

Shortlands Residents' Association **NEWSLETTER**

Autumn 2025
www.shortlandsra.org.uk

OPEN MEETING ON 'WHAT FUTURE FOR SHORTLANDS', SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER

SRA is holding an open meeting on 'What Future for Shortlands' from 10.30am-noon on Saturday 15 November at Harris Primary Academy Shortlands, at the bottom of Kingswood Road.

Many local people have lived in Shortlands most of their lives. At the same time there are now a lot of young families coming to set up home here. But does Shortlands really serve its residents well and meet their expectations? Are new families made welcome and do we have enough primary school places? Are public spaces and shops in the Village and Westmoreland Parade accessible enough for the elderly and those with disabilities? Are our roads really safe enough? Is there high-quality affordable housing available, and with the increase in homes with multiple occupancy, are these being properly run? Crime is low in our Ward, but it is on the increase...what can we do about it? And, is the SRA able to meet the expectations of its members?

You are invited to join us at this Open Meeting to have your say about these and other local concerns...and take up your concerns with local Councillors and, hopefully, our MP Liam Conlon.

Do come along and join us to help shape the future of Shortlands.

MEMBERSHIP

This is the last newsletter for 2025 and hopefully it will act as a reminder for you either to renew your annual subscription or join us for the first time. With the increase in our costs we need your support more than ever. Banks are now charging for our current account and interest rates are falling.

We are still looking for volunteer Liaison Officers to deliver newsletters four times a year to their local roads and help collect subscriptions. So, please let our membership secretary Robert French know if you could possibly help. You can reach him at membership@shortlandsra.org.uk



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ROAD SAFETY

One of the greatest concerns of local residents, young and old, is about safety on our roads, ranging from speeding and zebras to potholes and the danger they can cause to people and vehicles alike.

The SRA's tireless Road Safety Working Group set up last year has already submitted to the Council a set of strategies covering pedestrian crossings, speeding and traffic management around Shortlands Rail Bridge. We met Councillors and some of their responsible officers earlier in 2025 to discuss them - a meeting which proved rather frustrating as a number of our ideas for improvements didn't seemingly meet with some of the Council's criteria for action (eg not enough accident casualties!). So, at their suggestion, we are looking to bring changes through the use of FixMyStreet.

The Group is now working on a further set of strategies, including improvement to the junction of Hayes Lane with Scotts Lane and Shortlands Road and road safety around local schools.

If you are interested in joining our Group to improve road safety in our area, please contact info@shortlandsra.org.uk.

DEVELOPMENT

Approved development at 1, Westmoreland Road

Residents will soon see changes at One Westmoreland Road, as plans to redevelop the site were approved by Bromley Council's planning committee on 2nd September.

The proposals would deliver 138 high-quality build-to-rent homes, including 31 designated for later living, alongside flexible office space, a café, and a public plaza. The development also includes the revitalisation of a key junction, with enhancements to the public footway around the site, intended to transform the area into a more vibrant and welcoming part of the town centre.

Queensmead river restoration proposal - update

On 17th September residents had the opportunity to attend consultation events hosted by Thames 21 to learn more about plans to restore and enhance the River Ravensbourne as it flows across Queensmead. The sessions showcased early design ideas, explained the project's aims, and featured examples of similar river restoration schemes. Representatives from Thames 21, the Environment Agency, and specialist consultants FLOW were on hand to answer questions and discuss local flood management.

Thames 21 is now preparing a summary of feedback gathered during the consultation events. Everyone who signed in and provided contact details will receive a direct link to the project webpage once updates are published. For residents who did not sign up, the SRA will share the link and key information on its website and include an update in the next members' newsletter early in 2026.

The FAQ section on the Thames 21 website, created following earlier consultation earlier this year, remains available for anyone wishing to find out more about the restoration proposal and its background. Please see: Queensmead Recreation Ground, London Borough of Bromley - Thames21

SRA Responds to Bromley Council's new Local Plan

Bromley Council is preparing an updated Local Plan, setting out policies on housing, employment, open space, environmental management, and transport across the borough.

The SRA has reviewed the early draft and submitted a response, highlighting the need to protect the Village from converting ground-floor units into flats, as retaining business space is crucial for local facilities and services.

The next stage of the Local Plan, with more detailed policies, is expected over the coming year, and the SRA will remain actively involved. Residents are encouraged to share their views by emailing plan-ning@shortlandsra.org.uk, helping to ensure the community's voice is heard.

NEWS FROM SHORTLANDS VILLAGE

Parade Grant

The new benches and planters are finally in place on the shop forecourts at the Station end of the Village, and in the early Autumn, viewed alongside the beds of flowering annuals, were a real picture. They have been welcomed by local residents as well as visitors. In the end the £500 financial support offered both by the SRA and RVR to back the Grant application were not called upon. We hope to redirect the SRA commitment to other Village initiatives.



Christmas Lights

We hope the Village will once again be decorated with Christmas Lights this coming December, and the SRA plans to continue to give financial backing, as it has every year since they were first introduced.

Like last year, when new lights were purchased, there will be a crowdfunding initiative organised by Ashdales the estate agents to ensure they are properly installed and all in working order. This will give a chance to Village residents as well as businesses to make a contribution. To support this initiative, please visit www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/shortlands-christmas-lights-2025

SRA COMMUNITY GRANTS UPDATE

The latest round of the Association's Community Grants programme did not attract as many local bidders as we had hoped. But one successful beneficiary was St Mary's Church Community Café, who won a £200 grant to help improve signage to ensure more local residents are aware of the Café when it is open. It continues to offer a safe space for people to gather and reconnect every Wednesday morning between 10.30am and 12.30pm.

One issue that came up as a result of some of the unsuccessful bids was how the criterion of 'in the Shortlands area' should be interpreted. And we shall be reviewing this and the rest of the framework for these grants before embarking on a fresh round of grants next Spring.



STATION COMMUNITY GARDEN

The opening of Shortlands Station's new Community Garden has had to be put on hold as Southeastern's health and safety team advised at the last minute that certain features needed to be changed before the Garden could be opened to the public.

As the brainchild of the Station's Dee Janes, it is now planned for the Garden to be opened in the Spring, when the necessary changes have been made and there will be plenty of flowers in bloom.



THE OCCASIONAL CULTURE VULTURE

Living in the Bromley area we are fortunate to have access to many local music and arts organisations, but they will only survive with the support of the community.

Just a few of many attractive concerts scheduled at St Georges Beckenham alone this Autumn include:-

Sunday 16 Nov (5pm) : St Georges Chamber Orchestra (Mozart, Bach, Vivaldi and Corelli)

Saturday 22 Nov (7pm) : London Welsh Male Voice Choir

Saturday 29 November (7pm) : Beckenham Chorale and Coro and St Paul's Symphonia (Haydn's 'Creation')

Sunday 7 December (7.30pm) : BYMT Youth Symphony Orchestra and Adult Choir (incl. Vivaldi's 'Gloria')

More details at stgeorgesarts.co.uk/events and bymt.co.uk/events

Bromley Youth Music Trust also provides opportunities for adults (ie over 18 years), with or without previous ability or experience, to sing or play in a musical ensemble. New recruits can find details at bymt.co.uk/courses

If you have a love of music-making, they promise a friendly welcome!

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