



MINUTES OF RVR MEETING

Thursday 2nd November 2023 (Bromley Court Hotel)

Present:

Pete Saunders (Chair) Beatrice Osborn (Vice-Chair), Euan McMaster (Newsletter Editor), Jacqueline St. Quinton (Secretary), Clive Lees (Planning Officer), Dave Wiltshire (Treasurer), Monica Wiltshire, Mark Ladd, Andrew Lancaster, Rosamond Fela, Margaret Brearley, B Mitchell, David Page, Cllrs Will Connolly, Michael Tickner & Adam Grant

1 Welcome & opening remarks

The Chairman presided over the meeting & welcomed our guest Adam Beard, Chair of AFC Shortlands.

2 Apologies, acceptance of apologies, absence of Officers

Apologies received from: Dolores & John Ealey; Jane Willcocks, Val Crowdy, Alan & Carole Mullord, Jayne & Anthony Nickalls, Brigitta & Nicholas Ansdell-Evans, Marilyn & Mick Pinson

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

Amendments already flagged were effected – no new amendments raised.

4 Planning Issues

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

Awaiting Decision

79 Coniston Road

The new application listed in our previous newsletter is still awaiting a decision but is likely to be rejected in its current form.

12 Downs Hill

Demolition of existing garage and erection of two storey side extension, replacement of carport, part infill of front porch and elevational alterations to fenestration including feature windows and shutters.

Determined Application

Romany Ridge & 15 Hillbrow Road

The revised application for demolition of existing dwellings at Romany Ridge and 15 Hillbrow Road and erection of part two/three storey building comprising 5 two-bedroom and 1 one-bedroom (6 in total) with terrace/balconies, associated parking, etc. has been refused.

48 Beckenham Lane

The application for a loft conversion with side dormer has been refused.

Oak Spinney, Crab Hill

The application has been permitted for a single storey side/rear extension and first floor rear extension.

14 Highland Road

There is an application to clear the site in what may be a plan to build 2 new dwellings. Partial consent for tree works has been given.

Enforcements

100 Ravensbourne Avenue

It is still not clear if the council will require the unauthorised extension to be removed.

Shortlands Golf Club (SGC)

Railings have been erected along the pavement on Ravensbourne Avenue. This issue was outlined again by the Planning Officer. However, a director of SGC (Mr Mark Ladd) was present at the meeting and explained that the railings are a spin-off of new gates in Farnaby Rd. Gates are planned to make the car park more secure and control access to neighbouring houses via the golf course. SGC is working with the Council regarding signage and other improvements.

5 Finances

(a)

The Treasurer's finance report was presented by Dave Wiltshire, highlighting the receipts (member subscriptions & NS&I interest) as follows: **£1714.00** and **£4.93** respectively. Payments: Expenses and donations for the financial year to date - **£2551.73**. Deficit for the year: **£832.80**. The General Reserve (Santander Current Account + NS&I Investment Account + Petty Cash) amounts to **£9443.50**. The report was noted and no issues were raised.

6	Community Projects/Issues
(a)	<p>Street Friends Monica Wiltshire's report – as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RVR Street Friends met on Tuesday 10th October for litter picking and clearing overgrowth on fences and pavements. 3 of the 14 attendees did work on a new area in Madeira Avenue near Highland Road and filled 5 bags. Now you can walk along there without walking into branches • Our last session of 2023 will be on Tuesday 5th December and will be novel. Catriona Ross, Engagement Officer in Beckenham Place Park will lead a River Wade/Clean on the east side of the park. I was able to fill the 15 places very quickly. Waders, walking stick, litter pickers and gloves are provided by Thames 21 • I was reminded at the last LBB/Veolia Street Friends meeting on 20th October that all Street Friends must register as Street Friends – https://www.bromley.gov.uk/StreetFriends • Children under 18 years need to be registered by a parent • Next Spring we will have a session led by Maria Kampioti from Veolia/Bromley <p>(b) AFC Shortlands - community junior football club Brief outline from Andy Beard, Chair: A community non-selective football club representing 250 children (boys and girls) - anyone can join from the ages of four to 15. The club has been based at Queensmead just by Shortlands Village since 2018 and has engaged with the Council (Cllr Cuthbert) and now has a six-year lease on the Pavilion turning it into the clubhouse. Money has been invested to have large containers as storerooms. Volunteers help to provide refreshments and have toilets open and available for use. Usually, activities take place on Sunday mornings from 10:00 am until about 1:00 pm. AFC Shortlands is not a charity, but they are a legal entity with a constitution is similar to that of a charity – they are a non-profit organisation. Anyone interested in helping the Club as a volunteer or want to get their children involved in the football teams, can contact the Club Secretary Gary Stevens on 07890 964 793 or email him at afcshortlands@gmail.com</p>
7	<p>Membership Matters Nothing to report.</p>
8	<p>Transport Issues</p> <p>Farnaby Road parking issues – since the commencement of the academic year a local resident has again had to email the Valley School head teacher regarding inconsiderate parking by parents. The head subsequently spoke to one particular parent and will provide reminders to all parents via his regular newsletters.</p> <p>Farnaby Rd / Beckenham Lane junction – LBB is seeking views by 8 November regarding proposed changes to the junction. RVR has been copied in with 12 responses to date – 11 positive, 1 against as a waste of money. Of the positives, 2 have expressed concern regarding potential restriction for the 354 bus; one has expressed a preference for 2 lanes exiting Farnaby Rd.</p> <p>Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - meeting 3.10.23 attended, as usual, by police representatives. Residents' views/complaints re speeding regularly feature. Coincidentally a formal speed check exercise took place at 3 locations in the borough on 10.10.23, including Ravensbourne Avenue. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Community Road Watch speed checks continue at 2-3 per month across the borough but none in the RVR area in the last couple of months. o Theft of vehicle registration plates has been occurring recently – used for disguising vehicles used in subsequent criminal activity. Anti-theft fixings can be purchased and residents are encouraged to check the security of their registration plates. o Rob Hale, Head of Trading Standards & Community Safety, spoke, highlighting 3 current issues:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Copycat websites, e.g. re ULEZ payments – additional & unnecessary fees being levied. ▪ Hard sell cold call phone calls being made re home appliance insurance cover. Residents are encouraged to register with the Telephone Preference Service although unscrupulous traders will still circumvent this. ▪ Property maintenance – big spike in bogus roofing repairs. Ignore cold callers and be careful re those that put cards through the letter box. Always seek 2-3 independently sourced quotations. o Encouraged always to report actual or perceived criminal activity. If occurring now, phone 999; otherwise via 101 or online. Reporting helps to build an overall picture of criminal activity and may result in police resources being more concentrated on an affected area. o A Crime Summit was held at The Civic Centre on 14 October. Bromley Superintendent, Luke Baldock, gave clear insight into his aims to fight crime in Bromley. - Enquiries raised of the councillors present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Please see Item 9 – from Cllr Tickner

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shortlands Road Safety Open Meeting – Saturday 18 November 10.30am to noon, at Harris Primary Academy – to discuss road safety and the state of Shortlands roads.
9	<p>Input from Councillors</p> <p>Cllr Michael Tickner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roundabout at the junction of Southend Rd / Foxgrove Rd / Park Rd – an Autumn completion had been indicated. Councillor Michael Tickner advised that identification of some underground telecoms cabling – now requiring re-routing - has delayed matters. - Roundabout at the junction of Albemarle Rd / Westgate Rd. Councillor Michael Tickner advised that this has been agreed but awaiting funding. - Theatre at Oakhill: There is a planning application to turn this site into a 4-storey block. - LIDL supermarket is closing (15th November). No plans have been lodged yet for re-development. - There is concern about the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Planning enforcement: retrospective applications should cost more. o Converting gardens to car parking areas should be harder. o Closure of cases should be made harder. <p>Cllr Adam Grant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tyre slashing in Glassmill Lane now on police radar. - Bad parking should be reported. - 'Chinese roundabout': lanterns were stolen – the council is trying to get them back. - Regarding the poisoning of foxes reported by RVR members: on receipt of correspondence on the matter, Cllr Grant would pass on the information to the Council. <p>Cllrs Will Connolly/Chloe Ross-Jones:</p> <p>Community Speed Watch</p> <p>To help tackle speeding on Foxgrove Road, Worsley Bridge Road and surrounding areas, Cllr Ross and Cllr Connolly have joined the Police's Community speed watch to help issue warning notices to speeding drivers; we have raised the issue with the local Safer Neighbourhood Team for the local Police patrols; and we have invited Council Officers to review the road markings and signs on Foxgrove Road twice in the last year.</p> <p>Festivals in Beckenham Place Park</p> <p>Cllr Ross attended the formal Beckenham Place Park Debrief with the event organisers, Lewisham Council and Met Police. There was praise all round for the Organisers and Police. The traffic management plan this year was excellent. Cllr Ross and Cllr Connolly did not receive a single complaint about the event, and only one that we know of was sent directly to Bromley Council. We suggested the organisers may want to consider making the Sunday event more family orientated and finishing it a bit earlier.</p> <p>Public Toilets</p> <p>Bromley Lib Dems' proposal to increase and improve public toilet provision across the borough was voted down by Conservative Councillors at the Council meeting on 16th October 2023. Cllr Connolly and Cllr Ross presented the motion, asking for more publicly accessible toilets, more information about where they are, better standards and a designated Council Officer to make sure the borough's public toilets provision is good enough. The motion noted the poor condition of conveniences across the borough, including specifically in Beckenham's Kelsey Park and Croydon Road Rec, and that the Community Toilet Scheme, where participating shops, restaurants and bars give the public free access to their toilets during their trading hours, is not sufficient. In Beckenham, the number of participants in the scheme has dropped from eight to one. We have raised issues on accessibility, signposting, and free access to Community Toilets with Council Officers.</p> <p>Calverley Close development</p> <p>Cllr Ross and Cllr Connolly have initiated a regular catch-up call with the team behind the Calverley Close development (on west side of BPP). The development is still on track for a 10-year phased build. Demolition of Warner House is underway and should be completed - they did this slowly to help minimise noise. Funding for the development is confirmed and 90% of the GLA grant has been received already.</p> <p>Question from the Chair</p> <p>How to deal with danger posed by dogs in Beckenham Place Park. Cllr Tickner responded that this should be reported to Lewisham Council.</p>
10	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>AGM in March 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We shall look for an alternative to St. Dunstan school music students who are unable to accommodate us this year (they had been most welcome in previous years) (to be advised). - Veolia may be able to provide someone to talk about fly tipping (to be advised).
11	<p>Next meeting: Thursday, 4th January 2024 at 8pm – venue to be announced.</p>