

# MINUTES OF RVR MEETING

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 (Shortlands Golf Club)



Present:

Margaret Brearley (Chair), Jacqueline St Quinton (Secretary), Sharon Richardson (Treasurer), Alastair Holmes (Membership Secretary), Euan McMaster (Newsletter Editor), Clive Lees (Planning Officer), Linda Müller (Social Secretary), Andrew Lancaster (Roads and Traffic), Liz Logan (BPP Rep.), Monica Wiltshire (Street Friends Coordinator), Dave Wiltshire, Terry Richardson, Parisa Wright, Steve Hadley, Val Crowdy, David Page, Rosamund Eele, Martin Poupard, Mary Esirorie, Eileen Deraniyagala, Julie Foster, Nigel Foster, Chris Porter, Bill Mitchell, Rhiannon Byers, Philip Johnson, Cllr Graeme Casey

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; opening remarks</b>
	The Chairman presided over the meeting.
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies, acceptance of apologies, absence of Officers</b>
	Apologies received from: Jane Willcocks, Cllr Tickner.
<b>3</b>	<b>Approval of minutes of last meeting and discussion of matters arising</b>
	The minutes of the January members' meeting were approved.
<b>3a)</b>	<p>The Chairman presented the summary of activities since the January members' meeting and thanked the officers and members who enabled them. She expanded on the success of the local election Hustings and indicated there will be future iterations when required.</p> <p>She also praised members of RVR and SRA for their generous donations to the Shortlands arson attack appeal, organised by Dee at Shortlands Station and thanked Dee for her stalwart efforts.</p>
<b>3b)</b>	The Chairman detailed the changes to the RVR committee, as listed in the Agenda.
<b>4</b>	<b>Guest Speaker – Superintendent Luke Baldock</b>
	<p>The Superintendent gave a very lucid talk, commencing with a brief overview of his career to date, which includes several postings with the Met Police, including, latterly, in the Firearms Unit. He went on to say his preference is for local community involvement and that he was happy to return to Bromley following recommendations in the report by Baroness Casey.</p> <p>He indicated he has built up his team to 3 Inspectors, 12 Sergeants and 30+ Constables and with support staff the force numbers some 120 personnel. He plans to further increase the force but indicated that recruitment is proving difficult.</p> <p>His stated priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enforce, in his staff, a better attitude to the public and their issues.</li><li>• Increase focus on motor vehicle crime.</li><li>• Increase focus burglaries.</li></ul> <p>He did comment that recent increase in the level of protests in Central London draw officers away from Bromley and other boroughs temporarily affecting local enforcement.</p> <p>A lively Q and A session ensued and the Superintendent successfully fielded questions, among others, on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Driving behaviour and illegal modifications relating to noise levels<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Motor bike police are increasing their presence.</li><li>○ Force now has 4 speed guns and 20 trained officers, which he claims will reduce the backlog of requests for monitoring.</li><li>○ Investigating the use of drones to track offenders.</li></ul></li><li>• Vehicle theft, including the question if Bromley is considered a “dodgy” area.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Unfortunately a country wide problem fuelled by the increase in organised gangs shipping high value vehicles and parts abroad. Bromley definitely not “dodgy”. (Our Chairman endorsed this statement by reporting that Bromley has about half the reported crime compared to Muswell Hill where she lived previously).</li><li>○ Recommended owners to keep their keys in a faraday cage to prevent them being cloned</li></ul></li><li>• Speeding and ignoring level crossings. Whether wider use through the day of 20mph zones could help.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Suggested route is for residents to become more involved in “community speed watch” whereby residents can be trained in the use of speed guns and reporting of offenders.</li></ul></li><li>• The deployment of “Special Constables” (volunteer police officers)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The intention is to increase the size of the special force.</li></ul></li></ul>

## 5 Planning Issues

The planning section was presented by Clive Lees, detailing the following:

**The Chalet, Kirkstone Way:** An enforcement notice has been posted and the Council appear to be serious about implementing it.

**Shortland Station:** The plans were adopted with only minor improvements in the aesthetics.

**79 Coniston Road:** An inspection by the Council is overdue. The house needs to be restored to a single-family residence pending further application for development.

**Shortlands Conservation Area Potential Breaches:**

97 Ravensbourne Avenue – new door may not be acceptable.

80 Beckenham Lane – The windows no longer match, against planning permission.

Some questions were posed by attendees, viz:

Q: How much should we worry about the legislation that allows owners to add extra stories to their property

A: Bromley Council are blocking most attempts to implement such changes

Q: Pavement outside new development in Madeira Rd has tarmac instead of paving. Is it acceptable.

A: Not a planning issue, to be investigated

Q: Will bio-diversity rules still be strongly considered, as the person responsible in the planning department moved away in April

A: Too soon to tell, will be monitored

## 6 Finances

(a) The Treasurer indicated that RVR is in the process of moving, as far as possible, to online banking and that residents are strongly encouraged to pay their subscription, in future, by Standing Order. She told the Road Reps present (and will contact those not present) that cash payments by members not able or willing to pay by Standing Order will, in future be collected from the Road Reps by Emma Fagg and reported to the Treasurer.

The Treasurer delivered the finance report for the financial year to date as follows:

**The General Reserve: £7944.98** consisting of Santander Current Account £2465.24, NS&I Investment Account £5342.10, Petty Cash £137.64

**Receipts: £199.01** consisting of Members' Subscriptions £158.00, NS&I Interest £41.01

**Payments: £1943.63** consisting of Expenses and Donations \*

**Surplus / Deficit Y-t-D: £1744.62 deficit**

Expenses recently have been higher than usual, viz:

AGM (07/03/2024)

Shortlands Golf Club room rental £150

Shortlands Golf Club catering £90

Music by Roland Perrin £200

Display Board purchase £25.63

Cheese and Wine Party to thank Road Reps and Street Friends

(payments pending re: Santander change of signatories)

Beverages £119

Food £100

Hustings (24/04/2024)

Shortlands Golf Club room rental £100 (SRA also paid £100)

Members' meeting (02/05/2024)

Shortlands Golf Club room rental £150

Miscellaneous

(payment pending re: Santander change of signatories)

Speaker and microphone system £188

Recent Donations - none

**Total £1122.63**

(b) A proposal was made by the Newsletter Editor to support the Parade Grant of £10,000 awarded by Bromley Council following an application by our former councillor Aisha Cuthbert. An approximate illustration of the scheme was shown. It consists of 5 new planter boxes and 3 new benches to be located on the forecourt in front of the shops on the south side of Beckenham Lane near Shortland Station. There is a potential issue blocking the scheme in that it has not, so far, been possible to identify the owner(s) of the land involved. Assuming the ownership issue is resolved and the scheme proceeds, Shortland Residents Association (SRA) have agreed to support it with a donation of £500. The proposal, that RVR should match that donation, was put to the vote and the members present agreed to it.

(c)	<p>A request has been made to RVR, via our Chair, to support Bromley Environment Network (BEN) of which RVR is a Founder Member, one of 8.</p> <p>Clive Lees, who was Chair of RVR at the time of the founding of BEN, provided an overview of the launch process and his involvement in the writing of the organisation's constitution. The initial contribution of the founder members was £50. Clive endorsed ongoing involvement by RVR following something of a hiatus during the recent pandemic.</p> <p>Parisa Wright, Founder and Chief Vision Officer of BEN, and of registered charity "Greener and Cleaner" provided a history of the organisation and an overview of its goals, viz: to make Bromley a nicer and safer place to live in by soliciting co-operative efforts by diverse groups and organisations.</p> <p>The regular newsletter produced by BEN was originally a volunteer effort but contributions of articles and volunteer assistance tailed off during the pandemic and in 2021 the BEN executive committee decided to employ professional help to the tune of half a day per week, which also provides for general co-ordination of the BEN.</p> <p>BEN funds will be exhausted by July 2024 and the executive committee (consisting of Chairs of Founder members) are seeking to raise £5200 for the professional fees plus £102 maintenance charges for the next year and to make provision for ongoing funding thereafter. They are inviting contributions from the 8 founder members of up to £663 and the BEN executives are to meet later in May to discuss ideas for ongoing funding initiatives.</p> <p>Some members commented that they were not aware of BEN or of our participation and the Newsletter Editor, who is a nominated individual representative for RVR, agreed to work with Parisa to improve the visibility and to provide links to BEN Newsletters and other communications.</p> <p>Our Chair proposed that we should make an immediate contribution of £100 and, depending on the outcome of the Imminent BEN meeting, potentially propose an additional contribution at our next members' meeting in July. The members present accepted the proposal.</p>
<b>7 Community Projects/Issues</b>	
a)	<p><b>Street Friends</b></p> <p>Monica Wiltshire reported – as follows:</p> <p>We encouraged supporters to bring their children to our last meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> March but, for various reasons, the turnout was significantly lower than usual – only 4 Friends. However, there were 3 children as well who seemed to enjoy the occasion. We will reinforce the invitation as a family event when we issue the date for next event. Council representative Maria Kampiotti will be joining the event.</p> <p>Monica also told members she will be standing down as Street Friends Representative at the next AGM in March 2025, to encourage someone with fresh ideas to take over. She also held the post of Tree Officer until recently but the workload of both posts was quite high.</p> <p>Our Chair called for a volunteer to take on the role of Tree Officer forthwith and for interested members to find out more about the role of Street Friends Coordinator with a view to taking it on next year.</p>
b)	<p><b>Beckenham Place Park Update</b></p> <p>Liz Logan reported – as follows:</p> <p>The improvement works in the East side of the park have fallen behind schedule, mainly due tom the recent very wet weather. An update of progress is always available on the BPP website.</p> <p>The West side of the park is vibrant nowadays, there are lots of events and activities for which schedules are viewable on the BPP website.</p> <p>There will be a 3 - day music event this year, 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> August, with extended music and alcohol licensing hours.</p>
<b>8 Membership Matters</b>	
The Membership Secretary commented on the surge of new memberships following the well-attended AGM in March,	
<b>9 Transport Issues</b>	
<p><b>The Roads &amp; Traffic Group</b> has not met recently so there is not very much to report, only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bromley Council are resisting proposals to create Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs)</li> <li>- The Farnaby Road closure looks like being extended for a short period as work is behind schedule</li> </ul>	
<b>10 Input from Councillors</b>	
<p><b>Cllr Graeme Casey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proposed thanks to Superintendent Luke Baldock, for his excellent talk, and to the police in general.</li> <li>- Promised to raise awareness at Council meetings of the situation at 79 Coniston Road (see above)</li> <li>- Indicated his approval of the initiative to get the Challet cleaned up (see above)</li> <li>- Promised to get involved in the proposal to add extra storey to property in Oaklands Road</li> </ul>	

<b>11</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>
<p><b>a)</b></p> <p><b>b)</b></p> <p><b>c)</b></p>	<p>The Newsletter Editor gave a short overview of his attendance, along with Linda Müller, at the SRA AGM. He reported that the meeting was predominantly focused on planning issues, the association's finances and election of their committee.</p> <p>The President's comments largely concerned the 90-year period since the inception of SRA and the role that residents' associations have in influencing those in power.</p> <p>The Chairman's report discussed the activities of SRA in the preceding year and the increased co-operation between SRA and RVR.</p> <p>Our Chair indicated that there will some social events in the near future, viz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A guided walk in Beckenham Place Park, <b>on 17<sup>th</sup> May</b>, led by the Park Ranger</li> <li>- A garden party at Harcourt House <b>on 30<sup>th</sup> June</b>, hosted by Margaret Brearley</li> <li>- A history themed walk around the RVR area, <b>on 13<sup>th</sup> July</b>, led by Margaret Brearley</li> <li>- A murder / mystery fund-raising evening at Harcourt House, <b>on 22<sup>nd</sup> October</b>, organised by Bromley Little Theatre</li> <li>- A General Election Hustings, jointly with SRA, at Shortlands Golf Club, <b>date TBD</b>.</li> </ul> <p>Numbers for these events will be limited. Details of how to apply to join them are provided at the beginning of the mailshot.</p> <p>The Chairman proposed that future meetings should commence <b>at 7:30 pm</b> to encourage members to linger afterwards to socialise.</p> <p>The proposal was accepted by the members present.</p>
<b>12</b>	<b>Next meeting: Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 7.30pm – Shortlands Golf Club.</b>

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm