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SHORTLANDS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1934

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019

www.shortlandsresidents.org.uk

SHORTLANDS TO BENEFIT FROM MAJOR INVESTMENT FROM LONDON'S MAYOR

Residents in the Shortlands area on both sides of the railway bridge and shops in Shortlands Village will benefit from new developments funded by London's Mayor as part of the multi-million pound Liveable Neighbourhoods programme, following Bromley Council's successful bid. Concerns for the future development of the Village figured largely in our second successful Open Meeting, led by local Councillors in February.

The announcement of the 11 London-wide successful bidders was made by way of a tour around the Shortlands area led by Councillor William Huntington-Thresher, who leads in the Council on Environment and Community Services and Will Norman, London's Walking and Cycling Commissioner, accompanied by local interest groups including the SRA.

The project will improve travel connections for pedestrians and cyclists to and past Shortlands Station from the surrounding area with new protected cycle lanes on Bromley Road and Valley Road and new pedestrian crossings across the busy A222. New public spaces will be created around the Shortlands War Memorial and Shortlands Village centre along with pocket parks and improvements for walking throughout the scheme area. There will be much improved facilities for pedestrians crossing near and around the Station, and School Streets will make it easier and safer for pupils to get to school without cars.

Engagement and consultation will follow in the coming months with local people and other stakeholders about these early stage proposals. The SRA will play an active part in this process.

KEEPING GALLERY TOUR



We shall be organizing another tour of the Keeping Gallery at 16 Church Road this Autumn at 2pm on Saturday 19 October, to view the many varied works of Charles and Renate Keeping. There will be a discounted entry charge for SRA members. Put this date in your diary and watch out for more information in the Summer Newsletter.

SALLY GUTTRIDGE

Sally Guttridge, a willing, cheerful and ever helpful member of the SRA's Committee for many years, has had to step down for health reasons. Sally was always on hand to organize refreshments at our AGMs and meetings of our Road Liaison Officers and helped run our annual quizzes. She also won first prize in the SRA's Autumn Fair in 1998 and 2000. Our good wishes go out to her and her husband John.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING guest speaker

This year's AGM takes place at **7.45 on Tuesday 30 April**; and this year the venue is the **Shortlands Golf Club** rather than St Mary's church hall. A pay bar will be open.

We are delighted that Colonel Bob Stewart DSO MP, Member of Parliament for Beckenham has agreed to be our guest speaker.



these delivered by a business to all households in the area, thus increasing our profile and membership.

These changes will increase our costs and we want to ensure that we break even on a year to year basis. The current minimum £1 subscription has not been changed for very many years, and many members already contribute more generously. We will therefore submit a resolution to the AGM to increase our subscription from its current level to a minimum of **£5 per household with effect from 1 January 2020**. Again, this is in line with subscription levels of other residents' associations and will continue to represent excellent value for money.

Second, new rules. Alongside these changes, and again for the first time in many years, we are proposing substantial changes to the existing rules of the Association.

Both the old and the proposed new rules are now available on our website and while it is not the most stimulating reading, please take a look at the proposals because there will be a resolution to adopt the new rules at the Annual General Meeting.

The main reasons for the proposed changes are these: –

To update the objectives and to modernise some of the language;

Because of local boundary changes the Residents' Association boundaries are no longer identical with those of Shortlands Ward. Membership was in the main restricted to residents but because there has been a blurring at the edges we thought it right to extend membership to non-residents;

The proposed new rules extend the list of named officers and include, for example, a Communications Officer, and spell out the duties of the members of the Executive. We wanted to emphasise liaison with the police;

To reflect our obligations with data protection we wanted to include a specific responsibility which will come under the control of the Secretary;

We did not have a clause dealing with the dissolution of the Association and that is now included.

We will have a number of copies of the proposed new rules at the AGM, but in order to minimise the amount of paper used, the existing rules will only be available on our website.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

In the last newsletter we commented on the refusal to permit the proposed development in the centre of The Village into a Sainsbury's Local with flats over the shop. That is how matters remain - with the old shop boarded up and so far no new applications coming through. This cannot be good for the commercial life of the Village and we can only hope that workable new options are considered as soon as possible.

There was some concern when a 12 m telecommunications pole was approved and sited near St Mary's Church Hall. It became a step too far when an application was made to replace that pole with another 15 m tall and that application was refused. It would also have required two additional equipment cabinets on the pavements.

A good example of the conflict of interests which inevitably occurs when there is a proposal for a demolition of a building, is a proposal to demolish a house adjacent to the 'Little Cherubs' nursery on Shortlands Road, and replace it with a block of five flats. This is a second application, the first having been refused. The building work involved on a busy main road will inevitably cause disruption and no doubt disturbance to the nursery. On the other hand there is a demand for a large number of additional dwellings each year. This further application is still under consideration.

In Bromley the proposal to build a 10 storey school on the old DHSS site near Bromley South Station was finally refused on appeal. Another good example of new development in Bromley Town is the proposal to add two floors to what is now the Lidl building and convert the upper floors to 51 flats.

An application has been made by Bromley Council for permission to remove all external green cladding tiles fixed to the elevations on the Churchill Theatre and the Central Library building; this is treated as a health and safety issue and, sadly, a sign of the times.

Looking now at street cleaning, because a number of streets had not been swept properly or at all

since the autumn we were forced to escalate our complaints to the Chief Executive and the Leader. This did lead to a constructive meeting with Neighbourhood Managers and the main contractor and many of the gutters, which were full of compacted leaf detritus, have been cleared. There still remains some way to go. In addition, there are plans to use a road sweeper in the late evening or overnight because during the daytime it cannot work in roads which are congested with commuter parking.

FIGHTING TOOL THIEVES IN SHORTLANDS

Local police are offering free tool marking stickers to residents and traders in Shortlands to deter thieves from stealing from their workshops and vans.

Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood team have tool marking stickers which they will hand out on a first come first served basis to people with a large quantity of tools, for example those in the building or gardening trade, who are most likely to be the target of thieves.

Visibly marking your assets acts as a real deterrent to thieves. It offers a quick and neat way of marking equipment and provides a link back to the victim should the property ever be stolen. A visible sticker on a tool immediately makes the item less attractive to thieves, as its value will dramatically decrease on the second hand market. It also improves the chances of police being able to identify the property as stolen when stops are conducted at the roadside. The stickers are anti-tamper and small enough to fit on to most popular tools.

If you are interested in taking advantage of this offer, please contact the team at Shortlands.SNT@met.police.uk and they will arrange an appointment to come and mark your tools.

SOUTH HILL WOOD WALK

There are plenty of places still available for those who would like to join us on our annual guided walk of South Hill Wood to learn more about its history, flora and fauna. If you would like to come along for the walk which starts at 3pm on Saturday 11 May at the South Hill Wood Bowling Club at 2, Tootswood Road, please contact Mike Ricketts on 0208 460 0395 or write to info@shortlandsresidents.org.uk

Important AGM resolutions

First, subscriptions. We need to make a number of changes to the way in which the SRA operates if we are to continue to meet residents' needs. While our income is holding up well, membership is falling – many people pay more than our minimum £1 subscription. It has proved difficult over recent years to recruit Liaison Officers to replace those who can no longer carry on and we have a much lower profile in some roads where we were once well represented.

To remedy this – and in line with current practice in many of our neighbouring residents' associations - we are planning a number of changes to how we operate in the next year. These include giving members the opportunity to pay subscriptions by electronic payments such as standing orders. This is far more efficient than the current system and relieves LOs of the unpopular task of collecting cash. We hope that new joiners and those renewing their membership will use this option, although we will operate the current system alongside this for the next year.

We also want to make greater use of electronic communications through e-mail and a revamped website so that we can quickly alert members to scams or local events. The new website will give us a more attractive profile. We will continue to provide paper copies of our newsletters but have