

MINUTES OF RVR MEETING

Held on Thursday 5th November 2020
Held On-line via Zoom



Those present:

* Chair

Judy Adcock	Val Crowdy	Brendan Donegan
Cllr. Nicky Dykes	Dolores Ealey	John Ealey
David England	Linda Harvey-Shipp	Mark Ladd
Andrew Lancaster	Clive Lees *	Euan McMaster
Karl Martin	Bill Mitchell	Carole Mullord
Jayne Nickalls	Beatrice Osborn	Paul Osborne
David Page	Andrew Storey	Cllr. Michael Tickner
Leslie Tucker	Jane Willcocks	Dave Wiltshire
Monica Wiltshire	Parisa Wright	

1 Apologies: None **Absence of officers:** Linda Müller

2 Minutes of last meeting: Approved

3 Finances:

The Treasurer's report from 1st January 2020 – 5th November 2020

Receipts:		
Members' subscriptions for the financial year to date		£1,305.00
NS&I interest		£41.73
Payments:		
Expenses and donations for the financial year to date		£1614.66
Surplus/Deficit for the year:		£267.93 (Deficit)
General Reserve:		
Santander Current Account		£4,142.58
National Savings Investment Account		£5,257.78
Petty cash		£562.80
Total:		£9,963.16

Average income over last 5 years is £2,310. Subscriptions direct to Santander via online banking: £1,070. Subscriptions via Cash/cheque: £235. This year's subscriptions to date represent 56% of usual income.

4 Community projects:

a) Update on Community Activities:

Monica had previously put in considerable effort to resume work with LBB reporting issues on street trees. Monica has decided to no longer carry out this part of the tree officer role because of lack of Council involvement. Tree friends planted daffodils in a few tree pits in Crab Hill, Downs Hill, Farnaby Rd., Madeira Ave. and Warren Ave. Further basal pruning in Grasmere Rd. is planned.

b) Bromley Environment Alliance (BEA):

There is a lot of work going on in the borough towards meeting climate targets. Parisa Wright explained that BEA has been set up as an information sharing network for community groups and would like to work collaboratively with councillors and other stakeholders. Member groups cannot have any political affiliation. Each group will have one representative and contribute £10 annually. Founding members, such as RVR, can be part of the committee and would make an initial contribution of £50. Agreed by members. A volunteer is needed to represent RVR - please contact Clive if interested.

c) Use of 2020 Subscriptions:

To date £200 has been allocated to tree related expenditure, such as green bags and a £600 donation has been made to Community Links Bromley for Covid charities.

d) Beckenham Place Park Update: Consultation on East Side finished and now waiting for final design.

5 Planning Issues:

Paul Osborne will be standing down as Planning Officer at the next AGM. We would like to thank him for all his hard work on planning issues over the years, which has been an enormous help to members.

a) Bromley:

50 Madeira Avenue: Retrospective application for erection of a 1.3m, 3-door bin store bordering the pavement. Bin is actually 1.49m. We asked for it to be painted green and ivy to be grown on side to disguise.

87 Beckenham Lane: Application for ground floor extension to front, sides and rear to create larger retail unit new access for existing 1st floor flat - refused. Under appeal. Still waiting for the plans for redevelopment.

17 Ullswater Close: Application for demolition of detached garage and erection of 3-storey side extension to form a 3-bedroom house. Refused as a mature protected oak tree would be removed. Appeal lodged.

The Chalet, Kirkstone Way: Demolition of existing chalet house and construction of a pair of semi-detached houses. Refused. Would be an overdevelopment of the site. Under appeal.

10 Highland Road: Application for demolition of existing garages and to build new 4-bedroom dwelling house.

2A Downs Hill: Retrospective application for external carport. Needs permission or demolition. Cllr. Dykes will chase enforcement officers.

Councillors have issues with the following 2 applications and the developers are not proceeding at the current time.

1 Ethelbert Close (Site 10 Draft Local Plan (formerly Opportunity Site G)

70 High Street (Old Maplins Building)

b) Lewisham:

26 Hillbrow Road: (1) New application for construction of a single storey rear extension and additional storey to provide 2 three-bedroom houses with cycle and bin stores. Objections due to issues around road and traffic.

(2) Previous application for demolition of property and construction of one-storey building and 3 two-storey buildings comprising 3 self-contained flats and 1 house. Refused by LBB in May 2020. Appeal lodged.

42 Belgravia Gardens: Application for a 2-storey side and single storey rear extension to facilitate a change of use from a small HMO to a larger 8-bedroom HMO with off-street parking, cycle and bin storage to the front.

c) Tree issues: The planning department has agreed to a site visit following an application to fell an oak tree at 4 Kimberley Terrace, 6 Madeira Ave. The application was submitted by 6 Kimberley Terrace. Strong objections. Neighbours would prefer that the tree is just reduced. Monica reported that an insurance company working for their next-door neighbour has applied to fell a holly tree in their garden without informing them.

6 Transport issues:

Brendan Donegan was welcomed as the new Roads and Transport Officer.

a) Ravensbourne Station Improvements:

Cycle ramp was put in and then removed due to health and safety. New benches are nice. Railings installed outside to stop lorries parking and to protect bridge. Landscaping options document reviewed. General approval with the exception of the station sign. Wild flower planting suggested. Please let Clive know of any further comments/suggestions. New yellow lines near Ravensbourne Station have now been painted.

b) Member surveys:

Two surveys planned in three roads (Bromley Ave., Farnaby Rd. and Ravensmead Rd.) to look at traffic issues such as speeding and unsafe driving. Purpose is to build on work done in past by including Bromley Ave. and to get ideas as to how to tackle speeding on Farnaby Rd. Results to be shared with council and councillors. Cllr. Dykes said speed checks have been done in the past and more are planned. There is no funding for any new measures. Changes coming soon to the junction of Farnaby Rd. with Beckenham Lane. Cllr. Tickner said it was useful to get evidence for police such as registration numbers of those regularly speeding.

7 Councillors' Update: (Cllrs. Nicky Dykes and Michael Tickner)

Boundary changes now agreed and come into effect as of 2022 local elections. Most of the RVR area will then be in the Shortlands and Park Langley Ward, not Bromley Town Centre.

Pavement trading in Shortlands: Cllr. Dykes had contacted waste team at LBB to complain about trollies being stored on pavement areas in front of shops. Have now been moved closer to the shop and area is tidier.

Bromley Park: Area of Special Residential Characteristic (SPC) and /or Conservation Area (CA):

Application for SPC or CA was considered in the past on two occasions and only narrowly declined. Council may be more willing to approve now. Cllr. Dykes will investigate on how best to take forward.

Covid-related road changes: Cllr. Tickner updated on the cycle path in Albemarle Rd. Concern as it will involve one-way traffic, including the bridge on Westgate Rd. The Scotts Ave. junction with Bromley Rd. may allow exit onto Bromley Rd. but entry into Scotts Ave. to be blocked. Crossing on Bromley Rd. coming and will be useful for cycle path. Zebra crossing outside Valley School due next week.

Update re LBBs approach to Article 4 for HMOs: Will be looked at in committee this month.

Westgate Road (unmade section) - 3 big trees felled without permission: Owner may have disappeared. Council has put a charge on the property to cover the cost of replacing the trees. Owner may be charged.

8 Any Other Business: New road representative needed for half of Farnaby Rd. Please contact Clive.

9 Next meeting: Thursday, 7th January 2021.