

Dear Resident,

As you may know, I was elected Chairman of The Association at the AGM in July 2006. In conjunction with the Executive Committee, I will endeavour to continue the good work that The Association has carried out for many years and to face up to the challenges that national, regional and local government present us with.

I feel passionately about the character of our area and am determined to keep our neighbourhood out of the hands of developers who merely want to build for commercial gain and not to enhance the area. See the planning section below for details of how we are addressing this ongoing issue.

I would like to re-iterate my thanks given at the AGM to Victor Jordan who stepped into the role of Chairman at short notice at the end of last year and who has guided the Association through the first half of this year. I am delighted that he has agreed to stay on to give me support as Vice Chairman. My gratitude also to Brian Williams and Alys Shale for continuing as Treasurer and General Secretary respectively, and to all the committee members.

I also greatly appreciate the work done by all our Road Stewards, without whom you would not be receiving this Newsletter. My thanks to all of them for their hard work and assistance in keeping us in touch with our Members. We are strengthening our Road Steward network and reinforcing their role as the main interfaces between the Association's Committee and the Members.

This year, we have set ourselves a number of goals. These include improving communications to and from our members and generally being more visible, reinforcing our role as a consultative body working with the Council, increasing membership within our area and forging new links with other residents associations with a view to sharing views and bringing increased pressure on local government. We hope that you will support us in these endeavours.

Increasingly we are also looking to use email and our website to operate in parallel with the Road Stewards. We appreciate that not everyone has access to the Internet, but for those who do, it does give us a fast and effective way of quickly getting through to Members whose work pattern often makes them difficult to talk to in person.

During the past year we have been improving communication with Members by sending out electronic Bulletins in between the paper Newsletters. We hope that those of you who are on our electronic list have found these informative. It also enables us to alert you rapidly to anything in your road that may be of interest or concern to you. If you haven't already done so, please register your email address with us (see Page 4).

While still some way in the future, our 2007 AGM will be held in the evening of Thursday July 5<sup>th</sup> at St Andrew's Church Hall. Please make a note in your diary so that we have a good turn out.

This year seems to have raced by and I find that Christmas is nearly upon us. On behalf of myself and the Committee, may I take this opportunity to offer you the compliments of the season.

With my very best wishes for the New Year,

Peter Matthey, Chairman

## A Message for Non-Members

### Why Join the Association?



As a one off exercise, we are distributing this Issue of the Newsletter to all households in our area, so that everyone is aware of who we are and what we do. If you are not already a Member, you may possibly not be aware of our existence. If so, we would like to say 'Hello' and encourage you to join the Association now. Our main reason for wanting you to join is not financial, but rather so that we can be recognised as an organisation that is truly representative of the views of our area as a whole.

### About the Association

The Belmont & South Cheam Residents' Association (BSCRA) has been in existence for over 30 years and has nearly 2,000 Members in the Belmont and South Cheam area. We are one of the largest residents' associations in the Borough. Our main purposes are to protect and enhance the character of Belmont and South Cheam for the benefit of its residents, to give Members support regarding a wide variety of local issues (often planning related) and to provide feedback to the local council (and other bodies) with the views of our Members in response to formal consultations relevant to our area.

Our area covers all of South Cheam (south of the railway line) and the southern part of Belmont with our eastern boundary running down York Road, Holland Avenue across to Chiltern Road, along Banstead Road South and Downs Road. For this area, we have an impressive membership coverage of around 75% of all households. But for this year we want to improve on this and recruit more members.

### **Benefits of joining**

For your membership subscription, not only do you get access to the Committee members who are very experienced in handling a wide range of local issues, but also our twice yearly Newsletter (like this one), our website and, for those of you on email, Bulletins that update you regularly on local issues. Your first point of contact will be your local Road Steward. Our network of over 70 Road Stewards deliver these newsletters to you, collect your subscriptions and will contact you about any issues of relevance to your road.

If you would like to join the Association and were not available when this Newsletter was delivered, can you please put your initial subscription (£1) into the envelope that was delivered with this newsletter and deliver it to your Road Steward – they shouldn't be too far away!

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## **Notes from the July 2006 AGM**

The Chairman gave an update on several items that were mentioned in the Annual Report (which formed part of the May 2006 Newsletter) where there had been a change since that Report was written.

### **Membership/Road Stewards**

Brian Williams reported that there had been no Membership Secretary for a year. A member, Hernan Lozano has recently volunteered to take on this role and would be co-opted onto the committee. Thanks were given to the Road Stewards for delivering newsletters, collecting subscriptions and generally being a point of contact for residents. Volunteers were sought for Road Stewards for several roads (*all of which have now been filled with the exception of Clifton Avenue*).



### **Balance Sheet and Accounts**

Brian Williams presented the balance sheet and accounts for the year. He reported that the current membership stands at 1,958 (albeit with 181 Members in arrears), very close to our target of 2,000 members. The newsletters/notices have again been printed on A4 paper to aid legibility although this has increased the cost. There is a loss for the year of £101, but BW considered that this would be recovered during the remainder of the year. The balance stands at £4,300 which is a satisfactory level for the Association.

Thanks were given to Alison Griffiths for auditing the accounts. There were no questions, and so the Accounts were duly accepted.

### **Matters to Report**

#### **Traffic**

A resident of Manor Road commented about parking and general congestion in the vicinity of the junction of Manor Road and Upper Mulgrave Road. There were also concerns from several Members about speeding in West Drive, Sandy Lane, Manor Road and Burdon Lane. A resident of West Drive commented that the Council had issued a survey asking for comments about parking in South Cheam but nothing had been heard since.

Sgt. McWilliams of the Cheam Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) said he was not aware of any accidents around the Manor Road and Upper Mulgrave junction, but agreed to investigate. He added that the whole subject of traffic safety was a priority for his team for the next three months.

*Since the meeting we have had the following response from the Cheam SNT:*

*Regarding the congestion at Manor Road/Upper Mulgrave Road, as far as we are aware there have been no reported Road Traffic incidents in this area, although statistics usually only show where there has been a recorded personal injury.*

*Speeding vehicles along West Drive/Sandy Lane - a flashing speeding sign has been erected along Sandy Lane Cheam SNT will continue to be conducting high visibility patrolling and issuing fixed penalty notices for mobile offences. A response is still awaited from the council regarding the survey.*

A resident who is a member of the Sutton Cycle Forum has obtained details of the areas to be considered for traffic calming, which include the Sandy Lane area. (*Contact the Secretary if you want details*).

## **Safer Neighbourhood Team**

Sgt. Brendan McWilliams told the group that the crime rate was very low; indeed the only crime at the weekend was the attempted theft of a parking meter in the library car park. This was unsuccessful since the meter was too heavy to be moved and the police arrived whilst the thief was attempting to drag it into the back of a van!

The problem of learner drivers was raised, but Sgt. McWilliams said that the police could intervene only in the case of a road traffic offence. He considers that their presence is a deterrent to burglary. The roads tend to be very quiet during the day and these drivers are visible during this period. He intends to give the driving schools details of the SNT in case they see anything suspicious (*see the SNT contact details on Page 8*).

Much of the SNT resource is concentrated on the North Cheam area, but if needed, they are just a phone call away.

*Note that the Association is represented on both the Cheam and Belmont Community Ward Panels.*

## **Hospitals**

Dennis Baldry is the BSCRA representative on the Sutton Hospital Action Group and reported that the situation was in limbo, as the Secretary of State has been told that St. Helier is not a viable option for the site of a Critical Care Hospital. *See item on Page 7 for an update on this topic.*

## **Planning**

Victor Jordan commented that according to central government, the whole of the Association's area is designated as a brownfield site, because it is considered to have been previously developed. He then invited Peter Matthey (PM) to comment on the general subject of planning. PM said that approximately 80% of the Committee's time and energies were spent on planning matters. Since the start of the year, details of applications and associated plans now appear on the Council's website, which greatly improves communication and response time. However, since the planning process has speeded up, it is even more vital for the Association to be vigilant and react quickly to any applications that would be detrimental to the area. The Association's Planning Officers check all applications on a weekly basis, to ensure that nearby residents are aware of planning proposals (*see Planning Watch on Page 5*).

PM went on to explain that the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) which contains all the local planning policies is evolving into the Local Development Framework (LDF) over the next three years. This will consist of a portfolio of local development documents, including Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). *See item on Page 5.* The Association is concerned that the LDF could further erode controls on the Cheam Special Policy Area (SPA) and the Belmont Area of Special Local Character (ASLC) and is in discussion with Ward Councillors about further powers to restrict development in these areas. (Please don't blame us for creating all these TLAs - that's Three Letter Acronyms!!)

Councillor Graham Whitham commented that the council is no longer in total control of the area, as the Government and the Mayor of London are looking for increased development in the South-East region. In general, local and national governments are not sympathetic to the problems residents perceive in their area, and we need to defend our local area and fight everything seen as a threat. It is important to be aware of precedents being set. Councillors are mindful of this and are prepared to fight with us against over-development proposals and be pro-active on behalf of residents.

## **Recycling Centre**

Comments were made from the floor about the difficulty in leaving waste at the newly opened Kimpton Road recycling centre, because of reduced space and the need to mount steps. Victor Jordan said that the Association would monitor the situation, and if necessary write to the Council.

## **Rules of the Association**

Peter Matthey presented the proposed revised Rules of The Association and explained the need for change. The main reasons are to:

- ?? keep in touch with current issues, and to remove a number of historical references that are no longer relevant.
- ?? redefine the Association's boundary to make it independent of political ward boundaries, reflect new roads, and take account of the Council's sustainable development area, which has already been extensively redeveloped.
- ?? clarify our responsibilities under the Data Protection Act with regard to information held about Members.

There being no objection, the new rules and boundary were duly accepted.

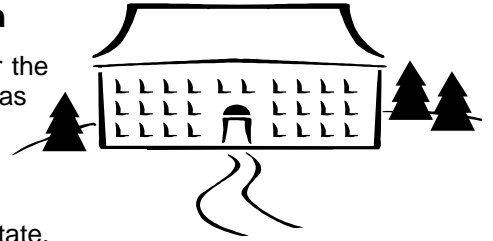
Details of the new rules and the Association's boundary are available on the BSCRA website or can be obtained in hard copy from the Secretary.

## **Election of Officers**

The officers and committee for 2006/7 were proposed and duly elected. The names of those elected are as shown on the last page of this Newsletter.

## Guest Speaker: Gerald Smith, Chairman – Friends of Nonsuch

Gerald Smith has a long-held interest in the history of Cheam, and in particular the Nonsuch Estate. He has spent over forty years doing voluntary work and was awarded the Manor of Sutton in 1995. He has been the Chairman of the Friends of Nonsuch since its inception in 1991, and in 2000 received an MBE for his services to the local community.



Mr. Smith gave a splendid talk about the history of the Nonsuch Mansion and estate, accompanied by slides. Brief extracts from Mr. Smith's talk are as follows:

- ?? In 1534 the Chase was created for Henry VIII for hunting purposes, razing the village of Cuddington to construct Nonsuch Palace which lasted for 140 years
- ?? Nonsuch Palace was a mirror of Hampton Court with a hunting park attached
- ?? The Earl of Worcester was a keeper and had a hunting lodge built; thus the Earl of Worcester's Park, and hence the name Worcester Park
- ?? The Palace was near the site of the current Nonsuch Mansion
- ?? The house was sold in 1714 to Joseph Thompson
- ?? Eventually the estate came to the market in 1799 and was bought by Samuel Farmer, who made his fortune from trade with the West Indies
- ?? At that time the estate comprised 617 acres, but it is now 250 acres
- ?? Wyatt's design for the mansion – Tudor/Gothic in style – was implemented. He later worked on decorations for Windsor Castle
- ?? Maps were shown of the original farm, house and floor plan for the mansion, with additional slides of original fittings in the house

A vote of thanks was proposed by Dennis Baldry.

## Nonsuch Mansion - The future

You may have seen in the press that SCOLA are leaving Nonsuch Mansion after 34 years using the house. SCOLA classes began there in 1972 when the house was acquired by Sutton, Epsom and Surrey Councils "for the recreation of the people".

In January 2006 steps were taken by the Joint Management Committee (JMC) to agree a brief, setting out objectives for the future use of the Mansion House with a view to establishing its financial independence. Proposals for increased commercial use of the Mansion House were invited from interested parties, two of which have been short-listed for consideration by the JMC.

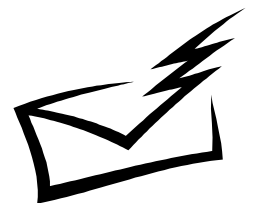
The 'Friends of Nonsuch' are a voluntary group dedicated to preserving the Mansion House and have played an important role in recent years in helping to restore the service wing of the Mansion House.

The Friends fear that this change of use of the main part of the Mansion may adversely affect the management of the Service Wing. This is a valuable 'time capsule' demonstrating life below stairs in a large Georgian mansion by showing well-equipped sculleries, kitchen larders and laundries. There is also a visitors' centre and a museum of valuable stained glass and artefacts from the Elizabethan Nonsuch Palace in the west of the park. To assist in its preservation, you are asked to make use of this valuable community asset. It is open between 14.00 and 17.00 on the second and fourth Sunday of each month and there is a nominal entrance charge.

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## Email addresses

A key objective of The Association is to represent your views, particularly to the Council. From time to time we urgently need you to write a letter supporting one of our campaigns. Email is a fantastic tool that enables us to send information to Members rapidly. It is quick and cheap and enables Members to respond similarly quickly. This year we want to expand our database of email addresses to make this service available to a wider base of Members. Currently we have email addresses for about 15% of our membership. Accepting that a proportion of our Members will not have access to the internet, I am sure that there is still a lot of scope for us to improve on our email coverage.



I know that some of you may be concerned that giving out your email addresses may give rise to junk mail, but be assured you will only receive one or two 'broadcast' emails from us per month. Furthermore our rules oblige us not to divulge your email address to anyone other than an Executive Committee member. We will not pass your email address on to other Members or to any third party without your permission.

If you do have access to email and would like to receive these bulletins, please Subscribe via the website or simply send me an email (peter.mattey@bscra.com) giving your name, address and (optionally) your phone number.

# Planning

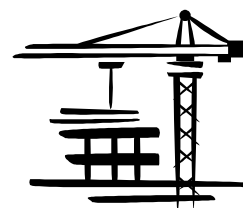
Planning issues were one of the main reasons why the Association was first established and it continues today to be the busiest area of activity for us. On the planning front, we are involved in both the medium and longer term planning strategy as well as helping Members with individual planning applications as they arise.

## Planning Strategy

### Planning reform on the Government agenda for next year

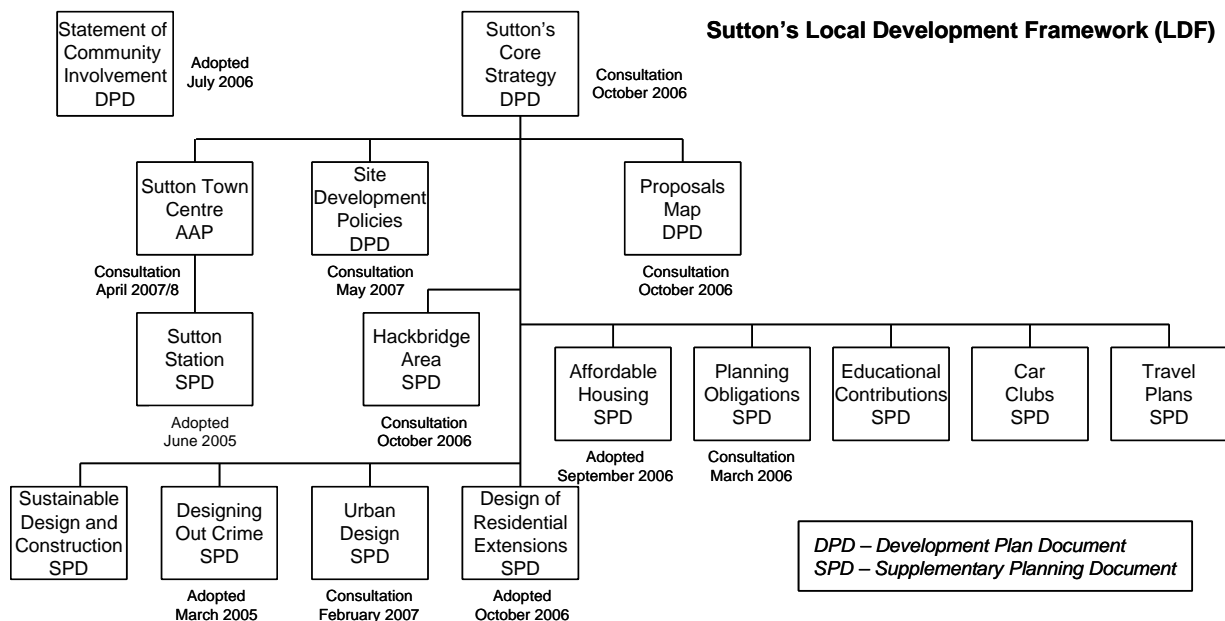
The Government has signalled proposals for a wide-ranging reform of the planning system next year. That prospect was highlighted in the Queen's Speech which outlines the Government's programme of legislation for the new Parliamentary session, which has just begun.

In addition, the Commons and Lords will be considering a Greater London Authority Bill which will devolve greater powers to the Mayor of London in respect of planning, housing and waste management policies in the capital. We will have to wait and see what the implications are for us.



### Replacement of the UDP by the LDF

As reported in the last Newsletter and expanded on at the AGM (see above), the current Unitary Development Plan (UDP) is being replaced by a new set of policies entitled the 'Local Development Framework' (LDF) which are being consulted on and agreed over the next 2 years. The proposed portfolio of documents that will comprise the LDF is as shown in the diagram below. The main activity on this front since the last Newsletter has been the review of the Core Strategy consultation document that will lay the foundation for the development plan. More documents will be provided to us for consultation feedback during 2007.



In addition to providing input to the LDF, we have been in discussion with our local councillors and with the Council's planning strategy team about ways to improve the protection status of Belmont and South Cheam against unwanted developments. A possible means of defence that we are investigating is the use of documented building schemes from when the areas were first laid out. If anyone has any original documents in their possession about the planning for the Belmont or South Cheam Estates (especially the development known as the Cheam Warren Farm Estate), please contact us urgently.

You may wonder if all the above is relevant to you. Be assured it is vitally important. With planning, the presumption is that a householder or developer can do what they like unless it contravenes a planning policy. So when your neighbour wants to build a high garden wall, build an extension, or knock their house down and build flats, you won't be able to do anything about it unless policies exist in the above documents to say they can't!

## Planning Applications

**Planning Watch** - We monitor the Council's planning application database every week to check for applications for properties in our area and categorise these into one of three categories. Taking these in reverse order, Category 3 items are typically minor single storey extensions and we take no proactive action on these unless approached by a Member. Category 2 items are typically any building work at a second floor level, and for these we post cards to the immediate neighbours and their Road Steward offering the assistance of the Association under the heading of our 'Planning Watch' service. However, we only act if contacted by a concerned neighbour. Category 1 items are for major re-developments, demolitions or any application that we feel will be of wider concern to our Members. For these, we actively contact any Members who we think will be affected to ascertain their views. Frequently these will result in some form of objection letter writing campaign.



**Plan to talk** - We have many instances where the first notice people get of a neighbour's intention to extend are when the formal notice of planning application drops through their front door. This can cause unnecessary worry, when often if the proposal is discussed beforehand, potential issues can be explained and possibly changes made to alleviate concerns. If you are considering extending your property please explain what you are doing informally to your neighbours before submitting your application. You will find it will pay dividends in the longer term.

### **Planning Statistics**

During the 4 month period from July to October there were a total of 56 planning applications in our area, of which 63% related to properties in South Cheam and 37% to properties in Belmont. 21% were considered to be Category 1, 50% Category 2 and 29% Category 3.

In the same period, a total of 46 planning decisions were made relating to properties in our area. Of these 8 related to Category 1 applications, 18 for Category 2 applications and 20 for Category 3 applications. The refusal rate was 50% for Category 1 applications, 33% for Category 2 applications and 15% for Category 3 applications.

### **Appeals**

There has been much talk of appeals always going in favour of the appellant. However, recent statistics show that appeals dismissal rates are climbing. Borough wide statistics for the 3 month period from July to October 2006 show a total of 27 appeal decisions being made by the Inspectorate of which 16 (59%) were dismissed. Of the three relating to properties in our area, all (100%) were dismissed.

However, this must be no cause for complacency!

*"We lost the Appeal against the flats but they let us keep the golf course."*



### **Notable Planning Cases Decided**

**22a – 24 York Road** – The developers appealed against the Council's refusal of their application to build 13 townhouses. The appeal was dismissed by the Inspector in July 2006.

**Glaisdale School** – Following our campaign in March 2006 objecting to the proposal to build 13 flats on this site (as reported in the last Newsletter), over 160 letters of objection were sent to the Council by our Members. The application was refused by the Council's Development Control Committee in June 2006.

**Chegworth Nursing Home, Downs Side** – The latest application by the home to build two rear extensions was refused by the council in October 2006. This followed a major campaign supported by The Association which resulted in over 70 letters of objection being sent to the Council.

**9 Downs Side** – The appeal by the owner against the Council's refusal to grant permission to replace the existing bungalow with two detached houses was dismissed by the Inspector in October 2006.

**The Avenue School** – Outline planning permission was granted in October 2006 to construct two buildings for classrooms and a multi-purpose hall together with a new access onto Belmont Rise. However, detailed plans will need to be submitted and approved before building can commence.

**T-Mobile Mast**, corner Belmont Rise/Beresford Road. Following objections from local residents supported by The Association and the Ward Councillors, the application for a 12m mast was withdrawn. However, a revised application for a reduced height (10m) mast was subsequently submitted and was granted in November 2006.

**Dairy Crest Depot** (not in our area) – The appeal by Linden homes against the council's refusal to grant planning permission for a development of 39 flats in 6 blocks was allowed in July 2006. Work has subsequently started.

### **Notable Planning Cases Outstanding**

**Smith & Byford** have submitted an application for a change of use for two of their premises in Upper Mulgrave Road from shops to offices. The application was a result of enforcement action by the Council. We have run a major campaign to object to this application for a variety of reasons and over 70 Members have written letters of objection. We are waiting for the application to be decided by the Development Control Committee. Smith and Byford tell us they will be moving next April, but we do not know where to, or if all their activities will move.

**Avenue Nursing Home** – In our last newsletter we reported that an application had been made in March 2006 for a major extension to this Home that would convert it to a 3 storey block and basement with over double the floorspace of the existing already extended building. Over 110 letters of objection were sent by our Members to the Council, and the application was subsequently withdrawn by the owner. However, building work started at the end of June without any planning application being submitted. On investigation by the Council, the owner claimed that the work only required building regulations approval. However, closer inspection of the plans showed a sizeable first floor extension was being built. The owner finally submitted plans in August, which were again objected to by about 70 Members. This application was promptly refused by the Council and enforcement action initiated to re-instate the building. The owner has appealed against both the refusal decision and the enforcement notice. Since then a further structure and entrance have been created on the Northey Avenue boundary. The Council again issued an enforcement Stop Notice, but by then the works were largely complete. A planning application has been retrospectively submitted and objected to by 30 Members, but this has yet to be determined. It is fair to say that the actions of the owner in disregarding the accepted planning process are a cause of frustration to the Council and of some anger to our Members. We would like to thank all our Members who have supported us.

**7 Northdown Road** – the application to build 8 flats was refused by the Council in March 2006. The applicant has appealed to the Inspectorate who will review the case at a local hearing. No date has yet been set.

## Party Wall Act

Members should be aware that any development that involves work on a shared wall or excavation within 3m of a neighbour's property falls under the remit of the 1996 Party Wall Act. This Act obliges the householder wishing to carry out the work to fund a survey of their neighbour's property before the commencement of work, to determine its condition. This can then be used as a baseline in the event of alleged damage caused by the building works. Contact the Association (or see our website) for details of how to get a summary of the Act. Note that the Act has no bearing on planning permission.

## Offers to buy your house

We have had reports of a number of offers being made to buy blocks of houses across our area. Please let us know of these so that we can keep track of where we may be vulnerable to attack.

## Non-Planning Matters

### Belmont Rest Garden

Following our report in the last Newsletter that the path had been repaired and extended, and a tree provided with monies from the Sutton and Cheam Society, we are pleased to report that a waste bin and dog litter bin have now been installed. The Council have also agreed to provide a bench in the garden and The Association has agreed to fund a second bench to complement it. Please contact us if you have any further suggestions as to how this valuable amenity space can be improved and better utilised.



### Fireworks

By the time you receive this newsletter, the firework season should be drawing to a close. However, in recent years firework parties have been a feature for some weeks after November 5<sup>th</sup>. If you are letting off fireworks, please have consideration for your neighbours (and their pets). Please remember that it is an offence for anyone to let fireworks off during night hours (11pm to 7am) apart from special occasions, when these hours are extended as follows: Guy Fawkes' Night (midnight), Diwali, New Year's Eve and Chinese New Year (1am).

Be aware that it is an offence to throw or set off fireworks in any highway, street, thoroughfare or public place, or for under 18s to possess fireworks in a public place.

### Parties

Loud parties until late at night can also be a cause of upset for the neighbours. If you are planning a party, letting your neighbours know in advance, apologising for the extra traffic and additional noise and giving them an estimate as to how long the event is planned to last often helps and greatly reduces the likelihood of complaint. You might even consider inviting them!

### Recycling Centre

We have had mixed feedback from some Members since the AGM about the new Re-use & Recycling Centre in Kimpton Park Way. Please give us your feedback on your personal experiences so we can assess if any action by the Association is considered necessary.

### Cheam as a Postal Area

Paul Burstow is continuing to champion this cause and secured a parliamentary debate on the subject which took place on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2006. During the debate he spoke of the historic nature of Cheam, the strength of local feeling about the issue and about what he considers to be the nonsensical arguments put forward by the Royal Mail. In the debate Mr Burstow questioned Jim Fitzpatrick MP, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Department of Trade and Industry and who is responsible for the Royal Mail. Mr Burstow tells us "when I asked Mr Fitzpatrick to explain why Cheam is not a post town, while Carshalton is, he admitted that there does seem to be an anomaly!" In his reply, Mr Fitzpatrick said "From the briefings that I received in preparation for this evening's debate, it seems to me that the first step, and the obvious way forward, is to secure the appropriate consultation on adding "Cheam" to the postal address. That would at least half meet the hon. Gentleman's aspirations, because then Cheam could be added to the acknowledged postal address—that is, the address recognised by Royal Mail for residents in his area. If they wish to drop Sutton from their address -- I am not suggesting for a second that they ought to do so, because that may result in a delay in delivery -- and include Cheam, there is a mechanism to achieve that, provided that the hon. Gentleman can demonstrate his support, as well as that of Postwatch, the local council and the chamber of commerce. Given the support that he has demonstrated in his local area, that would be a positive first step in the recognition of Cheam as a distinct postal area in Royal Mail's acknowledged address systems."

### Critical Care Hospital



The planned future new critical care hospital, which was originally recommended to be built in Sutton, and then switched on the instructions of the Government to St Helier, now appears to have been shelved indefinitely for financial reasons. Health Minister Patricia Hewitt has said that there are already too many hospital beds in south London. The "super" hospitals are predicted to be St George's, Kings College, Kingston, Mayday, Lewisham and Guys and St Thomas'. The Minister's view is that Sutton is close enough to three of these – St George's, Kingston or Mayday - for emergency patients to be sent there. This means that the proposal by the Epsom and St Helier Trust to build a new Critical Care Hospital on the Sutton Hospital site is unlikely to go ahead and in that event, all or part of the site may be released for redevelopment. The whole issue is being vigorously pursued by all the local MPs and we shall continue to watch progress closely.'

## Trees

Tree maintenance is carried out every four years throughout the borough and 2006 has been the year for the Cheam and Belmont area. No doubt you will have noticed pruning and, regrettably, some felling. It is always sad to lose fine mature trees, but we have been assured by the Council that any trees that have been felled were either dying or had some form of root disease. Following the felling of a tree, we expect that its stump should be ground down and a replacement tree planted. Unfortunately at the time of writing, many stumps have not been ground down, causing a potential hazard for pedestrians. We are in communication with the council about this issue, and we have been assured that all stumps will be attended to, although the contractor is running behind schedule. Of greater concern to our once leafy roads, is that not all the felled trees are being replaced. In our Belmont area alone, 16 trees have been felled but only 5 are on the schedule for replanting. The situation in South Cheam is worse.

We are pressing the Council to complete the stump grinding programme and to replace more of the felled trees. Again quoting Belmont figures, over 10% of all tree sites are currently vacant as a result of felling in this or previous years.

Please let us know if you have a stump near your house that needs grinding or if you have vacant tree site that you would like replanted.

## Website ([www.bsra.com](http://www.bsra.com))

If you haven't already visited the website, please try it out. On the website you will find much useful information about The Association and answers to some frequently asked questions. You can also post information yourself in one of the Forums.

There is also a new History of Our Area section that has been prepared by Dennis Baldry. This gives a lot of interesting detail about the history of Belmont and South Cheam and is well worth a read.



### **BSCRA Contact Details** (see [www.bsra.com](http://www.bsra.com) for the latest details)

<b>Chairman:</b> & Planning South Cheam	Peter Matthey Woodford Lodge 42, The Avenue Cheam. SM2 7QE 020 8643 0635	<b>General Secretary:</b>	Alys Shale 24, South Drive Cheam SM2 7PN 020 8643 8396
<b>Vice Chairman:</b> & Planning Belmont North	Victor Jordan 020 8642 2635	<b>Treasurer:</b>	Brian Williams 020 8642 3719
<b>Membership Secretary:</b>	Hernan Lozano 020 8643 2986		
<b>Committee Members:</b>			
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 8395 9698	Heather Shaw	020 8642 5406
Jean Hamilton	020 8642 7320	Ron Young	020 8642 0469
Derek Hurden	020 8643 2332		

Details of your local Road Steward can be obtained from our website [www.bsra.com](http://www.bsra.com)

### **Local Councillors**

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

### **Safer Neighbourhood Team**

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