

Addiscombe Recreation Ground Update 23 January 2016

After the last Road Reps Meeting ASPRA requested volunteers to assist and support improved planting and care of this park.

An initial meeting on a damp Wednesday 25 November 2015 was held in the park by the volunteers to discuss what they felt needed doing and any ideas how to go about this. Several dog walkers showed an interest. On Wednesday 2 December 2015 volunteers met with the council representative Meike whose role is to support community action/projects and initiatives in parks. She currently looks after 30 Friends of Park groups in the borough and advises on insurance, group set up, volunteer recruitment, funding, running events, biodiversity and site management and are the group's key point of contact with the council with regards to site management and facilities.

Volunteers continue to join the team. We recently received an offer of crocuses from the old Taberner House site as it needed to be cleared. Two of our volunteers were available and one managed to obtain 175 plants in 6 large trays which he is storing for us and the other did 2 runs to collect the plants and has 508 pots in her yard for when we are ready to plant them!

It was agreed with Meike that our group will initially take over the shrub bed by the entrance to the park, proposed start date is early in 2016 and before the group will take on the bed. Quadron (who do park maintenance for the council) will clear all the weeds and tidy up this area and the herbaceous bed next to the hut, with the view of the group taking this area over some time later in 2016. Meike will notify us of when Quadron will come to clear the areas.

We have been invited to a meeting next week - Forum meeting on 27 January 2016, 7pm at the Friends Meeting House. David Morris has been invited to speak about the Croydon Park's Review, a document that will define the way Croydon is going to manage its parks in future years, with ever decreasing budgets and more pressure for development. The Forum can act as the first sounding board for the emerging ideas of the Park Review. We plan to be represented at this meeting and will provide a further update in due course.