application submitted in March 2006 to demolish the school and build 13 flats was refused by the council following 160 letters of objection being sent by members. In November 2006, the owner submitted a new application which again proposed demolition and rebuilding two blocks of flats. The proposed blocks would contain 11 self-contained flats to house 35 people and with front and rear parking areas for 15 cars. In our view, this application was not significantly different to the previous application which had been turned down unanimously by the Council's Development Control Committee at their meeting in June 2006. The fundamental point that we do not want or need a high density development of flats in South Belmont & South Cheam Residents' Association (www.bsra.com)

Cheam remained. In response to our campaign, over 220 members sent individual letters of objection to the council but, much to our surprise, the council planners recommended the application be granted. However, at the council's Development Control Committee on 14th February the councillors unanimously REFUSED the application.

With an unprecedented audience of over 140 residents displaying fluorescent yellow badges all squeezed into the public gallery that normally seats a maximum of 60, it was not surprising that the committee took note. Afterwards, a number of the councillors told us that they had never seen anything like it before!

This was a tremendous result, not only for the immediate neighbours, but for the area as a whole. There had been a lot of cynicism that the result was a "done deal" and that residents' opinions count for nothing. The result shows that this is not true; if we are well organised and united then we are listened to.

High profile events such as this really do make a difference, and make developers think twice before attacking our area.

7 Northdown Road, Belmont - There has been a long history of applications stretching back to 2002 to demolish this family home which is located on the corner of Northdown Road opposite the Belmont Rest Garden and build flats. The latest application to build a block of 8 flats was submitted in January 2006 and refused by the council planners in March 2006. The applicant appealed against this decision.

The Government Inspector appointed to assess the appeal called a local hearing at the end of January 2007. The Association helped members from Lymbourne Close and Northdown Road to collate their objections to the applications. Supported by local members we presented the relevant objections to the Government Inspector. Having heard the evidence, the Inspector dismissed the appeal.

Smith & Byford – 50 and 56 Upper Mulgrave Road - We reported in the last Newsletter that we had received a fantastic response in support of our objection to this company's application to regularise the use of two of the retail shops they use in Upper Mulgrave Road as offices. This application was in response to enforcement action by the Council. We only circulated a handful of roads in the immediate area and yet around 70 letters were sent to the Council. After lengthy consideration, the council case officer refused the application in February 2007. Following this refusal, the council initiated enforcement action giving Smith & Byford until June 2007 to reinstate the premises to shops and the flat at 56a to residential use.

Smith & Byford – St George House, Station Approach, Cheam - In 2005 a developer bought St George House, one of the office blocks on the corner of Station Approach, Cheam and Upper Mulgrave Road through a subsidiary company called 'Silent Water' and in December 2005 applied to add a fourth floor. This application was refused by the council in February 2006 for design reasons and the ensuing appeal was dismissed by the Inspector. In early 2006, Smith and Byford bought the company and in December 2006 submitted a second application to add an extra floor. This was refused by the council for the same reasons as the first in January 2007. We hope that this puts an end to the idea of adding a fourth floor.

However, this is not the end of the story. In January 2007, Smith & Byford submitted yet another planning application to use part of the ground floor for warehousing and distribution. The Association objected to this on the basis that this will perpetuate the ongoing problem of red vans continuing to clutter the roads in the area during the morning peak hours, albeit 150m to the west. At the time of writing this Newsletter, this application has still to be determined by the council. From the investment the company is making in the building it is clear that they plan to stay in Cheam and consequently we have started a conversation with senior management about how they can manage the movements of their van fleet so as to minimise objections from members.



Victory for people power

By [Richard Lyons](#) Friday 23rd February 2007

Cheam residents celebrated a victory for people power last week when 140 objectors piled into a committee meeting to see plans for a controversial development thrown out.

Planning chiefs had recommended proposals to demolish Glaisdale School in Arundel Road and replace it with 11 flats be approved.

But their advice was rejected by councillors after a sea of locals crowded into the 60-seat public gallery wearing fluorescent yellow badges declaring their opposition.

Peter Matthey, chairman of the Belmont and South Cheam Residents' Association, said: "This is a fantastic victory for resident power. It has given the community a much-needed boost in its confidence that developers will not always get their own way. Residents are becoming better organised and developers need to be aware that they cannot assume that they can get approval for a development that does nothing to enhance the local area or provide the kind of housing needed in the borough."

Plans were submitted to demolish the existing buildings on the school site and replace them with two, two-storey buildings which together contain one three-bed, seven two-bed, and three one-bed flats.

Officers said the site - which has not been a school since 2005 - could be developed into homes in principle and that this particular proposal caused no significant harm to the area.

But residents said approving the application would open the door for more blocks of flats in a suburb characterised by detached homes.

More than 220 locals wrote objection letters and resident Paul Lincoln spoke on their behalf at a meeting of the development control committee on Wednesday, February 14.

Councillors voted unanimously to reject the planning application.

Leader of the Conservative group, Councillor Eleanor Pinfold said: "It was unanimously agreed that any approval of this application would have led to it becoming a precedent for any development in any area of special local character in the borough."

Chegworth Nursing Home - An application to build three rear extensions to this care home was refused by the Case Officer in October 2006 because of the "excessive and incongruous nature of the extension". This followed a major campaign by the Association to support local members. In December 2006, the owner appealed against the decision and we have made written representations to the Inspector to support the local residents' concerns. We are waiting for a site visit from the Inspector and his decision. At the time of writing this has not been scheduled, but it is likely to happen in June 2007. We will report back at the AGM.

In parallel with the above appeal, the applicant had erected two large metal sheds in the rear garden, one as a staff room and one for storage. The council enforcement team requested that a formal planning application be submitted. This was done, but then promptly refused by the council. In March, the home was served with a notice giving until 16th July to remove the sheds, but has yet to comply.

Abbeyfield, York Road - An application has been submitted by the Abbeyfield Cheam Society to extend their home on the corner of York Road and Dorset Road from the current 8 residents to a 29 bed care home. This would involve the demolition of the two adjacent houses and rebuilding two blocks, which from the street would appear to be detached houses. The Abbeyfield management have taken care to consult with the Association and with nearby members about their plans. The neighbours seem relatively relaxed about the proposal, although there have been some objections about its overall size and consequent overlooking and overshadowing. The application has been referred to the Development Control Committee and we await their decision.

Downs Lawn Tennis Club, Holland Avenue - In what is becoming a tiresomely regular ritual for their neighbours, the Downs Lawn Tennis Club submitted yet another application in December 2006 to add lighting to their court nearest the road despite their previous two nearly identical applications being refused both by the council and by the government inspector on appeal. The reason for the refusals is the impact on the neighbouring bungalow whose main bedroom would be flooded with light if the proposal were to be allowed. Our members' views are that the facing houses would also be affected both by the light and by the noise that late night play on this court would generate. We trust that the Club will now respect the views of its neighbours in this quiet residential area and cease its ongoing drive to light this court once and for all.

32 Queens Road - An application has recently been submitted to build a new detached house in back garden land at 32 Queens Road, with access from Belmont Rise. The Association is supporting local members in objecting to this application which, if allowed, would set a significant precedent for infilling other back gardens, thereby changing the nature of Belmont Rise and the spaciousness of the gardens associated with the houses in Queens Road. This is the first such proposal since the area was granted the status of 'Area of Special Local Character' in 2004 specifically to prevent infills of this kind. It will be interesting to see how effective this protection is.

FOR THE FUTURE

Avenue Road School - In the last newsletter we reported that outline planning permission had been granted in October 2006 to construct two buildings for classrooms and a multi-purpose hall together with a new access onto Belmont Rise. Detailed plans must be submitted and approved before any building could commence. We understand that no progress is being made with this proposal at the current time due to a lack of funds.

Dorset Road houses - Members may be aware that the row of houses on the south side of Dorset Road is nearly all owned by the council. They were originally acquired back in the 1970s as potential expansion for the Avenue Road school, but since then have been used for social housing. The council have recently indicated that they wish to dispose of these properties. We shall be watching anxiously for more news about this disposal and for what plans any developer might propose for the site.

St Andrews Church, Northey Avenue - The Church's New Horizons initiative has published new plans for their premises. The plans envisage redeveloping the church buildings in a way that would link the main church building with the Miles and Aitken Halls as well as providing a new reception, waiting and lounge areas. The core of the development proposal is an all new, largely glass, reception area that would open onto Northey Avenue and present a unified entrance to the three main halls.

BELMONT REST GARDEN

Belmont Rest Garden has featured in our Newsletters for many years, invariably with a hope that things might be about to improve. This year we have pushed hard to make these hopes a reality. By the end of May, two benches will have been installed, one funded by the council, the second by this Association. In addition, the Association has formally declared itself a 'Friend' of this park. This means that the council will improve the park in exchange for a modest level of practical support from our members.



The council's Parks Department have also agreed to our request to plant hedging along the boundary with St John's Church Hall, to provide additional specimen shrubs to fill the gaps along the boundary with Belmont Rise and to plant ground cover plants along the southern boundary. They have also agreed to provide over a thousand daffodil and crocus bulbs to be planted in the garden in the autumn. We already have a core team assembled, but we are looking for more volunteers to assist with this activity. We don't have a date yet, but if you are interested in being kept in touch with this event, please let Victor Jordan or Peter Matthey know.

We hope that these improvements will make this garden a more attractive place and make it a positive asset for our community. The splash of colour that the bulbs will bring in the spring of 2008 and beyond will be visible to locals and to passers by as they enter the borough from the South. Our thanks to Mark Dalzell and his Parks Department team at the council for their assistance in making these significant improvements possible. If you have any other thoughts about how this park could be improved to enhance the area please let us know.

BELMONT PASTURES

Belmont Pastures is the strip of land between Knockholt Close and the railway line, just north of Belmont station. It is an area of around 1 hectare of unimproved chalk and natural grassland. It is the largest of the two nature conservation areas within our area (the smaller is The Avenue Primary School Nature Garden, a long established and relatively large nature garden which includes a very good pond, a valuable hedge, and chalk grassland).

It has been designated a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and is suitably maintained by the council. The council is seeking to set up a management committee comprising interested local residents to provide input towards the management of this site and to suggest how the site should be improved. Please let me know if you are interested in becoming involved in this activity. See our website (www.bsra.com) for links that give some more information about this site.

TREES

We have been continuing our campaign to ensure that roadside trees in our area are not lost. We reported in the last Newsletter about the situation with trees in the Belmont area. We now have the numbers for South Cheam that show 43 trees have been felled but only 12 replanted. In total in South Cheam there are now 123 vacant roadside tree sites representing around 14% of all sites. We are pressing the council to replace more of the felled trees so that our area remains green and leafy.



We have also been lobbying the council, both directly and through our ward councillors, to make sure that all the stumps left over when trees are felled are ground out. We have asked why, when a tree is felled, the stump is not ground out at the same time to prevent unsightly and often dangerous stumps being left. We have yet to receive a satisfactory answer. At the beginning of the year we were advised by the council that there were over 200 stumps in the borough that needed grinding down. However, at the time of writing I am pleased to report that nearly all the stumps in our area have now been ground down. Let us know if there are any stumps near you that still need attention.

BSCRA AND OTHER CONTACTS (see www.bsra.com for the latest details)

Chairman: & Planning South Cheam	Peter Matthey Woodford Lodge 42, The Avenue Cheam. SM2 7QE 020 8643 0635	General Secretary:	Alys Shale 24, South Drive Cheam SM2 7PN 020 8643 8396
Vice Chairman: & Planning Belmont North	Victor Jordan* 020 8642 2635	Treasurer:	Brian Williams 020 8642 3719
Membership Secretary:	Hernan Lozano 020 8643 2986		

Committee Members:

Dennis Baldry	020 8642 9038 (Planning Belmont South)	Paul Lincoln	020 8661 0750
Mahmood Bhatti*	020 8661 9762	Ian Munro	020 8642 8707
Irwin Chernin	020 8642 6234	Heather Shaw	020 8642 5406
Jean Hamilton*	020 8642 7320	Ron Young	020 8642 0469
Derek Hurden	020 8643 2332		

You can email any of the Officers or committee members (except those marked *) using their email address which has the format: 'firstname.lastname@bsra.com'

Details of your local Road Steward can be obtained from our website: www.bsra.com

Local Councillors

Belmont	Peter Geiringer	8647 7681	David Pickles	8642 1629	Pamela Picknett	8669 3334
Cheam	Eleanor Pinfold	8644 8041	Graham Whitham	07816 979783	Misdaq Zaidi	8767 2300
Sutton South	Barry Russell	8254 9234	Paul Newman	8642 9248	Tony Shields	8642 4264
Sutton West	Ian Chapman	8395 8671	Simon Wales	8643 0952	Myfanwy Wallace	8643 6568

MP for Sutton Paul Burstow 020 8288 6550 www.paulburstow.com

Safer Neighbourhood Teams

	Cheam	Belmont
	PS Brendan McWilliams	PS John McClelland
	020 8721 2830 or 07884 092615	020 8721 2829
	cheam.snt@met.police.uk	belmont.snt@met.police.uk
Sutton Police	020 8643 1212	suttonpolice@met.police.uk
Sutton Neighbourhood Watch	020 8649 0453	suttonpolicenhw@met.police.uk
London Borough of Sutton	020 8770 5000	www.sutton.gov.uk