



## **UPDATE FROM BVRG – 23rd March 2004**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

We now have ninety-five members which is great news. We've grown dramatically in four weeks from an original group of eight!

### **STEERING GROUP**

This has been set up for the first six months to keep the momentum going and get BVRG properly up and running. We've tried to make the group a little more formal since we're dealing with the councils, MPs and the police. We're always interested if people want to get more involved so please do let us know if you have the time and energy to give - we're sure there's a range of talents within our membership already! The steering group as it stands at the moment includes the following residents:

Sarah Greer, Southvale Road - *Chair*

Paul Watts, Southvale Road - *Treasurer*

Anne Rosen, Collins Square - *Secretary and Police Liaison*

Jane Edwarde, Collins Square - *Liaison with Licensing Dpt at Lewisham Council*

Vicky Penner, Southvale Road - *Membership and Marketing*

Jon Penner, Southvale Road - *IT and Membership*

Simon Foy, Southvale Road - *IT*

Samantha Hall, Southvale Road

Fenella Dean, Southvale Road

Frances Waite, Southvale Road

Frank Smith, Tranquil Vale

Barry Rosen, Collins Square

We're attending smaller meetings on the group's behalf. To date, this has included an informal meeting with the Area Manager and Landlord of The Crown and a meeting with our community police constable from Lewisham. We'll keep you updated re. things that are happening. Individual steering group members can be contacted on this email address or by leaving a message on the BVRG answerphone.

### **EMAILS**

We're very aware that we are collecting a lot of email addresses from residents and we definitely don't want to inundate your in-boxes too much over the next few weeks. It's very likely that the group will grow bigger so if possible, it would be great to co-ordinate our emails from one place to ensure not too many are being sent around. If you would like to raise an issue with the whole group, please email it to [bvrgroup@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:bvrgroup@tiscali.co.uk) and we will include your point, with others, in the next update. If you are not on email and want to raise an issue, please call the main number on 020 8355 6701.

Sending information via email is a lot more time and cost effective than delivering hard copies, so please let us know if you can be contacted this way if you haven't already. Could you also let us know immediately if you would prefer to be removed from the mailing list. All contact details given to us will be held on the BVRG database and will not be passed to third parties.

### **O'NEILL'S OBJECTION LETTERS**

Thanks to all of those who have written letters, either via BVRG or direct to the council. There has been a much larger response than in previous cases which has certainly given the licensing department at Lewisham quite a lot to think about! It's unlikely that much will happen re. O'Neill's for a couple of months but we'll keep you up to date with council progress on this.

### **PUBLIC MEETING WITH COUNCILLORS**

This is happening on the evening of Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March - you should all have received details of the agenda etc. Most of the BVRG Steering Group will be attending this and we're looking forward to seeing some of you there. This will give you an opportunity to ask Councillors questions about any issues that you may have concerning Blackheath. We think that a Friday night might have been picked deliberately to put off too many residents attending!

### **FUTURE ACTIVITY**

We're in the process of organising a full members meeting on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May. Blackheath Halls have very kindly donated us the use of their Great Hall so it means we have a lot of space for our rapidly increasing numbers. We may get representatives from the police and council to attend (TBC) but it will be a great chance to get everyone together in the same room to discuss BVRG activity. The Halls are also prepared to open the bar for us so we can make it more sociable towards the end and hopefully give them a little bit of revenue in return!

We're planning to increase the membership of BVRG further since we believe that strength definitely lies in numbers - we've detailed future publicity below.

We're planning to contest other late licence applications that are coming up in the Village and will keep you informed. Please let us know if you have any information that may be helpful for the group. Our main focus at the moment is the anti-social behaviour in the Village, which seems to be mainly alcohol related, so please feel free to email us with any incidents you have witnessed and we'll keep them logged centrally.

### **PUBLICITY**

Some of you may have seen Sarah's article in The Guide this month which has created a lot of interest in BVRG. There will be an article coming out in The Blackheath Society's newsletter about us quite soon. The Society has also very kindly donated us the use of their notice board in the station for a period of time to promote BVRG.

We are trying to put together colour flyers and posters for shops and homes. **Please can you contact Vicky Penner on this email address or the main number if you can help at all with deliveries or colour photocopying / printing.** However little you can do will definitely help and be greatly appreciated.

We are not currently charging membership fees for BVRG so everything needs to be begged and borrowed for now!

Thanks again for your support and enthusiasm. It is really great that so many people feel so strongly about the Village.

Best wishes,

Jon and Vicky Penner  
on behalf of Blackheath Village Residents' Group  
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