

Round Hill Society Annual General Meeting

13 November 2024, Richmond House

MINUTES - Taken by Stefania Rosso, RHS Secretary



Agenda and attendees

Agenda

- Introduction (Chair - Eva, Vice Chair - Julia)
- Round Hill business (RHS committee)
- Treasurer Report (Treasurer - Gary)
- Reporter (Editor- Sam)
- Crime & safety (Chris)
- Street play events (Laura-Kate)
- Councillor updates (Cllrs Pete & Raphael)
- Pocket Park and other projects (Dominic)
- Environmental Conservation (Pablo)
- CleanUps, GoodGym & Compost Scheme (Stefania)
- Conservation & Heritage (Michael Doyle)
- AOB

Attendees

- Round Hill Society (RHS) Committee (7)
- Friends of RHS (15 attendees)
- Round Hill ward councillors: Raphael Hill
- Sylvan Hall Residential Association (Ailsa McWhinnie, Co-Chair)

Apologies

- Chris Paul
- Cllr Pete West
- Round Hill PCSOs: sophie.powell



Round Hill Business

Election of RHS committee, 13th Nov 2024

- Committee re-elected by the Friends of RHS
 - Chair: Julia Valentine
 - Secretary: Stefania Rosso
 - Treasurer: Gary Jenkins
 - *The RH Reporter* Editor: Samantha Sheils
 - Events: Laura-Kate Roe
 - Police Liaison: Chris Paul
 - Special Projects: Dominic Furlong
 - Fundraiser - [Vacant]
 - Town planning [Vacant]
 - Conservation Advisory [Lilac Foord-Brown candidacy]
- [About the RHS Committee](#)
- [RHS Committee constitution](#)
- [Round Hill Character Statement](#)

>> **Next RHS committee** mtg is on 3rd Dec.

[Email us](#) to join. **Everybody is always welcome!**

Treasurer's report

- We have £17,000 for the pocket park and greening projects, of which £1,000 allocated by RHS to greening projects prior fundraising, and
- £2,495.47 unallocated

RHS Accounts:

- Regular costs:
 - The RH Reporter: £175
- Incoming (since AGM 2023):
 - See slide 8
- For future consideration:
 - Pocket Park project costing
 - RH comm via social media, and
 - website revamp, if needed

Thank you Gary!



Round Hill Report-er & -ing :-)

The RH Reporter - Our Newsletter at your doorstep!

- *The RH Reporter* - It is a challenge!
- Should it continue? - YES! (general consensus at AGM)
- **How often?** [Counts of show of hands at AGM]:
 - 3 editions / year [10]
 - 2 editions / year [1]
 - 0 editions - ie discontinue. [1]
- **How?**
 - Suggestion of one final print version to come out in 1st half of year with an announcement that it has to discontinue, in order to push for volunteers
- **Comments shared at AGM:**
- We should reconsider its feasibility, capacity to deliver and resources needed (concern: people not on Facebook would miss out if we only shared it there)
- Opportunity: if online, outreach could be extended to SHRA and wider audience in RH ward eg beyond Ditching Road;
- Do we want a RH Community WhatsApp group?

Thank you Sam & Julia - and to Jo, Gary and the delivery volunteer group!



RH Society Channels of Communication:

Website: Webmaster & Editor: David Guest & Ted Power

The RH reporter: Editor(s): Sam Sheils (& Julia)

RH society Email: roundhillsociety@gmail.com

Facebook - @The Round Hill Society [RHS members]:
Issue: RHS lost permission to post on [Round Hill Community Noticeboard](#) [695 members] - need to speak to Paul Griffiths, manager since Jane stepped down

RHS_Committee Googlegroup: Adm: RHS secretary

RHS_friends Googlegroup [45 RHS residents] (**email list for RH friends**): Adm: RSH Secretary - **PLEASE** email roundhillsociety@gmail.com to be added!

Physical Notice boards: Laura-Kate & Chris Paul



Crime & Safety

PCSO update until June 2024 (as reported on [The Round Hill Reporter - Autumn edition 2024](#))

In the Viaduct area which encompasses Roundhill—virtually crime free!

- violence and sexual offenses : 23
- Anti-social behaviour : 12
- Public order : 12
- Criminal damage and arson : 7.

Total 77 crimes reported in June/24.

- 29 in London Road , Open market area.
- 15 in St Peter's church area, London Road.
- 16 at Preston Circus and nr the Duke of Yorks.
- 12 at/near Sainsbury's , Lewes Road.
- 5 in Prince's crescent area !

RHS Safety interventions

- New “Slow Down” signs installed on Prince Road and Wakefield Roads to replace those missing and/or damaged.
- Speed Gun training and how to proceed with accessing community servers to be involved in graffiti removal,
- Rat Run 2 petitions to BHCC, but not a priority for the council when evaluated against other areas in 2024.
- Graffiti removal community missions thanks to GoodGym volunteers - 2 planned a year;
- Concerns about Fly-tipping addressed:
>> To report incidences go to:
www.brightonhove.gov.uk/report/problem-and-request-clean

Thank you Chris, Dom & GoodGym!



Street Play events & Councillor Updates

Street Play events

- Street Plays have been moved to Richmond Road, which is easier to close off and safer
- Three successful events held this year: general street play, water games, halloween;
- Aiming for three next year in conjunction with plant sale and maker's market;
- Biggest challenge is getting marshalls (attend in a high vis jacket for half an hour), who can protect against any rogue cars
- Information about the events is shared in The Reporter, Facebook and the public notice boards on Ashdown and Princes Roads

Thank you Laura-Kate!

>> **Community ACTION is needed**
To marshall during street play events!

Councillor updates

- Being RH a ward now means we will receive a Community Infrastructure Levy if there's development in our ward;
- Working with [City Clean](#) management to modernise the service;
- Friends Social Club in Lewes Road, for more togetherness;
- RH Ward is glyphosate free!
- A weeds scaping and cleanup event was organised by 3 Green Councillors in Sept 2024 - next time with GoodGym and TidyUp Team activists;
- B&H Schools Catchment areas are under consultation;
- Food waste collection has been pushed back on for years as it is expensive - but the Labour administration included it in their manifesto so Raphael & Pete are pushing them to commit!

Thank you Pete & Raphael!

>> **Community ACTION is needed**
To free weeds from our pavements and avoid treatments!



Nature, Green Projects & local facilities

Pocket park (Round Hill Green Spaces Project)

- Approved by BHCC Highways and Planning Depts in 2023. Funding secured from UK Shared Prosperity Fund in 2024. More fundraising in progress. Waiting for revised quotes from The Wood Store. Timeline: installation in Spring 2025! Need volunteers to form a “gardening crew” for maintenance.

Toad patrol (Paolo’s led-Nature Project)

- Observation of toad and amphibians crossing on the Cat’s Creep each spring. Trends show a decrease in number.
- University students helped this spring 2024. Need more volunteers to monitor amphibian (involves going out between 8 - 10pm to count for 20 mins) - email [Paolo Oprandi](#) to get join effort;
- Paolo Oprandi update national databases.

Defibrillators

- Installed at Roundhill and Martha Gun pubs. Local paramedic has offered free training to pub staff (possibly extendable to RH residents?)

Green & Graffiti Clearance with [Good Gym](#)

- Green, graffiti and weeds clearance action, twice a year. Removed graffiti in Cat’s Creep and electrical boxes. [B&H TidyUp Team](#) and [Brighton Borrowers](#) supplied tools. Enquired tool box for community clearance - each B&H ward is (apparently) entitled.

Thank you Dom, Paolo, Stefania, GoodGym!

>> **Community ACTION is needed**

To support green projects ie in weeding on our doorstep, volunteering with GoodGym & BH Tidy Up Team, and monitoring amphibians in springs!



Round Hill Green Spaces – A Five-Year Timeline

- Autumn 2018 original Idea for three greening projects in Round Hill under the Round Hill Green Spaces project umbrella .
- October 2019 submitted petition to BHCC for greening projects at three sites: (1) planters to narrow the Crescent Road-Prince's Crescent junction; (2) planters at the junction of Richmond and Mayo Roads; and (3) a pocket park at the southbound Ditchling Road-Prince's Crescent bus stop.
- Summer 2000 - £1,000 funding obtained from the Chalk Cliff Trust and new planter installed at the junction of Mayo and Richmond Roads.
- January 2021 formal proposal sent to BHCC council officers.
- February 2022 - RHGS gets “permission in principle” for a bus stop pocket park from BHCC Highways, subject to planning consent if required.
- April 2022 - £1,000 funding received from Cllrs Pete West & Sue Shanks.
- Nov 2022 - Submitted planning application for a bus stop pocket park.
- RHS AGM 2022 - £1,000 funding allocated from RHS to RHGS;
- May 2023 - £1000 funding received from Cllrs Pete West & Raphael Hill.
- Summer 2023 – Obtained planning approval from BHCC Planning Dept.
- Summer 2024 Secured £13,500 funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- Autumn 2024: Pending revised quotes, contractors are being instructed to start work.
- **Spring 2025** - Installation!



Illustration: Peter Gates

Round Hill Green Spaces

Ditchling Road -- Prince's Crescent Bus Stop 'Pocket Park' Proposal

January 2021

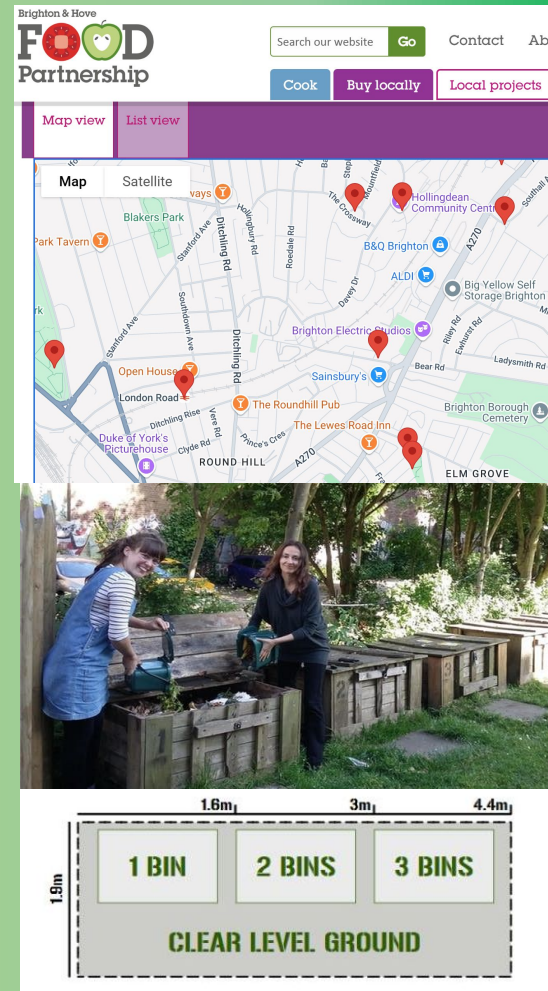
Bus Stop Pocket Park - Design Approved by BHCC



Round Hill [Community Compost Scheme](#) - we tried!

- Residents of [HMOs in RH Ward](#) raised interest to tackle residential food waste;
- Support provided by [Brighton & Hove Food Partnership \(BHFP\)](#), who are the patrons of such volunteers-led community groups initiatives across B&H city;
- Identified requirements on [how to open a community compost scheme](#), and its needs in terms of funding and volunteer workforce;
- Spring to Summer 2024 - Appraised the suitability and feasibility of a potential location nearby Sylvan Hall Residential Estate, and sought stakeholder engagement on the nominal proposal;
- SHRA's residents raised some concerns about siting a compost scheme on the edge of Sylvan Hall Estate, having already experienced problems with the management of their green, recycling and general waste in the estate;
- The feasibility of any future community compost scheme in our RH ward is pending the identification of other suitable locations, if any existing;
- RHS residents can check if space are available to use nearest compost schemes via this [BHFP map directory](#) (select project 'composting'), >> WAITING LISTS are open in Saunder Park, London Road Station, Hollingdean Community Centre.
- **WHAT NEXT? DON'T LOSE HOPE THAT COMMUNITY ACTION WORKS!**
- Could future developments around Richmond House host a compost scheme?
- Let's buy locally grown food and consult BHFP Buy Local webpages [HERE](#)
- Look at other BHFP projects, like:
 - [Food Use Places](#) - working with local groups to tackle food and plastic waste,
 - [Land Use Plus](#) - developing local food supply chains to buy more local produce

Thanks Stefania!



Conservation area & Heritage

Conservation area

- Michael Doyle (MD) provided an update on the this project reviewing the heritage of Round Hill conservation area (it's 50 years out of date!)
- A joint venture of community inputs from local RH residents, led by MD and Annie McCabe, enabled the precious collection of building historical evidence street-by-street, incl. old photos, etc.
- Round Hill's [Conservation Area Character Statement](#) is now publicly available on our website and open for consultation!
- Contact [Michael Doyle](#) to provide comments, if any.
- MD'll submit the report to the BH council in the new year. While this will not necessarily get taken any further once submitted, it means that when someone applies for planning permission in the conservation area, the report has to be consulted first.

Thanks Michael & Annie!



AOB & Thank yous

AOB

- Heidi Green is managing again this year's window advent calendar (contact Dominic for more information)
- Councillors recommended residents look into new initiative led by [BHESCo](#): carbon neutral communities in Sussex
- A resident inquired if there had been any hedgehog sightings and interest was raised to allow free movement between gardens (please email [RHS committee](#) if you want to lead this)
- Round Hill ward will donate a Christmas tree via the Wood Store to Change Grow Live, Richmond House. The RHS will also donate a voucher for letting us use their premises for the AGM

Thank you to:

- Ted Power and David Guest for maintaining the Round Hill website
- Poo stencil support from Faye and Ciara (who have offered to join more rounds)
- Advertisers of the reporter and the dedicated delivery team
- GoodGym with their efforts to clean, tidy and paint in our area
- Change Grow Live manager David Garrott, for letting us use Richmond House for the AGM every year;
- All volunteers of RHS committee and Friends of Round Hill

Thank you all!



Important UPDATES - coming out from AGM

- ****Weeding**** - We are committed to maintaining a healthy and safe environment in our conservation area. While we have successfully avoided the use of glyphosate, we must all work together to keep the area free of weeds. We encourage residents to take the initiative to weed in front of their homes, especially when dealing with large or invasive weeds. This will help prevent pavement damage and potential injuries, and will also help us avoid the need for chemical weed control.
- ****Character Statement:**** - The latest draft of our Round Hill [Round Hill Character Statement](#) is now available on our website. This important document will guide future development and enhancements in our conservation area. Please take a moment to review it.
- ****Round Hill Reporter:**** - The next edition of our newsletter *Round Hill Reporter* may be the last!

>> **Please** let us know if you'd like to support its continuation in any way!

- ****RHS website**** - Updated logo & header, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Round Hill Society. A special thank you to David Guest for his generous volunteer work in creating this.

>> **Next RHS committee meeting is on Tuesday 3rd December, 8-9pm @Julia's.** Please let us if you'd like to get involved - *more volunteers always welcome!!*



Stay in touch!

Contact the RHS Committee

- Email us at roundhillsociety@gmail.com
- Join [Facebook Community Noticeboard](#) to follow our updates
- [Email us](#) to join the RHS_Friends mailing list to stay up-to-date with the latest news

