

# MOTTINGHAM NEWS

THE VOICE OF MOTTINGHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
FOUNDED 1932



# MOTTINGHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

2016 – 2017		
Chair	Richard Mainwaring-Burton	<a href="mailto:chair@yourmra.org">chair@yourmra.org</a>
Secretary	Robert Blanks	<a href="mailto:secretary@yourmra.org">secretary@yourmra.org</a>
Membership Sec'ty	via	<a href="mailto:chair@yourmra.org">chair@yourmra.org</a>
Treasurer	Laurie Bell	<a href="mailto:treasurer@yourmra.org">treasurer@yourmra.org</a>
Website		<a href="mailto:webmaster@yourmra.org">webmaster@yourmra.org</a>

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

S Bettesworth	M Henderson
E Cavendish	L Keable
A Chklar	L Robins
J Cornish	R Young

## New Committee Members Always Welcome

### AUDITOR

Bernard Hawes

### MRA MEETINGS 2017 – All meetings begin at 8:00pm

26 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Executive Committee (Thurs)	Chris Mumbray Hall
16 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	Executive Committee (Thurs)	Chris Mumbray Hall
26 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	A.G.M (Wed)	St Andrews Church Hall
22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2017	Executive Committee (Thurs)	Chris Mumbray Hall
21 <sup>st</sup> September 2017	Executive Committee (Thurs)	Chris Mumbray Hall
23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2017	Executive Committee (Thurs)	Chris Mumbray Hall

Chris Mumbray Hall is on the right behind St.Andrews Church

NB June meeting has replaced previous May and July meetings

## ALL MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND RAISE MATTERS OF LOCAL CONCERN



If there is anything you feel needs to be brought to the attention of the Council (Bromley or Greenwich), this is a useful and easily accessible portal. Search FixMyStreet in Google.



# CHAIR'S REPORT

Mottingham has a remarkably diverse population. That diversity is brought about by the variety of influences which attract new residents or encourage generations of families to stay. You might live in Mottingham to be near relatives or a good school, because of the effect of postcode on real estate prices, or simply because you like the area.

Whatever your own influences – social, financial, educational, emotional or political it is evident, judging by the number of you prepared to join the MRA, that you care for your environment. We have one of the highest proportions of member households in London visiting over 1400 homes of the 1735 homes in our wards. 981 of those visited signed up for 2015-16 membership (68%). 298 homes have inaccessible entry locks. The MRA works hard to serve, and represent the views, of all our residents. We also produce our new-look news booklet and the new website will be active by the year end. ([www.yourMRA.org](http://www.yourMRA.org) – same address)

The issues presented to the MRA can draw on a wealth of expertise and experience which we are fortunate to possess within our Committee and membership. It is their duty to gauge the views and interests of the membership. Much of this happens in the background, and can be challenging when the issues fall on a spectrum from the number of cats permitted to inhabit a cattery, to considering the purchase and management of a pub.

From committee discussions, it is evident that we can all be looking at an issue with different perspectives. We sometimes have to strike a balance between opposing opinions, and also to acknowledge that the expressed outcome of our deliberations may not be to the liking of all. In the past it was clear that some members and other residents were in favour of the proposed Lidl supermarket on the Porcupine site. However the majority view of the residents, shared by the Bromley Planners, was that the development was inappropriate.

The issue which has caused greatest interest over the last few years is undoubtedly the Porcupine and its future. At last, we have something to report in that Lidl put the site up for sale in June. However, under the terms of the Asset of Community Value status, urgent action is required before Christmas. This has provoked frenzied activity by the Porcupine Development Committee. The topic is explained fully on page 4, and I would encourage all residents to keep in touch, particularly if you have skills or time you can offer.

The future education of primary age children in north Mottingham has also become a significant issue. This is addressed on page 8.

In order to give a broader view of the committee's activity, I have listed some of the items addressed by the committee over the past year. Details of the discussions may be found in the minutes of the Committee.

## Planning Issues: (Bromley and Greenwich Councils)

- Telecom mast – Mottingham Lane/Grove Park Road
  - Mottingham Hall Nursery – Car park extension, tree felling
  - Eltham College – Building alterations and temporary classrooms, alcohol licence extension
  - Leysdown Road – Cattery expansion
  - Hartsmead Road – Building extension and outbuilding
  - Chapel Farm Road – Building extension
- Community Issues:
- Festive Lights,
  - Remembrance Day poppies and road closures
  - Library service alterations.

*Richard Mainwaring-Burton*

## THE PORCUPINE UPDATE

Following Lidl's decision to sell the site in June 2016, the Porcupine Development Committee (PDC) has taken a three-pronged approach. The most favoured options from the 2013 consultation, were to ensure that the community could enjoy a good quality local evening venue, and a daytime facility where people could meet and children would be welcome.



The options being considered are:

1. Purchase of The Porcupine by a Pub or Restaurant company, or an independent operator, to run it as a business without influence from the community. This option is becoming unlikely since no company has come forward despite efforts by the PDC.
2. The Community to raise funds to buy the site and develop the Porcupine in line with residents' wishes, taking into account that it must be a viable business. Many grants which were available when the community applied for Asset of Community Value (ACV) status, have now dried up. Land prices have risen exponentially, and Lidl have not yet declared a price. This option would involve a mixture of grants (small), a community share offer and bank borrowing; it remains on the table, but would be subject to sufficient capital being raised from shares. A large loan would render the business unviable.
3. To join with a not-for-profit organisation, for example a housing association or health provider, who would provide some capital, and professional help to

develop a Community Hub which would include social/health facilities as well as an evening venue. A share issue would still be required.

Mottingham is an isolated community with few facilities. This last option would seem to be the most achievable. Business Plans for options 2 & 3, a Share Prospectus and grant applications are in preparation. A possible social partner is being sought. When these things are in place, residents will be consulted on feasible options and the facilities they would wish to be included in the preferred scheme.

The PDC has until 27<sup>th</sup> December, 2016, to bid for the Porcupine. Whilst Lidl cannot sell to anyone else before that date, they are not obliged to sell to the community. Lidl are taking a petulant attitude to the PDC, and do not respond to attempts to contact them. The ACV, which restricts the use of the site to a public house or similar, remains in force until March, 2018, unless the PDC withdraws it. It can be renewed, but a request would need to be seen as reasonable, with some end in prospect. The PDC remains optimistic that we will soon see the end of this awful blue hoarding.

*Ted Rowlands – PDC chair*

## **MIDWEEK LUNCH – ALL WELCOME**

Mottingham Methodist Church Hall  
Every Wednesday at 12:30  
Doors open 11:00 for chat and coffee No  
need to book - £3.00 donation



## **MOTTINGHAM WHEELCHAIRS (Manual), or Walking Frame, Quad Walking Stick, 3 Wheel Shopping Rollator**



These aids are available, for short periods, to anyone who lives in the Mottingham area. There is no charge for their use, but borrowers must accept that they use them without any recourse to the lenders in respect of any injury or damage that may arise from their use.



**Contact Joan or Les at 71 Court Farm Road or ring 020 8857 3671**



## FESTIVE LIGHTS

You are encouraged to support this enterprise which succeeds in brightening up our environment in the festive season.

We also encourage you to support our local traders who also contribute to the lights.

## MOTTINGHAM VILLAGE CONCERT BAND

The Mottingham Village Concert Band owes its origin to existing and past family members and friends who were instrumental in setting up a local band in 1953 known as 'The Good Shepherd Band', Downham, under the patronage of Fr. Parker and with the aid of a set of obsolete instruments donated by the Corps of Commissionaires!



### The Good Shepherd Band, Downham in the 1950s

In the early 1960's the Good Shepherd Band moved to the Maryfield Hall at Our Lady Help of Christians, Leysdown Road, under the patronage of Canon Desmond and, for many years, was known as 'The Maryfield Concert Band'. After a number of years it moved back to Downham and became known as 'The Bromley Band'. In 1983 its Conductor, Glen Morgan, a professor at Trinity College, resigned and formed 'The Glen Morgan Concert Band', based at St. Saviours Church Hall, Lewisham, including the majority of the original members. After Glen's retirement the Band group returned to 'The Maryfield Hall', and is now known as the 'Mottingham Village Concert Band'.

Notable engagements in former years include, in 1985, leading a group of some 2,000 people from Westminster Cathedral to Hyde Park for a religious celebration; playing before a massed assembly of German Bands at a Musikfest in Munnerstadt, Bavaria and being caught in a snow-storm whilst playing in the open at Engelberg, Switzerland! One of the most notable engagements was playing with The Peckham Band at the opening by HM The Queen of the Cutty Sark in Greenwich in 1957.

The name of the Band or where it is playing is of less relevance than its spirit. It is a group of players of mixed ability and diverse interests who have come together for more than 60 years and who enjoy playing a wide variety of music in a friendly atmosphere! It has always been open to any interested musician to join them. The Band still contains some of the original band members and relatives, and other keen amateur musicians. We are also fortunate to be able to enjoy the company of several, expert and experienced professional musicians who join us for special occasions.

The Band practises at The Maryfield Hall, Leysdown Road. Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays during term time between 8 and 10pm under the direction of our conductor: lecturer and professional musician, Leslie Lake.

Besides weekly practices, we engage in a number of engagements linking our local community. We have regular Easter and Christmas Concerts, with classical and religious themes, held at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Leysdown Road. We have been invited to lead the St. George's Day parade for Bromley's 2,000 scouts, and have provided music at charity events in Lee Green, Petts Wood and Blackheath.

We played music for a summer afternoon at the Mottingham Horticultural Show in Eltham College in 2015. During the summer we are regularly engaged to play in The Well Hall Pleasance Park, Eltham.



The autumn functions commence with the Remembrance Day service held at the Mottingham War Memorial on 13<sup>th</sup> November (10:45) and on 14<sup>th</sup> December (8 pm) we will perform a traditional Christmas Concert in The Maryfield Hall.

So, not too demanding a commitment but a choice of engagements that will give pleasure to both performers and listeners alike! If you would like to know more, feel free to come along to one of our Wednesday practice sessions; or email Tony at [mvconcertband@gmail.com](mailto:mvconcertband@gmail.com) or visit <http://www.mottinghamband.co.uk/>

*Richard Mainwaring-Burton*



## LEST WE FORGET

Churches Together in Mottingham and  
Mottingham Village Concert Band  
**REMEMBRANCE SERVICE at 10.45am**  
**on SUNDAY, 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2016**  
outside Warr's Motorcycle shop.

## PRIMARY EDUCATION IN MOTTINGHAM NORTH



As many of you will be aware, there have been a great many changes in Education over the last few years. Many schools have elected to leave their local authority and form Academies. The Academies then often join together to form a Trust for the benefit and support of each member school. Most primary schools in Greenwich have remained under local authority control. Bromley, however, took the decision to withdraw from the provision of mainstream

education altogether. Bromley has insisted their schools join an Academy Trust as soon as possible. All four local authority junior schools in Mottingham have now joined one of three different Trusts. Bromley retains a statutory responsibility for Special Educational Needs, school admissions, legal statistics and for ensuring that there are sufficient places to meet local population needs. This last responsibility is met through the Bromley Council's Local Plan, which is currently in draft form. The MRA wrote to everyone a year ago, informing you of the lack of plans to expand provision in this part of Mottingham, nor even to provide a junior phase locally. The MRA responded to the draft Local Plan by writing to the Portfolio Holder and Director of Education requesting that the north of Mottingham be included in plans for expansion. We received no reply.

The rising number of young families in the Mottingham area is evidenced by official birth rate statistics for Mottingham wards in both Bromley and Greenwich boroughs. Bromley is promoting expansion at the Chislehurst end of Mottingham. However, Mottingham North area pupils are finding increasing difficulty to secure a primary

(age 4+ to 11+) school place, at age 4+, due to their distance from schools. Already, 50% of pupils travel outside their home ward to attend primary school. Most schools in and near to Mottingham have a catchment area of little over half a mile. Due to the number of different Trusts, pupils choosing Dorset Road Infants will be offered a junior place at Castlecombe from 2017, but parents have been told that they will not be offered places at Mottingham or Red Hill primary schools.

The MRA is concerned that if no action is taken, Mottingham North parents will find themselves in the same position with primary education, as many of us did twenty years ago, with secondary education. There was a dearth of places locally, resulting in pupils travelling unreasonable distances to poor quality provision in other areas, with absolutely no choice. Pupils were separated from their friends and communities at the very time when they needed both.

Following very careful consideration and a measured approach, the MRA is taking steps to seek an Academy Trust willing to develop a two form entry primary school close to the Village. It would be a 'Free School' welcoming local pupils from both Greenwich and Bromley boroughs. Any new school proposals are rigorously assessed by the Regional Commissioner for Schools. The Secretary of State for Education makes the final decision on any application.

Mottingham is surrounded by green space and bordered by busy main roads. It is difficult to see where a new school could be built on a 'brown field' site. A possible site, close to the village, could be a corner (around 20%) of Mottingham Playing Fields (known as Foxes Field). The site is designated as Metropolitan Open Land (MOL). It is highly valued and extensively used, mostly at weekends and in school holidays. Current sports facilities would be preserved and possibly enhanced. The pressure for school places, nationally and locally, is resulting in local authorities having to consider the use of MOL and Green Belt sites. (See Bromley Local Plan for examples of proposals to downgrade sites.) Should a new school be approved by the authorities, the Department for Education has the responsibility to find an appropriate site.

Should a Trust be forthcoming and plans developed, a full public consultation will be offered across the Mottingham area. Parents with young children, in particular, will have their views actively sought. This is a long process. Regular bulletins will be published. **To be kept up to date, please ensure that your Road Steward has your email address.**

*Liz Keable*

## LIBRARY UPDATE



At the September, 2016 meeting of the Renewal & Recreation PDS Committee, it was reported that the only serious bidder to run the Community Libraries had withdrawn. No other prospect was in view to run the six libraries as a separate entity. The decision (to be ratified by the Executive Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2016) was taken to include all six in the core bid for the Bexley/Bromley joint service. This was the result for which the MRA had pushed. We will retain our paid, highly trained and committed staff and a professional service which meets the needs of the local community. The £250,000 projected saving from the original plans will be met from Bromley's contingency fund for this year. However, Bromley remains committed to making this saving in future years from the core contract. It is unlikely that the future, successful bidder will be able or willing to absorb the cost of the community libraries. The MRA will continue to monitor progress and report accordingly.

*Liz Keable*

**ROAD REPRESENTATIVES****MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY****RICHARD MAINWARING-BURTON, chair@yourmra.org****Section 1: Leader RICHARD MAINWARING-BURTON**

<b>Road List (Borough)</b>	
Albert Road (B)	Lesley Robins
Avondale Road (B)	Vacancy – Road Rep Needed
Devonshire Road (B)	Penny Waterson
Evelyn Rogers Court (B)	Richard Mainwaring-Burton
Model Farm Close (B)	Edward Wakeling
Mottingham Road - EVEN (B)	Rebecca Young
Mottingham Road - ODD (1-95) (G)	Mary Stevens
Mottingham Road - ODD (127203) (G)	Iris Osborne
Silverdale Drive (B)	Richard Mainwaring-Burton
The Crossway (B)	

**Section 2: Leader JANE CORNISH**

<b>Road List (Borough)</b>	
Hinton Close (G)	Sandra Oliver
Luxfield Road (G)	Tom Biro
Sidcup Road - EVEN (456-504) (G)	Vacancy – Road Rep Needed
West Hallowes (G)	Jane Cornish
West Park - EVEN (G)	Noreen Collins
West Park - ODD (G)	Sandra Oliver

**Section 3: Leader SHEILA BLANKS**

<b>Road List (Borough)</b>	
Carters Hill Close (B)	Sheila Blanks
Cedar Mount (B)	Lynn Seymour
College View (B)	Mary Stevens
Court Farm Road (B)	Les Huxley
Grove Park Road - EVEN (B)	Liz Keable
Grove Park Road - ODD (B)	Brian Barker
Hall View (B)	
Kippington Drive (B)	Derek Ewin
Layzell Walk (B)	Mary Stevens
Mottingham Gardens (B)	Mrs Longhurst
Colview Court (B)	Vacancy – Road Rep Needed
Mottingham Lane (B)	Sheila Blanks

<b>Section 4: Leader LAURIE BELL,</b>	
<b>Road List (Borough)</b>	
Beaconsfield Road (B)	Liz Keable
Clarence Road (B)	Christine Ridgwell
Dorset Road (B)	Clare Whale
Elmhurst Road (B)	Christine Ridgwell
Highcombe Close (B)	Clare Whale
Lulworth Road (B)	Laurie Bell
Portland Crescent (B)	
Portland Road (B)	
<b>Section 5: Leader MARGARET HENDERSON</b>	
<b>Road List (Borough)</b>	
Bill Hamling Close (G)	Margaret Henderson
Birbetts Road (G)	Margaret Henderson
Bowmead (G)	Margaret Henderson
Chapel Farm Road (G)	Tim & Carole Hobbs
Court Road - EVEN (202-286) (G)	John Miller
Lavidge Road - EVEN (G)	Julie Rutledge
Lavidge Road - ODD (G)	
Margaret Gardner Drive	Margaret Henderson
Sidcup Road - EVEN (522-542) (G)	Vacancy – Road Rep Needed
<b>Section 6: Leader LIZ KEABLE</b>	
<b>Road List (Borough)</b>	
Court Road – ODD (201-281) (G)	Vacancy – Road Rep Needed
Crossmead (G)	Vacancy – Road Rep Needed
Downleys Close (G)	John Sunderland
Harstmead Road (G)	Stuart West
Leysdown Road - EVEN (G)	John Sunderland
Leysdown Road - ODD (G)	Janet Lane
Ministry Way (G)	
Porcupine Close (G)	Dorothy Robbie
Sycamore Close (G)	Alison Lawrie

We have several vacancies in the Road Representative list we would like to fill which will spread the load for some existing stalwarts. We would particularly welcome volunteers with access to the “Everest” blocks. Please contact [chair@yourmra.org](mailto:chair@yourmra.org) if you feel able to assist.

# USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS



## POLICE

**GREENWICH:** 020 8853 1212 **ELTHAM:** 020 8284 5625

### COLDHARBOUR:

NEW ELTHAM SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

<http://content.met.police.uk/Team/Greenwich/Coldharbourandneweltham>

Inspector	Edward Rees
Sgt. (acting)	Darryl Oate
PC	Luke Fraser
PCSO	David Glock

60 William Barefoot Drive, SE9 3AY

Tel: 020 7161 9521                      Mobile: 07768 083607

Email: [coldharbour.neweltham.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:coldharbour.neweltham.snt@met.police.uk)

Web address : <https://www.police.uk/metropolitan/E05000217/>

**BROMLEY HQ:** 01689 891212

**MOTTINGHAM:**

CHISLEHURST NORTH SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

<http://content.met.police.uk/Team/Bromley/Mottinghamandchislehurstnorth>

Inspector	Gary Byfield
Sgt. (acting)	Neil Phillips
PC	Paul James
PCSO	Suzanne Kennedy

Bromley Police Station, High St. BR1 1ER

Tel: 020 8721 2889                      Mobile: 07880 781483

Email: [ChislehurstNorth.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:ChislehurstNorth.snt@met.police.uk)

Web address : <https://www.police.uk/metropolitan/E05000121/>

**IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS DIAL 999 NON-EMERGENCY  
POLICE ISSUES CALL 101**

## COUNCILS

**GREENWICH** - Main Switchboard 020 8854 8888 [www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk](http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk)

Councillor's office (Direct Line) 020 8921 5563

**BROMLEY** - Main Switchboard 020 8464 3333 [www.bromley.gov.uk](http://www.bromley.gov.uk)

## LOCAL WARD COUNCILLORS

### GREENWICH

John Hills, 57 Arsenal Road, Eltham SE9 1JT

020 8319 4179 (Home)                      020 8921 5663 (Office)                      07502 436016 (Mob)

Email: [john.hills@royalgreenwich.gov.uk](mailto:john.hills@royalgreenwich.gov.uk)

### BROMLEY

David Cartwright 020 7111 7736

Email: [david.cartwright@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:david.cartwright@bromley.gov.uk)

Charles Rideout 020 8446 6506

Email: [charles.rideout@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:charles.rideout@bromley.gov.uk)

