

ASPRA PROJECTS REPORT

(RR Meeting – 02.02.16)

- 1) Local Heritage Area Application – Our application has now been considered, but only the designated area of Bingham Road, near to the tram stop, has been accepted for protection under the LHA scheme.

It seems that Ashburton Avenue may still be under consideration because of the connection with R.F. Delderfield, but this is not mentioned in the letter.

(Please read relevant passages from Steve Dennington's letter – attached).

I will summarise the history of the Ashburton area from the researches made in an article for the next copy of the ASPRA magazine.

Copies of the historic documents that were used and photographs of the area will be made available to Bob Sleeman for the website and archives.

- 2) Christmas Lights- Congratulations to all for the first year of the Xmas Lights in Addiscombe. We have had very favourable responses from everyone, but disappointing results of requests for sponsorship/donations from businesses and traders there..

Shashi Kotecha and I went to the “chain” businesses (Sainsbury's, Boots etc.) with letters and fliers, but although they seemed very interested and enthusiastic, there was little if any result.

Reminder visits were delayed while we waited to know who had paid (progress on a 2nd person with access to the ASPRA bank accounts?), and eventually went around again without this information, and probably with too long an interval since the initial approaches, as there was still no result.

Bob Sleeman and Steve White visited the smaller shops and businesses, but with a lack of clear communication we do not know so far which of them has contributed or how much, other than Stephen Mann - £500, Blackhorse RA - £200, St Mildred's - £100, Stovell House Doctors'Surgery - £100. (??)

Grateful thanks are due to Sheila & John Newbold for their reports on any “outs” on the Lights, which we were then able to relay to Skanska for quick fixing.

We now have permission to put sponsorship signs on the lamp-posts (too late for this time but next year OK). People have requested this – apparently some complaints were heard that Addiscombe had received favouritism from the Council as we had Lights and other areas did not, not knowing that we had paid for them ourselves.

I hope to write another article for the Magazine an the Lights, and will ask Bob to use his photo from the website.

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GRANTS - Our application for a £1,000 Microgrant towards the Lights failed as the Committee administering grants did not meet in time for Xmas 2015, although our forms were submitted in early September.

We did not hear any news of our application until January 2016, when a letter of apology arrived saying that the papers had been mislaid (!).

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We applied for the £5,000 Small Grant from the Active Communities Fund in time to meet the deadline in January, and this was acknowledged as received.

Thanks to Dave, Gill and Fred for all their work on this, and to Leander at St Mildred's, Gavin Barwell, and Sarah at the Tram Stop Cafe, who all supplied glowing references for ASPRA.

We must now wait 2-3 months to know if we have been successful.

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Until this news is received, I have delayed much furthering the other projects in hand: the Public Noticeboard and the Decorative Planting Scheme for Addiscombe.

- 3) Public Noticeboard – However, we have received some very helpful information from Richard Freeman (Croydon Council Development Management) indicating the next steps to follow for the installation of the Public Noticeboard.

Having surveyed the proposed site at the “public realm” space at Blackhorse Corner, he suggested a position near the zebra crossing and between the two bollards as preferable.

He also suggested a double-sided, fee-standing board, which could be seen from both roadway and pavement, looking interesting from both aspects.

He can put us in touch with the person who designed/made the attractive Blackhorse Sign there, and we can have access to the original artwork to use, as he suggests that this would make an ideal “header” for the board.

Planning permissions etc. are also needed, but again I have delayed pursuing these just now from reluctance to spend out any more ASPRA money until we know if we are successful in the Small Grant bid.

The Noticeboard itself will cost in the region of £1,000 - £1,500, based on the quotations originally received.

- 4) Planting Scheme – Tracy Bellamy (Clean & Green Champion Co-ordinator) put us in touch with Micheal Hunte, Croydon Council's Regeneration Manager.

A letter from him indicates that we could be eligible for a Tesco Greenspaces Fund grant for this project.

There are 6 rounds of applications over 2 years, and Croydon is eligible for 12 projects of up to £12,000, £10,000 or £8,000 – for “Projects improving/revitalising/enhancing green spaces for community use”, including “parks, pocket parks, urban green spaces etc.”

Grants are made in partnership with the environmental charity: “Groundwork”.

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Again, I have delayed following this up until we have further news on the Small Grants Fund for the Lights.

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Hilary Chelminski
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