

Autumn 1993

The half yearly General Meeting will be held in the Harrison Room, Barn Hall on Friday 19th November 1993 at 8 pm.

Chairmans Review

Guest speaker - Mrs Ann Baldwin - The work of the Citizens Advice Bureau

Notice of motion for discussion at the meeting must be delivered in writing to the Hon Secretary by the 12th November, [redacted]

New members may join at the door

Road Safety-

Since the Local Area Safety Study in May this year BRA has continued to collect comments, expound its policies and endeavour to enter into association with other interested groups.

To ensure that Surrey County Council (SCC) implements a scheme which is acceptable to the residents of the area, it is considered that common requirements need to be established allowing technical solutions to be proposed for our acceptance by the traffic engineers.

Based on our circulated traffic principles and comments received our prime concern is that the local population should be able to freely move about the roads, always subject to the rights and safety of others.

From this standpoint our reply to SCC after the Exhibition was that:- Road Closures and Diversions were strongly opposed but the Slowing Down of traffic on Lower Road and other heavily used roads was strongly supported. Other comments gave full support for the Cycle Track to Howard of Effingham, whilst opposing a one way system for the High Street as creating a racetrack and worsening rather than improving safety. Additionally, disappointment was expressed that there were no firm proposals for the Eastwick Road/Crabtree Lane junction with the A246.

These comments and thoughts have been shared with other groups involved including the Fetcham Residents Association and the Bookham, Effingham, Fetcham, Traffic, Action Group (BEFTAG). Contact has also recently been established with Effingham Parish Council and The Effingham Ratepayers and Residents Association. As no doubt groups have common members there is a need for all groups to keep in contact to establish common purpose and requirements. All members comments are appreciated and are passed on to the SCC as part of the study and contact can be made through any member of our Executive Committee.

More recently we were invited as observers to a meeting where the SCC study team outlined the way forward to local councillors. Apparently the individual responses to their questionnaire on the Safety Study have been statistically analysed and from the wealth of data they have acknowledged that Road Closures are not popular. More work is required on these statistics before amended proposals are put to the Highways Committee of SCC. They emphasised the need for an area scheme with all safety proposals coordinated, and advised that it was unlikely that any measure would be implemented individually.

There may be a further exhibition on new proposals and SCC welcome further exchanges with local groups. To this end BRA will continue the existing dialogue as well as linking with the efforts of others.

Youth

The BRA supports the efforts of the Scouts to establish a Scouting Centre to provide facilities for our youth. By fund raising and loans they have been able to raise the initial £25,000 to fence and access the site and purchase it from Surrey County Council. Establishing buildings is the next stage.

They are prevented from submitting applications for Grants to the SCC Community Grants Scheme by the Policy of Mole Valley District Council (MVDC). Applications require equal financial participation from the applicant, the local Council and SCC. Unlike Guildford District Council, MVDC, as a Policy, specifically excludes any Voluntary Youth Organisation from making an application.

In this financial year, as published in the local press, an additional £60,000 has been provided by MVDC for the support of Community Grant Schemes, however the Policy precludes the Bookham Scouts applying.

In conjunction with our Councillors BRA have written to MVDC requesting that some thought be given to assisting Bookham Scouts. The response received stated that there is no money available for this project. It is understood, however, from Councillors that there may be a review of the Policy for future years.

Whilst accepting that we live in a time of financial restraint, BRA feel that the Policy needs to be reviewed so that any application can be received and assessed on community merit. To this end we will continue to press for the removal of this restrictive Policy.

Bookham station

Late night train travellers returning from London Waterloo beware, the two Bookham (Guildford) trains are now 22.02 & 23.32. If you get the 22.32 or 23.02 these terminate at Epsom with an onward connection to Leatherhead by a Dorking train. BRATS, (Chairman 457214) are holding their AGM on 25th November in the Harrison Room of the Barn Hall at 8 pm BR and London & Country Bus officials have been invited. BRA members are most welcome to attend and help save Bookham station.

Dates for your Diary

25th February 1994, Road Stewards meeting. 15th April 1994 Annual General Meeting. Both these are in the Harrison Room, Barn Hall, Bookham at 8 pm.

Executive committee 1993-94