



## MINUTES OF RVR MEETING

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 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); Alastair Holmes (Membership Secretary); Dave Wiltshire; Monica Wiltshire (Street Friends); Rosamond Eele; Andrew Lancaster (Road & Traffic); Julie & Nigel Foster; Steve Hadley; Linda Muller; Dick Groves; John & Dolores Ealey; Joel Kibazo; Cllrs Michael Tickner & Adam Grant; Gönül & Richard Hodgkiss; Pete Saunders; Stephen Edwards; Jane Walker; Elaine Cousins; Mark Ladd; D & F Massey; Philip Johnson; Dan Harding, David Page.

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| <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>   |
|          | Terry & Sharon Richardson; Cllrs Bainbridge, Turrell, Ireland and Ross.  |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Approval of minutes of last meeting and matters arising</b>   |
|          | No new amendments flagged to the September minutes. These are now approved.  |
| <b>4</b> | <p><b>Elected Officers:</b> No changes to flag</p> <p><b>Appointed Officers:</b> 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 <a href="mailto:secretary.rvr@outlook.com">secretary.rvr@outlook.com</a> to apply, or for further information.</p>   |
| <b>5</b> | <p><b>Guest speaker: Mike Ricketts – Shortlands Residents Association</b></p> <p>Mike gave a very interesting and comprehensive talk about the history, growth and development of the Shortlands area over the years. The village's long history dates from the Iron Age but its growth and development became notable in the 1800s and the advent of the railway. Mike also gave us a flavour of the challenges of steering a Residents Association so as to maintain membership, interest and relevance. The fascinating history of the area can be found on the Shortlands Residents Association website using the following links:<br/> <a href="https://shortlandsra.org.uk/about-shortlands/">https://shortlandsra.org.uk/about-shortlands/</a> and <a href="https://shortlandsra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Shortlands-Past-LB-2024.pdf">https://shortlandsra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Shortlands-Past-LB-2024.pdf</a></p>  |
| <b>6</b> | <p><b>Planning Issues</b></p> <p>Clive Lees updated the meeting regarding the current situation at 100 Ravensbourne Avenue, Matilda House (Hillbrow Road), 18 Hillbrow Road, and at the Station. <b><i>[Regrettably, the Secretary's note are incomplete and full details are not available for these minutes. Members may raise their queries about these addresses at the next meeting.]</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The unauthorised wall at <b>75 Downs Hill</b> had not been given retrospective permission and we await developments. Clive stressed the importance of getting planning permission before building anything including any structure over 1m high in a front garden. In this regard and by way of example, he mentioned the new shed at <b>41 Queensmead</b> which is currently under enforcement action.</li> <li>The newly installed parcel locker outside the old <b>Refreshers Shop</b> in Shortlands Village needs planning permission – this may prove difficult as it is in a Conservation Area.</li> <li>The dead trees from building work at <b>61 The Avenue</b> have not been replaced. An enforcement notice has been issued in respect of this lack of new planting.</li> </ul> |
| <b>7</b> | <p><b>Finances</b></p> <p>The Treasurer's finance report was presented by Clive Lees in Sharon Richardson's absence – it indicated that the Santander Business Account (unreconciled) had a closing balance of £7,202.29 and that income (to 7<sup>th</sup> Nov) amounted to £1,418.42. It was agreed that the RVR Committee should hold a finance meeting to obtain a clearer view of expected income and expenditure.</p> <p><b>UPDATE from Finance meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Known expenditure to be budgeted for: Newsletter Printing Costs; Insurance; Memorial Bench in Beckenham Place Park; Parade Grant; AGM items (e.g. refreshments, speakers, music - to be discussed).</li> <li>RVR subscriptions at present: 515 members, 118 have already paid their subscription for 2025. Receipts YTD, including subscriptions for 2024 - £1400.</li> <li>Subscriptions: <b>The current subscription amount for 2025 has increased to £10.00.</b> RVR Members are urged to pay by Standing Order or Bank Transfer; however, for those who are unable to do so, the Road Reps will continue to collect cash from them.</li> </ul>  |

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|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A financial 'safety net' was deemed necessary for the Association; thus it was proposed that the sum of £2,500 should be held in reserve to meet unforeseen expenses.</li> <li>• <b>It was expected that December's input would provide a better view of the RVR financial status.</b></li> </ul>   |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>Street Friends/Community Projects/Issues</b><br><b>Report from Monica Wiltshire re. LITTER-PICKING, TIDYING UNRULY VEGETATION, ETC.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At our September meeting we tidied the planter at Ravensbourne station and the brick planter at the junction of Bromley Avenue, Farnaby Road and Warren Avenue, all a great improvement. We also removed overhanging brambles alongside Ravensbourne station.</li> <li>• A request for a litter bin on the corner of Crab Hill &amp; Ravensbourne Ave was turned down but Monica has asked LBB/Veolia (Maria Kampioti) to pursue this.</li> <li>• Deevan Feese (LBB/Veolia) has been invited to give a short talk about litter and recycling at our January RVR meeting.</li> <li>• DAFFODIL PLANTING: This project was suggested by Anne Lancaster. <b>Linda Muller</b> has kindly donated 4 bags of bulbs to be planted on 12<sup>th</sup> November at the entrance to Warren Avenue Playing Fields (near Warren Avenue and Elstree Hill). Glendale (L.B. Lewisham) will rotavate the area and will scatter grass seed. A plaque will be placed in this area and will read '<b>Daffodils planted by Ravensbourne Valley Residents Street Friends</b>'.</li> <li>• Nigel Foster has now taken over as Street Friend Coordinator - he 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.</li> </ul> <b>MEMORIAL BENCH (Leslie Tucker) &amp; CEDAR TREE (Paul Bennett)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These projects are in progress. We are very grateful to <b>John and Delores Ealey</b> for donating £100 to the cost of the Cedar of Lebanon tree.</li> </ul> |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>RVR Membership</b><br><p>Membership updates: 2 new members joining the Association, and four members who have chosen not to continue their membership.</p>  |
| <b>10</b> | <b>RVR Social Events</b><br><p>Short summary of forthcoming events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>12th December</b> – a 'bring &amp; share' party hosted by our Chair to acknowledge the significant contribution of Road Reps and Street Friends to RVR.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other ideas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sunday Evening Forum:</b> 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 2nd February at 8.00 pm. Details of the venue, time and the maximum number of attendees will be confirmed at the January meeting.</li> <li>• <b>Historical Walk:</b> Mike Ricketts (Chair of Shortlands Residents Association) may repeat his Historical Walk in Spring – date &amp; time to be announced in due course.</li> <li>• <b>RVR welcomes proposals for social events that the membership might enjoy, please inform the RVR Social Events Coordinator or the RVR Secretary.</b></li> </ul>  |
| <b>11</b> | <b>Road Safety &amp; Traffic</b><br><b>From Andrew Lancaster:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Roads Group of Shortlands Residents Association has produced an impressive presentation to submit to LBB highlighting traffic issues in the area and making suggestions for safety improvements. This has been shared with the RVR Roads Group which has provided some additional feedback which is being incorporated into the overall presentation. Hopefully a combined submission will add weight to the various proposals which include:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pedestrian crossings / refuges.</li> <li>○ Clearer signage painted / repainted on the road surface advising motorists to slow down in the approach to pedestrian crossings and pertinent junctions.</li> <li>○ Tackling speeding, for example with width restrictions / chicanes, with priority for traffic in a specific direction.</li> <li>○ Various ideas to improve the junctions at Shortlands station.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• It has been noticed that junction road markings have been repainted at several locations around the borough. Interestingly, almost immediately after having contact with Councillor Julie Ireland (Bromley Town ward) the road junction at Bromley Avenue / Madeira Avenue was repainted this week, although the "SLOW" signage in the approach to the junction has not yet been done and I will be following up on this.</li> <li>• Following contact made by Nicholas Ansdell-Evans urging the introduction of one or two pedestrian refuges on Crab Hill to aid safe crossing of this busy road ... more below - under Update from Councillors.</li> </ul>  |

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| <b>12</b> | <b>Update from the Councillors</b>   |
|           | <p><b>Cllr Tickner:</b> Councillor Michael Tickner has supported the idea of pedestrian refuges and highlighted it to Angus Culverwell at LBB with a request that an assessment for a road safety scheme along the lines suggested be put into the Highways work programme.</p> <p><b>Cllr Adam Grant:</b> new bicycle racks are not in place – the old ones will be removed. In response to the query about the lime green bikes – Cllr Grant said that these should be reported using the <b>Fix my Street</b> link.</p> |
| <b>13</b> | <b>Any Other Business</b>  |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urgently Required: <b>Webmaster – to update and maintain the RVR website.</b></li> </ul>  |
| <b>14</b> | <b>Next Meeting: Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.30 pm</b>  |