

MINUTES OF RVR MEETING

Held on Thursday 4th July 2019
at The Bromley Court Hotel



Those present:

Judy Adcock	Christina Brown	Barida Daanwi
Andy Dawson	Stella Garfield	Anthony Guyver
Cllr. Will Harmer	Linda Harvey- Shipp	Keith Hutton
Tony Illingworth	Maureen Johnson	Anna Koffer
Liz Logan	Euan McMaster	Karl Martin
Sharon Miles	Catherine Morgan	Alan Mullord
Carole Mullord	Beatrice Osborn *	Paul Osborne
David Page	Mal Pinson	Mick Pinson
Chris Porter	Markku Syväniemi	Leslie Tucker
Wendy Watmore	Dave Wiltshire	Monica Wiltshire
Parisa Wright		

*Chair

1 Apologies:

Dolores Ealey	John Ealey	Wally Johnson	Bill Mitchell
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Absence of officers: Clive Lees, Linda Müller

2 Minutes of last meeting: Incorrect spelling of Leslie noted, otherwise approved.

3 Finances:

Dave Wiltshire gave the Treasurer's report from 1st January 2019 – 4th July 2019.

Receipts:	
Members' subscriptions for the financial year to date	£145.00
NS&I interest	£55.89
Payments:	
Expenses and donations for the financial year to date	£3,699.02
Surplus/Deficit for the year:	£3,498.13 (deficit)
General Reserve:	
Santander Current Account	£3,234.42
National Savings Investment Account	£5,216.05
Petty cash	£491.86
Total:	£8,942.33

The £3000 payment for phase 2 of the tree project has been paid to LBB although the cheque has yet to be presented by LBB for payment.

4 Community Projects:

a) Beckenham Place Park (BPP):

Events: Flower and dog show well attended, but the number of flower show entries was disappointing. Peckish Place Park: regular Thursday evening event over the summer (4pm-10pm) featuring food, drinks, and inside workshops. Launch event: Sat. 20th July. The lake will be open for swimming and boat hire, the new café will be open and there will be live music and activities. Naked City Festival: Sat. 27th July.

Works: The lake is at its final water level. Play area is open although further work is ongoing. Pleasure Grounds are being redesigned to serve a 21st century community and should be finished by the launch. The Homestead will house a large café, education centre and public toilets. Cottages will be let out to other users, appropriate to the park setting. Stable yard will be transformed into an attractive courtyard with planting and picnic benches. The new larger car park is opposite the Homestead on the other side of the drive.

b) Community Activities:

Tree friends: Six feature tree pits were tidied and planted on 15th June, in Farnaby Rd., Crab Hill and Madeira Ave. The next project is to clear nettles and brambles around a cluster of birch trees in Warren Ave. Playing Fields on 6th July.

Recycling box nets project: Proposed to purchase 250 nets initially and offer 2 nets per household in Warren Ave., Ravensbourne Ave., Madeira Ave. and Farnaby Rd. Depending on how that goes, increase distribution to other areas. Purchase approved. Nets available from all LBB libraries at £1.20 each. Extra recycling bins can be requested free from the LBB website.

5 Planning Issues:

a) Bromley

Trees, Coniston Road: Demolition of existing dwelling and garage and erection of a three-storey terrace of five dwellings. Appeal dismissed as development would cause harm to the character of the appeal site and surrounding area, including a protected tree on site.

5 Madeira Avenue: Part first floor/part two storey side extension, loft conversion with rear dormer, associated decking/steps to rear and detached garage to side. Appeal allowed.

2A Downs Hill: Appeal against enforcement notice issued for unauthorised construction of car port.

1 Ethelbert Close: Application for 410 residential units. RVR objected. Consultation extended to 30th July.

Site 10 Draft Local Plan (formerly Opportunity Site G): Consultation on masterplan for development to include 1230 residential units, offices, retail and transport interchange extended to 30th July 2019. Questionnaire on the council website.

Bromley Court Hotel: Details of access, appearance and landscaping for the outline component of hybrid planning permission, plus alterations to the existing access and increased parking provision (total 92 spaces). Approved with conditions.

The Chalet, Kirkstone Way: Demolition of existing building, erection of two semi-detached houses with 3 bedrooms, open living area and external patio. Application refused.

87 Beckenham Lane: Application for demolition of existing 2 storey building and single storey side element refused as insufficient information received to show demolition works will not have an adverse impact on free flow of traffic and safety along the adjacent highway.

46 Ravensbourne Avenue: An application intended to regularise the situation was withdrawn from Planning Committee by Chief Planner for technical reasons. Awaiting decision as to next steps.

b) Lewisham:

The Mansion, Beckenham Place Park: Retrospective, temporary change of use of BPP Mansion to mixed use including artists' studios, yoga/fitness centre and use of first floor units as residential accommodation.

26 Hillbrow Road: Demolition of existing building and construction of a one storey building and 3 two storey buildings comprising 3 x one-bedroom, 1x two-bedroom 1x three-bedroom flats and 1x one-bedroom house. Lots of objections. LBB has also objected due to the impact on neighbouring properties within the LBB.

c) Tree issues:

Trees, Coniston Road and The Chalet, Kirkstone: Chris Ryder (Principal Tree Officer at LBB) has been asked if further TPOs could be made on these sites in case further applications for development are made. Tree branches overhanging pavements is a problem in some areas - contact 'Fix my street' to rectify.

6 Transport issues:

Speed checks take place four times a month in Bromley. This month Farnaby Rd., Warren Ave., and Ravensbourne Ave. will be targeted. Monitoring between 8-10am or 3-5pm to catch commuter traffic. New pedestrian crossings requested in area around Ravensbourne Station. Parking arrangements are going to be changed, but no details to date. Proposal for Shortlands area development are due in Sept./Oct. and will go out for public consultation.

7 Environmental Issues: Climate change and our response to it.

Flooding due to heavy rain in Farnaby Road - probable cause a combination of surface water and blocked drains. Some basements were flooded. Council contractors involved.

Cllr. Will Harmer gave an update on the LBB response to climate change. A debate and motion to become carbon neutral is due at the next meeting. The council is already doing a lot, such as; LED street lights, planting trees, hybrid vehicles for council workers, reducing council office space and supporting local schemes which encourage cycling and walking to reduce car journeys.

8 Greener and Cleaner Bromley and Beyond - update:

Now on Twitter, Instagram and website due soon. Currently 2700 members. Several events have been held, including clothes swaps and making vegetable shopping bags. Will have a stall at the Valley School Fair to promote initiatives. Recent meeting with LBB about recycling and leaflets produced. Valley School is one of the most polluted schools in the borough according to levels of pollutants measured by LBB in 2016. No air conditioning so windows have to be opened in hot weather. Working with school to find funds for air purifiers, green screens and renovation of shed for bicycle/scooter storage. Asked if RVR would consider a contribution of £500.00. Suggested that when there was a firm proposal it could be brought to a meeting for consideration.

9 Grant from TfL to spend £80,000 on the improvement of Ravensbourne Station:

There is an online consultation on which anyone can comment – ends July 29th. Some suggestions which could be put forward by RVR include: wheel track for bicycles on stairs, planting trees and shrubs between ramp and buildings, new train information board sited at street level rather than just on platforms, planting

of grass verge at front of station and re-siting community noticeboard from present position inside ticket office. Members happy with suggestions. Discussion about improving step-free access such as raising sections of the platform and ramp on northbound platform.

10 Shortlands Village Conservation Area Proposal:

Proposal via ward councillors and Bromley Civic Society to make the Shortlands Village area a Conservation Area which would prevent inappropriate development applications and adds extra protection for listed buildings, such as 87 Beckenham Lane. The downside is that residents may find some planning applications more difficult to gain approval. A consultation will take place, but there is a good chance of approval as all of the buildings are about the same age. Members were in favour of supporting.

11 Next AGM:

Members generally in favour of a talk next year as a change from musical entertainment.

12 Peckish in the Park-18th July; Annual summer drinks at Shortlands Tavern-10th August 4-6pm:
All members welcome

13 Goan Ground adjacent to Millwall Ground:

There is a plan by owners, Ravensbourne Rivers Limited, for a massive gated development of 312 apartments on the Goan playing fields, although no planning application has been submitted to Lewisham council as yet. Environment agency would need to be involved in any application as the area is on a flood plain. There is also an Enforcement notice from Lewisham Council on the fencing as the right of way from Warren Ave. playing fields is blocked. See: <http://imperialcorporatecapital.com/portfolio/ravensbourne-rivers/>

14 Councillors' Update (From Cllr. Will Harmer):

LBB has obtained funding for enforcement of anti-idling outside schools.

A new contract with Veolia for waste disposal has been agreed and more things will be able to be recycled, such as batteries, with the aim of having zero waste going to landfill. There will be big changes to waste collection - street cleaning will follow bin collectors to reduce street litter and collection days will be changing. Civic Hall café selling items with black plastic, which cannot be recycled-will be discussed.

Green bikes hire trial is showing good results. If bikes left in same place for 2 days then electric van should collect. Dr Bike is a free service for bicycle MOT and repair by qualified mechanics. See cycling events calendar on LBB website for dates of future sessions.

Council is having a crackdown on blue badge fraud.

Currently a public consultation in progress about proposed boundary changes within LBB to make the number of residents represented by each councillor more equitable. Proposal to reduce number of councillors.

Old town hall – expecting an application to build a hotel on this site. Royal Bell development progressing internally. Developers have spent about £1 million to date.

Council is selling off part of its own estate. Less space is required due to cuts. By 2022 LBB will be £30 million in debt – still trying to make savings of another £40 million, so difficult decisions to be made.

Investment in the high street has been beneficial as vacancy rates are low and LBB gets business rates from all businesses. Pleased that Ikea and Lidl have opened shops. Recent works in Bromley town centre all paid for by businesses, not LBB.

15 Proposal to change the strap line to 'Preserve the best and improve the rest':

Euan proposed the motion, seconded by Karl Martin. All present in favour of the change. Leslie pointed out that the Constitution needs to be updated with our new name, but it needs to be stated that in the meantime RVR is working under the existing RVPS Constitution.

16 London Borough of Bromley Residents Federation (LBBRF):

All buses on the 54 Route have been replaced with new greener buses.

17 Any Other Business: None

18 Next meeting: Thursday 5th September 2019, 8pm at The Bromley Court Hotel.