

RVR CHAIRMAN ANNUAL REPORT

2022 was an eventful year in many ways. Some were happy and some were sad. Many local residents had a good 'knees up' to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and it wasn't many months later that we were mourning her passing. The RVR was able to provide some small but useful funding to a number of the Jubilee celebrations. Thanks to everyone who helped to make the Jubilee a special day.

Sadly a number of residents passed away during that year and our condolences go to all those who lost a loved one. I must make particular mention of Leslie Tucker who died just before Christmas. Leslie was one of the founding members of what was to become the RVR and he dedicated a great part of his retirement years to ensuring the success of the association and worked hard to keep our area a fine place to live. He was instrumental in the development of Beckenham Place Park. We all owe him a debt of gratitude. Many of the benefits we enjoy in the park today are because of Leslie's hard work. It was a privilege to attend his funeral in December and our condolences go to his family. A park bench dedicated to Leslie's memory is planned.

As Chair it is a privilege and joy to be surrounded by a team of officers who put in a lot of time and effort, very much a behind the scenes scenario, to make the association function in a practical way and I commend all these good folk for the considerable efforts they make. Efforts made on behalf of all of us to keep Ravensbourne Valley a beautiful place to live. In that respect it has been great to build productive relations with adjoining residents' associations and I would like to thank Mike Ricketts, the Chair of the Shortlands Residents Association for the great efforts he has been making to ensure we all work together.

We formed a Roads and Traffic Safety Group, headed up by Nicholas Ansdell-Evans and a lot of work has been done in trying to tackle the serious problem of the many inconsiderate and dangerous drivers who make our roads unsafe. This is an on-going problem and we welcome everyone's ideas on how to tackle it.

Our Street Friends group has gone from strength to strength under the guiding hand of Monica Wiltshire and our finances are kept firmly in place by our Treasurer, Dave. Alastair Holmes recently took over responsibility for the association's website (thanks for kindly volunteering Alastair!) and Euan McMaster continues to produce our formidable regular newsletter. Linda Muller keeps us all updated around membership matters. Liz Logan keeps a close eye on developments linked to Beckenham Place Park and our esteemed Secretary Jacqueline keeps an eye on all of us!

My thanks also go to Vice-Chair Beatrice Osborn who is always willing to step into the breach and of course the RVR would not be what it is today without the continuous work and commitment of Clive Lees, our former Chair and now purely our vital Planning Officer. A word too about all our Road Reps: thanks lovely people and keep up the great work.

With Covid (hopefully) behind us now, we have had a year of regular meetings at the Bromley Court Hotel and the attendance has been excellent. We have also benefited from the presence of many of our Local Councillors. They have been most helpful in actively being

conduits to local council officials as well as bringing their own personal wisdom of what we, as a residents association, can realistically achieve. Thanks to all of them.

2022 has also been a challenging year for many people with rocketing prices and severe economic uncertainty. It is true to say that there has never been a better time when we should be all coming together to support one another and I hope that as we enter this new year, with those uncertainties still in place, we can do that. And the RVR wants to play its part. So if you are a 'regular' and active member of the association please continue to be so and if you have had little to do with us in the past, please have a rethink and get involved. Ravensbourne Valley is where we live and if we want to keep it a safe and decent place to live, let's all play our part.

I wish you a belated, but sincere, Happy New Year.

Pete Saunders

2nd Feb 2023



Preserve the best and improve the rest

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	2022	2021
INCOME	£	£
Members' subscriptions	2105.00	2063.50
Other donations	0.00	00.00
Interest from bank accounts	0.53	37.85
TOTAL	<u>2105.53</u>	<u>2101.35</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Photocopying & Printing	827.90	374.00
Office supplies	212.92	0.00
Scanning	100.00	0.00
Postage	7.60	0.00
Internet costs	164.24	129.91
Refreshments	558.14	0.00
AGM	0.00	0.00
Insurance	151.84	151.84
Community Projects	564.00	0.00
Donations	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	367.82	74.45
TOTAL	<u>2954.96</u>	<u>730.20</u>
DEFICIT	(deficit) <u>848.93</u>	(surplus) <u>1371.15</u>



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BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st December 2022

	2022	2021
GENERAL RESERVE	£	£
Balance at 1 st January	11065	9694
Deficit/Surplus for year	(deficit) 849	(surplus) 1371
Balance at 31 st December	<u>10216</u>	<u>11065</u>
ASSETS		
Cash at National Savings & Investment Account	5296	5295
Santander Current Account	4036	4842
Cash in hand	884	928
	<u>10216</u>	<u>11065</u>

Signed by the Hon. Treasurer:

(David Wiltshire)

Date: _____

Signed by the Chair:

(Peter Saunders)

Date: _____

Report by Auditor:

I have obtained all the information I consider necessary to audit these accounts. The Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet agree with the accounting records and give a true and fair view of the Deficit for the Society's financial year ending 31st December 2022 and the state of its affairs as at that date.

Signed by the Hon. Auditor:

(Alan Williams)

Date: _____



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TREASURER'S REPORT

On the Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2022

There was an overall deficit for the year of £848.93 and the General Reserve was thereby decreased to £10,216.30

On the receipts side:

Subscriptions received for the year were at £2105.00.

Payments direct to Santander via 'Electronic transfer' at £750 represents just over a third of income for the year, which is a success. However, key to this method of payment is that each member must include their membership number so the payment can be logged correctly.

Interest from National Savings and Investment Account at £0.53 for the year was automatically added to that account. However, we shall be reviewing what options are available for investing £5296.

On the expenditure side:

There has been an increase in expenditure as compared to 2021, essentially due to the part funding of 3 of the Queen's Platinum Street Parties, in Coniston, Road, Downs Hill and Calmont Road @ £530. £242 was spent on flowers as a thank you to Mrs Brearly for hosting the RVR summer party at Harcourt House and to Nicholas Andsell-Evans and Andrew and Helen Storey for giving an amazing concert. We have also purchased our own projector and screen at a cost of £175 which represents the equivalent of hire for 3 meetings. £100 was spent on scanning documents for archiving.

The 2022 accounts have been audited and passed by Mr Alan Williams.

At £10,216 the General Reserve remains in a very healthy state and the Society is committed to seek opportunities to spend much of this reserve to support local projects and charities.

As such, there is no requirement to increase our income and I therefore recommend that the present level of subscriptions, at £5 per household, be maintained with senior citizens and members in special financial circumstances subscribing as they feel appropriate.

David Wiltshire (Hon. Treasurer)



Preserve the best and improve the rest

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Signed by the Hon. Treasurer:

Date: 4/2/2023

(David Wiltshire)

Signed by the Chair:

Date: 5/2/2023

(Peter Saunders)

Report by Auditor:

I have obtained all the information I consider necessary to audit these accounts. The Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet agree with the accounting records and give a true and fair view of the Deficit for the Society's financial year ending 31st December 2022 and the state of its affairs as at that date.

Signed by the Hon. Auditor:

Date: 5/2/2023

(Alan Williams)

Ravensbourne Valley Residents

Planning report for the AGM 2023

Significant planning applications

This year saw the third recent application at **2 Warren Avenue**, and like the first two this was refused permission by LBB. The second application was also dismissed at appeal while it remains open for the applicant to make an appeal on the third application. A significant contributory factor to the decisions in these cases was the acknowledged historic importance of the existing building, resulting in it being designated as a 'non-designated heritage asset'.



Above: on the left, the first application.

During the year, the application to build a block of flats on the **land adjacent to 37-45 Oaklands Rd** was also dismissed at appeal, the principal reason being that it would have been an unattractive addition to the current street scene.

79 Coniston Road continues to provide much work for everyone with various proposals and retrospective proposals being made. At the time of writing the council is considering a Certificate of Lawful Development for an HMO. The site continues to be a great concern to neighbours and nearby residents, the concern being that the property will not be used for its stated, and permitted, purpose.

The appeal for a block of flats at **8 Madeira Avenue** was upheld but whether anything ever gets built is another matter. For years the property has had permission for various schemes but for whatever reason the owner has not proceeded. This seems a little strange given the costs of obtaining permission.

An appeal for a block of flats (designed to look like a large house) was allowed at **2 Bromley Avenue** whilst the appeal at **76 The Avenue** awaits determination at the time of writing.

A 12-storey tower in **Bromley Town Centre on the old Maplins site** was allowed at appeal. Another massive tower is proposed for **Bromley Town Centre**, this time at Waitrose. No formal application has been submitted, but the direction of travel for the lower part of Bromley Town Centre is clear – it is going to look like Croydon before long.

The proposed **lifts at Shortlands Station** were approved during the year but the final appearance has not yet been determined and it will be important that quality materials are used to ensure the large towers are not an eyesore. However, we believe there is currently no funding for the lifts so the project is likely in abeyance pro tem.

Meanwhile the redevelopment of the land to the east of the railway line in **Beckenham Place Park** began in January 2023 and we wait to see the final outcome.

Finally, we await the developer's next move in respect of **Romany Ridge and 15 Hillbrow Road** following the refusal of permission for an horrendous block of flats.

Enforcement

Enforcement continues to be a significant issue in the area. Notably, enforcement cases have been raised at 61 The Avenue (re replacement trees/shrubs), Matilda House, Hillbrow Road (new trees required) and 18 Hillbrow Road (developed as 3, not 2, flats)

Planning Admin

We have revamped our record keeping so that an archive is expanded with each new planning application we deal with. This will provide an accessible record of issues that concerned us for the future.

Clive Lees

Planning Officer

Feb 2023

Community and Street Friends Report

Monica Wiltshire

The year started with a change of title for me from Tree Warden to Street Friends Co-ordinator. Thank you to Clive for taking on the planning applications for tree works.

The Street Friends group has met 8 times in the last year and continued to make a difference and contribute to the local environment by litter picking, planting tree pits, basal pruning and clearing ivy, brambles and holly from fences, pathways and pavements. There are 24 on our street friends data base, with 6 new members and a usual attendance of 10 at each session. Following a litter picking session we enjoyed a pre-Christmas mulled wine and mince pie gathering.

Highlights for the year include creating collaborative links with Veolia, Bromley's contractor for recycling and waste collection. This started with an opportune photo with Big Sam and his Veolia van when we were out litter picking. The partnership has been strengthened by attending quarterly Street Friends meetings with Bromley Council and Veolia at Bromley Civic Centre. We are delighted that these links have led to Maria Kampioti, Education, Communication and Outreach Manager for Veolia Bromley speaking at our AGM.

A second highlight is that we have a student from Newstead Woods School doing her Duke of Edinburgh Award in litter picking. Lucy will be doing one hour a week for 6 months and I look forward to mentoring her through this project.

Linda Muller and I met with staff from Beckenham Place Park to discuss RVR funding a park bench. The bench will be placed in the east side of the park which is being regenerated this year and it will be commemorated to Leslie Tucker, a founder member of RVR who died on 4th December 2022.

A personal thanks to our street friends who do stalwart work in all weathers (not heavy rain!). It is very nice that our efforts are appreciated by Veolia and Bromley Council who referred to us as 'heroes' for our work.

Road Safety Group report for the AGM 2.3.23

Whilst RVR has historically highlighted problems regarding traffic issues in the area to the Council, in the light of increased levels of concern in respect of road safety, parking and traffic movements through residential streets evidenced in the Living Streets Survey and in campaigning for 2022's local elections, it was agreed at the May meeting to create a formal Road Safety Working Group. Members were invited to join the Group, with Nicholas Ansdell-Evans as chair.

The Group met in June, September and December, with around a dozen RVR members participating. Also in attendance have been several invited London Borough of Bromley ("LBB") Councillors.

Discussions have focused around various issues, amongst them:-

- parking in Ravensbourne Avenue (including the unadopted section);
- the parking of commercial vehicles in Downs Hill;
- the complexities of the Shortlands Station junction for both traffic and pedestrians;
- similar complexities at the Foxgrove Road/Park Road/Southend Road junction;
- the high vehicles diversionary route due to the low bridge at Shortlands;
- residential streets being used as "rat runs", involving high volumes of traffic, speed and poor driver behaviour along, for example, Bromley Avenue, Calmont Road, Crab Hill, Foxgrove Road, Ravensbourne Avenue;
- the proposal of a traffic Quiet Scheme to reduce rat-running.
- engagement with the police, especially through the Community Road Watch scheme and the Safer Neighbourhood Ward panel.

Improvements appear likely as regards the Shortlands Station junction and the Foxgrove Road/Park Road/Southend Road junction, with funding agreed by LBB for the installation of a pedestrian crossing in Station Road in respect of the former and a roundabout to assist at the latter. The timing for these improvements being completed is, however, currently not known.

Traffic volume monitoring has been undertaken by RVR members along Bromley Avenue during morning and evening rush hours. These numbers have been compared with a similar exercise undertaken on Beckenham Lane, revealing that between 30% and 40% of total traffic movements have been through the residential area.

Unfortunately, LBB currently doesn't consider traffic volumes to be a problem, instead concentrating on KSI – "killed and seriously injured" – statistics to identify dangerous roads. We continue to push the case for more action to be taken to make the streets more safe BEFORE residents are killed or seriously injured. We would like to see - in addition to KSI - the adoption of more progressive indicators to assess the safety of our streets, taking more consideration of the needs of pedestrians and cyclists, alongside a less hardline attitude towards the kind of road interventions introduced in almost all other London boroughs.

A comprehensive paper has been produced proposing the use of automatic numberplate recognition ("ANPR") cameras to facilitate a Quiet Scheme and reduce rat-running through our residential streets. This paper has been submitted to LBB Councillors and feedback is awaited. A copy of the document appears on the RVR website under the "Roads and Transport" tab.

Despite requests from local councillors, LBB has so far failed to produce data of vehicle speeds in the RVR area and we continue to press for such information. Also of regret is that the minimum 2 per month per ward official police speed checks promised by the London Mayor have not materialised,

ostensibly due to the police being redeployed on other duties. Our local councillors are seeking clarification of the position and hopefully implementation of such speed checks through contact with the relevant London Assembly representative.

Some RVR members have, however, been able to join the Community Road Watch programme (run under the auspices of Transport for London), assisting PCSOs with vehicle speed checks in several parts of the borough. Whilst the RVR area did not feature in these speed checks during 2022, following pressure from the Road Safety Group and local councillors one took place on Farnaby Road and another on Foxgrove Road in early February 2023. It is hoped that during the course of 2023 we may be able to arrange for other hotspot roads within the RVR area to benefit from such speed checks. Whilst these do not carry any immediate penalties, whether financial or points on the driver's licence, the repeated appearance of a numberplate on TfL's database will result in it appearing on the police's ANPR system; formal legal action will then occur following any subsequent speeding offence.

The Road Safety Group is committed to continuing throughout 2023 the investigation of traffic problem issues and making proposals for the improvement of the life of residents within the RVR area. We look forward to working with our LBB Councillors and the Police in achieving this aim.

Due to work pressures Nicholas Ansdell-Evans has had to step down as chair of the Group for 2023 and this role is now being undertaken by Andrew Lancaster. If residents have any specific concerns which they wish to draw to the attention of the Group these can be submitted by email to roadsandtransport.rvr@outlook.com