

# **THE BOOKHAM BROADSHEET**

## **The Journal of the Bookhams Residents' Association**

April 2001

### **THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

Founded 1926

Notice of  
**74th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Friday 27th April 2001 at 8.00pm**

The Harrison Room The Old Barn Hall Church Road Great Bookham

**WANTED**  
**CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEE**  
**IF**

# **BRA IS TO CONTINUE**

President  
Chairman Vice Chairmen  
Secretary Treasurer  
Executive Committee

## **Agenda**

### **Outgoing Chairman's Welcome**

1. Minutes of 73rd Annual General Meeting - 28/4/00
2. Treasurer's Report, adoption of accounts
3. Executive Committee's Report for the past year
4. Election of Chairman for 2001/02
5. Election of Officers and Committee Members for 2001/02
6. **Motion – If Chairman, Officers and Committee Members cannot be found the BRA shall be disbanded and it's assets distributed according to Rules and wishes of members at the meeting**
7. Any other Business and Questions

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- Cleaner Bookham
- Treasurer's Report
- Planning Sub Committee

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Bookham Residents' Association has been in operation since 1926 and during those 75 years it has had many ups and downs. It was very active during the plans being drawn up to route the M25 through the Fetcham Gap and there were other occasions where its influence could not have been bettered.

More recently it has played an active part in persuading the County Council to keep our Library open and today we are giving our full support to the building of a new Medical Centre in Bookham. Locally in recent years we had much to do with changes in the parking systems in Bookham High Street, Church Road and the Lower Shott car park.

Planning is also an important item on our agenda as we pass or turn down every new plan that affects the Bookhams. Under this heading we also do our utmost to preserve the trees which play such an important role in the character of our village. Without this control Bookham could have lost many more trees and been far more densely built than is now the case.

Being a Chairman or member of the Committee is very interesting and thoroughly worthwhile, for you are benefiting your community to the best of your ability. Having a hub to represent the residents, local needs and character of Great and Little Bookham means our Local and County Councillors have a channel through which they can communicate with local people.

Now we have come to stand at the crossroads in the life of the BRA. Sadly I, as Chairman, plan to stand down in April after 4 years of holding the post as well as taking on much of the secretarial side. Several of my Committee also feel they want to retire having been active members for very many years. We all owe them a debt of gratitude as they have worked hard to conscientiously undertake their various tasks and report on them at our monthly meetings.

For example one of the members tried to come to grips with all the graffiti around Bookham and spent many hours noting and painting over much of the offending signs. As the Police did not have either the manpower or the time to follow up all his work he had to finally give in and stop – one cannot keep working on a project if no results materialise.

So we have come to the point where unless we can find a new Chairman and a new Committee we will have to disband the Association in accordance with the rules. It will be a great loss to Bookham and in time I think the residents will notice the difference. All our surrounding villages have their own Residents' Association or Parochial Councils (which cost money on the rates) through which the Councillors can operate. Bookham alone will be left in the hands of its local and county councillors.

**WE THEREFORE BEG YOU TO COME TO THE AGM ON 27 APRIL TO EITHER OFFER YOUR SERVICES FOR THE VARIOUS VACANT POSITIONS OR AGREE TO LET THE BRA STAND DOWN.**

Some Committee members may well join the new committee if they are invited to do so, but first we need an Executive comprising Chairman – Vice Chairman – Treasurer – Secretary – and Membership Secretary.

About 10 Committee members are necessary to run the Association smoothly and the more one has the less work each individual has to do!  
DO NOT LET BOOKHAM DOWN but FORM A NEW BRA NOW. (I forgot to mention it can be a lot of fun too)

Brenda de Bruin

### **Cleaner Bookham – Review of project carried out by committee**

Between May 1999 and July 2000 The BRA Executive Committee undertook a project with the overall title 'Cleaner Bookham'. The aspects tackled were Graffiti, Street Cleaning, Grass Verge Cutting, Surface Water Gully Drain Cleaning and Rights of Way Clearance. The project was terminated after fifteen months, as there was insufficient improvement by the appropriate authorities to justify the effort expended by the BRA.

### **Graffiti**

The amount of graffiti visible was about the same level at the end of the project as at the beginning. At one time ten sites of graffiti occurred each week. There appears less activity at this point in time; it seems to happen in sporadic bursts.

Regular targets are bus shelters, selected shop walls, selected residents walls and garage doors, residents' fences, street signs, communication boxes, notice boards and etching on shop windows and telephone booths etc.

A survey carried out before Christmas 1999 showed that 33 Bookham businesses had experienced recent graffiti or vandalism. Even so, these businesses were somewhat indifferent to the problem and a major landlord failed to respond to a recent communication on the subject.

On the good side, MVDC officers were more responsive to graffiti attacks and contracted a specialist cleaning firm to clean Council-owned property at suitable intervals. MVDC stated they were then regularly reporting incidents of vandalism on Council property to Police.

After a request by BRA, BT and Cable & Wireless willingly over painted their green connection boxes in the summer of 1999. Many of these have graffiti on them again. At about the same time residents of one road in Bookham were agreeable and willing to over paint 40 fence panels. Only about six of these panels have been further damaged and have been over painted again. There has been less graffiti activity in this area and it is certainly the case that particular routes become the fashionable target areas.

Police set up a regular monthly meeting with representatives of BRA Committee to review information on graffiti but the Police only managed to attend on two occasions and the plan fell by the wayside.

Graffiti caused to Rusts' car park walls in March 2000 had a reported suspect but as far as is known the Police did not make a charge!

Despite asking for statistics on the reported level of graffiti in Mole Valley there was no information forthcoming from the Police or District Authority. There is confusion on the definition of graffiti as a criminal act in that a financial value of the damage appears to be part of it, but there was no mechanism for establishing the value and this is probably still the case.

### **Street Cleaning (MVDC)**

During the project there was frequent dialogue with General Services Department MVDC about cleaning performance of contractors. Some improvement was made to the High Street and the area around Rusts in particular, but at the time of writing we are back to square one.

MVDC recognised that hand gang work to follow up the sweeping machines was tardy, ineffective or non-existent. A revision of schedule took place.

### **Grass Verge Cutting (SCC)**

The standard of the cut in June 2000 was particularly pathetic. It required five telephone calls to SCC to achieve the return of the hand strimmer to improve just one road.

