

May 2024

Issue 2



RVR Society News

Welcome to our latest newsletter, which we are delivering as a printed copy this time. Please let me know if you prefer hard copy or would rather just download the PDF from the website.

If you wish to follow the underlined web links, many of which I hope will be of interest, you will have to download the PDF from our website download page.

Change of Officers

At the AGM in March, the following changes were voted through:

Chair: Margaret Brearley replaces Pete Saunders;

Treasurer: Sharon Richardson replaces Dave Wiltshire;

Membership Secretary: Alastair Holmes replaces Linda Müller;

Social Events Secretary (New role): Linda Müller;

Webmaster: The tasks of updating the RVR website are now distributed to relevant officers.

Our new Chair is keen to introduce more social events, hence the creation of the new Social Events Secretary role. Look out for imminent notices announcing such events.

Bromley Updates

Churchill Theatre Site

Bromley Council has announced a general call for developers interested in the Churchill Theatre site, despite previously reassuring residents that the site would be sold or given to the current leaseholders Trafalgar Theatres.

It appears that no agreement has yet been reached with the Trafalgar Group, with the Council citing value for money concerns over the proposed sale in a press release issued on 27 March, which you can view [here](#).



Church House Gardens Tennis Courts

The tennis courts in Church House Gardens have been renovated in partnership with the Lawn Tennis Association and are re-opening on 18th April. In order to book the courts, users will need to register with the LTA's [Tennis For Free scheme](#) delivered in partnership with Parklangley Club who have been appointed as the operator. Following registration, users will be able to book courts online via Club spark, where they will receive an access code to enter the courts. Family membership costs just £25 per year.

Planning Applications

Awaiting Decision

76 A&B The Avenue: Application for major development. 7 large houses proposed to replace the current 2 houses. Details [here](#).

79 Coniston Road: The application for conversion of the current family house into three self-contained flats is still awaiting a decision. A large number of objections have been posted. In addition, the last we were aware, the Council was planning an inspection to ensure the property had been converted back to a family residence in accordance with its Enforcement Order. Details [here](#).

2-4 Ringers Road and 5 Ethelbert Road: Refusal of planning permission for a major development at this site has now been appealed. Details [here](#). An Inquiry (which is a formal 'court case') into the Appeal has since been announced to take place at a date in July to be determined.

35 London Road: Demolition and redevelopment was refused by the Council and, because the building is considered important enough, there will be a Hearing (like an informal 'court case') to decide the Appeal on 14 May. Details [here](#).

186 Bromley Road: Demolition of 3 family houses and construction of 3 storey residential development comprising 23 units with associated underground car parking, refuse storage, and landscaping. Details [here](#).

Determined Applications

Shortlands Railway Station: The Council have recently approved the 'materials and appearance' of the new lift shafts and associated works, essentially without change to the original plans. We are concerned that the result will be an ugly edifice towering over the Conservation Area. Only time will tell.



Enforcements

The Chalet, Kirkstone Way: A site notice is attached to the front door requiring the owner to tidy up the site within 2 months of the 8th of April, or face prosecution. Details [here](#).

Planning Advice

Conservation Areas and planning.

It is essential to have planning permission (or ensure you have Permitted Development Rights) before any building work is started. This is particularly true in Conservation Areas. We are aware that the Council has raised at least 8 planning enforcement cases in the new Shortlands Village Conservation Area in the last year, 5 of which specifically breached Conservation Area requirements. The usual outcome is that the owner/developer has to undo the building work, which is upsetting and expensive for the owner and also expensive for the Council and thus council tax payers.

In particular, 3 enforcement cases involved installation of external doors and/or windows and so our guidance is that, if you live in a Conservation Area, you must get advice before replacing these.

Enforcement matters

We are pleased to report that the Council has now issued an Enforcement Notice in respect of The Chalet, Kirkstone Way. This requires the owner to tidy the site up by 8th June. Failure to do so would be a criminal offence.



Beckenham Place Park (BPP)

East Side Development News

The latest update of the progress can be viewed [here](#).

They provide details of:

- The new sunken meadows and pond;
- New paths, mountain bike and activity trails;
- Newly installed gym activity equipment;
- Imminent new benches and picnic tables.



New entrance pathway and site of new multi-use games area

General News

News of other events and activities in the park can be found [here](#).

Music Festivals Update

The published plan for this year is as follows: (Details of each event at the underlined link).

Friday, 16 August - [Summer time](#) Dance anthems brought to life by a 32 piece orchestra with live vocalists and DJs (max expected audience 5k).

Saturday, 17 August - [Hospitality in the Woods](#) The best of Drum & Bass by well established and respected music label, Hospitality (max expected audience 10k).

Sunday, 18 August – TBC (Max expected audience 7k).

Ongoing updates about the above are provided [here](#).

However, the operator applied to extend their music event licence to a second 3-day weekend and also extend finish times for live music, alcohol sales and event closing. See [here](#).

It is not clear if the application was successful.

Environment

New planting at Beckenham Green



One of our councillors, Chloe-Jane Ross, was successful in her bid to the Councils Jubilee Fund for £20k to improve Beckenham Green. Some of those funds have now been spent and at long last the four brick planters facing the High Street have received a make-over with a new planting scheme. It doesn't look like much now, but come the summer when the plants have established it should look beautiful. Huge thanks go out to all the volunteers of the Beckenham Green Friends Group (founded by Chloe-Jane) for their help with the planting and for all the work they do on The Green throughout the year.

Bromley Palace Park remedial work

Friends of Bromley Town Parks and Gardens are working on a project called 'Love The Bromley Palace Park' to promote and carry out remedial work on this much-undervalued community asset in the grounds of the former Bishop's Palace (the now vacated Civic Centre)

You can find out more about the Friends work and the other parks they are concerned with [here](#).



Politics

The Local Councillor Election Hustings jointly organised by RVR and SRA and held at Shortlands Golf Club on 24th April were deemed to be a great success. Four of the six candidates were able to attend and tell us of their goals. Some barracking ensued between candidates and from the audience. By the time you are reading this you may know who was most persuasive.

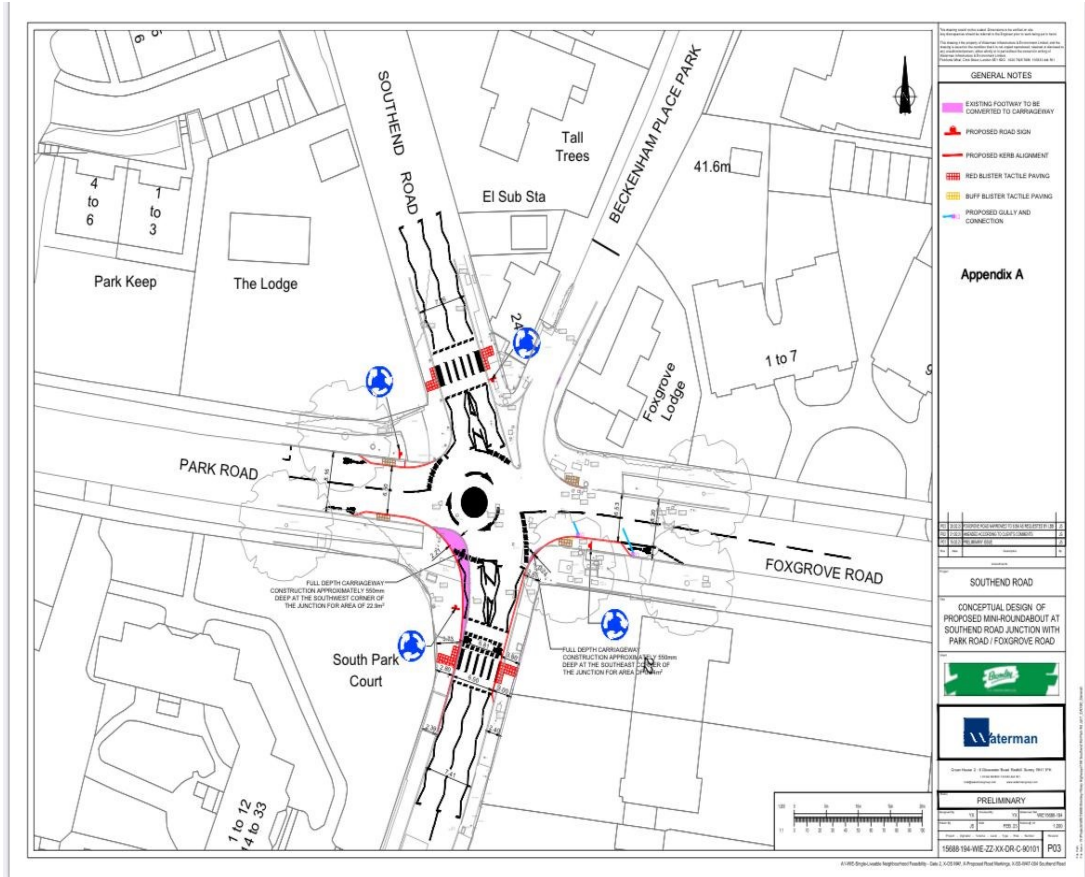
Our new public address system was a success and will be deployed at future RVR meetings.



Roads and Transport

Update on Park Road / Southend Road / Foxgrove Road Junction

There have been a number of delays on this project, first waiting on a utility company to agree to move their equipment, then waiting for the Council's highways contractor to schedule the work. However, the Council have now confirmed that the works to install a mini-roundabout and two zebra crossings at this dangerous junction should commence **Monday 3rd June with 8 weeks of works expected.**



Bromley Roads & Transport Policing Command (RTPC) to move to Croydon

The Police have let it be known that there are plans to amalgamate the Safer Transport Teams (STT) at Bromley with those at Croydon, which means our RTPC will move to Croydon. This is still in the planning stage with no date set.

As is well known, the Met Police is suffering staff shortages and they say their priority is to protect front line policing, and this move will assist with that.

They have also stated that the move will not impact the Community Roadwatch Scheme in Bromley, nor police activity on our local transport.

Farnaby Road / Beckenham Lane Junction

Hopefully by the time you are reading this, Farnaby Road at Beckenham Lane will have re-opened (scheduled for 9th May) and the promised improvements at the junction will prove to be a success.

Community

Shortlands Village Arson Attack

Appeals to RVR and SRA members led to huge numbers of donations of clothes, bedding and toiletries to the appeal launched by our tireless Shortlands Station Master, Dee.

With help from our Planning Officer, Clive, she also set up a “Just Giving” webpage.

At the time of going to press, this appeal had raised more than six times the original target:

If you wish to support the appeal, the link to the web page is [here](#).



NatWest Beckenham Branch Closure

NatWest have announced that the Beckenham branch will close on Tuesday 3rd September.

Bromley Branch will be receiving investment to make it better able to meet their customers' future needs NatWest have advised. They state that customers do not need to take any action and there will be no disruption to their service. However they recognise that some people will need assistance, particularly their vulnerable customers and say that Customer Support Specialists are proactively contacting those who use the branch to provide dedicated support.

Road Closures for The Big Lunch Celebration in June

The News Shopper website has a lengthy article detailing which roads will be closed to traffic on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd June to make way for street parties. The Big Lunch brings together millions of people across the UK each year, fostering friendships and creating friendlier, safer communities by hosting family-friendly street parties.

You can view the article on their website [here](#).

RVR Subscriptions

Subscriptions will be collected during delivery of the annual roundup newsletter in the summer, or you will be reminded to complete your Standing Order mandate if you have offered to do so but have not yet followed through.

Meeting Dates

Forthcoming members' meetings are as follows:-

Thursday 2nd May, 2024;

Thursday 4th July, 2024;

Thursday 5th September, 2024.

The meetings will be held at Shortlands Golf Club, Ravensbourne Avenue.

Society Officers and Road Representatives

There have been a number of changes recently. Please note the contact details below. The most up-to-date list can always be viewed on our website [here](#).

Officers

Chair	Margaret Brearley	chair.rvr@outlook.com
Vice Chair	Beatrice Osborn	vicechairman.rvr@outlook.com
Secretary	Jacqueline St Quinton	secretary.rvr@outlook.com
Treasurer	Sharon Richardson	treasurer.rvr@outlook.com
Planning Officer	Clive Lees	planning.rvr@outlook.com
Membership Secretary	Alastair Holmes	membership.secretary.rvr@outlook.com
Newsletter Editor	Euan McMaster	editor.rvr@outlook.com
Roads and Traffic	Andrew Lancaster	roadsandtransport.rvr@outlook.com
Street Friends	Monica Wiltshire	trees.rvr@outlook.com
BPP Rep	Liz Logan	bpp.rvr@outlook.com
Hon. Legal Advisor	Richard Thomas	contact - chair.rvr@outlook.com
Auditor	Vacant	contact - treasurer.rvr@outlook.com
LBBRF Delegate	Vacant	contact - chair.rvr@outlook.com

Road Representatives

Bracken Hill Lane and Close / Highland Road
Bromley Ave / Grasmere Rd
Calmont & Ashgrove Roads / Belgravia Gardens
Coniston Road / Ullswater Close
Downs Hill / Crab Hill
Elstree Hill / Erin Close / Hillbrow Road
Farnaby Road (1-81)
Farnaby Road (82-194)
Madeira Avenue (Evens)
Madeira Avenue (Odds)
Oaklands Road / Spencer Road / Hawkshead Close /
Lullington Garth
Ravensbourne Ave. (Evens)
Ravensbourne Ave. (Odds)
Ravensmead Road
Warren Avenue

Linda Müller
Jane Willcocks
Rita Smith
Jane Doherty
Emma Fagg
Nicki Martin
Jaki Moody
Cathy Davies
Judy Adcock
Anne Lancaster

Stephen Edwards
Monica Wiltshire
David MacKenzie
Peter Saunders
Clive Lees

If you wish to contact your representative please email the RVR Secretary or write to:

RVR Secretary
35 Downs Hill
Beckenham
BR3 5ET