



## **DRAFT MINUTES OF RVR MEETING**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 (Shortlands Golf Club)**

**Present:** Margaret Brearley (Chair); Sharon Richardson (Treasurer); Clive Lees (Planning Officer); Alastair Holmes (Membership Secretary); Andrew Lancaster (Roads & Traffic); Terry Richardson; David Page; Jay Sharma; Joel Kibazo; Rosamond Eele; Alan & Carole Mullord; Dolores & John Ealey; Jaki & Bryan Moody; Steve Hadley; John King; Bill Mitchell; Donatella Cosco; Brendan & Kathy Doolan; Linda Muller; Dick Groves; Yasmin Winstanley; Liz & David Smart; Francoise & David Massey; Tony Guyver; Christina Brown; Mike Ricketts; Haydn Davies; Vanessa & Mark Redhouse; Judy Adcock; Nicholas Ansdell-Adams; Cllrs. Mike Tickner; Graeme Casey

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome and opening remarks</b>
	The Chairman presided over the meeting.
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies received from Officers, Members &amp; Councillors</b>
	Jacqueline St Quinton [secretary] Euan McMaster (Newsletter Editor) Nigel Foster (Street Friends), Monica and Dave Wiltshire, Pete Saunders; David Mackenzie; Beatrice Osborn
<b>3</b>	<b>Approval of minutes of last meeting and matters arising</b>
	No matters arising. These are now approved.
<b>4</b>	<b>Elected Officers:</b> No changes to flag. RVR vacancies – Vice-Chair, Webmaster, Beckenham Place Park Rep There are three vacancies to fill – as indicated above. We would welcome applications for these posts. Please indicate your interest to the RVR Secretary at the following email address <a href="mailto:secretary.rvr@outlook.com">secretary.rvr@outlook.com</a>
<b>5</b>	<b>Finances</b>
	<p>From our Treasurer, Sharon Richardson: No real change since last meeting. Balances were: March 21st £5,683; April 21st £5,452</p> <p>Upcoming expenditure includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contributions towards tree planter and benches in Shortlands: £500</li> <li>Signs for 'Accessible for all' scheme in Beckenham High Street: £100 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For information: there is a team working on the 'Accessible for All' scheme in Beckenham High Street, initiated by Cllr Michael Tickner. Shops and other premises that comply will be able to display a sign to that effect.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Newsletter printing</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<b>Street Friends/Community Projects/Issues</b>
	<p><b>Street Friends</b> report by Nigel Foster (read by the Chair) The Street Friends met twice for litter picking on March 12th and April 29th. Several bags of litter were collected on each occasion. On 29th April roads in the Lewisham part of RVR were tidied. In addition, overhanging foliage was cut back from the fence at the Millwall ground.</p> <p><b>The RVR Memorial Celebration</b> report by Monica Wiltshire: (read by Alastair Holmes): On 5th April RVR held a Memorial Celebration in Beckenham Place Park for two of its founder members, Leslie Tucker and Paul Bennet. Their families, RVR committee members and those who knew Leslie and Paul gathered around the memorial bench for Leslie and then the Cedar of Lebanon tree commemorating Paul. A full account of the event will be in the next newsletter. Suffice to say, Clive reminded us that Leslie's bench is in the field on the east side of the park which would have become a 250-space car park, and the next field filled with an enormous hanger for playing tennis had RVR not objected to the David Lloyd scheme in the early 90s. The choice of Cedar of Lebanon tree for Paul is significant as preserving this majestic tree off Elstree Hill, which can be seen from Warren Avenue Playing Fields and Leslie Tucker's bench, was the impetus for the start of RVPS, now RVR. It made us reflect on how the work of residents' associations in partnership with councillors can make a big difference and is a lasting legacy for future generations.</p>
<b>7</b>	<b>RVR Membership</b>
	Nothing new to report.
<b>8</b>	<b>Road Safety &amp; Traffic</b>
	<p>From Andrew Lancaster: Not a lot of new developments to report on this occasion as little progress with previously reported matters, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The joint presentation by the Roads Groups of Shortlands Residents Association and RVR, highlighting traffic issues in the area and making suggestions for safety improvements – documents appear on our website – was duly submitted to the representatives of LBB's highways department, with an online Teams</li> </ul>

	<p>meeting occurring on 7 March. Unfortunately, there has not been any formal feedback to date from LBB to the proposals and that meeting; the chair of SRA intends to chase shortly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposals to LBB for the introduction of one or two pedestrian refuges on Crab Hill to aid safe crossing of this busy road, supported by Councillor Michael Tickner, still await formal feedback from LBB's highways department to arrange a site visit with local residents to view the situation.</li> <li>Similarly, whilst some discussions have been held with LBB regarding parking problems on the unmade-up section of Ravensbourne Avenue, formal feedback regarding next steps is still awaited.</li> <li>Members were reminded that a traffic incident report is available on RVR's website. Completion and submission of such a report is encouraged to enable information to be gathered and used to support future submissions to LBB to assist in improving road and pedestrian safety in the local area.</li> </ul>
<b>9</b>	<b>Planning Issues</b>
	<p>From Clive Lees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The planning officer reported that the lifts at Shortlands station were now open but that some of the workmanship was very poor and that the new window openings did not respect the historic style of the building</li> <li>After a lot of engagement with the LBB enforcement team, it appears that everything at 79 Coniston Rd is now in order although we continue to monitor this site closely.</li> <li>The proposed development in the woodland behind 14 Highland Rd has been refused permission although an appeal is quite likely.</li> <li>At long last a rectifying planning application for two new trees has been submitted for Matilda House in Hillbrow Rd</li> <li>The regularising application for the fence at 85 Downs hill has been refused and there is no possibility of any appeal being upheld</li> <li>The parcel lockers at 60 Beckenham Lane have been refused permission and an appeal is unlikely to succeed</li> <li>Millwall have purchased the freehold of their ground in Calmont Rd which likely means that the (unlikely) threat of development recedes even further</li> <li>No replacement planting has taken place at 61 The Avenue which likely means that a criminal offence has taken place</li> <li>An unauthorised wall at 14 Hillbrow Rd has been partially removed following enforcement action from Lewisham but the situation is still not regularised</li> <li>Lewisham also continued to investigate potential unauthorised development at 18 Hillbrow Rd</li> <li>It has come to light that the Churchill theatre and library site is not owned outright by the council but held in trust by them. This may have implications for the proposed sale of this site.</li> </ul>
<b>10</b>	<b>Update from Councillors</b>
	<p>Cllr. Michael Tickner: Gave more details of proposed Access for All scheme in Beckenham. Shops and other premises that comply will have an award notice to display. Would like to extend to Shortlands. It is hoped that the notice will be an incentive to participate voluntarily, otherwise legislation could be used.</p> <p>Cllr. Graeme Casey: Covers Bromley Town ward which only includes a small part of RVR area. He has been actively involved in the planning enforcement at 79 Coniston Road and The Chalet.</p>
<b>11</b>	<b>Update from Mike Ricketts (Chair of Shortlands RA)</b>
	<p><b>Upcoming events:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Litter picking with the Mayor and Councillors in Shortlands Village and surrounding roads: 24th May from 10-12 noon. If you'd like to participate, please contact Nigel Foster: trees.rvr@outlook.com</li> <li>It has been confirmed that the council owns the forecourts in front of the shops in Shortlands village. They are looking for ideas as to how to improve the frontage to encourage visitors to the village.</li> </ul> <p><b>Presentation to Dee James (Manager of Shortlands Station)</b> We are delighted that Dee is now not going to be retiring for some months. She was recently awarded the Mayor of Bromley award for her outstanding charitable work over the last 16 years. We are all familiar with her wonderful displays in the station at Halloween and Christmas. She has raised over £500,000 for various local and national charitable organisations. Dee is currently developing a garden at the station which will be opened in the summer. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers to thank her for her contribution to the community.</p>
<b>12</b>	<b>Guest Speakers</b>
	<b>Rev. Mark Redhouse</b> (Vicar of Christ Church, Bromley)

	<p>Mark has been a vicar for 30 years and has served in ministries in London, Eastbourne, and Brighton before his induction at Christ Church in 2024. He is married to Vanessa who is very active in the work of the church. They have two grown up daughters and a labrador.</p> <p>Asked to speak on 'A Day in the Life of a Vicar', Mark gave an overview of the wide range of activities that occur during the week at Christ Church. The two Sunday services are well attended by an average of 350 with 80 less than 18 years. Other activities include bible studies classes, after school clubs, seniors lunch club, parent and toddler group and youth clubs. There is a staff of eight, but most of the work is done by volunteers.</p> <p>Mark stressed that he and the church is for all ages at all stages. Over his ministry he has seen and been there for people at very low points in their life as well at times of great joy. He is the local vicar for the area and wanted people to know that he is available to everyone regardless of whether they are of faith.</p> <p><b>Dr. David Jefferys</b> (Mayor of Bromley)  Dr. Jefferys was accompanied by his wife, Lady Mayoress Ann-Marie. He has been a councillor since 2011 and has served on many committees. He has been an NHS Physician and Cardiologist, actively involved in research and has published widely. He is also a Lay minister at St. Mary's Church, Shortlands and other churches in Bromley. He and Ann-Marie have two grown-up children and one grandson.</p> <p>The mayoralty is apolitical. Dr. Jefferys describes being mayor as both humbling and life affirming. A typical week would include a variety of mayoral events involving residents and organisations throughout the borough, such as various scouts' events, Biggin Hill chapel visits, care home events and litter picking in every ward. He will be in Shortlands on May 24th. School children are actively getting involved in events.</p> <p>LBB was formed in 1965. As part of the 60th anniversary events, David and Ann-Marie have recently done a charity walk of 60 miles over three days around the boundary of the borough. These and other walks are on the LBB website.  <a href="https://www.bromley.gov.uk/council-news/bromley%E2%80%99s-60th-anniversary/2">https://www.bromley.gov.uk/council-news/bromley%E2%80%99s-60th-anniversary/2</a></p> <p>In terms of health, the borough has a target to eradicate HIV/Aids by 2030, the most ambitious target of any council. There are 12 dementia hubs in Bromley, whereas most boroughs only have 2. There is a real focus on supporting people at home. Coordination between care homes has been encouraged to share best practice.</p>
<b>13</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>
	<p><b>RVR Social events:</b>  Keeping Gallery tour, followed by tea. June 30th at 2pm. Church Road. Contact Linda Muller to book your place: <a href="mailto:linda.muller2021@gmail.com">linda.muller2021@gmail.com</a></p> <p>NOTE: There will be another garden party this summer – date TBC.</p>
<b>14</b>	<p><b>Next Meeting: Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025 at 7.30 pm</b>  Our guest speakers will be: Cllrs Michael Tickner; Adam Grant and Graeme Casey</p>