

SHORTLANDS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1934

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2019

www.shortlandsresidents.org.uk

A New Venue for this year's A.G.M.

This year's AGM will be held on *Tuesday 30 April, starting at 7.45 p.m. at the Shortlands Golf Club.*

This is the first time for many years that the AGM will have been held at a venue other than St Mary's church hall, but the hall is so well used by local groups that we have not been able to find a date that works for the SRA – our rules commit us to reporting back to members before the end of April.

Full details will be provided with the AGM notice which will, as usual, be distributed to members in advance.

Shortlands Double Yellow Lines

The double yellow lines promised for the junction of Church Road and Kingswood Road are now finally in place following strong campaigning from the SRA and with the help of our local Councillors. This marks the completion of the first round of such parking restrictions agreed by the Council following our Parking Review. Double yellow lines help make our roads safer by giving clearer visibility at corners for drivers and pedestrians

Not joined up yet?
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alike and reduce obstructions and congestion, as they cannot be parked on at any time.

We shall continue to try to persuade the Council about other recommendations from our Review aimed at reducing commuter parking in key areas of Shortlands, but we are also looking to assess whether a second round of double yellow lines might further reduce congestion and increase safety.

OUR NEXT OPEN MEETING - 23 February

Following the feedback from our trial last October, our next open meeting will be held on **Saturday 23 February at 10.30 am in the Harris Primary Academy Shortlands, Kingswood Road.**

Holding the meeting on a Saturday morning proved popular and allowed a number of people to take part who cannot normally get along to open sessions held on the evenings.

We have again invited local Councillors to join us. This meeting provides an opportunity to hear about the SRA's activities and key issues affecting Bromley. We want to focus on developments in "the village" and (as usual!) traffic and parking matters, but, if there are specific issues you would like to raise, please let us know - info@shortlandsresidents.org.

So, do you know a junction or stretch of road where you think such lines should be introduced? Let us know by emailing us at info@shortlandsresidents.org.uk by the end of February and we will consider submitting a new list to the Council.

Shortlands Rail Bridge Mural

Many of you will have seen the street art flagging up Shortlands Station, recently, painted underneath the railway bridge by the Station. It certainly cheers me up whenever I walk under the bridge to the Village.

Street artist Lionel Stanhope was asked by local resident Gill Quilty to brighten up the rather gloomy and pigeon-infested area under our rail bridge in the Autumn. Gill knew of his other work, including a similar sign at Brockley. She approached local Bromley Town Councillors, including Nicky Dyke and Will Harmer, for help and they obliged, ensuring the wall was properly



cleaned by the Council before Mr Stanhope did his painting.

Guided Walk Of South Hill Wood

Many people come to live in Shortlands because of the pleasant environment of tree-lined roads and lanes and our local woodlands, of which the biggest is South Hill Wood. So, we are organizing, once more, a guided walk through this beautiful wood, this coming Spring, in partnership with the Friends to learn more about its history, flora and fauna.

The walk will start at **3pm on Saturday 11 May from the South Hill Wood Bowling Club at 2, Tootswood Road.**

The tour will show how this ancient woodland has changed over the centuries, especially after Sir Thomas Dewey, first Charter Mayor of Bromley, bought the land on which it stands in 1887, built



his house at 1, South Hill Road and established large-scale gardens on part of the site, including exotic plants and trees from around the world.

If you would like to join us on the walk, please contact Mike Ricketts on 0208 460 0395 or at mike.ricketts@sky.com

Planning And Development Issues

The most significant planning event over the last three months was an application to demolish three shops in the centre of the Village together with a flat over the shops. The proposal was to replace these historic shops with a Sainsbury's Local with six flats over the shop. The basement would also be developed for storage.

This application was comprehensively refused in November. The main reasons were the loss of a Locally Listed building described as a heritage asset, the loss of which would be harmful to the character of the area and also that the proposed mass of the new development in this prominent location would be visually obtrusive and an inappropriate overdevelopment.

At the same time the developer made a separate application to demolish the buildings in any event. That was also refused. We do not know whether this matter will go to appeal or whether they will be any further applications. However, we are left with the problem which is that the boarded up area in the Village centre continues to be unused, and that cannot help the commercial life of the Village.

Looking more widely, a proposal for a 23 storey mixed-use scheme to include 219 Build-to-Rent apartments on Sherman Road in Bromley was also rejected because it would have over dominated Bromley North Station.

Looking back on 2018 I have looked through the decisions and appeals and the statistics make interesting reading. For the Borough as a whole there were 356 appeals which were decided in that year. 139 of those were allowed and that figure includes some which were allowed in part for which I have made some allowance. 39% of all appeals were therefore successful. So, should we be grateful to our planners for defending us against overdevelopment or should we make the point that this is a very high percentage lost on appeal? This must be set against the background that the Mayor of London requires that LBB provide some 1400 new dwellings each year.

These need not be entirely new builds and I can say that there are a substantial number of applications to convert, for example, office space to residential.

Within the SRA area there were just 11 appeals decided of which 4 were allowed. Looking at the number of decisions made just in our area my own analysis shows that some 100 decisions were made excluding notification regarding trees. These were decisions relating to applications for the full range of planning matters including extensions, improvements, conversions and notifications in relation to so-called “deemed permission” - 28 of the 100 were refused.

We continue to make regular submissions on behalf of the SRA wherever we consider it appropriate; if anyone has concerns about a development please contact me by email on emaildmiller@aol.com or through our website.

Second Keeping BLUE PLAQUE Unveiled

Last Autumn over 50 local residents, family and friends gathered outside the Keeping Gallery at 16 Church Road to attend the unveiling of a blue plaque dedicated to local artist Renate Keeping.

Renate and her husband Charles (who already had a blue plaque on the house-front) lived and painted and created their works in Shortlands



from the 1960s until their deaths, Renate only in 2014. She was born Renate Meyer in Berlin, but her father, a doctor, realised that Jewish people would suffer in Hitler's Germany, so the family came to Britain in 1933 as refugees and gained British citizenship in 1938.

At 17 Renate persuaded her parents to let her study art at the Regent Street Polytechnic (now part of the University of Westminster) It was there that she met Charles Keeping. They married in 1952.

More information is available at www.thekeepinggallery.co.uk.

The plaque was unveiled by Mark Dempsey, Chair of the SRA, which contributed towards its cost. It is now very fitting that plaques commemorating Charles and Renate, both artists in their own right, should sit side by side on the front of the building which houses the Gallery that is the treasure-house of their art.

Have we got your contact details?

Please complete your Membership Renewal Form or send your email address to our Membership Secretary at anmarie.jefferys@btinternet.com.

It's vital that organisations like the SRA move with the times, and we need to have more efficient means of contacting our members to be able to keep you up to date. In the longer term this could include how we distribute at least some of our newsletters to relieve the burdens on our team of Liaison Officers.

Your details will only be used for our records and to contact you if necessary. They will be kept securely in line with GDPR guidelines.

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