



MINUTES OF RVR MEETING

Thursday 4th May 2023 (Bromley Court Hotel)

Present:

Peter Saunders (Chairman), Beatrice Osborn (Vice-Chairman), Euan McMaster (Newsletter Editor), Jacqueline St. Quinton (Secretary), Andrew Lancaster (Roads and Transport Officer), Clive Lees (Planning Officer), Tricia Saunders, David Page, Liz Smart, Mick Pinson, Mal Pinson, Christina Brown, Tony Guyver, Emma Fagg, Fabio Gervasoni, Graham Scott, Cllr Michael Tickner, Cllr Felicity Bainbridge, Chris Porter, Mike Baker, Jon Baker, Jane Willcocks, Val Crowdy, Carole Mullord, Bill Mitchell

1 Apologies, acceptance of apologies, absence of Officers

- Apologies received from: Dolores & John Ealey, Mike Baker, Monica (Street Friends Coordinator) and Dave Wiltshire (Treasurer), Cllrs Sam Weber, Julie Ireland, Michael Tickner and Graeme Casey, Judy Adcock, David Mackenzie, Philip Johnson, Terry Richardson, Cllrs Sam Webber, Graeme Casey, Aisha Cuthbert, Julie Ireland, Chloe-Jane Ross, Will Connolly.

2 Approval of minutes of last meeting and discussion of matters arising

The minutes from last January's meeting were approved and there were no matters arising.

3 Finances

The Treasurer's finance report was presented (on behalf of Dave Wiltshire) by Euan McMaster, highlighting the receipts (member subscriptions & NS&I interest) as follows: **£105.00** and **£4.93** respectively. Payments: Expenses and donations for the financial year to date - **£597.94**. Deficit for the year: **£488.01**. The General Reserve (Santander Current Account + NS&I Investment Account + Petty Cash) amounts to **£9,728.29**. The report was noted and no issues were raised.

4 Community Projects/Issues

Street Friends

The Street Friends Coordinator's report was presented by Jacqueline St. Quinton on behalf of Monica Wiltshire – as follows:

- Olivia Livesey and Monica attended the 2nd Veolia Bromley Street Friends meeting on 23rd March at Bromley Civic Centre. Bromley Council and Veolia were planning a week-long community litter picking event with the support of Street Friends. This would cover all areas of the borough within Beckenham 10am – 12 noon on Monday 29th May (bank holiday) and in Bromley Saturday 3rd June 4 – 6 pm. Locations to be confirmed. The next Bromley Veolia meeting is due to take place on Thursday 15th June at 4 pm.
- There was a litter picking session on April 18th and we filled 6 purple sacks from several streets. The next date will be Tuesday 4th July 10.00 starting at Ravensbourne station.

Community Projects

Nothing to report.

b) Beckenham Place Park update

Plenty of activity in the Park – some of this has required parts to be closed due to heavy work. Tree-cutting worked has stopped temporarily due to nesting birds.
Krankbrother concerts tickets are available for purchase.
Please see the BPP website for events scheduled this year.

5 Planning Issues

The planning report was presented by Clive Lees – as follows:

79 Coniston Road

The issue of an HMO Certificate continues. There are currently 5 enforcement notices against the owner of this property. However, the owner could apply for a new HMO Certificate to cover a new development for 6 people and it is possible that it might be granted.

48 Beckenham Lane

Opposite Valley School. Application is for a lawful development to build a roof extension. However, in a conservation area, this cannot proceed without planning permission so it is unlikely that this application will succeed.

Hillside Road

A proposal for a new building, smaller than the previous one envisaged – may be allowed. However, it would have 3 stories and would be very close to the road – unlike Matilda House which is quite a long way from the road. This may be an important difference. Not possible to guess the decision so we have to wait and see.

2 Warren Avenue

A 3rd application has been refused but it is possible that an appeal will be lodged but not yet evident. It is worth noting that the Planning Officer's view at the 2nd application was that the building had historic merit and should be kept.

Shortlands Station

Cllr Bainbridge provided some input – as follows:

- The issue of funding remains despite it being approved by Parliament over 8 years ago. There is frustration among residents about this, especially those with mobility or access difficulties.
- The project is managed by Network Rail (NR). Councillors referred this problem to MP Bob Stewart who contacted NR.
- The NR Project Manager responded in March 2023 is that the accessibility design is going well and NR's detailed design is due to be completed in October 2023; construction is due to start in December 2023, and the project's completion is due at the end of 2024. This is subject to dependencies (a) the speed at which the station changes are signed off by the train operator; (b) identifying and securing closure of the railway as the main structural work takes place.
- It is likely therefore that this project will be completed in 2025 instead of 2024.
- Cllr Bainbridge has asked MP Bob Stewart to raise this in Parliament because residents have waited far too long.
- There are still questions about the aesthetics of the lifts. They can clearly be improved but generally we are in favour of lifts rather than no lifts.

2 Bromley Avenue

The Planning Inspector has allowed the appeal at this property and development has been agreed. Some objections have been raised from the neighbourhood. These views can shape the development but cannot prevent it.

8 Madeira Avenue

The owner has had permission for a new block of flats since 2008 but has not carried out any work. The new application is similar to the previous one but does not meet the standard criteria, e.g. accessibility – no lifts and no car parking. This application is likely to fail.

100 Ravensbourne Road

Property had peaked roof, but sometime last year the owners made changes without permission. The Council refused permission and the homeowner appealed – this was dismissed. By then, the work had been completed and the Council now has issued an enforcement order to remove the roof.

6 Transport Issues

Andrew Lancaster reported on road and traffic matters – as follows:

- 1) RVR has continued to be represented at the Shortlands & Park Langley Safer Neighbourhood Panel meetings by Val Crowdy and Andrew Lancaster, joined by RVR's chairman, Pete Saunders, at the most recent meeting. The format usually includes a speaker, representatives from the police and British Transport Police (BTP) having been amongst them, sharing advice and guidance regarding issues in the ward. One aspect of particular note is that due to cost constraints it is not proposed to install barriers at Shortlands station. However, BTP will undertake regular revenue checks to try and stem fare evasion; indeed, one such exercise took place earlier this week with 25 penalty fares issued.
- 2) The numbers of commercial vehicles being parked on Downs Hill has stabilised. Following consultation between our local councillors and residents it is deemed appropriate to let this matter rest now unless there is any increase in activity.
- 3) Other issues:
 - a. Following consultation between a resident and Councillor Bainbridge regarding the sight lines at the junction of Madeira Avenue and Highland Road a commitment has been secured from LBB's traffic department to review the proximity to the junction of the marked parking bays.
 - b. Speed checks have been held – a Community Road Watch version in Farnaby Road and a formal police SNT version around Bromley Avenue/Madeira Avenue. Only low numbers of speeding drivers were recorded, partly blamed upon the public's use of an app (Waze) upon which the presence of the police can be pinpointed.
 - c. Several members of RVR have acted as volunteers on the Community Road Watch exercises around the borough.
 - d. Despite a comprehensive presentation regarding the high volume of traffic passing along Bromley Avenue – effectively a route through residential streets from London Road to Southend Road, bypassing the main roads – seeking some mitigation in those numbers being submitted via our councillors, feedback from LBB's Assistant Director of Traffic & Parking disappointingly states that a problem is not perceived as too few people have been killed and seriously injured on that stretch of road. It is also not LBB's policy to instigate Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs).
 - e. That same stance re LTNs is the reason for the Road Group's Quiet Zone proposal being rejected by LBB.
 - f. The long-running matter regarding parking on the unmade section of Ravensbourne Road continues despite local residents having legal evidence that LBB has failed to follow the correct procedures.

7	Any Other Business
	<p><i>Fly-tipping</i> Cllr Bainbridge suggests submitting complaints to Councillors with video or other evidence. The Council will prosecute if the identity of the perpetrator is provided on the evidence.</p> <p><i>Trees not being replenished after felling</i> This is a contractor issue and can take time as the planting time is seasonal. Residents are urged to use the Fix My Street (FMS) channel to register their complaint and thereafter they can email Cllr Aisha Cuthbert and provide her with the FMS reference number.</p>
8	Input from Councillors
	See information above on Shortlands Station from Cllr Bainbridge.
9	Next meeting: Thursday, 6th July 2023 at 8pm @ Bromley Court Hotel

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm