

Beckenham News

Newsletter of the
Beckenham Neighbourhood Association
Issue 145, August 2023
electronic edition



Pump track in use, June 2023

BNA AGM, 23 August 2023

The AGM is at 7:00 pm in South Library.

Also in this newsletter:

- Pump track fundraising needed
- Survey of what you want the BNA to do
- South Library concept plans
- Urban density plan changes
- Speed limits review
- Pipe work update
- Fisher Ave street award
- Fisher Ave fairy trees

Annual General Meeting of the Beckenham Neighbourhood Association Inc.

7:00 pm, 23 August 2023,
Beckenham Service Centre boardroom
(South Library)

The Annual General Meeting of the BNA will be at 7 pm on Wednesday 23 August, **in the Beckenham Service Centre boardroom.**

We will cover:

- A talk by City Council staff on the **Urban Forest strategy** to increase tree planting (to be confirmed)
- The official **AGM business** (annual report, financial accounts, election of officers)
- Update what the BNA has worked on this year (see the rest of this newsletter)
- Discussion of survey of residents' priorities for BNA action, and fundraising for the cycle pump track

There is more detail on the various projects below. Come along to the AGM to have your say, and to catch up with other Beckenham residents.

Pump track funding

The 'pump track' (dirt cycle loop on Hunter Tce near South Library) is an informal creation made by locals. Several years ago the City Council granted \$70,000 to upgrade the track, with design work done by mountain bike club Gravity Canterbury. There was also \$40,000 granted by the Waihoru Spreydon-Cashmere-Heathcote Community Board for a basketball half-court. These plans fit with the new adjacent landscaping being planned as part of the South Library rebuild (see below). But with Covid causing delays, costs have increased.

The latest estimate is that completing both the pump track and half-court would need an extra \$110,000. Since the City Council has many other urgent projects to fund, the BNA is exploring other fundraising options. A complication is that community funding bodies typically won't fund council-owned assets. This was the reason the Governors Bay jetty was sold by the City Council for \$1 to a trust, which then raised funding and is completing the repairs. On completion the trust will sell the jetty back to the Council. We may need a similar legal structure for the pump track. If anyone has an interest in this, or experience of such community-led projects, the BNA would be delighted to hear from you.

Beckenham residents survey

The BNA has prepared a survey of what events or activities are of most interest to local residents. This is to inform the efforts of the BNA committee. You can answer the survey electronically at: <https://bit.ly/betterbeckenham>

Or you can download a paper copy from the BNA website (www.betterbeckenham.org.nz)

South Library concept plans

Concept plans have been released for the rebuild of the South Library – Beckenham Service Centre, and landscaping the area around it. These are indicative and were open for comment in June.

The building layout is based on the current footprint, but with improvements (an entry door on the north side, better links to the surrounding park and river). The landscaping includes play areas, and connects well with the Hunter Tce area used by the Farmers' Market, and the pump track.

The BNA has commented on all these plans and thanks the Council for an inclusive process so far. Now the plans and cost estimates will be considered by the City Council as it decides how to proceed. We will keep residents up to date as more progress is made.

Urban density plan changes

For the last year there have been hearings and consultation on government-mandated plans to increase the maximum allowed urban density in the five main cities. The BNA submitted on earlier rounds, as listed in previous newsletters. The process is currently in a phase of submissions commenting on previous submissions.

Speed limits review

The City Council made a decision on 5 July about lower speed limits around many schools, including much of the Beckenham Loop. The Loop was to drop from 40 km/h to 30 km/h, which should help safety around the two schools. However we are still trying to find full maps detailing the final decision.

Pipe replacement work: update

The water main renewal by SEIPP is nearly finished. The last works locally are renewing the roadway on Sandwich Rd near Birdwood Ave, and finishing the interconnection to the existing network in Palatine Reserve. Both should be completed in the next month or less. There was some damage to planter boxes at the corner of Fisher Ave and Norwood St. We are trying to find out how to get these repaired.

Fisher Avenue wins street award

In June the Christchurch Beautifying Association put up a sign at the Colombo St end of Fisher Ave announcing its win as the “Most attractive long street in metropolitan Christchurch”. The award has been running since 1980, and this is the first time a Beckenham street has won it.

City Council long term plan priorities

You can provide early feedback on the City Council’s forthcoming Long Term Plan (LTP) by allocating 100 points to what you see as the most important council activities. This will help shape the draft LTP.

Access the survey by 13 August at:

<https://letstalk.ccc.govt.nz/whatmattersmost>

What makes Beckenham special?

The Fairies of Fisher Ave

This is the first of a new series; see the full version with photos at www.betterbeckenham.org.nz. If you have ideas for stories, please email them to dave.kelly@canterbury.ac.nz

If you go down to the Colombo Street end of Fisher Avenue, you’re in for a big surprise. Opposite St Peter’s primary school stand two remarkable trees: a fairy house and a hobbit dwelling. Both are the work of hobby wood carver Mark Winder.

“I love watching parents stop with their children to talk about who lives inside the trees,” Mark says. “Little kids believe they are real, and it’s magical watching them chattering away to the fairies. I’ve made a small plaque for one, saying Luna’s tree. She’s my granddaughter, and although she’s only eight months, I know she’ll enjoy spending time out there when she’s older.”

Inspired by projects he’d seen on Pinterest, Mark began creating the miniature worlds two years ago on large London plane trees outside his house. He painstakingly crafted tiny windows, doors, and even small gardens with paths and picket fences.

“One day, I found a small bottle on the doorstep of the fairy house. When I opened it, a tiny letter from a child said how much she loved having fairies on her street. To respond, I made a small chalkboard and wrote a message saying we were pleased she liked the trees. Now, we use that board at Christmas, Easter and Matariki to send good wishes.”

Solar fairy lights illuminate them at night, and the Hobbit tree has a face on the trunk acting as a bird feeder. Mark carved a tiny wooden bird complete with a real feather tail to encourage birds to eat the seeds.

“I work with the knots and markings on the trees to decide where to put things. I’m going to keep improving the houses. Seeing the smiles they bring to kids’ faces is magical.”

Written by Sue Kingham.

2022/2023 BNA Committee

Chair: Dave Kelly,
email: dave.kelly@canterbury.ac.nz

Deputy Chair: Greg Miller

Secretary: Diane Peterson,
email: dianekpeterson7@gmail.com

Treasurer: Phil Grey

Committee: Erin Callanan, Paul Dudson, Sue Grant, Lesley Kissell, Una O’Grady, Marise Richards, Peter Tuffley.

Website: www.betterbeckenham.org.nz

If you get this on paper, please join the BNA! Get emails of newsletters and updates on activities. You’re welcome at committee meetings (held fourth Tuesday of odd-numbered months, 7.30 pm at South Library).

✂ 2023-2024 BNA membership

To check your membership status please email chair Dave Kelly (dave.kelly@canterbury.ac.nz) or treasurer Phil Grey (phil.grey@wam.co.nz).

Current membership rates are \$5/person per year or \$10/household. **Pay online** to bank account 03-0866-0328576-00, with your name and start of address in “reference” and email phil.grey@wam.co.nz the info below. **Or drop cash** in an envelope for BNA at CCC, South Library, 66 Colombo Street. **Or post** to us at Beckenham Neighbourhood Association, c/o CCC, PO Box 73021, Christchurch.

Name(s):.....

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I/we live in Beckenham at:

Email address:.....

Phone:.....

Date:.....

I/we would like to get occasional emails about events or consultations from the BNA: Yes/No.