

MINUTES OF RVR MEETING

Thursday 3rd November 2022 (Bromley Court Hotel)



Present:

Peter Saunders (Chair), Clive Lees (Planning Officer), Dave Wiltshire (Treasurer), Monica Wiltshire (Street Friends Coordinator), Linda Müller (Membership Secretary), Nicholas Ansdell-Evans (Transport Officer), Euan McMaster (Newsletter Editor), Jacqueline St. Quinton (Secretary), Beatrice Osborn (Deputy Chair), Val Crowdy, Jane Willcocks, Val Wilson, Cllr Aisha Cuthbert, Cllr Felicity Bainbridge, Cllr Michael Tickner, Mike Ricketts, Bill Mitchell, Richard Hodgkiss, Terry Richardson, Emma Fagg, Chris Porter, Andrew Lancaster, Graham Pyefinch, Philip Johnson, Carole Mullord, Alastair Baker, Rachel Baker, Mike Baker, Tony Guyver, Christina Brown, Tony Illingworth, Marie Stone, Gonül Hussein, Rob Bentley, Ash Saluja, Alastair Holmes, Martin Poupard, Nigel Foster, Julie Foster, Allan Burge, Marie Burge, Cllr Julie Ireland, Lee Suker, Lorraine Suker

1 Apologies, acceptance of apologies, absence of Officers

Apologies received from: Richard Fagg, Dolores & John Ealey, David Page, Martin Ruddick, Wendy Watmore, Mick & Marilyn Pinson, Linda Sebbana, Cllr Chloe-Jane Ross (Lib Dem - Beckenham Town & Copers Cope Ward), Cllr Will Connolly (Lib Dem - Beckenham Town & Copers Cope Ward), David MacKenzie, Cllr Graeme Casey, Cllr Sam Webber.

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

Matters arising: correction of Sept attendees list & inclusion of Bromley Ave under Community Road Watch traffic monitoring. Revised minutes of Sept minutes are now on RVR website.

3 Finances

The Treasurer presented the finance report, highlighting the main bulk of the society's income (member subscriptions) as follows: £1455 (normal expectation for this time of year), of which £205 from Road Rep collection; £570 by electronic transfer; £515 in cash and £370 paid by cheque. Of the cheque payments, only £25 came directly from members – the rest is from Road Reps. Expenditure was higher than usual at £2780.67, due to (a) supporting Jubilee street parties (£530); (b) purchasing a projector and screen; (c) the Bromley Court Hotel bill for our meetings. Current financial status: Santander Current A/c £4007.92; National Savings & Investment A/c £5296.16; Petty Cash £436.01 - our general reserves stand at £9740.09. The report was noted and no issues were raised.

4 Community Projects/Issues

a) Update on community activities

The Street Friends Coordinator's report was presented by Monica Wiltshire – as follows:

- Our two sessions clearing the pathway on the Goan field have proved to be fruitless as, sadly and unexpectedly, the whole area has been bulldozed.
- We have 8 new street friends whom we shall get to know at future meetings.
- Suggestions for our next session on Tuesday 8th November include cutting back the holly from the green metal fence in Calmont Road.
- We should hear from Veolia this month if our funding application for our recycling box nets project has been successful.

b) Use of reserves to purchase bench(es)

- The provision/funding of a bench in BPP is considered a benefit and will be taken forward. One possibility is for volunteers to make a bench from ancient oak – this would entail a lot of hours' work. Alternatively, we could purchase a memorial bench. The cost may be £1000-£1200 and the bench will be designated as a RVR gift to the community. Anything done on this will be incorporated into plans for the regeneration of the east side of the park.
- Monica Wiltshire and Linda Müller will be meeting a representative of the BPP East Side area to discuss.

c) Beckenham Place Park update

Krankbrother Ltd planned events: Naked Festival 10th Sept and Hospitality in the Woods 17th-18th Sept. The organisers had applied for the events to cater for 8-10000 attendees. Car parking was not regulated. The 2nd weekend was cancelled due to the train strike.
Views: Although the upgrade of the Park was funded by the National Lottery, its upkeep was not. Philip Johnson pointed out that, though inconvenient for some residents, events held in the Park bring in much needed income for the maintenance of the Park, allowing all residents to enjoy the amenities of the Park. Perhaps a wider range of music/activities might be the answer to the noise inconvenience felt by nearby residents?

5 Planning Issues

14 Highland Road

We have recently become aware of this. The planning application here is to put in two houses in the back garden. There will be implications for nearby residents and trees (TPO). Christina Brown and Tony Guyver registered their objection, No further information at present but we'll look at this in due course.

2/2a Crab Hill

The proposal is to fell 2 trees due to damage to the wall and the drive. These trees have no preservation order on them. Ash Saluja and Rob Bentley pointed out that these trees are dangerous and cause drainage problems. Additionally, the felling application is not accompanied by a tree specialist report. It is possible that the Council will not accept these reasons as discussions about the trees were held when the houses were built. Cllr Michael Tickner expressed interest to visit the site and get a better view of the issue.

79 Coniston Road

Application now for building an extension as the building will revert to being a private house instead of bedsits. However, it is alleged that there are a large number of people currently living there and that the property is still being used as bedsits. There are 3 enforcement issues already against this property.

2 Warren Avenue

2nd application appealed. 3rd application submitted – awaiting decision.

65 Farnaby Road

The 2nd retrospective attempt to get planning permission for the large decking area has been successful. This is a surprise and Cllr Aisha Cuthbert has asked for feedback on this.

Romany Ridge and 15 Hillbrow Road

The building application has been refused - it would have been a massive building. It is likely that there will be a new application with a new, smaller design as the site can be developed.

2 Bromley Avenue

Application refused: an appeal has been lodged – awaiting decision.

Land next to 37-45 Oakland Road

Initially refused - the building would result in loss of trees and grassy area. The application has been appealed – the outcome is expected soon. However if it is successful, there remains the question of whether or not it can be built upon as TFL has first claim on this land for its future development plans – e.g. widening the road.

Shortlands Lifts

The decision has been made and the lifts will be built, but issue continues to be aesthetic appearance of the construction work required. Cllr Cuthbert indicated that there may be a funding issue.

Goan Fields update

This land had self-seeded into a 'meadow' but, for the second time, it has been bulldozed. It is again a large muddy field. It is not known who authorised this or why. This is metropolitan land and a flood plain and thus is unlikely to get permission for building. This is a question for Lewisham Council to address.

Bromley Town Centre Consultation

Cllr Ireland indicated that this would take place within the next 10 days – see item 8 below.

6 Transport Issues

Nicholas Ansdell-Evans reported on road and traffic matters – as follows:

- **Shortlands station area:** Pedestrian crossing to be provided on Station Road – this will be funded by TFL.
- **Unadopted section of Ravensbourne Ave:** Chris Porter asked about the unmade section of Ravensbourne Ave. It seems that a report has been produced but not yet delivered to residents. Is there a Post Office problem in Bromley?
- **Community Road Watch:** RVR members standing in the rain with speed cameras. Jane Willcocks has tried to liaise with the police about this but has not been successful, despite emails from the PCSO indicating that they look forward to seeing her soon but not giving a date. Jane will continue to pursue this matter. **Bromley Avenue:** TFL want to embrace Vision Zero safety concept but Bromley Council are being slow on this. They use KSI data (killed/seriously injured) but the number of minor accidents should be indicative that there is a road safety problem. **Foxgrove Road/Southend Road junction:** Cllr Tickner referred to this area as the most dangerous in our ward where there are frequent accidents, most of them fairly minor and most of them arise because of cars pulling out of Park Road, which is on the inside of the bend. Southend Road is a fast road with a 5-way junction. A large number of pedestrians also need to cross the junction to go to schools or to the park. This is the highest priority for those living in Copers Cope ward. Ideas of a mini-roundabout and closing certain roads were mooted but the response was unfavourable. A proposal is afoot to stop vehicles coming out of Park Road (the dangerous part of the area). This plan will go to committee in a couple of months.

- **Raising awareness of other poor motorist behaviour:** Lee Suker raised the issue of an inconsiderate resident whose car has a very noisy racing exhaust. Clive Lees pointed out that this is anti-social behaviour and could be flagged to the police – might be more effective if a number of residents complained – it could possibly be resolved easily by the police asking the person to do something about their exhaust.
- **Shortlands and Park Langley Safer Neighbourhood Ward Police Panel** (this is separate from official police monitoring): Val Crowdy and Andrew Lancaster are our official RVR representatives on this panel. Terry Richardson will continue to attend the meetings – as Beckenham Town & Copers Cope Watch Coordinator. **Speed checks:** It appears that the number of speed checks is not as high as previously indicated by the Mayor of London – in fact the numbers have been reduced. Cllr Bainbridge has been following this up and a response is expected soon. **Police presence:** why high visibility when doing speed checks? It seems that they must be visible but that point has been raised.
- **Parking issues:** Downs Hill - inappropriate parking for commercial vehicles. Terry Richardson had checked Downs Hill (between 2pm and 5pm) and noted that the number of parked vehicles had been reduced and were not illegally parked. However, Alastair Baker observed that this was not usually the case and that several vehicles continue to be parked on this stretch of Downs Hill. This presents an eyesore for the area as well as an inconvenience for the neighbours. Alastair Baker will be maintaining a record of this activity and will communicate this to Cllr Bainbridge.
- **RVR Road Safety Working Group:** next meeting on 14th December.

7 Any Other Business

RVR record keeping and security

Housekeeping: Some time ago, we transferred all our paper-based or phone-based records onto a proper spreadsheet. This has resulted in quite a large document and it also links to Road Reps, membership lists. We needed to modernise the whole system but a number of shortcomings were identified and so the database structure and contents needed to be addressed to ease the record keeping – e.g. who has paid and who has not so we can chase up payments. Another issue was keeping track of email accounts and passwords to access the RVR system. We have a long list of where all our information is located and this list has been distributed among the RVR officers. This is our back-up procedure to ensure that access is not confined to a single person.

Assisting Road Reps with subscription collection: Earlier this year we produced collection lists which our Road Reps found confusing. This method was discussed and a re-vamping of the collection sheets will be done before collection time next year. A meeting of Road Reps will be held to explain the changes and ensure that they are happy with the information they need to obtain/complete when they collect the subscriptions.

Open meeting on the Future of Shortlands Village 19th Nov – 10.30am to 12.30pm

Reminder from Mike Ricketts (Shortlands Residents' Association) reminded us of this meeting (organised jointly with RVR) due to take place on 19th November (at Harris Primary Academy). This meeting has been well publicised and will address a wider brief than planning, it is hoped that there will be a large number of attendees.

Newsletter item re. ULEZ

An erratum will be published in the next newsletter – the wording will be discussed with Cllr Aisha Cuthbert. This will indicate that (1) based on the research by Imperial College, the article published in the last newsletter was wrongly biased and scaremongering; (2) the suggestion in the article that that poor people in Bromley do not drive was also incorrect.

Drugs paraphernalia in the Farnaby Rd/golf course area

Philip Johns asked for comment from the councillors present. It was pointed out that this was a law enforcement issue and that as many people as possible should flag this to the police who can then focus on specific areas. It was also stressed that some items, e.g. silver canisters are not illegal and thus cannot be considered 'drugs paraphernalia'.

8 Input from Councillors

Bromley Town Centre Consultation

Cllr Julie Ireland indicated that consultation is being arranged with Bromley Town residents - this would take place within the next 10 days. Some input is also expected from the Civic Society and other associations. All possible steps are being taken to ensure that views are made known before decisions about the Town Centre are rubber-stamped.

The scrap metal business in Coniston Road

The police and the Council officers have worked together and residents have taken photos. Enforcement is due to take place shortly.

Copers Cope area

Update from Cllr Tickner: (1) concern continues regarding the lack of action on water main bursts by Thames Water; (2) the new roundabout at Scotts Avenue is working well; (3) the cycle lane scheme has been improved; (4) the traffic yellow box under the bridge is now being enforced; (5) 4-story flats are proposed on

the site of the theatre at the junction of Bromley Road and Manor Road; (6) the adoption of Downs Bridge Road is being discussed – Cllr Tickner supports the proposal.

Environmental issues

Update from Cllr Cuthbert: (1) Leaf clearing underway – some 300,000 are thought to have been collected; (2) more than 250 residents responded regarding Queensmead Playground Regeneration and £42,0000 have been pledged for this project; (3) in order to protect biodiversity, some grass verges will be left uncut: this will be trialled at Downs Hill and Ravensbourne Avenue – consultation will place in the Spring; (4) the junction at Beckenham Lane and Farnaby Road is to be modified to enhance visibility.

9 Next meeting – Thursday, 5th January 2022 at 8pm a Bromley Court Hotel

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.