

**SRA** Shortlands Residents' Association  
**NEWSLETTER**

Autumn 2021  
[www.shortlandsra.org.uk](http://www.shortlandsra.org.uk)

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**OUR NEXT OPEN MEETING – AIR QUALITY**  
The next in our series of open meetings takes place

**At 10.30 -12.00 Saturday 6 November**  
**At the Harris Primary Academy Shortlands.**

Our speakers will be Parisa Wright of Greener and Cleaner Bromley (and Beyond) and Dr Adrian Fowle, FRCP, BSc. Both are local residents and Parisa is engaged in a range of local initiatives to improve the environment - see below!

This is a subject of increasing local concern, not least given the levels of traffic in and around the railway station junctions and recent high profile decisions on the impact on people's health.

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## COMMUNITY GREEN RESOURCES

Our local friendly environmentally focused not-for-profit Greener & Cleaner Bromley (& Beyond) which was set up by local resident Parisa Wright (Danvers) from her home in Shortlands has been attracting publicity following their efforts to launch a ground-breaking Community Hub in The Glades. It would be the first of its kind in a mainstream shopping centre and is designed as a blueprint for more around the UK. Read the recent article here <https://t.co/BKyeltyTK4>

The Community Hub will provide access to free resources, workshops, talks and other events around making good choices for you and the planet, plus space for general discussion and local project collaborations with other like-minded community groups. Plus a Library of Things where you can borrow everyday items and hopefully even a community fridge to prevent food going to waste! It will act as a hub from which a wide range of activities will pop up in community spaces across the borough.

Please do donate (if you've not done so yet) & share the news! Their Crowdfunder if you are able to support can be found here <https://www.gofundme.com/f/gcbbglades>

This is a great opportunity to create a community space in the centre of borough and show how much we can all achieve together, as well as bringing people back to The Glades.



## SHORTLANDS MARKET

Many local residents may have visited the inaugural Shortlands market, held in Station Road in July. Based on its success, a second market was held on 10 October in the grounds of Valley School.

There were 23 separate stalls at the second event covering a wide range of foods, crafts and refreshments. Both events were very well supported by local people who turned up in their hundreds to enjoy the produce and the atmosphere.

The SRA attended both markets to promote membership, our forthcoming open meeting and to hear about local concerns. They were also a good opportunity to meet existing members, councillors and friends.

The next market is planned for 12 December, venue and other arrangements to be decided; but the markets have been a real success in giving Shortlands a sense of community; and they were extremely well organised by a group of committed local people.

## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

In our last newsletter we mentioned the Planning Bill which would have given force to a radical overhaul of the planning process effectively removing local influence. It included a target of 300,000 new homes year. It was widely known that many MPs were unhappy with this situation including those representing our constituencies.

The proposals have now been suspended and we do not know whether or how they will reappear. Michael Gove is just installed as Secretary of State for Housing so let's watch this space.

We also expressed our concern about the confidentiality which applies to building regulations procedures where a private inspector is appointed by the developer. This is to be contrasted with Bromley's approach which is to make procedures public. Both local MPs Bob Stewart and Sir Bob Neill have recognised and supported our concerns and passed these over to the relevant planning minister.



Many of you will be aware that there has been further consultation on the proposed development behind Bromley High Street and opposite the theatre and library, known as Churchill Quarter. The revised plans involve seven blocks of flats the tallest of which would be 15 storeys with just 12 car parking spaces for 413 apartments. Our concern was the inevitable worry whether this would force cars onto local roads and we still think that there is serious risk. However, developer was very clear in its material that the intention is that these flats should attract non-car owners. We know that many people will be strongly opposed to this development. The developer plans to submit a further application later this year and hopes for a response next Spring.

## SHORTLANDS VILLAGE CONSERVATION AREA

The new Shortlands Village Conservation Area came into effect from 9 August. This will help ensure that the Village's distinctive character is preserved and enhanced going forward, and additional planning controls will apply.

Linked, but more immediate, is a further application for 70 High Street Bromley, known as the Maplin site. The latest proposal for a part 13, part 16 storey building containing 68 flats and 559 m<sup>2</sup> of retail space. We have objected once again on the grounds of loss of views and domination of the High Street together with the inevitable parking issues.

We are seeing large numbers of applications to convert existing offices to residential including the 'Y' buildings in the Civic Centre. Perhaps this trend will make a substantial contribution to any home building target without impinging on green field sites.

Regretfully there is little to add to what is going on behind the hoardings in the Village. There is a new owner but no new planning application so far. We keep a close eye on any action.



Finally, how good it is to see activity at the Royal Bell and the Old Town Hall.



## **ROAD LIAISON OFFICERS AND MEMBERS' SUBS FOR 2021**

We are always on the lookout for more Road Liaison Officers to help us keep in direct contact with our members on the ground, so we can learn of and act upon their local issues and concerns. They also deliver our Newsletters four times a year and encourage local people to join and support the Association, as well as, in some cases, collecting our annual subscriptions.

Recently a few of our LOs have sadly had to retire due to ill health, so that we currently don't have coverage for a number of key roads – Bromley Road, Druids Way, Durham Road, part of Kingswood Road, Queensmead, South Hill Road, and Valley Road.

Please let our Membership Secretary Rob French know if you would like to become a Liaison Officer by contacting him at [robert-french3@outlook.com](mailto:robert-french3@outlook.com)

Also, we are coming up to the end of our financial year in December. So, if you haven't yet paid your subscription for 2021, please do so as soon as possible...either by setting up a Standing Order or a bank transfer to the SRA (the form is on our website under About the SRA) or by cash or cheque to our Treasurer Peter Berry at 50 Mays Hill Road BR2 0HT, or via your local Road LO. Your subs help us to represent you and your views to the Council, local MPs and beyond.

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## **SHORTLANDS NATURE TRAIL**

Many of you will have visited Shortlands Station over the last few months and been introduced to plans for the proposed Shortlands Community Nature Trail in the woodland beside the Station itself. When finished, the Trail will be open to the local community, particularly schoolchildren, though, for now, construction is on hold awaiting the start of work on the long-promised Station lifts to run between the ticket-hall and the platforms.

The SRA has given £200 towards the work to complete the Trail and has also joined the Shortlands Community Nature Trail Association, which will help provide ideas for the project and how it can best be used, and provide volunteers to work on the project once it has got going.

## **SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL**

There has been a change to the police team covering Shortlands. PC Harry Clarke has recently joined the team to work alongside PC Leanne Hartley and PCSO Adam Charles. We welcome Harry to Shortlands and look forward to meeting him on his patrols and at future meetings of the Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel.

Meanwhile, Anti-Social Behaviour continues to be a local concern. ASB, in whatever form, needs to be dealt with quickly, and, if you see such behaviour, please report it at once by calling 999. Such prompt action by residents may enable the Bromley Rapid Response Team to catch the 'criminals' concerned without delay, for, make no mistake, ASB is a crime!

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## **SOUTH HILL WOODS FRIENDS CHAIR STEPS DOWN**

Peter White has stepped down as Chair of the Friends of South Hill Wood and Kingswood Glen. He has been a member of the Friends since they were founded in 2009 and Chair since 2018 and has worked tirelessly and courageously to preserve and enhance these two vital 'green lungs' of Shortlands. We wish him well.

He is succeeded as Chair by Patrick Philips, who has been a full member of the group for five years. He was previously Head of Parks and Greenspaces for our Council and then a senior manager with idverde, one of the companies contracted by the Council to look after public gardens and woodlands across the whole of Bromley Borough.

## **MEMBERSHIP SURVEY**

The membership survey we planned for the Autumn has had to be postponed until the early Spring so we can give time for our vital team of Road Liaison Officers to have a chance to shape the nature of the survey and the questions in it.

The survey aims to seek the views of our members and non-members across Shortlands on what the SRA is currently doing to support them and what they would like the Association to do for them in the future.

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