



DRAFT MINUTES OF RVR MEETING

Thursday 9th January 2025 (Shortlands Golf Club)

Present:

Margaret Brearley (Chair); Beatrice Osborn (Vice-Chair); Euan McMaster (Newsletter Editor); Jacqueline St. Quinton (RVR secretary); Clive Lees (Planning Officer); Alastair Holmes (Membership Secretary); Dave Wiltshire; Monica Wiltshire (Street Friends); Sharon & Terry Richardson; Andrew Lancaster (Road & Traffic); Linda Muller; Joel Kibazo; Pete Saunders; Nicholas Ansdell-Evans; Christina Brown; Anthony Guyver; Richard Hodgkiss; Carole & Alan Mullord; Bill Mitchell; Vanessa & Mark Redhouse; Cllrs Michael Tickner, Felicity Bainbridge, Gemma Turrell & Adam Grant; Mike Ricketts; Steve Hadley; Helen & James Savage; Denise Biffin

1	Welcome and opening remarks
	The Chairman presided over the meeting.
2	Apologies received from Officers, Members & Councillors
	Cllrs Ireland and Ross, Dolores and John Ealey, David Mackenzie, Julie & Nigel Foster, Karl Martin, Gita Bapat, Liz Logan
3	Approval of minutes of last meeting and matters arising
	Apologies to David Page for omitting his name from November's attendees list. This has been rectified on the website. No further amendments were flagged. These are now approved.
4	<p>Elected Officers: No changes to flag.</p> <p>Appointed Officers: No changes to current incumbents, but there is an urgent need for a Webmaster to carry out a comprehensive overhaul to (a) make it easily accessible to all members, including those with specific needs; (b) update the website regularly to ensure that the information therein is current. Please contact the RVR secretary secretary.rvr@outlook.com to apply, or for further information.</p>
5	<p>Guest speakers: Mike Ricketts – Shortlands Residents Association Parisa Wright – Greener & Cleaner Bromley & Beyond</p> <p>MIKE: Salient points – as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New RVR members are invited to the joint SRA/RVR Shortlands Village Blueprint Working Group to develop a strategy (subsequently to be put to the Council) to revitalise the Village and bring in more visitors and shoppers and make it somewhere local residents will want to shop and visit more. Additional RVR members are needed because one of the initial team had decided to stand down. • The main reason for this talk is that Cllr Grant has asked the Working Group to advise the Council on what changes/improvements they think should happen to the South side between Chic and Ian and Steven, now that the Council have established that all the forecourts to these shops and the ones between them belong to the Council, and not to the shops. • A number of positive outcomes have resulted from the Blueprint already, including the new pedestrian crossing on Station Road, and the local businesses had contributed generously to the new Christmas Lights installed in 2024: this indicates a greater willingness than before to support the aims of the Blueprint. • Cllr Turrell is trying to set up a local businesses group in the Village. In the Spring new planters and benches will be installed at the Station end of the Village, and it looks like the long empty shops in the centre of the Village at no 87 will finally be developed. <p>For further information, please refer to https://shortlandsra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Blueprint.pdf</p> <p>PARISA: Salient points – as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parisa Wright (Danvers) is a key founder member of Greener & Cleaner - a registered charity running a popular Community Hub in The Glades (open 5 days a week since March 2022). She attended our meeting with three of the charity's Energy Champions. • Parisa's talk provided both general and detailed information on the focus of the charity - mainly on the life/craft skills and knowledge needed for individuals and communities to reduce their waste, costs and emissions while significantly bolstering community wellbeing. • An informative part of Parisa's talk was a quiz and presentation about Energy Efficiency & Renewables (what, why and how to fund). This generated fun, surprise and laughter. Many of the attendees confirmed that they already had or were planning to install solar panels or air source heat pumps. • Parisa highlighted that further free and impartial advice is available from the charity on this particular area of waste reduction every Friday at the Greener & Cleaner Community Hub and that 'home visits' could be arranged for those who struggled with accessibility or other vulnerabilities. <p>For further information, please refer to</p> <p>Website: https://www.greenerandcleaner.co.uk/the-hub-from-greener-and-cleaner/ Short Community Hub Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h1mRwHMD4TU Contact: parisa@greenerandcleaner.co.uk</p>

6	Planning Issues Clive Lees updated the meeting as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses awaiting a decision: 100 Ravensbourne Av (roof alterations), 113 Foxgrove Road (removal of 2 TPO trees), 44 Beckenham lane (in fill house) and 14 Highland Road (new house in garden) all of which waiting a decision. In addition, 33 Recreation Road awaits a decision on an identical application that was dismissed at Appeal, so is bound to be refused. Re unauthorised developments: a Breach of Condition Notice (BCN) has been issued regarding 61 The Avenue (no replacement planting); a BCN is expected at Matilda House Hillbrow Road (missing trees); an unusual, illuminated sign at 137 Coniston Road is being investigated by LBB; and we await developments at 75 Downs Hill (unauthorised wall recently refused permission). A greenhouse on the front of 101 Farnaby Road is being investigated. In London Borough of Lewisham, we understand that LBL is investigating unauthorised developments at 14 Hillbrow Road (over-height fence) and at No 18 (3 s/c flats where permission is only for 2 s/c flats). Overall, there are at least 21 active enforcement cases in our area including at least 3 criminal cases (not mentioned above). Cllr Bainbridge is making efforts to ensure that residents know that they should not proceed with alterations without consent: a document to that effect may be published as a supplementary planning document. Cllr Tickner commented that enforcement notices lapse after 5 years. He also commented that it takes the council over 3 months to generate and issue the paperwork and that he is pushing for improvements in the process.
7	Finances Sharon Richardson , our Treasurer, reported the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RVR's reconciled account as at 19th Dec 2024 was £8125.45. The unreconciled account as at 8th Jan 2025 took into consideration substantial payments since 20th Dec 2024 and stood at £5884.32. These payments included the memorial bench (see Item 8) and the printing cost of the RVR January newsletter. To summarise – Financial year 1st Jan'24 to 31st Dec'24: RVR income (subscriptions & donations in) was £2647.50; RVR expenditure (running costs & donations out) was £7761.15. The deficit for FY 2024 is £5113.65.
8	Street Friends/Community Projects/Issues Report from Nigel Foster (Street Friends) & Monica Wiltshire (Community Projects). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nigel will be driving future Street Friend activities. Coniston Road and Highland Road have been flagged for attention. The new link with Glendale (L.B. Lewisham) bodes well for the future. We were very happy to learn that Monica Wiltshire was nominated for a Street Friends award. The citation from Veolia read as follows: We are delighted to inform you that Bromley residents have nominated you for a Street Friends award! This recognition is a testament to your valuable contributions and the positive impact you've made in our community. As Monica was unable to attend the presentation in December, Nigel Foster accepted the award on her behalf. Congratulations Monica! MEMORIAL BENCH (for Leslie Tucker) & CEDAR TREE (for Paul Bennett) – Monica's report below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bench is in place and the plaque has been delivered. It is lovely. The Cedar of Lebanon replacement tree will be delivered to the park in 5-10 days, it comes in an 80-litre pot, will be caged and will have a water bag. It costs £250; £100 of this is to be funded by John and Delores Ealey and £150 by Paul Bennett's family. For interest: the cedar tree was the inspiration for the RVR logo! There is the original plaque which we will put in a metal stake. The Cedar of Lebanon was special to Paul Bennett because he was instrumental in saving the big Cedar behind their house in Hawkshead Close when planning permission was sought to remove it to build houses. The memorial Cedar that was originally planted was lost in Storm Dennis in 2020. A small celebration will be held in the Park on 5th April 2025. We anticipate inviting around 20 people, starting off at the entrance to the park at the end of the unmade part of Ravensbourne Avenue. We would then walk to the bench and then over to area behind the Mansion where the tree will have been planted. We will finish off at The Homestead Café for light refreshments which Louise is happy to contribute to. The invitation list will include the families concerned, RVR committee members and other RVR members who knew Leslie and Paul. The date agreed upon for this small celebration was Saturday, 5th April 2025.

9	RVR Membership
	Membership updates: 4 new members joining the Association, and two members who have chosen not to continue their membership.
10	RVR Social Events
	<p>Short summary of forthcoming events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Evening Forum: Margaret Brearley (Chair) is planning to host a series of events featuring a speaker of note. Joel Kibazo (an RVR member) has been invited to be the first speaker on 9th February at 7.30 pm. Details of the venue, time and the maximum number of attendees to be confirmed. UPDATE: The membership was emailed about this event on 11th January 2025. <p>Current ideas for 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Walk: Mike Ricketts (Chair of Shortlands Residents Association) may repeat his Historical Walk in Spring – date & time to be announced in due course. • RVR welcomes proposals for social events that the membership might enjoy, please inform the RVR Social Events Coordinator or the RVR Secretary.
11	Road Safety & Traffic
	<p>From Andrew Lancaster:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following November's meeting the joint presentation by the Roads Group of Shortlands Residents Association and RVR's, highlighting traffic issues in the area and making suggestions for safety improvements, has been published and appears on the home page of the SRA website https://shortlandsra.org.uk/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – It is hoped to present these proposals formally to representatives of LBB's highways department shortly. – Repainting of road surface signage was undertaken by LBB's contractors shortly after the November meeting. • Despite support from Cllr Michael Tickner, who had championed our proposals for one or two pedestrian refuges on Crab Hill to aid safe crossing of this busy road, no contact has been received by the Roads Group's representatives to arrange a visit to view the situation. Cllr Tickner will pursue this on our behalf. • Bill Mitchell (RVR member) provided an update re parking problems on the unmade section of Ravensbourne Avenue which, historically, had been used very lightly by members of the public for parking their cars. However, in Sept 2016, Bromley Council introduced parking charges along the made-up, through-sections of Ravensbourne Avenue and Crab Hill. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Overnight, this led to commuters parking in the unmade section. Parking levels increased further, seven days/week, as the Park became more popular, after the upgrade to the west side of the Park in 2019. Traffic is likely to increase further, when the east side works are completed and the warmer weather approaches. – Discussions are ongoing with LBB to improve the situation, including the possible installation of bollards along the eastern edge to prevent dangerous double-parking and to restore the verge to its original wildlife condition as unrestricted parking has encroached on this area. • Following a suggestion from an RVR member, our Bromley Town ward councillors were requested to approach LBB to seek gritting of the upper portion of Bromley Avenue to try and prevent a recurrence of the accidents which happened last winter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Unfortunately, the response received from LBB was that Bromley Avenue is not included in any precautionary routes. It is, however, on a secondary treatment route which means the road will be cleared and gritted following snowfall. – Until that occurs it appears that it is down to Snow Friends to use the salt bin at the top of the road. • SRA has created a traffic incident report (available on its website), with residents encouraged to complete and submit this whenever an incident occurs, e.g. a vehicle hitting the bridge at Shortlands station, a traffic accident, a broken-down vehicle blocking the road, etc. Such information is collated and, depending upon the severity of the incident, will either be forwarded immediately to our councillors/LBB highways department, or will be submitted monthly as part of an information gathering and reporting exercise. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – We expect to upload a similar incident form to RVR's website shortly. The collective information gathered will hopefully steer discussions with LBB regarding road safety.
12	Update from the Councillors
	<p>Cllr Adam Grant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a possibility of opening the bricked-up archway from Shortlands Station forecourt onto Station Road. • Issues relating to Lime bikes should be flagged on Fix My Street. • The Eco Verges scheme appears to be working where already instituted. Please flag suggestions for other areas to Cllr Grant on Adam.Grant@bromley.gov.uk. <p>Cllr Tickner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Michael Tickner plans to continue to press for pedestrian refuges (see item in Section 11). • Parking on Westgate Road is a big problem.

- Signage to reduce speeding has been placed on Foxgrove Road.
- Regarding the eco verges mentioned by Cllr Grant, many residents in Cllr Tickner's ward do not like the wild verges.

Cllr Gemma Turrell:

- Has noticed an increase in fly tipping from her usual monitoring of Fix My Street and particularly an increase in reports on fly tipping on the avenue.
- She intends to request for more signage regarding fly tipping on the avenue.
- See also Cllr Turrell's plan to set up a Shortlands Business Forum – mentioned above by Mike Ricketts.
- Queensmead Recreation Ground River Restoration: rewilding the river area by Thames21. The project ambition is to improve the existing river condition by partially or fully de-channelising the river section within the boundary of the park.
- Thames21 have issued a feasibility study with restoration options to the Council, id verde and the Environment Agency.
Cllr Turrell will keep us informed of the public consultation due on this matter.
- Thames21 have set up the general enquiries email address - T21Ravensbourne@thames21.org.uk - for anyone who has questions on this project.

Cllr Bainbridge:

- Supports the Shortlands Village initiative.
- Fly tipping in Ravensbourne Avenue is being monitored/policed.

13 Any Other Business

- Urgently Required: **Webmaster – to update and maintain the RVR website**
Road Rep for Downs Hill / Downs Bridge Road
- BEN contribution: Parisa confirmed that the RVR contribution of £100 was received, closing this issue.
- The Chair informed us that Dee (Shortlands Station Master) is not retiring just yet. She reminded us of Dee's sterling community spirit – one result of which is that the students affected by the arson attack last year are now back in their flat.
- We have a new Road Rep for Highland Road / Bracken Hill Lane: Vanessa Redhouse.

14 Next Meeting: Annual General Meeting (AGM) Thursday, 6th March 2025 at 7.30 pm