

SHORTLANDS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1934

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2018

www.shortlandsresidents.org.uk

Local Council Elections, 3 May 2018 – You Will Need ID To Vote

Bromley is part of a Voter ID Pilot scheme designed to combat voter/election fraud. This means that if your name is on the current Electoral Register you will only be able to vote for local councillors at a polling station on May 3 if you



take with you specified identification. Full details have been sent to registered voters by the London Borough of Bromley who have also distributed information fliers to homes. Acceptable

identification includes passports, photocard driving licenses, Oyster60+ London Pass and Freedom Pass(London) but full details are available on the internet at www.bromley.gov.uk/VoterID or tel 0 3 0 0 3 0 3 8 6 6 5 or email electoral@bromley.gov.uk

So don't be caught out; make sure you have the correct form of ID that will allow you to vote.

Visit Shortlands' 'Great House'

For well over 300 years 'The Great House', now Bishop Challoner School, has been Shortlands' stateliest home, and we are planning a new tour there at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday 21st August.

See at first hand how the house has gradually been evolved over the centuries into the successful school it is today, from being a home to Greek historians, then to wealthy entrepreneurs, and later

SRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND HUSTINGS – 26 April

This year's A.G.M. takes place on Thursday 26 April at 8.00 p.m. in St Mary's Church hall. Members will be receiving their A.G.M. notice and reports with this newsletter. As the AGM falls shortly before the local elections – see above – we have again invited each political party fielding candidates to nominate one of them to come to our A.G.M. We will invite anyone standing as an independent to join us once their details are available.

Once we have dealt with the formal business of the A.G.M. we will invite each candidate to set out their priorities for the area and how they propose to ensure that the issues facing voters in Shortlands are addressed and to answer questions from the floor.

We ran a similar event before the last local elections – the first time any residents' association in Bromley had taken this sort of initiative – and members commented that it had been a very worthwhile session.

historians, then to wealthy entrepreneurs, and later a private hotel.

This is a popular tour, so please put your names down early. If you would like to join us, please contact Mike Ricketts on 0208 460 0395. We shall meet up and start the visit in front of the main school building – free parking is available, as the school will be on holiday.

Police Numbers In Shortlands

Despite all the promises and assurances that “Local policing is at the heart of what the Met do every day” a decision seems to have been made at senior levels that Shortlands Ward is to lose one of our officers, reducing the strength of our Safer Neighbourhood Team to one PC and one Police and Community Support Officer (PCSO).



We understand the budget challenges being faced but if this decision is correct, it flies in the face of the commitment to increase Ward DWO strength made by the Mayor of London and which Bromley Police implemented only late last year.

Shortlands Ward *is* a low level crime area and we want to keep it that way. Are we to be penalised because of this? We strongly support our Ward Team, taking steps to increase our own individual security as much as possible. People have long hoped for increased visible local policing throughout the Met Police area and we are no different. If this decision goes ahead commitments previously made be frustrated, to the disappointment of local our residents.

A Walk Through Shortlands’ History – 30 June

Our annual guided walk through Shortlands and its history will show you how we developed from just a few tiny farmsteads alongside the Ravensbourne River into the busy community we

are today...from the Celts and Romans, via the Roundheads, to world famous writers of the 20th century.

Come and join us at 2.30pm on Saturday 30 June at Shortlands Station Ticket Hall, and for an hour and a half we shall lead you through the many phases of our local history, flagging up sites of special interest...finishing off with a well deserved sit-down over tea and cakes, hopefully in a sunny garden! No charge.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Mike Ricketts on 0208 460 0395.

Development news

The last three months have seen some very significant planning decisions particularly in Bromley Town.

We are often invited by neighbouring Residents' Associations to make our comments particularly where a development might impact on our own residents, for example anything in Bromley Town.

In December the plan to remove the old DSS building at Bromley South and replace it with a part 10 storey new science-based school was rejected because of the potential congestion and over dominant impact on local roads.

We made a submission in respect of a proposed division of a semi-detached house into two flats at Rutland Gate, just outside our territory, because it would set a significant precedent. On the other hand what was proposed was broadly consistent with the draft London Plan.

January saw applications in Bromley North for a 23 storey block of flats very close to the station and also a 10 storey block of flats nearby. This had generated a substantial number of local objections.

There has been a long-running sequence of applications, refusals and appeals in respect of a proposed development of a single house behind 23 Durham Avenue. Two appeals came before the Inspector in February and both were refused

largely on the basis of the effect on the Durham Avenue conservation area. In the past this might have been refused simply on the basis of an infill development but the draft London Plan does recommend some infill development where appropriate; but not in this case.

More Results From SRA Parking Review

Help for 367 Bus Travellers - One key theme of our Parking Review was the difficulties 367 bus drivers had experienced because of the parking problems in negotiating roads like Kingswood Road and staying close enough to their bus stop kerbs to use their drop-down step to let passengers (especially the old and mums with young children) safely on and off.

At the end of the Review we flagged our concerns up to Transport for London (TfL), who agreed with us, and met with Council Officers. The result is that there will be new 367 bus stop markings in St Mary's Avenue to prevent other vehicles from parking at or too close to existing bus stops, and the Council have also agreed to look at existing bus stop markings in Kingswood Road close to Mays Hill Road, with a view to possibly extending them. This would provide extra clearance for buses to pull in and out safely.



It will probably take a little while for these changes to be seen on the ground. Mind you, we are told now that it will not be until May that we shall finally see in place the double yellow lines listed as agreed in our last Newsletter (though, sadly, not those recommended for Green Close)!

As a result of pressure from local residents, some double yellow lines have been painted on bends and corners at the Winchester Park/St Mary's Avenue junction. On the day when the original work was done, gaps were left as the contractors could not get access to the road as a result of ... commuter parking!



A Tommy for Shortlands?

“Readers may have heard about an initiative to mark the signing of the Armistice in 1918. The Tommies are silhouettes representing a typical British soldier from W.W.1, in an initiative similar to the poppies that adorned the Tower of London in 2014. They will be touring the country until Armistice Day, and local communities are able to host their own installations. We are working on the possibility of purchasing one of these life-sized silhouettes for Shortlands. The money raised from the sale of the commemorative figures, which are made by military veterans, will be distributed evenly between six charities including the Commonwealth War Graves Foundation.”

General Data Protection Regulation

The General Data Protection Regulation comes into force at the end of May. It is intended to improve data security and protect individuals, who now need to give specific consent to their details being held by any organisation. We have therefore added a short sentence to our membership subscription or renewal form. It simply confirms that you consent to the SRA contacting you from time to time for the purposes of providing newsletters and other information, and reassures you that the SRA will never share your information with any other person or organisation.”

Not joined up yet?

To access the SRA'S various services and advice please email your contact details to info@shortlandsresidents.org.uk and we'll be in touch. Minimum subscription £1 per household

This space to let

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