



MINUTES OF RVR MEETING

Thursday 4th July 2024 (Shortlands Golf Club)

Present:

Margaret Brearley (Chair) Beatrice Osborn (Vice-Chair), Euan McMaster (Newsletter Editor), Jacqueline St. Quinton (RVR secretary), Clive Lees (Planning Officer), Sharon Richardson (Treasurer), Emma Fagg (Deputy Treasurer), Alastair Holmes (Membership Secretary), Dave Wiltshire, Monica Wiltshire (Street Friends Coordinator), Nicholas Ansdell-Evans, Rosamond Eele, Karl Martin, Liz Logan (BPP Rep), Maria Kakoulli, Chris Porter, David Page, Philip Johnson, Richard Hodgkiss, Nigel Foster Julie Foster, Steve Hadley Tony Illingworth, Mark Kyriakides, Julie Kyriakides, Catherine Morgan, Judy Adcock, Carole Mullord

1	Welcome and opening remarks
	The Chairman presided over the meeting.
2	Apologies received from Officers, Members & Councillors
	Cllrs Ireland, Tickner, Casey; Olivia Livesey; Wendy Watmore; Marcus Oliver; Dolores & John Ealey; Pete Saunders; Jane Nickalls; Nicola Martin; Christina Brown; Andrew Lancaster; Parisa Wright, Dawn Eastbury.
3	Approval of minutes of last meeting and matters arising
	No new amendments flagged to the May minutes. These are now approved.
3 (a)	Update on activities/news since May meeting
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Just Giving: donations re arson attack at Shortlands totalled £3,100 – money handed over to Dee at Shortlands Station. Donations now closed (though page still exists – need new Webmaster asap to address RVR website issues). As most of the victims have been well assisted generally, this money is being used to support the four MSc students who were also victims of the attack. 2) MB attended installation of new vicar of Christchurch, Highland Road - Rev. Mark Redhouse. He and Mrs Vanessa Redhouse are already interested in RVR matters – Mrs Redhouse took part in the Beckenham Place walk. 3) Garden Party on the 30th. June: one of the objectives of this gathering was to raise funds for the Bromley Borough Foodbank. Attendance was high – 110 people, raising a total of £1100 – breakdown as follows: raffle £260; Bric-a-brac £270, the rest in donations. Of these proceeds, £1000 is being given to the Bromley Borough Foodbank on behalf of the RVR membership and friends who attended the garden party. Food prepared and offered by Linda Muller and her team of helpers were praised and much appreciated – as was the very professional jazz band that entertained us. Wine and other drinks left over are being retained for the next party! 4) Other RVR social events in the calendar due to take place in the summer were flagged at the last meeting – see Item 9. At the time of writing, two of these have already taken place and were well attended.
3 (b)	Elected Officers: No changes to flag New Appointed Officers: Jayne Nickalls (Auditor); Emma Fagg (Deputy Treasurer)
4	Guest speaker: Ray Nowak of the Bromley Borough Foodbank (BBF)
	A very informative talk from Ray about the history and work of the organisation. The statistics are sobering: 68,000 emergency food parcels since 2010; in 2023 food parcels to adults and children were some 4,800 and 3,000 respectively; 1 in 5 of the UK population lives below the poverty line. The BBF welcomes donations (excluding perishable and baby foods) as well as help and expertise from volunteers. Please see this link for more information on the work of the BBF https://bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk and how we can all help https://bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/ . Ray Nowak was presented with the RVR contribution of £1000 by the RVR Chair, Margaret Brearley.
5	Planning Issues
	<p>Shortlands Station: The approved design is not ‘buildable’ – trestles will be needed to support the bridge.</p> <p>Chalet: the enforcement notice served has not been complied with. The Council may take drastic action.</p> <p>79 Coniston Road: Enforcement will be applied to return the building to a family house.</p> <p>97 Ravensbourne Ave: A controversial issue, but the new door has been approved.</p> <p>100 Ravensbourne Ave: Application was made for a modified extension – it was refused.</p> <p>Response to questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 81 & 87c village: Shutter installed without approval – Chalet: The timeline for prosecution – unknown but could take a long time. – Millwall FC: Moving to West Down, Kent. The site is owned by St. John’s College, Oxford. Future unknown. – Churchill Theatre: RVR has no influence on decisions – Bromley Civic Society leads on this. – Library Survey: Please complete the survey. Check Twitter feed from our Planning Officer to check where to find the survey.

6	Finances
(a)	The Treasurer's finance report was presented by Sharon Richardson, highlighting the receipts (members' subscriptions & NS&I interest) as follows: £310.86 and £41.01 respectively. Payments: Expenses and donations for the financial year to date - £2814.37 . Deficit for the year: £2462.50 . The General Reserve (Santander Current Account + NS&I Investment Account + Petty Cash) amounts to £7340.34 . TO NOTE:
(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RVR subscriptions low at present: some ARE collected in June'24; others will be due in Dec'24. RVR current account funds are low: should we move NS&I funds into the current account? There would be no interest – so should we consider an account that yields a good interest rate. Emma Fagg to discuss with Karl Martin who suggests that it is feasible to get up to 5.00% interest – and report findings at the next meeting. Increasing subscriptions: A doubling of the current amount (to £10) may not be welcome. Suggestions put forward are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase subscriptions to £7.50 – an increase to £10 later may appear less 'painful' when proposed. Should we have a 'recruitment drive' to increase subscriptions? (Julie Kyriakides will provide Euan with text to include in the next Newsletter).
(c)	Use of reserves for supporting projects within the RVR area. Any new proposals for support? e.g. Shortlands Parade Grant Not discussed.
7	Community Projects/Issues
(a)	Report from Monica Wiltshire re. LITTER-PICKING, TIDYING UNRULY VEGETATION, ETC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14th May: we started on a new area, the railway fence at the Shortlands end of Ravensbourne Avenue. 18th June: As part of the Big Bromley Brush Up Campaign Maria Kampioti and Devaan Feese from LBB/Veolia joined us at our session. A great opportunity for our group to chat with them and for them to meet passersby Ravensbourne station to promote litter picking. RVR Street Friends then went off to clear the pathway in the Goan Field of thistles, nettles, ivy and brambles: many appreciative comments about this effort. 2nd July: we cleared overgrowth from the corner of Crab Hill and Ravensbourne Avenue; the corner of Ravensmead Road and Ravensbourne Avenue; the pavement by the Triangle on the corner of Ravensbourne Avenue and Downs Hill and carried on with some work on the railway fence at the Shortlands end of Ravensbourne Avenue. LBB Street Friends have sent an email about how to report street issues. This is similar to Fix my Street and is reported to be an efficient way to deal with street issues. We have noticed many water bags and tree cages which are long overdue for removal and basal pruning needed. The next LBB/Veolia Street Friends meeting is on Friday 13th September 4.00 – 5.00pm at the Civic Centre. Our next session is on Sunday 11th August 10:00-12:00 - a Sunday to encourage children and families to join us. The issue of RVR-funded benches at Beckenham Place Park was raised: No sum has been agreed for this yet; however estimates for purchase and installation could be several hundred pounds.
(b)	Beckenham Place Park (BPP) update Summer activities in the Park are listed on the BPP website (https://beckenhamplacepark.com/events). Examples include: Taste Of The Caribbean Food & Drink Festival and various concerts. Other events and workshops can be found at https://www.beckenhamplace.org/whatson/ . A Green Flag status is expected in recognition of the green space offered by BPP. The current regeneration work at the Park is expected to be completed in approximately 12 weeks' time.
8	RVR Membership
	Membership updates - new joiners: Mrs Vanessa Redhouse. A few membership application forms were handed out to prospective joiners at the garden party. New Road Reps: Philip Woolfson for Bromley Avenue; Dawn Eastbury for Farnaby Road; Rosamond Eele for Grasmere Road.
9	RVR Social Events
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13th July 2:30 pm - Historical Walk around RVR area 12th August 11:00 am - Visit to Bromley & Sheppards Colleges 22nd August 2.30 pm – Visit to The Keeping Gallery, Shortlands Numbers are limited, so members should get in touch with the Social Events Secretary (Linda Müller to register their interest or book their place.
10	Road Safety & Traffic
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Community Road Watch is scheduled to take place around Farnaby Road / Bromley Avenue on the morning of 31 July. Please take this as an indication that concerns raised by the local community regarding speeding are indeed viewed positively by the police.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our local PCSO, Adam Charles, is having his next drop-in surgery at Shortlands Library on Saturday 13 July between 10.00 and 11.00. Residents are invited to pop in for a chat and share concerns. • Vehicles continue to be stolen from outside the homes of the owners; there were 4 instances in the Ward in the last 2 weeks of June alone. Residents are encouraged to take additional security measures, if possible,- e.g. Faraday pouches, "Krooklock" type devices. There have also been incidents of sheds being broken into and bikes stolen. • Please report any suspicious activity by phoning 999 if it is occurring at that moment or phoning 101 or by reporting via the Police UK website if it relates to an event which has already taken place.
11	Update from the Councillors
	No councillors were present (probably due to the General Elections).
12	Any Other Business
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urgently Required: Webmaster – to update and maintain the RVR website. • BEN: Meeting to discuss BEN's future plans was postponed; thus no information to report at present. • AFC Shortlands - Andy Beard re RVR defibrillator: now operational on the pavilion at Queensmead - in the process of being registered with the emergency authorities. • Electric bikes are being dumped in the Park and beyond – it appears that they stop working once they leave the Lewisham boundary. Our Road & Traffic Officer will be requested to contact London Borough of Lewisham about this, • A new roundabout at the Foxgrove Road junction may take a further 2 months to be functional.
13	Next Meeting: Thursday, 5th September 2024 at 7.30 pm