



DRAFT MINUTES OF RVR MEETING

Thursday 6th Nov 2025 (Shortlands Golf Club)

Present: Margaret Brearley; Euan McMaster; Jacqueline St. Quinton; Jay Sharma; Rosamond Eele; Beatrice Osborn; Dave & Monica Wiltshire; Cllr. Adam Grant; Alan & Carole Mullord; Richard Hodgkiss; Gonul Hussein; Chris Porter; Bill Mitchell; Cathryn Mitchell; David Page; Gita Bapat; Julie Foster; Nigel Foster; Denise Biffin; Brendan Doolan; Donatella Cosco; Françoise Massey; David Massey; John & Dolores Ealey; Alastair Holmes; Clive Lees; John Carter

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| 1 | Welcome and opening remarks |
| | Margaret Brearley (Chair) presided over this Members' meeting. Her welcome address included upcoming events and apologies received. |
| 2 | Apologies received from Officers, Members & Councillors |
| | Nicholas Ansdell-Evans; Peter & Tricia Saunders; Linda Muller; Cllr Felicity Bainbridge; Cllr Sam Webber; Andrew Lancaster; Sarah Churchman; Dermot Mckibbin |
| 3 | Approval of minutes of last meeting and matters arising |
| | No matters arising. These are now approved. |
| 4 | Elected Officers: The membership was informed that at present we have five elected officers, thus fulfilling the requirements of the RVR constitution. Appointed Officers: (1) Our new Webmaster – Rosamund Eele – is currently scoping the work required to give us an up-to-date and easily-navigable RVR website. (2) There is still a vacancy for a Beckenham Place Park Rep - someone to keep us informed of matters of interest to our membership. |
| 5 | Finances |
| | <p>Treasurer (Sharon Richardson): Monies recorded for the period 4th Sept 2025 – 5th Nov 2025 are shown below:</p> <p>Income from subscriptions – the majority of members have paid their subscriptions of £10/household. Expenditure - £878.75 (Newsletter printing; United Services Club for our September meeting; Morris Men; Bromley Pearly King donation) Closing Balance as @ 21st Oct 2025: £4829.14 Current Balance as @ 5th Nov 2025: £4989.14</p> <p>Sharon will be relinquishing her role as Treasurer at the AGM in March 2027. Sharon's replacement, Nanthini Santhiapillai (a practising accountant), is shadowing her on account matters over the next couple of months and will be put forward for election as Treasurer at the AGM.</p> |
| 6 | Street Friends/Community Projects/Issues |
| | <p>Street Friends (Nigel Foster) At their last meeting, the Street Friends team's efforts resulted in the clearing of some 13 bags of litter! The next session is scheduled for 10am on Thursday 11th December 2025. The meeting point for this session will be the Daffodil bed between Millwall Training ground and Warren Playing fields just at the entrance to Warren Ave. Street Friend members and efforts are well regarded within the borough – as demonstrated in this short video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldW7pppU4KI. Anyone wishing to join the team and make a difference can contact our Street Friend Coordinator (Nigel Foster) – email trees.rvr@outlook.com.</p> <p>Shortlands Community Garden The Shortlands Community Garden at the back of the railway station had been progressing well thanks to the sterling efforts of Dee and the various monetary and in-kind contributions made, including a donation from RVR. However, plans to open the garden were blocked by Network Rail's Health & Safety Department and a number of changes were deemed necessary. As a result, the launch of the Community Garden is now scheduled for February 2026 – hopefully before Dee's retirement.</p> <p>Shortlands Christmas Lights In addition to crowd-funding efforts from Edward Ashdale, RVR is contributing £100 to the Shortlands Christmas Lights initiative. However, in order to make the Shortlands area even more festive – e.g. a Christmas tree, additional funding is required. Donations can be made via this crowd-funding link https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/shortlands-christmas-lights-2025#</p> <p>BEN (Bromley Environment Network) https://bromleyenvironmentnetwork.org.uk/ For information on this organisation, see https://bromleyenvironmentnetwork.org.uk/. RVR will donate £100 but will also request that BEN provide some information specifically on how RVR residents benefit from membership of this organisation.</p> |

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| 7 | RVR Membership |
| | <p>Membership Secretary (Alastair Holmes)</p> <p>Allowing for small changes in numbers, the overall status of RVR membership is unchanged.</p> |
| 8 | Road Safety & Traffic (RS&T) |
| | <p>RS&T Officer (Andrew Lancaster):</p> <p>Not aware of any developments in respect of mitigating the parking problems on the unmade-up section of Ravensbourne Avenue. Very little to report on this – the last known information from LBB’s Traffic Management Team can be found using the link below https://www.ravensbournevalley.org/resources/JULY%202025%20RVR%20Minutes.pdf</p> <p>The recently received newsletter issued by the Liberal Democrats leads with the headline “Smarter, Safer , Cleaner Streets”, advising that one of the priorities of those councillors is “to work for safer streets for all road users – motorists, cyclists and pedestrians”. RVR members will be aware of our own concerns regarding speeding motorists and, interestingly, the newsletter also refers to a petition which the councillors have generated, calling on the Government to let Councils install speed cameras on local roads; currently only the police and TfL can act in this way. However, even with such powers, whether LBB would wish to spend money on such cameras is likely to be open to debate. Nevertheless, residents may still wish to sign the petition which can be found online at www.bromleylibdems.org.uk/speeding</p> |
| 9 | Planning Issues |
| | <p>Planning Officer (Clive Lees) Updates are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 79 Coniston Rd: application for 3 S/C Flats refused – 8 Madeira Ave: permission granted – 14 Highland Rd: appeal commenced – 100 Ravensbourne Avenue: roof must be altered within the next month – 44 Beckenham Lane: Appeal Dismissed – 119 Coniston Road: retrospective application for high fence refused – 75 Downs Hill: wall reduced in height following appeal dismissal – 64 Warren Avenue: appeal on over-height wall dismissed – 41 Valley Road: ditto – 101 Farnaby Road: we await developments following refusal of retrospective approval of Certificate of Lawfulness – 18 Ravensbourne Avenue: awaiting developments following refusal of retrospective approval for various alterations – Millwall: awaiting to see when the temporarily approved temporary building will be removed. – 108 London Road: Council taking enforcement action over click and collect lockers installed without permission <p>In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The planning officer advised that, contrary to previous advice, almost all fences and walls next to a highway only had permitted development up to 1m, including fences at the side of a property. As such he was reviewing the situation at Hawkshead Close where some open land was fenced off earlier this year. • It was noted that a number of fences/walls had been dealt with by the Council recently. |
| 10 | LBBRF (London Borough of Bromley Residents’ Federation) |
| | <p>RVR delegate (Beatrice Osborn) – a brief reminder about LBBRF:</p> <p>The objectives of LBBRF are to watch the interests of the residents of the borough, promoting preservation, development and improvement of environment and amenities, and to support and co-ordinate efforts of member associations. As there are no premises to hire, member Residents’ Associations (RA) are no longer required to pay to belong. Each RA appoints one delegate to the Federation. LBBRF matters are dealt with via email rather than by having physical meetings.</p> <p>Recent Activities:</p> <p>Among the few emails received, some provide general information e.g. grey-belt petition, offers of training for unemployed people. RAs often share useful information: in the case of RVR, our Planning Officer is a frequent contributor. There is also a quarterly Planning Report produced by Andrea Stevens: information from the September 2025 report is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The former GP Surgery building in Dysart House, 13 Ravensbourne Road has had planning permission granted to be replaced with a three-storey block of 9 residential flats. • There is an application to redevelop the former Debenham’s unit in The Glades by subdividing the existing unit into three separate units. • An application to construct a subterranean helicopter lift in the grounds of Cookham Dene, near Chislehurst had been refused and an appeal lodged. |

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| 11 | Update from Councillors |
| | <p>Combined update from Cllr Grant (includes input from Cllrs Bainbridge & Turrell):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We have been working hard on getting the arch on station approach opened so that the station is accessible directly from the village. We need to raise some money for the exploration survey - around £5k. NR at this stage are supportive. 2. We are undertaking a survey as to how we can improve the village for residents. There are lots of questions so we can get feedback to make any changes residents would like to see. 3. The dire funding situation we face in the council - with a budget deficit of around just under £60m. Much of this is due to the unfair funding we have from government. Bromley is the second lowest in London with only Richmond getting less than us. Lambeth receive £558 per head, Lewisham £502 Wandsworth £371 Croydon £294 and Bromley £148. 4. We are looking into the possibility of obtaining a crossing at Glassmill Lane, by the gate to Queens Mead. 5. We have asked Thames 21 for a presentation as to the preferred option for the rewilding and absolute guarantees that flooding will never be a problem. This has to be backed up by the Environment Agency. 6. If any residents have issues with speeding it is important to remember that speeding is a police matter. However but we three (Cllrs Grant, Bainbridge & Turrell) as your ward representatives can lobby for officers to do regular checks to help keep motorists at 30 mph. |
| 12 | Guests |
| | <p>Hadyn Davies – a local resident and RVR member – spoke on his involvement as a civil engineer in the refurbishment of St. Pancras station and hotel.</p> <p>His talk was entitled <i>Rebirth of a legend</i>. The hotel was completed in 1887 and hailed as the premier hotel in London. The quality of the decoration was second to none, the main entrance was via the first revolving door in the UK and there were two hydraulic lifts to access the upper floors. Unfortunately with the advent of electricity and the public's desire for ensuite facilities the hotel fell out of favour and closed in 1935. Having been saved from demolition in the 1960s, some refurbishment was carried out in the 1990s. However, in order to make the building commercially viable, extensive further refurbishment was carried started in 2005 to construct a new hotel extension which, together with the original building, would eventually provide 245 rooms.</p> <p>On completion, this Grade II listed building was leased to Marriott Hotels. It was renamed The St Pancras Hotel and opened in 2011. This hotel was recently included in a BBC travel article on <i>grand old stations have been reborn as destinations, blending the romance of rail's golden age with modern comfort and style</i>.</p> <p>Get a flavour of the refurbishment endeavour here - https://stpancraslondon.com/our-hotel/ and read the BBC article here - https://www.bbc.co.uk/travel/article/20251114-stunning-train-station-hotels-around-the-world Additionally, Hadyn's précis of his talk will be placed on the RVR website and included in the next RVR Newsletter.</p> |
| 13 | Any Other Business |
| | <p>RVR Social events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Forum talk: Kate Saunders on China's treatment of the Uighurs and Tibetans on Sunday December 7th at 7.30 pm. Places are strictly limited. Anyone wishing to attend this talk should contact our Chair at Chair.rvr@outlook.com • For events around Beckenham (inc. events at Beckenham Place Park) , please see https://allevents.in/london/beckenham# . See information about Christmas activities at the Park - here https://beckenhamplacepark.com/events/the-winter-gardens-at-beckenham-place-park • A small party is being planned for January by our Committee to show our appreciation for the efforts of our Street Friends, Road Reps – all of whom endeavour to keep RVR relevant and informative for the benefit of our members. |
| 14 | <p>Next Meeting: Thursday, 8th January 2026 at 7.30 pm – Shortlands Golf Club</p> <p>Guests and topics for this meeting will be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lydia Lewinson on Bromley Homeless • Cecilia Willatt on Fair Trade • Dee Janes on her work as an employee of Southeastern Railway to make Shortlands customers feel valued and on her tireless efforts for charity. |