



MINUTES OF RVR MEETING

Thursday 5th September 2024 (Shortlands Golf Club)

Present:

Margaret Brearley (Chair) Beatrice Osborn; (Vice-Chair); Euan McMaster (Newsletter Editor); Jacqueline St. Quinton (RVR secretary); Clive Lees (Planning Officer); Sharon Richardson (Treasurer); Emma Fagg (Deputy Treasurer); Alastair Holmes (Membership Secretary); Dave Wiltshire; Monica Wiltshire (Street Friends); Carole & Alan Mullord; Rosamond Eele Andrew Lancaster (Road & Traffic); Julie & Nigel Foster; Steve Hadley; Linda Muller (Social Sec); Wendy Watmore; John & Dolores Ealey; Richard Fagg; Joel Kibazo; Bernard Becker; Gita & John Beecroft; Tony Guyver; Christina Brown; Cllrs Julie Ireland, Michael Tickner, Felicity Bainbridge, Adam Grant, Gemma Turrell

1	Welcome and opening remarks
	The Chairman presided over the meeting.
2	Special announcement
	Euan McMaster informed the meeting of the sad passing of Cathy Davies – a long-standing RVR member, road rep and friend. Details of her funeral and wake (19 th September) were shared, giving the opportunity for any of those present to attend if they so wished.
3	Apologies received from Officers, Members & Councillors
	Jayne Nickalls; Philip Johnson; Tony Illingworth, David Massey; Pete Saunders; Liz Logan; Rev Mark & Mrs Vanessa Redhouse; Terry Richardson; Sam Webber; David Page
4	Approval of minutes of last meeting and matters arising
	No new amendments to the July minutes were flagged. These minutes are now approved.
5	Elected Officers: No changes to flag Appointed Officers: No changes to current incumbents, but there is an urgent need for a Webmaster to carry out a comprehensive overhaul to (a) make it easily accessible to all members, including those with specific needs; (b) update the website regularly to ensure that the information therein is current. Please contact the RVR secretary secretary.rvr@outlook.com to apply or for further information.
6	Guest speaker: Conrad Kader & Peter Carroll - Street Pastors
	The guests talked about their work and demonstrated some of the items that they generally have to hand to help those in need as they encounter them on the streets of Bromley & Beckenham. The useful items they carry include flip-flop sandals (for wearers of high heels who are unable to walk after a long evening); dustpan & brush to clear up broken glass debris; wet wipes to clear up blood from wounds; foil blankets to ward off the cold; information for rehabilitation. Street Pastors are a Christian-based organisation but stress that they are not preachers but are there to aid the community. Their funding comes from charitable donations, the Police and the Council. They offer anyone interested an opportunity to be observers during their patrols or to support their work in other ways. Donations as well as prayers are welcome. Anyone interested should contact the Beckenham Street Pastor Coordinator, Jenny Davis, at this address jennydavis2@yahoo.co.uk . Cllr Tickner commented that Beckenham is considered by the youth of the area to be a safe night venue: this is due to the work of Street Pastors (rather than the Police). He also asked how the Pastors assess genuine need as opposed to scammers and the Pastors responded that their network shares such information.
5	Planning Issues
	Shortlands Station: The approved design is not 'buildable' – trestles will be needed to support the bridge. These are unattractive structures and will need to be clad; the planned door arches are not considered possible and the windowsills are unacceptable. The completion date for this project is uncertain at present.
	79 Coniston Road: The HMO is to be dismantled; it has not been done yet and the owners may be prosecuted. Penalties may include the sequestration of rent paid to date on these premises.
	100 Ravensbourne Ave: Application was made for a modified extension – it was refused. This was a retrospective application and will probably need to be reviewed.
	75 Downs Hill: An 'illegal' wall – the retrospective application may not succeed; there are policy standards on fences, hedges and walls. This is not an isolated example: Cllr Grant commented that similar issues have been found in the Park Langley area.
	64 Warren Avenue: The problem here is similar to that for 75 Downs Hill.
	18 Ravensbourne Avenue: contentious doors are now 'hidden' behind an acceptable façade; however the removal of the porch sill is a problem – as it should have been agreed in advance.

6	Finances
(a)	<p>The Treasurer's finance report was presented by Sharon Richardson, highlighting the receipts (members' subscriptions) as follows: £592.00. Payments: Expenses and donations for the financial year to date - £1862.87. Deficit for the year: £3015.49. The General Reserve (Santander Current Account now includes money transferred from the NS&I Investment Account) amounts to £6956.37. TO NOTE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NS&I account has been closed and the money transferred to the RVR current account funds. • RVR subscriptions are low at present: of the 516 members, 118 have already paid their subscription for 2025. • Subscriptions: The current subscription amount for 2025 will increase to £10.00. Members will be informed of the details in the next few weeks. • RVR Members are urged to pay by Standing Order or Bank Transfer; however, for those who are unable to do so, the Road Reps will continue to collect cash from them.
(c)	<p>Use of reserves for supporting projects within the RVR area. Any new proposals for support? e.g. Shortlands Parade Grant</p> <p>Not discussed at the meeting. An update may be available at the next RVR members' meeting in November.</p>
7	Community Projects/Issues
(a)	<p>Report from Monica Wiltshire re. LITTER-PICKING, TIDYING UNRULY VEGETATION, ETC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The August meeting was intended to model the importance of litter-picking to children and families. Among us was Andrew & his daughter Chloe from Valley School – they were not RVR members but had been interested to read the last Newsletter that was delivered to non-members as well. They enjoyed their time with us and suggested we contact Valley School to invite a group of pupils and parents to join us for a litter picking session. • Thoughts on activities for the next sessions: to tidy the Bromley Avenue brick planter at the junction of Warren Avenue and Farnaby Road; the planter at the station; plant bulbs at the Elstree Road entrance to Warren Avenue Playing Field; Litter picking and cutting back overgrowth are all 'on the table' too. • Nigel Foster, a RVR Street Friend, will take over as Street Friend Coordinator at the end of October/beginning of November. I will continue as a Street Friend and avid litter picker and as Road Rep for Ravensbourne Avenue evens. A warm welcome to Nigel on behalf of us all. • We have had suggestions for bulb planting and looking after the planter at the bottom of Bromley Avenue so there are lots of ideas to take forward. Our next session is on Tuesday 24th September 10-12. • The issue of RVR-funded benches at Beckenham Place Park was raised: we shall be providing funds for a teak memorial bench to remember Leslie Tucker (a founder member of RVR). The cost will be around £1450 and the installation is likely to take place in Oct/Nov 2024 once the heavy construction work on the east side of the park is completed. There will be plaque commemorating Leslie Tucker – the wording will be provided by his children. At a later date we may plant a young cedar tree: for interest, the RVR logo represents this tree and points to the reason for the formation of the residents' association.
(b)	<p>Beckenham Place Park (BPP): update from RVR's Liz Logan The proposed date for the Grand opening of the East Side of Beckenham Place Park is due to take place on Sat 21st September I will be there and hope others can attend too, maybe Mayor Sadiq Khan will attend and or other Lewisham councillors. Also on 21st September – 11am until 4pm: The River Ravensbourne Festival in the park.</p>
8	<p>RVR Membership</p> <p>Membership updates: 1 new member joining the Association, and two members who have chosen not to continue their membership. Cllr Felicity Bainbridge enquired if it was acceptable for a councillor to pay for RVR membership and offered to do so: the response was YES.</p>
9	<p>RVR Social Events</p> <p>Short summary of events since July meeting: generally not as well attended as we had hoped.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13th July 2:30 pm - Historical Walk around RVR area: good event but the one organised by the Shortlands Residents Association (SRA) was considered better. A repeat of SRA's event will be requested. • 12th August 11:00 am - Visit to Bromley & Sheppards Colleges: not as well supported as hoped (15/20). • 22nd August 2.30 pm – Visit to The Keeping Gallery, Shortlands: this event had to be cancelled due to very low interest – only 1 person applied to join.

	<p>Other ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morris dancing: The Ravensbourne Morris Men is a team of dancers who practise at Keston. Their programme of events can be found at https://www.ravensbourne.org/home. Among these events is a May Day Sunrise celebration at Keston Ponds. See https://www.ravensbourne.org/programme. Any interest among RVR members in this? • Sunday Evening Forum: Margaret Brearley (Chair) is planning to host a series of events featuring a speaker of note. Once fully formulated, details will be announced regarding the speaker, the venue and the maximum number of attendees. • RVR welcomes proposals for social events that the membership might enjoy, please inform the RVR Social Events Coordinator or the RVR Secretary.
10	<p>Road Safety & Traffic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents are advised to ensure that their vehicles are properly secured, with no valuables left inside them, following recent instances caught on camera of criminally minded individuals attempting to open car doors. If such activity is spotted, residents are urged to contact the police immediately by calling 999. • Potential car thieves were seen off by a member of the ticket office staff at Shortlands Railway Station - a valiant effort but potentially very risky ... much better to contact the police if you spot anything suspicious. • At August's Safer Neighbourhood Panel ("SNP") meeting Councillor Felicity Bainbridge had mentioned that if "SLOW" signage painted on the road at relevant junctions had become faint, please contact the Council via the Councillors to request a repainting to assist in reducing vehicle speed. • At the SNP meeting a member highlighted guidance given at another public meeting in respect of pickpocketing. For example, take care if public address announcements are made warning of pickpockets in the area; checking that your wallet/purse/phone etc is still in your pocket (or wherever) actually gives away to potentially watching pickpockets the location of such valuables. • The next Crime Summit hosted by the Met Police is scheduled to be held on Saturday 28 September, 8.30am for 9.00am start, at the Civic Centre at Stockwell Close. This is open to any members of the public and has previously been very informative, as well as being a good opportunity to chat with members of the local police. <i>This meeting was cancelled – a new date will be notified when available.</i>
11	<p>Update from the Councillors</p> <p>Cllr Ireland: Approval has been obtained for the Waitrose Tower. The Churchill Theatre was sold at the end of July – details to be available end Sept. The library survey regarding plans is now open – the proposed move will take place in 2026. The Civic Centre has now been sold – details were expected in September. A sad note is the closure of the Picture House. RVR members can subscribe to the LibDem Newsletter to find out other news at https://www.bromleylibdems.org.uk/newsletter.</p> <p>Cllr Tickner: The Foxgrove roundabout is now in place and operational; the centre part is due to be raised 2/3 October. See information at https://www.bromleyconservativegroup.org.uk/news/new-junction-southend-rd-foxgrove-rd-park-rd</p> <p>Cllr Bainbridge: work in progress includes: pushing for better policing of traffic issues – via SNWP; better lighting at Shortlands Station; fewer bins in the station yard; repainting the mural at the back of the station; illegal parking.</p> <p>Cllr Adam Grant: new bicycle racks are not in place – the old ones will be removed. In response to the query about the lime green bikes – Cllr Grant said that the range of these bikes will not be extended to Bromley.</p>
12	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urgently Required: Webmaster – to update and maintain the RVR website. • An interesting activity was highlighted by our Chair - <i>Memories of Crystal Palace: A Tour Through Time</i>. This is a VoiceMap audio tour app that can be purchased to inform a walk around Crystal Palace, highlighting points of interest along the route and taking one back in time (historically speaking!). For more information and purchase of the app, please see https://voicemap.me/tour/london/memories-of-crystal-palace-a-tour-through-time
13	<p>Next Meeting: Thursday, 7th November 2024 at 7.30 pm</p>