



MINUTES OF RVR MEETING

Thursday 8th January 2026 (Shortlands Golf Club)

Present: Margaret Brearley; Euan McMaster; Jacqueline St. Quinton; Jay Sharma; Joel Kibazo; Rosamond Eele; Beatrice Osborn; Dave & Monica Wiltshire; Cllr Michael Tickner; Cllr Gemma Turrell; Julie Foster; Nigel Foster; Alastair Holmes; Clive Lees; Andrew Lancaster; Bill & Cathryn Mitchell; Serena Gupba; Olivia Livesey; Christine Hollis; Nanthini Santhiapillai; David Page; Cecilia Willat; Susie Valenzuela; Dee Janes

1	<p>Welcome and opening remarks</p> <p>Margaret Brearley (Chair) presided over this Members' meeting. Her welcome address included upcoming events and apologies received.</p>
2	<p>Apologies received from Officers, Members & Councillors</p> <p>Peter & Tricia Saunders; Cllrs Felicity Bainbridge & Adam Grant; Gita Bapat; Carole and Alan Mullord; Sharon Richardson; Dolores & John Ealey; Yasmin Winstanley</p>
3	<p>Approval of minutes of last meeting and matters arising</p> <p>No matters arising from the last minutes. These are now approved.</p>
4	<p>The Invited speakers were welcomed to the meeting:</p> <p>Lydia Lewinson represents Bromley Homeless – a charity that assists the homeless (some 700 people/year) to deal with a variety of issues affecting their life. Many of the homeless (45% men / 43% women) who visit the charity are rough sleepers who have additionally suffered sexual abuse. Lydia recounted her experience when she joined the charity's 'sleep out' – an unpleasant experience even though she did not endure the abuse and harassment that is usual for many of the homeless. The charity's day service can provide items such as pre-owned clothing, food and medicine. The night service has 5 rooms available for shelter and referral to other services. Dee Janes (our third invited speaker) added that even when re-housed many people face great difficulties such as access to services, support from the Council and even demands for Council Tax. Anyone wishing to assist the homeless is requested to give food rather than money. The charity welcomes donations of coats, scarves, and toiletries. For more information about the charity's mission and activities, please see https://bromleyhomeless.org/</p> <p>Cecilia Willat – Fair Trade – our next speaker - was interviewed by our Vice-Chair Jay Sharma. Cecilia's explained what attracted her to Fair Trade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She explained how Fair Trade Rules benefit the producers of goods sold under that brand and how local, communal co-operatives help one another. A major benefit to producers is that they derive a steady income, are paid on time and can benefit from advice on issues such as their crops and climate change. • Under the Fair Trade umbrella, producers can grow produce that suit their communities' requirements – e.g. growing particular crops. Where appropriate, they can diversify and find additional income streams – e.g. beekeeping to produce honey – thus adding to their income. • As women are often the prime producers of goods in Fair Trade countries, monies raised are used to support their efforts – e.g. setting up small local shops. Asked about support from UK supermarkets for Fair Trade goods, Cecilia indicated that shoppers should look for the logo shown on those products. • Cecilia pointed to the table laden with items that she had brought as examples of the range of goods that can be purchased in stores to support the Fair Trade efforts. <p>Denise Janes (informally known as Dee) – Network Rail employee – at Shortlands Railway Station – our last speaker was introduced by our Chair (Margaret Brearley). Dee astounded us all by her range of initiatives to raise funds and awareness about the plight of some local residents. To date, Dee has raised some £550,000 – these funds have supported a number of charities and causes relating e.g. to arson attacks, food banks, first aid. Additionally, Dee has a record of keeping an eye on the security of the station carpark – even tackling perpetrators when necessary – and working with police officers as required. After 22 years at Shortlands Station, Dee is retiring from Network Rail. RVR and The Shortlands Residents Association (SRA) put Dee forward to receive the Mayor's medal – see https://www.bromley.gov.uk/news/article/812/local-volunteers-commended-at-mayor-s-awards. Dee's talk will be remembered not only for her reputation, commitment and generosity, but also for the humorous way in which she recounted her handling of matters arising in the course of her day (miscreants as well as well-behaved citizens). Our Chair even suggested that Dee might have a new career as a stand-up comic!!). More seriously and tangibly: one of Dee's many legacies will be the Shortlands Community Garden that she created - almost single-handedly.</p>

5	Finances
	<p>Treasurer (Sharon Richardson): Monies recorded for the period 6th Nov 2025 – 7th Jan 2026 are shown below:</p> <p>Income from subscriptions: the majority of members have paid their subscriptions – as follows: 85 x £10/household; 50 x £5/household; 3 x £50/household ('catch up subs)</p> <p>Expenditure: Insurance £151.84; Newsletter production £222.00; Santander Business Account charges £9.98</p> <p>Closing Balance as @ 22nd Dec 2025: £5746.42 Current Balance as @ 7th Jan 2026: £5831.42</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) Nigel gave a brief roundup of 2025's meetings, saying that the litter-picking group met 8 times and 65-70 litter bags were filled. The next meeting is due to take place on 17th February.</p>
7	RVR Membership
	<p>Membership Secretary (Alastair Holmes) 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): News from Councillor Michael Tickner is that the scheme for a pedestrian refuge on Crab Hill has been brought forward to LBB's 2026 programme following a delay with another scheme. Further news from LBB's Traffic Dept is that the design for the scheme is still in progress; consideration may be given to having 2 possible refuges. Due diligence will be undertaken, including consideration of the road geometry, the potential loss of parking bays, and the impact upon the bridge structure.</p> <p>Bill Mitchell provided an update regarding developments to mitigate the parking problems on the unmade-up section of Ravensbourne Avenue. LBB's current proposals are for no parking at any time on the east side; parking bays to be created on the west side, designated by planters, with paid for parking during the hours 08.30 – 18.30 Monday to Friday, free parking at the weekend; residents to have the opportunity of having parking permits. Whilst not totally meeting the desire of the residents, it is deemed the most appropriate proposal thus far and we accordingly await formal approval and its implementation.</p> <p>No traffic incidents have been reported by RVR residents since the last meeting. However, please report any accidents, etc, via the RVR website in order that accurate information and statistics can be gathered to enhance our ability to seek appropriate remedial action.</p> <p>Feedback& advice from the Shortlands & Park Langley Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panel include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 burglaries on Ravensbourne Avenue in the second half of December – the suspect broke in through a window & stole jewellery. Please take appropriate security measures. - The Community Road Watch is closing down on 23rd February following a review by the Met and TfL. Formal speed checks will continue but due to the many locations across the borough monitored by the police, there is the potential that there may not be many in the RVR area. However, if residents are particularly concerned re speeding vehicles, such issues can be raised via the Met Engage website - https://www.metengage.co.uk/ All RVR members are encouraged to sign up to Met Engage – which also enables public concerns re other criminal and anti-social behaviour to be logged. - Always report suspicious activity to the police, either by calling 999 if it is occurring at that moment, or by calling 101 if after the event. - The police will always welcome the sharing by residents of doorbell camera footage of suspicious or actual criminal activity; this can be facilitated via Met Engage. - Our local PCSO, Adam Charles, was due to hold a drop-in surgery at Shortlands Library on Saturday 24 January at 10.00.

9	Planning Issues
	<p>Planning Officer (Clive Lees) Updates are as follows:</p> <p>No planning information was presented due to technical problems with the Planning Officer's laptop. This information will be incorporated at the next meeting. The Newsletter (printed as well as website version) contains recent planning information.</p>
10	LBBRF (London Borough of Bromley Residents' Federation)
	<p>RVR delegate (Beatrice Osborn) – a brief reminder about LBBRF:</p> <p>No new information to report.</p>
11	Update from Councillors
	<p>Update from Cllr. Grant: Regarding an additional exit at Shortlands Railway Station: Funding of £5,000 is being sought to re-open the passage between Station Road and the station building.</p> <p>Information regarding the LBB recycling and waste services resident satisfaction survey was disseminated via email to our members on 28th October. This survey has now closed but residents can still report problems via Bromley's Fix My Street facility – this covers a range of issues experienced by residents: https://www.bromley.gov.uk/site-search/results/?q=fix+my+street</p>
12	Any Other Business
	<p>Sharing an item of interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beatrice Osborn (our former Vice-chair) completed a jigsaw puzzle of a Victorian map of the local area and thought people might be interested to see it. The jigsaw puzzle was set out on a spare table, allowing all to view the map and express their appreciation. <p>Date for your diary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RVR and SRA will host May election hustings on 24th April 2006. <p>RVR Social events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A small party was planned for the end of 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.
13	Next (Members') Meeting: Thursday, 7th May 2026 at 7.30 pm – Shortlands Golf Club