

ASPRA PROJECTS

Report tabled at AGM 08Apr15

1) ASPRA'S Application for Local Heritage Area Designation - sent June 2014

Sarah Freeman that I was originally dealing with is now on sabbatical leave, so I have now been in contact with Joanna Hughes, Conservation Officer, Croydon Spatial Planning Department.

When I wrote for an update last year she replied:

"The process of comprehensively reviewing all Local Areas of Special Character and moving to Local Heritage Areas is a long process.

Work continued throughout last summer, involved archive research, site visits & detailed written reviews of all 56 locations proposed.

The draft report is currently undergoing internal consultation.

The recommendations for designation will come forward as part of the Croydon Local Plan: Strategic Policies Partial Review, which is expected to be considered by Cabinet in March 2015.

The Council intends to contact all those who submitted their proposals in advance of this Cabinet Meeting.

The Addiscombe & Shirley Park Residents' Association will be invited to a briefing session which is likely to be in the New Year".

Not having heard anything further since then I wrote to her again this March this year & received the following reply:

"The Local Areas of Special Character review to Local Heritage Areas is integral to the Croydon Local Plan: Strategic Policies Partial Review.

The Local Plan & integral projects within it, will now be going to Cabinet in July this year.

Unfortunately, this time frame will miss ASPRA's AGM.

Come this summer, all submitted proposals will be informed if their proposal has met the Local Heritage Area criteria or not."

2) Christmas Lights, Public Noticeboard & Addiscombe Planting Scheme

After several months of writing to various departments & Councillors without reply, I finally approached Gavin Barwell to ask advice about furthering these projects, and very quickly received letters from him & Sara Bashford with fulsome contact details & information.

Following up on these, yesterday I had a meeting with John Algar, the PFI Contrcats Manager for Croydon & Lewisham Street Lighting, in Addiscombe.

We established that the new lamp-posts there retain the "commando" socket connections for Christmas lights (at his instigation).

He gave me with several photographs of examples of designs for Xmas Lights provided by the Festive Lighting Company, as currently used by Purley, Selsdon & other local boroughs, & a contact there: Vernon Peake, who has already offered to come to Addiscombe for a consultation.

Under the PFI Contract with Croydon Council, SKANSKA will install, maintain & remove all decorations at the cost to the Authority.

ASPRA would only have to provide funds for the Lights themselves, either bought or hired at a cost of £175 each new or £150 each refurbished, for 3m frames, or LED wrap-around festoons can be bought at only £52 per column.

Hire of 18 new 3m frames would be £3,000 per year.
Hire of refurbished 3m frames would be £1,500 per year.

I am told that there may possibly be some room for negotiation over these costs.

The cost of running these lights is only about £50, as LED lighting uses very little electricity & they are only turned on for limited periods of time.

Any damages or lights out would be the duty of SKANSKA to repair, & any emergency call-outs would be down to SKANSKA to make safe.

For a small extra cost (e.g. £100-£150 for 20 lamp-posts) lights can be switched on at a set time & date, otherwise they would be switched on at the same time as other decorations in the Borough.

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Notice Board/s

John Algar has also given me the name of the person to contact in the Highways Agency, to consult about the possibility of a Noticeboard at Blackhorse Corner.

He has told me that he himself will give ASPRA permission to put notices on the lamp-posts in Addiscombe, if we can supply appropriate equipment & fixings, & let him know the numbers of the lamp-posts that we wish to use.

Otherwise, following Gavin's Sara's & Stephen Mann's advice, I have been in touch with the Croydon Planning Department, who confirm that a free-standing Noticeboard would require Planning Permission, & that they are happy to advise as part of a pre-application process, but that there will be a fee charged for that service.

Alternatively, they suggest that we could employ our own planning consultant to progress the early stages of the process.

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Plantings

Gavin & Sara Bashford have also let me know that the Council are willing to provide ASPRA with horticultural advice as to a decorative planting scheme for Addiscombe, & have given me the name of Malcolm Kendall to contact.

However, he has been on holiday for the last few days, but I am hoping to speak with him in the near future.

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Apologies that this report was not included in the Agenda, but all this news arrived too late to do so.

Best wishes,
Hilary.