

February 2025
Issue 1



Annual General Meeting - Thursday 6th March 2025 at 7:30 pm at Shortlands Golf Club

1	Chair's welcome, opening remarks and apologies	MB
2	Speaker 1 (Veolia): Recycling and waste collections in Bromley - 15 minutes + Q and A	DV
3	Speaker 2: The Community Café as a Community-building opportunity (a Shortlands example) - 15 minutes + Q and A	JS
4	Music: Live Jazz from Roland Perrin	RP
5	REFRESHMENT BREAK (20 Mins)	
6	Approval of minutes of previous AGM	MB
7	Chair's report – summary of year's work *	MB
8	Treasurer's report and subscriptions update *	SR
9	Location and format of future meetings	MB / All
10	Election of Officers: Voting on any applications (See below)	All
11	Reappointment of Auditor	MB / SR
12	Any Other Business: Q & A to Councillors (if present); elected and appointed RVR Officers - e.g. planning; recruitment of new members to RVR	MB / Cllrs / CL / AH
13	Chair's closing remarks	MB
14	Chat and Music: socialising to the sounds of jazz from Roland Perrin	

MB: Margaret Brearley; **DF:** Devaan Feese; **NF:** Nigel Foster; **SR:** Sharon Richardson; **JS:** Jay Sharma; **CL:** Clive Lees; **AH:** Alastair Holmes; **Cllrs:** Councillors present at the meeting;

* Other officers' reports are posted on our website ahead of the AGM. They will be taken 'as read' although there will be an opportunity to discuss them at item 12.

We invite Members to stand for the following elected posts: **Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary**. The current incumbents are Margaret Brearley, Beatrice Osborn, Sharon Richardson, Jacqueline St Quinton and Alastair Holmes, respectively. All have indicated their willingness to stand again for now, except Beatrice Osborn, who is standing down immediately as vice-Chair.

Please note that the Membership Secretary, the Newsletter Editor and the RVR Secretary are planning to stand down at the next AGM – but they can hand over their roles to interested candidates at any time during the coming year.

We will therefore have **an immediate vacancy for a vice-Chair after this AGM**. Duties are to cover for the Chair when required, such as chairing the bi-monthly meeting and liaising with local councillors and other stakeholders, and, with the other elected officers, oversee and manage RVR.

To stand for any of these posts, please send a nomination signed by a proposer and seconder to the secretary at secretary.rvr@outlook.com. before the AGM.

Bromley Town News

Proposed Large-Scale Development



As well as the 19 and 24 storey towers on top of Waitrose at Bromley South, and the likely redevelopment of Churchill Theatre, a new application has recently been submitted for a massive 22-floor building to replace the disused building at 1 Westmoreland Road, Bromley South.

You can view the details on Bromley Council website and make any comments or objections.

Go to <https://bromley.gov.uk> and use the “Search Planning Applications” to look up application [24/04820/FULL1](#).

Shortlands Station

The brown shed in the Shortlands Station car park which is believed to be an electrical sub-station but appears to have been installed without planning permission now has its own enforcement case.

You can view the enforcement on the Bromley Council website using application reference [25/00069/OPDEV](#)

Or just click on the following link address to go straight to it: <https://t.co/4O2tZNK4Hf>

So far, however there are no further details of the case.



Kelsey Park Desilting and Bridge Replacement Projects



Works to desilt the Upper Lake have recommenced. This phase of the desilting works will complete in mid-February. Works will then start on the Lower Lake. The anticipated project completion date is still June 2025.

The scope of works have been adjusted to retain some of the silt on-site by incorporating it into the lake’s bank, instead of removing all silt from site. This change will slightly narrow the lake’s width but will enhance sustainability and benefit local wildlife by improving their habitat and will ensure that the project is delivered within the agreed budget.

You can view details of the projects and register for updates on Bromley Council website at:

<https://www.bromley.gov.uk/environment-planning/kelsey-lakes-desilting-project>

and

<https://www.bromley.gov.uk/kelsey-park-bridges>

Waldo Road Waste and Recycling Centre Closure

Waldo Road reuse and recycling centre will be closed for up to a year from 3 February 2025 for a major infrastructure upgrade.

A booking system has been introduced at Churchfields Road reuse and recycling site to help manage the anticipated additional demand and stop residents unnecessarily queuing. From 3 February you will need a booking to visit the site.

You can book online by clicking on the following link:

<https://wastebooking.bromley.gov.uk/renderformat=1&k=AE6EAA1294DBC7A9ED6917660B8F685F43E67050>

Blue Badge Parking Fees



Thanks to firm opposition, Bromley Council has backed down over controversial plans to introduce parking charges for Blue Badge holders across the Borough. Opposition councillors voted against the proposal, and nearly 5,000 local residents signed a petition calling for the deeply unpopular policy to be ditched.

Realising the strength of public opinion on the issue the Council has now confirmed the charges will not be implemented.

Beckenham Library Reopening

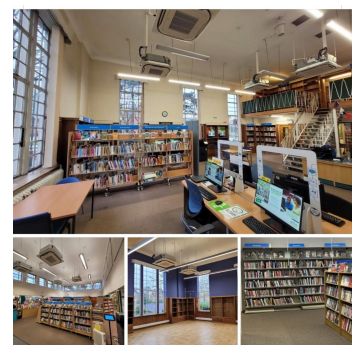
The newly refurbished Beckenham Library was officially reopened on Wednesday 5 February. More than a thousand people together with Stella the Cat attended the festivities to reopen the library. Baroness Floella Benjamin of Beckenham, known to many as one of the presenters of the iconic children's programme, Play School, cut the opening ribbon with the assistance of both the Mayor of Bromley, Councillor David Jeffreys, and local MP, Liam Conlon.



The refurbished library now boasts a customer toilet with baby changing facilities, new windows and improved electrics throughout the library. Additional study space has also been created, with a dedicated section for students, plus an expanded children's library, and a new bookable room for local use.

Care has been taken to preserve the heritage features of Beckenham Library, with the reinstatement of the original art deco entrance, the restoration of the original parquet flooring in the study room and retention of period features such as the doors.

Beckenham is the third library refurbishment recently completed in the borough with further works underway at Burnt Ash and Chislehurst. Also underway is the major regeneration of West Wickham Library and plans to relocate Bromley Central Library.



Bromley Environment Network (BEN)

The BEN February newsletter is available at the following link. It contains many links to forthcoming interesting events in and around Bromley.

<https://bromleyenvironmentnetwork.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/BEN-Newsletter-Feb25.pdf>

Bromley Council Budgeting 2025/26

A statement on the Bromley Council website says that the council continues to focus on the increasingly difficult challenge of producing a balanced budget year on year. While over £150m of savings has already been taken out of the council's budget since 2009/10 to meet persistent gaps in funding and address rising costs to services, further significant savings are still needed to address the scale of the challenges being faced.

Further details of the planning can be viewed at the following council webpage:

<https://www.bromley.gov.uk/council-democracy/council-budget-202526/2>

Conservation Areas Consultation

From 3 February to 3 March 2025, the London Borough of Bromley is consulting on draft Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan documents for the conservation areas in the borough, including Shortlands Village and Bromley Town Centre.

You can download the relevant documents from the following link and find out how to make comments.

<https://www.bromley.gov.uk/conservation/conservation-areas-2>

A key paragraph from the documents spells out an important point:-

“Understanding how the planning process works in a Conservation Area can be complicated, including what actually constitutes ‘development’, and what Permitted Development rights are applicable (as some Permitted Development rights are restricted). Common development proposals that might be restricted include alterations to doors, windows and roofs, and construction of boundary treatments such as fences and gates. The Council recommends that anyone intending to undertake development in a Conservation Area (from small-scale development proposals right up to major development) seeks pre-application advice at the earliest opportunity.” *Draft Shortlands Village Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan.*

Consequently, if you are planning any building / DIY project, it is essential to check because having to complete a retrospective application and then possibly be ordered to demolish whatever has been built is stressful and expensive. Equally, where permission has been granted for a building / DIY project (technically called ‘proposed development’) it is essential to adhere to the approved plans and to any Conditions which the Council may have attached to the permission.

It is possible to search the LB Bromley website to find out how many cases Bromley is investigating where there appears to be a breach of planning regulations. A quick search discovers the following cases, as a minimum, in our area, some of which are listed on the next page:

8 cases of unauthorised development; 4 cases of Breach of Condition; 5 cases of over height front walls/fences; 2 cases of unauthorised signs/adverts; 3 cases of untidy sites; 1 case of TPO trees being felled; 2 cases of development ‘not in accordance with plans’

Many thanks to Cllr Felicity Bainbridge for pushing to get the Consultation drafts published, and with other help, along with Cllrs Adam Grant, Gemma Turrell, Will Connolly, Chloe-Jane Ross, Michael Tickner, Graeme Casey, Julie Ireland, Sam Webber and Andre Bourne.

Planning

Recent Updates

Since the last newsletter, applications have been made concerning the following sites:

[85 Downs Hill](#)

[189A Farnaby Road](#)

[59 Park End](#)

[Land behind 14 Highland Road](#)

[44 Beckenham Lane](#)

[113 Foxgrove Road](#)

[100 Ravensbourne Avenue](#)

[87C Beckenham Lane](#)

[87 Beckenham Lane](#)

[Matilda House Hillbrow Road](#)

[75 Downs Hill](#)

Clicking on any of those links will take you to the RVR website where our Planning Officer, Clive Lees, has posted some details and onward links to the council website planning applications pages.

Crime and Safety

Bromley Neighbourhood Watch Association (BNWA)

Downs Hill residents who would like to receive regular updates, please email the Watch Coordinator, Terry Richardson, at tjrterry83@gmail.com and he will add you to his mailing list. Other roads will also have Coordinators and if residents want to join a Watch, they can contact Bromley Neighbourhood Watch Association <https://bnwa.co.uk>.

The Association will give the resident all contact details, and if their road doesn't have a Watch, they will be invited to start their own Watch.

Here is a link to the England and Wales Neighbourhood Watch newsletter, which contains much security advice:

[Our News February 2025.pdf](#)

Don't forget the Bromley Safer Neighbourhood Board is hosting the Crime Summit on **Saturday, 1 March** at the new Civic Centre. As well as the Police and London Fire Brigade, there will be representatives from British Transport Police, the Youth Council and the Met Cyber Crime Unit. Hear about issues such as retail crime, homelessness and violence against women and girls plus a Q & A session with a panel of senior officials.

Please arrive at 9am (no earlier) for signing in. Coffee and pastries will be available before a prompt start at 9.30am in the Council Chamber. The proposed agenda is as follows:

9.00am - arrival, Welcome refreshments

9.30 - 11.00 am - Presentations

11.00 - 11.30 - Refreshment Break

11.30 - 1.00pm - Presentations

You can view the full agenda, with details of the presentations, and reserve your space at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/crime-summit-tickets-1185583525239>

Entrance to the new Civic Centre will be on Westmoreland Road, opposite St Mark's Church, not the main entrance opposite the station. Entry is free. There is no dedicated parking at the new Civic Centre but it is well served by public transport.

RVR Social Events

Sunday Evening Forum

The first one of these events took place on Sunday 9th February, hosted by our Chair, Margaret Brearley and attended by around 40 members of RVR.

The speaker, Joel Kibazo, gave us a very entertaining overview of his illustrious career in the worlds of journalism and diplomacy and told some amusing anecdotes relating to the great and good of various nations, including our own Royal Family.

Margaret provided delicious snacks and beverages.

Look out for notification of the next of these events.

Other Events Planned

A repeat of the guided historical walk around Shortlands Village

A performance, at Shortlands Golf Club if permission is granted, by the Ravensbourne Morris Men who, additionally, perform a Sunrise Dance on May Day at Caesar's Well, Keston Ponds, the source of the Ravensbourne river.

<https://www.ravensbourne.org/home>

Literary Corner

During the Q&A session at the Sunday Forum, we learned of several authors in our membership or related to them. Their books were all recommended by other members present:

- ***Red Moons and Silent Truths*** (Lydia Goldman) - A memoir of life under Myanmar Military Rule;
- ***Love in the Present Tense*** (Nina Praske) - A bereaved Mum's Story;
- ***Here Comes the Miracle*** (Anna Beecher) - A beautiful story about love and loss and about the beautiful and violent randomness of life;
- ***We All Come Home Alive*** (Anna Beecher) - The story of a life told through the moments which remade it;
- ***Universal Design for Learning: A Critical Approach*** (Nicola Martin) - About delivering an inclusive teaching and learning experience from the start rather than adapting existing programmes to new student needs.

Details of all the above plus reviews can be found on Amazon.

The photograph adjacent, beside the RVR Millenium Marker, is of our Chair along with Hilda and Graham Heap the authors of an excellent little book for walkers, ***Greenwich Meridian Trail: Book 1: Peacehaven to Greenwich***.

They have decided to update the current book with a rerouting to take into account the Farnaby Road Meridian Marker, of which they were unaware until Clive Lees pointed it out to them.



Award for Dee Janes

Our Chair, Margaret Brearley, and the Chair of Shortlands Residents Association (SRA), Mike Ricketts, put forward a joint application for Dee Janes, the redoubtable lady and philanthropist in the Shortlands Station ticket office, to receive a Mayor of Bromley's Award for Outstanding Service in the London Borough of Bromley.

We are delighted that she has indeed been awarded this honour and will be presented with the award at an official ceremony on Thursday 6th March in the evening.

Sadly that is also the date of our next RVR meeting. Mike Ricketts has kindly agreed to attend the ceremony on behalf of SRA and RVR.

Dee will attend our RVR meeting on 1st, May, **at which the Mayor of Bromley will make a speech.** Margaret hopes to present Dee with a bouquet from RVR in gratitude for all she has done for our community over the years.

Green Bikes



Hired ebikes / scooters abandoned on the streets of Bromley, a hazard as well as an eyesore, can be reported on the Fix My Street section of the LBB website: <https://fix.bromley.gov.uk/>

Theoretically any such abandoned ebikes are likely to be close to the boundary with the borough of Lewisham as the GPS tracking device should cause the battery-assisted motor to cease to function after crossing into Bromley, which doesn't support the operation of such hired ebikes. However, some people are able to circumvent the cut-off feature and hence ride such bikes further into LBB.

Beckenham Place Park

The latest update on the East side improvements can be viewed at the following link:

<https://beckenhamplacepark.com/news?category=Park%20Updates>

The updates include news of the successful operation of the flood alleviation scheme during the autumn flooding and much other news and pictures.



One consequence of the very wet weather was some deterioration of the surface of parts of the new path, as seen in the adjacent picture, leading to difficulty wheeling pushchairs and cleaning dogs hair and shoe soles.

Park Ranger, Gavin Plaskitt, has been contacted and asked to talk to the contractors about the issue.

Meeting Dates

Members' meetings in 2025 will be held on the first Thursday, every other month, at 7:30pm at Shortlands Golf Club. All members and prospective members are welcome. The meetings normally last between 60 and 90 minutes and focus on local community and planning issues, the latter normally illustrated by a slide show. There is usually at least one of our local councillors in attendance to answer questions and log concerns. The bar is open during and after the meetings.

If you are registered for email delivery, you will receive minutes of completed meetings, agendas for forthcoming meetings and quarterly newsletters.

Forthcoming meetings, all at Shortlands Golf Club, are as follows:-

The Annual General Meeting: Thursday 6th March 2025 at 7:30 pm

Members' Meetings: 1st May, 3rd July, 6th September, 6th November at 7:30 pm

X and Bluesky

Don't forget that we post, both on X (formerly Twitter), and Bluesky, items that we believe to be relevant, interesting – and sometimes urgent, such as burst water mains and traffic problems. Links are on the right to view our posts and feel free to post items yourself if you have some news or information of interest to our members.

X Link: <https://x.com/RVResidents>

Bluesky link: <https://bsky.app/profile/rvresidents.bsky.social>



Current 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
Membership Secretary	Alastair Holmes	membership.secretary.rvr@outlook.com
Planning Officer	Clive Lees	planning.rvr@outlook.com
Newsletter Editor	Euan McMaster	editor.rvr@outlook.com
Webmaster	Vacant	webmaster.rvr@outlook.com
Roads and Traffic	Andrew Lancaster	roadsandtransport.rvr@outlook.com
Street Friends Coordinator	Nigel Foster	trees.rvr@outlook.com
LBBR Delegate	Vacant	secretary.rvr@outlook.com
BPP Rep	Liz Logan	bpp.rvr@outlook.com
Hon. Legal Advisor	Richard Thomas	
Auditor	Jayne Nickalls	

Road Representatives

Bracken Hill Lane and Close / Highland Road	Vanessa Redhouse
Bromley Ave / Grasmere Rd	Philip Wolfson
Calmont & Ashgrove Roads / Belgravia Gardens	Rita Smith
Coniston Road / Ullswater Close	Jane Doherty
Crab Hill / Foxgrove Road / The Avenue	Gonul Hussein
Elstree Hill / Erin Close / Hillbrow Road	Nicki Martin
Farnaby Road (1–81)	Jaki Moody
Farnaby Road (82–194)	Rosamond Eele
Madeira Avenue (Evens)	Judy Adcock
Madeira Avenue (Odds)	Anne Lancaster
Oaklands, Spencer, Hawkshead, Lullington	Stephen Edwards
Ravensbourne Ave. (Evens)	Monica Wiltshire
Ravensbourne Ave. (Odds)	David MacKenzie
Ravensmead Road	Peter Saunders
Warren Avenue	Clive Lees
Downs Hill / Downs Bridge Road	Vacant - Euan McMaster acting

If you wish to contact your road rep. please email or write to the RVR Secretary :

secretary.rvr@outlook.com

Or

RVR Secretary
35 Downs Hill
Beckenham
BR3 5ET