

Dear ASPRA Members

I'm very sorry I can't make this year's AGM but I offered to submit a written report. I'm sure Maddie and Stephen will cover all the things we are doing in the ward including the work on the Old Ashburton Library but I wanted to mention a few projects

Bingham Road

Soon after I was elected I arranged a meeting on Bingham Road with officers and members to highlight the dangers and see what could be done.

On the back of that there will be a consultation on residents parking which we hope will put a stop to commuters parking on Bingham Road to use the tram for onward journeys. I would urge all residents to reply to the consultation so we as a council can get a real understanding of resident's views.

Personally I am also in favour of building out the pavement at certain junctions especially the one with Claremont Road. It appears that the biggest issue is visibility and this would help pedestrians by being able to see past park cars and also narrowing the crossing distance. It would help motorists turning into Bingham Road have improved visibility.

The residents parking consultation has been agreed but we are waiting for other consultations to finish before this one starts. Plans for road workings will be drawn up and councillors will lobby the cabinet member responsible who will also have similar requests from other areas of Croydon.

ASPRA may want to consider a petition asking for a 20mph zone and the road narrowing. 20mph zones will be put in places where residents want them and even though some say they are difficult to police evidence shows that most keep to the limit. Also on a narrow road like Bingham if one drive does 20 everyone else has to.

Town Hall Visits

I have been in contact with the schools in Ashburton offering to talk about politics, local democracy and community engagement. In addition I am showing groups of students around the Town Hall. If ASPRA would like a tour of the Town Hall then please let me know and we can arrange for that to happen.

Web Casting

Remember you can watch council and cabinet meetings on-line by going to www.croydon.public-i.tv/core/portal/home If you click on a previous meeting there is the option to jump to the part of the meeting or speaker that interests you by selecting timeline and scrolling down.

Autism

I would also like to touch upon the work I am doing as Croydon's Autism Champion. The National Autistic Society estimates that 1 in 100 people are autistic. Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that affects how a person communicates with, and relates to, other people. It also affects how they make sense of the world around them. It is a spectrum condition, which means that, while all people with autism share certain difficulties, their condition will affect them in different ways. Some people with autism are able to live relatively independent lives but others may have accompanying learning disabilities and need a lifetime of specialist support. People with autism may also experience over- or under-sensitivity to sounds, touch, tastes, smells, light or colours.

I have restarted the Autism Stakeholders Group which brings together officers, commissioners, NHS, business, education, social services and politicians to make sure everything we do in Croydon can be accessed by those on the autistic spectrum. I am also lobbying cabinet members on various issues such as helping those with autism access work and training.

Also I have started a web site and Face book page to help those with Autism, their parents and carers. They can be found at www.croydon.gov.uk/autism and www.facebook.com/autismcroydon.

Within the council we have member training sessions and I will be running one called "what is autism". I have told officers that I want to make it open to not just councillors but staff members and the public so when I have a date I will inform ASPRA in case anyone is interested in attending.

I hope you have a successful AGM and I look forward to working with you in the future. Strong residents associations are vital to our community and I applaud the work you do in the area.

Many thanks

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