



DRAFT MINUTES OF RVR MEETING

Thursday 7th May 2026 (Shortlands Golf Club)

Present: Margaret Brearley; Jay Sharma; Rosamond Eele; Dave & Monica Wiltshire; Linda Muller, Nigel Foster, Gillian Lees, Pete Saunders, Wendy Watmore, Yasmin Winstanley, Rosamond Eele.

1	Welcome and opening remarks
	<p>Margaret Brearley (Chair) presided over this Members' meeting. She welcomed all who turned up, explaining we were low on numbers as it's election night. Welcome Pete Saunders a former chair.</p> <p>Referenced the recent success of both Bromley Football club and Millwall.</p> <p>Fed back on the Hustings which was a great success with a packed hall of 76 attendees. Keith Mills from SRA chaired, Mike Ricketts(SRA), Jay Sharma and Margaret Brearley (RVR) were the other organisers.</p> <p>Representatives from Conservative, Green, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties.</p> <p>All spoke well but Reform did not send any candidates.</p>
2	Apologies received from Officers, Members & Councillors
	Jacqueline St. Quinton; Nanthini Santhiapillai; Clive Lees; Beatrice Osborn, Andrew Lancaster, Euan McMaster, Nicola Martin
3	Approval of minutes of last meeting and matters arising
	Minutes available online. January minutes accepted. AGM minutes to be discussed at next AGM in March 2027.
a	RVR Committee-No changes
b	Need a Beckenham Park Place rep.
4	Planning Issues
	<p>Planning Officer (Clive Lees) Updates are as follows: Gillian delivered on Clive's behalf.</p> <p>The Chalet on Kirkstone Way-the owner has started tidying up following the court appointment. It remains under observation and we will continue to monitor the situation.</p> <p>79 Coniston Road- Application for 3 flats dismissed, but we still have concerns about what is happening at the property. The situation remains under observation.</p> <p>100 Ravensbourne Avenue- This property is now liable to a breach of condition notice as no progress has been made to alter the roof. We are pressing Bromley Council on this.</p> <p>Matilda House, Hillbrow Road- It has taken seven years to get two trees planted and still no progress has been made. Residents have escalated this by submitting a formal question to the Council. We will share the response when available.</p> <p>Shortlands Tavern- Permission for shipping container on site refused. We are now waiting for it to be removed which we will continue to chase. An appeal is possible, but guaranteed to be dismissed.</p> <p>101 Farnaby Rd- Unauthorised development on site. Waiting for Bromley Council to decide if to approve or need further changes. We will continue to monitor.</p> <p>In summary, we are seeing some positive steps on Kirkstone Way and Coniston Road, but several of the other cases continue to drag on. The common theme, as always, is the need for the Council to follow through on enforcement. We will continue to keep pushing on all of these and bring updates at the next meeting. Any questions can be directed to Clive.</p>
5	Finances

	<p>Treasurer (Nanthini Santhiapillai; Figures for period January to 31st March, 2026 Few memberships in first quarter. Majority of membership fees paid in December £4884 in bank £900 down from last year Spent on Newsletter printing, venue hire and events We will be better off soon as subs come in The Treasurer would like to change standing order to 1st June to make accounting easier and will arrange to speak to road reps before this goes out.</p>
6	Street Friends/Community Projects/Issues
a	<p>Street Friends (Nigel Foster) Met on 26/03/2026 and had a good session, collected 10 bags of rubbish. Pete and Linda were commended for doing extra time – over 2 hours. Next date is 19th May 2026 at 10am at Ravensbourne Station. Nigel is hoping to get some rubbish bags from Lewisham Council so that the team can go into the park as well.</p>
b	<p>Beckenham Place Park- Gillian noted that the BPP website had not been updated for some time although the website for the Mansion is informative. She had found Facebook helpful for updates. The three music concerts (Symphonic Ibiza, Park Rock Lewisham and Sundown Country Festival) planned for the weekend of 5th-7th June have been cancelled. Social media comments suggest that this is due to poor marketing and low ticket sales. The Taste of Caribbean Food & Drink Festival is scheduled for Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th July. The former Foxgrove Social Club has been bought by El Molino, who run a tapas restaurant near Clock House Station in Beckenham. The annual Broom Day is taking place on Sunday 10th May. This will include a parade from the Glades Shopping Centre to Martins Hill. Pictures of participants in the parade would be welcome for the newsletter.</p>
7	RVR Membership
	<p>Membership Secretary – Euan McMaster Euan has successfully taken over the membership secretary account. Current Membership stands at 478 households and 15 honorary members. He has updated the information sheet introducing the Society to be given to each new member and introduce non-members to join.</p>
8	Road Safety & Traffic (RS&T)
	<p>RS&T Officer (Andrew Lancaster): - . Nothing to Report -</p>
9	Update from Councillors
	<p>Update from Cllr. No Councillors present as it's election day.</p>
	LBBRF (London Borough of Bromley Residents' Federation)
	<p>RVR delegate (Beatrice Osborn) – a brief reminder about LBBRF: A campaign started to save greenbelt. Residents asked to sign petition which will be circulated via the website and included in the newsletter</p>
10	Any Other Business

The Shortlands Historical Walk led by Mike Ricketts: confirmed as Saturday 27th June at 2.30pm (NOT 31st May as originally stated in the agenda). If interested, please contact Linda Müller (linda.muller2021@gmail.com).

Professor Nicola Martin provided a report on a worrying rat problem. A feeding station has been set up to feed rats near Ravensbourne Station and Warren Avenue playing field and replenished daily. Notices have been put up to ask the person feeding the rats to stop to no effect. She had contacted the Council who had shown no interest in dealing with the problem. The Chairman suggested that we should pursue this matter further.

11 Guest Speaker- Martin Stone – Innovative soup kitchens.

Martin is a former Lecturer in Housing and Homelessness, Director of Muswell Hill Soup Kitchen and Founder of both Next Meal (nextmeal.co.uk) and Street Smart Ai. These organisations help homeless people to locate their next meal. Having been a lecturer in the subject, he took over the soup kitchen over twenty years ago and transformed it so that it now offers food, clothes, jazz events and outings. When he took over the kitchen, he was shocked to discover that the commitment was five nights per week. He also knew nothing about cooking or the wretchedness of homelessness. The challenge was to find somebody who did know about cooking and in the process, he found plenty of mentors. He discovered that to run something effectively, it is important not to do things yourself because you won't serve people in need properly. Martin told us that he had never made the soup in twenty but he knows people who do. He told us that it was his job to do nothing!

Martin also explained that IT has been a great benefit as it has enabled the development of Next Meal and Street Smart AI.

Martin had brought along a Paddington Bear toy and asked us what was the connection between Paddington Bear and homelessness. He explained that he had gone to Paddington Station to buy a bear for his grandson, but had been unable to access the shop on account of the large numbers of homeless people. Even the waiting rooms were closed and the station was not functioning properly as a railway station. So how do you solve the problem and balance freedom and constraint? How do we care for homeless people AND keep the station running? The solution was to line up local charities to receive the station homeless and to persuade the homeless to access these services. For example, 120 people at Paddington Station were persuaded to access the services of St Martin's-in-the-Fields. In effect, people were given a card to tell them where to find their next meal. By giving people an option to go elsewhere, the station was cleared of homeless people, so enabling Paddington Station to perform its proper function again.

Martin also mentioned that he had worked with GWR to develop a digital marker. These are put on places of vulnerability eg railway bridges. By putting your phone on the marker, you can access details of where you can get mental health support.

He then invented an Ai chat bot (Street Smart AI) for people to talk to anytime in any country in their own language. He also set Up Grub Street News in London and Paris.

In summary Martin explained that homelessness is about creating jobs in the right places and then housing can follow where the jobs are.

The Chairman thanked Martin for a 'splendidly idiosyncratic' talk and highlighted the amazing soup kitchen. Martin provided cards with the details of Next Meal and Street Smart AI.

12 Next (Members') Meeting: Thursday 2nd July 2026 at 7.30 pm – Shortlands Golf Club

The speaker will be Sam Brearley (Margaret's son) a History teacher, who has developed guided walks on VoiceMap, including one on Churchill and one of Crystal Palace Park where you can see (virtually) what you would have seen at the Great Exhibition in 1851. There will be a 25 minute illustrated talk and there is a possibility of a guided walk of Crystal Palace Park for members in the summer.

