

SHORTLANDS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 28 APRIL 2021 - 7.30pm by ZOOM

AGENDA ITEM	President, Brian Reading (BR), Chairman, Mark Dempsey (MD), Vice Chair, Keith Mills (KM), Treasurer, Peter Berry (PB), Membership Secretary, Robert French (RF), Communications Officer, Mike Ricketts (MR), Carla Lara-Vivanco (CL-V), Development Officer, Danny Miller (DM)
	MD welcomed Rev Gary Best, Rt. Hon. Bob Stewart MP, Sir Bob Neill MP, Cllrs. Mary Cooke and Aisha Cuthbert and introduced members of the Committee.
1	President's Address: Two years since we last met. How to explain this format to our founders in 1934? Grateful to MD and Executive Committee and those who have stood down in the last two years. Thanks for keeping the show on the road. We have had to adapt but we have been close to business as usual. Limitations of resources of time and aptitude over the last year but many residents have gone the extra mile and contributed to the community. Thanks to all of them.
2	Apologies for absence: Peter White, Peggy Duffin, Sarah Sweetman.
3	Minutes of April 2019 meeting and matters arising: Minutes accepted as a true record, no matters arising.
4	Chairman's Report for 2019/20 and matters arising: <u>What's affected Shortlands:</u> Boundary changes will mean Shortlands Village will be in Shortlands Ward, which will have one additional councillor. We supported the changes. Shortlands Friendly Village had won a bid but this fell by the wayside as a result of Covid. Cycle lanes and an extra crossing as a result of discussions. Seeking Conservation Area status for Shortlands Village is being worked on, including contributions by Bromley Civic Society, Ravensbourne Valley Residents and the SRA. Decision in the summer, we think. We battle on on the development front. Especially 87 Beckenham Lane, still under threat of being demolished. Continues to be an eyesore and dangerous. Still traffic problems by the bridge at Shortlands Station, constant discussions, difficult to know how to improve the situation. <u>What local people have done:</u> Facebook pages included in Shortlands Life, becoming very popular, a positive aspect of social media. Clare Andrews established the location of 'stench pipes' and reported to Thames Water for renovation. Some corrections had been made to the new footbridge problems. WhatsApp groups have developed road by road. Community resilience has been a good outcome to the problems of last year. <u>What the SRA has done:</u> Constant work on development of flats and houses and we regularly query infrastructure. We have held an open meeting, a format with which we will continue. We changed the level of subscriptions and how to pay, direct debits and standing orders, and this has proved very successful. We do not have a secretary at present but we do have a new membership secretary, Robert French.
5	Accounts for calendar years 2019 and 2020: PB said full note in the Spring Newsletter and accounts on our website. It was a very difficult year but we are in excellent financial shape. There were no questions; so the accounts were adopted.
6	Election of Officers and Executive Committee: PB re-elected as Treasurer and RF as Membership Secretary. The rest of the committee (MD, Keith Mills, Mike Ricketts, Carla Lara-Vivanco, Danny Miller) was then elected en bloc.
7	Election of Honorary Auditors: Clive Sheppey and John Needham offer themselves for re-election and with thanks their election was approved.
8	Open forum-local concerns and the role of the SRA:

Cllr. Mary Cooke: Conservation Area timing-to be considered by Development Control Committee in May and to the Executive in June. Query whether all or part of the Golf Club should be included. All councillors for Shortlands and for Bromley Town want the whole of the Club included.

Cllr. Aisha Cuthbert: The results of the consultation regarding the Conservation Area were that about 80% were in agreement with the main proposal. About 5% did not agree with the effect on planning in particular.

MD: The Golf Club is a very interesting part of Shortlands history, first golf club for women.

Patricia Braithwaite: Is there a way to knock through an arch in the railway bridge to ease pressure on pedestrians? MD said this had been discussed previously and Brian Cooke said that if the proposed lifts were built then there was no way to knock through.

Adrian Fowle: Pleased to see cycle lanes and hoped they didn't disappear after Covid. MD: The cycle lanes were temporary; Mary Cooke said nothing to add, five surveys in Albemarle Rd. and each scheme will be evaluated.

Reverend Gary Best: Described the community initiatives at St Mary's and the proposed redevelopment of the Church Hall. He didn't want to lose user groups. Focus now on St Mary's building, office and chapel to be more user friendly, considering guest speakers. The community had been extraordinary over the last 12 months, many unsung heroes giving great service.

May 19-Community Café opens

Later-Presentation of ideas

The first stage was the redevelopment of the church, remove existing pews and create flexible seating, then change the heating. A team will look at grants and fundraising. Desire for the church to be a community hub including the grounds.

MD: Congratulated Gary on completing his second year as vicar.

Denise Malkin: Golf club issue, what was the reason for not including the club in the Conservation Area? Cllr. Cuthbert: the club did not want to be included.

BR: Many years ago we defended the golf course from development and should continue to oppose development.

MD: I have a poster and press cuttings from that time. The application went to the Secretary of State for the Environment who threw it out.

PB: Thought it was a members only club; it is.

Cllr Cuthbert: The Club believed it would be more difficult to maintain trees and the clubhouse if they were part of a conservation area.

Keith Mills: It is jointly owned by current members who would each receive a substantial sum if it was sold.

BR: Have just received documents regarding the Elections on 6 May...check your polling station, as this may have changed. Brian Cooke explained the new locations.

Danny Miller: asked MPs about the progress of the White Paper on changing the planning system and deemed permission for upward extensions of blocks of flats.

Sir Bob Neill: The White Paper is just that, it needs primary legislation, the argument is to speed up the process by creating three zones. Details remain to be worked through. Conservation areas exempt.

Allows local authorities to have their own tall buildings policy and scope for development within that. Regarding additional storeys, some concessions have been made, I voted against but it was passed.

Mike Ricketts: History walk-next tour is 17 July at 2:30pm, details in the Spring Newsletter.

Denise Malkin: Very keen on protection of trees, as too many are cut down or threatened; is there any way this can be anticipated and dealt with?

Mary Cooke: No real answer to this. Action can be taken if a tree with a Protection Order is cut down. The problem in Kingswood Glen was 'an IT cock up'.

Aisha Cuthbert: Trees on private property are the property owner's responsibility. If you see a tree being cut down, question it, and tell Mary or me.

Marie Pender: Chair of West Beckenham RA, Denise has been in contact with us. We did have a problem with one tree being cut down.

Clare Andrews: Need to regularise the ownership of the forecourts in the village, these are owned by the Council who say there are complications.

	<p><u>MD</u>: We touched on this earlier- they are currently in Bromley Town ward, <u>Cllr. Cuthbert</u> said she would approach the Town councillors.</p>
9	<p>Any other business: MD thanked people for attending. One third of normal numbers. We will try for more open meetings. Thanks to MPs and councillors for joining us. We plan to hold a survey to consider how to improve the SRA and what people want. Meeting closed at 20:42</p>